

What else could go wrong with our much-troubled planet?

Natural Disasters

- Climate change is wreaking havoc with people's lives around the world, nowhere more so than in Australia. The northern part of the country wallowed in unprecedented floods, while the southern part was scorched by infernal fires. Ten thousands homes were destroyed, dozens of communities wiped out, and hundreds of people lost their lives; and this not in a third world country with poor resources and weak infrastructure, but in a well developed country with ample resources and an impeccable fire fighting force.
- Agriculture is in turmoil everywhere. Deserts are advancing at alarming speeds in Asia, Sub-Sahara, Australia, and elsewhere, and fresh water is becoming a precious commodity all over the world, either as a result of pollution or because glaciers, their source, are disappearing, nowhere more so than in the Middle East, the perennial trouble spot of the world.
- Polar ice caps are melting at both ends of the planet. Millions of people, if not billions, are waking up to the reality of global warming. Assets accumulated in lifetime of labour, are fast losing value because of rising seawaters. One scientist has estimated that if all of Antarctica were to melt, ocean levels would rise by seventy metres. There is no need for the whole continent to melt; just a fraction of it is already causing havoc in many islands and coastal communities around the world.
- Oceans are dying because of acidification. Scientists are saying that this is occurring at a much faster rate than previously thought. This on top of the dangerous depletion of fish stocks because of overfishing.

Every assessment scientists have made in the last few years about global warming and climate change has turned out to be far too conservative.

“Rising acidity threatens oceans” “The oceans have long buffered the effects of climate change by absorbing a substantial portion of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide. But this benefit has a catch: as the gas dissolves, it makes seawater more acidic. Now an international panel of marine scientists says this acidity is accelerating so fast it threatens the survival of coral reefs, shellfish and the marine food web generally. The panel, comprising 155 scientists from 26 countries and organized by the United Nations and other international groups, is not the first to point to growing ocean acidity as an environmental threat, but its blunt language and international credentials give its assessment unusual force. It called for "urgent action" to sharply reduce emissions of carbon dioxide.

"Severe damages are imminent," the group said Friday in a statement summing up its deliberations at a symposium in Monaco last October. The statement, called the Monaco Declaration, said increasing acidity is interfering with the growth and health of shellfish and eating away at coral reefs, processes that would eventually affect marine food webs generally. Already, the group said, there have been detectable decreases in shellfish, shell weights and interference with the growth of coral skeletons.

Jeremy Jackson, a coral expert at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in San Diego, said "there is just no doubt" that the acidification of the oceans is a major problem. "Nobody really focused on it because we were all so worried about warming," he said, "but it is very clear that acid is a major threat."

Carbon dioxide, principally from the burning of fossil fuels, is the major component of greenhouse gas emissions, which have risen steadily since the beginning of the industrial revolution in the 18th century. Oceans absorb about a quarter of carbon dioxide emissions, the group said, but as the gas dissolves in the oceans it produces carbonic acid. The group said acidity of ocean surface waters has increased by 30 percent since the 17th century.

"The chemistry is so fundamental and changes so rapid and severe that impacts on organisms appear unavoidable," according to James Orr, who headed the symposium's scientific committee. Orr is a chemical oceanographer at the Marine Environmental Laboratory in Monaco, an affiliate of the International Atomic Energy Agency, a United Nations body. According to the declaration, "ocean acidification may render most regions chemically inhospitable to coral reefs by 2050." The group said that acidification can be controlled only by limiting future atmospheric levels of the gas. Other strategies, including "fertilizing" the oceans to encourage the growth of tiny marine plants that take up carbon dioxide might actually make the problem worse in some regions, it said. Recommend More Articles in Science". (Cornelia Dean, *International Herald Tribune*, January 30, 2009).

And if that is still not convincing, here is a copy of a transcript of an ABC *Lateline* program, titled, **“Leading scientists discuss latest climate change”**

TONY JONES, PRESENTER: The Government and the Opposition have been jockeying in recent days over who can do the most to tackle climate change while doing the least to hurt the Australian economy. Shortly we will hear from the Opposition spokesman Andrew Robb and leader of the Australian Greens Senator Bob Brown. But first, Margot O'Neill caught up with two of Australia's leading scientists who are about to head off to Denmark for an international congress to assess the latest data on climate change. While the politicians are still arguing over how much of a slug industry can bear, some scientists believe the climate debate has moved to a critical phase.

MARGOT O'NEILL, REPORTER: Scientists and some politicians say the climate has already changed irreversibly.

JOHN BRUMBY, VICTORIAN PREMIER (archive footage, '7.30 Report', Feb. 9): There's clear evidence now that the climate is becoming more extreme. You know, those people who doubted that - we had temperatures of 48 degrees.

MARGOT O'NEILL: The signs are now so worrying that Dr Michael Raupach from the CSIRO believes we risk tipping permanently into a far warmer climate akin to when dinosaurs walked the earth.

MICHAEL RAUPACH, CSIRO: It will be very difficult to have a planet of nine billion people find its way through that sort of climate transition without major disaster.

MARGOT O'NEILL: Even though global carbon emissions are likely to fall in the next two years as the international economy falters, the world still faces a temperature rise of up to two degrees because of the amount of CO₂ already locked in the atmosphere. That puts us on the brink of dangerous climate change. And without dramatically restructuring economies to ensure carbon emissions continue to fall, CO₂ levels are likely to soar again once the world economy rebounds. The problem is that many eco-systems are already showing signs of potentially catastrophic failure. Like the Amazon rainforest, which has helped absorb the world's CO₂, but now there are signs it's absorbing less and less.

MICHAEL RAUPACH: There is new evidence starting to appear that we are already seeing responses of the carbon exchanges between the Amazon rainforest and the atmosphere responding to drought. In other words, that as drought hits, the carbon in the rainforest starts to be released to the atmosphere, that Amazon rainforest becomes a source of carbon rather than a sink of carbon.

MARGOT O'NEILL: Professor Matthew England, along with Dr Raupach, is among 30 Australian scientists preparing for an international conference in Copenhagen to review the latest data on climate change. The consensus is that the climate system has proved far more sensitive to surging carbon emissions than science anticipated even two years ago. Sea level rises, global temperatures and northern ice melts have all met or are projected to exceed worst case expectations.

MATTHEW ENGLAND, UNSW: The Greenland ice sheet is even more troubling because that actually regulates our sea level, and we're seeing melt rates there that are - you know, faster than they've ever been measured. And, you know, the glaciologists are basically saying it's not when the - sorry, it's not if the ice sheet disintegrates, it's more a case of when, whether it's gonna be in the next few hundred years or beyond that. And this is seven metres of global sea level rise we're locking into, which totally rearranges the world's maps.

MARGOT O'NEILL: The urgency of the science is why the Government's proposed emissions trading scheme should be dumped in favour of a straight carbon tax, according to economist Richard Dennis. He argues the Government's trading scheme locks in only small carbon reductions and it's now opposed by green groups as well as some right wing lobbies.

RICHARD DENNISS, AUSTRALIA INSTITUTE: It's badly designed, it has the wrong targets and the harder individuals try to reduce emissions, the less effort that the big polluters need to put in. They need to go back to the drawing boards on this, or we need an alternative like a carbon tax.

MARGOT O'NEILL: But the Climate Institute's John Connor argues the Government should keep the scheme but increase its reduction targets.

JOHN CONNOR, CLIMATE INSTITUTE: We need to fix those up - there's no question about that. I am concerned about things like a carbon tax. For me it's an annual rent-seeking carnival which I don't think the interests of the environment, of the planet or even a cleaner economy are going to benefit.

MARGOT O'NEILL: As our scientists prepare to head off to Copenhagen where they know they'll hear more bad news about the climate, they're frustrated by an apparent lack of political urgency.

MATTHEW ENGLAND: The rate of change and the rate of response to this problem is relatively slow compared to some of the ways that we respond to crises such as the financial crisis or when bird flu was perceived as a big problem a few years ago.

MARGOT O'NEILL: More than a thousand scientists and policy experts will compare the latest research on climate change when they meet next month. (ABC TV, *Lateline*, Feb 23, 2009)

Now if the scientific community no longer has any doubt about climate change and global warming, the religious world is yet to be convinced. Our struggle with traditional and fundamentalist churches is well known. Therefore, we let other people speak on this topic too.

“Pell-mell into contradictions” “IS ANYONE else bemused by Archbishop George Pell’s ruminations about climate change? His eminence was at it again on Sunday, using his newspaper column to repeat his assertion that he’s yet to see any firm scientific evidence that the planet is definitely hotter.

Pell is entitled to the view and he certainly isn’t alone in putting it. But given the nature of his day job, it’s kind of hilarious to see this great empiricist demanding the most rigorous evidentiary standards for something which most scientists support. It certainly jars with the other stuff that he’s prepared to accept – the immaculate conception, for starters, the water-into-wine party trick Jesus used to pull, or the amazing recovery of that Lazarus fellow who, after an extended bout of death, roared back to life and lived to a ripe old age.

If you admire stirrers and contrarians, Pell is an easy bloke to like. It’s always puzzled me how so many of his critics whip themselves into a lather over his views on abortion and gay marriage. He is a company man and is just toeing the Vatican line, which should surprise nobody. But a scientist he ain’t. And if he’s prepared to frame his entire being around a collection of fantastic beliefs, all of which would get laughed out of a Year 9 science class, he surrenders the right to be regarded as a credible player in the most important scientific debate of our times.” (David Penberthy, *The Daily Telegraph*, Feb. 25, 2009).

It is clear that this Satanist with his “Year 9 science subjects” is no friend of ours. How fitting that he and Pell are work colleagues. What is not fitting is that they should publish their diatribes in one of Australia’s largest circulation tabloids.

These kinds of people have brought calamity upon this country and the world.

You would think that at least in times like these they would give God a chance. But no, their vanity is too great for that.

It is remarkable that even Cardinal Pell’s colleagues have noticed his denial mood. What they do not know is why he is doing it. This is what we wrote in our last edition in reply to a letter from religious leaders who hold the same views as Cardinal Pell.

“Long ago, we learned that it is futile to try to reason with these kinds of people. When, in spite of all the evidence to the contrary, they still maintain that climate change is a hoax, what can you say? And for good measure they underline that word too.

These people would never admit to global warming even if they are being scorched to death by it. Why? Because they know that global warming is an end time sign and they do not want to see that coming in their life time, for if it does they know that they are finished. The Scriptures make it clear that in the end time, aside from the two witnesses, all other religious leaders will preach false gospels.

The reason we keep on sending God’s messages to these people too, as we do to other world leaders, is because our heavenly Father wants us to continue doing so, per chance they may come to their senses, turn around from the path of self-destruction and care for their members as they care for themselves.

What world are these people living in that they think climate change is a hoax? They say that this idea is ridiculed by scientists. We do not know what scientists they are referring to, but what we do know is that the following scientific reports are not hoaxes.” (*The Christian Herald No 18*, p. 27)

We went on and published articles with titles like these, **“Arctic ice melting 30 years too soon”** and **“Antarctic ice sheet melting fast”**. That says enough.

Now if natural disasters have been the main concern for humanity for a decade or so, last year it was suddenly hit by new and unprecedented man made disasters.

Man Made Disasters

If ‘natural’ disasters were not enough, the world is now grappling with man made disasters that have shaken civilisation to its foundation: sudden financial and economic meltdown such as the world has never seen.

Economies are shrinking, stock markets are plunging, factories are closing, unemployment is skyrocketing, and peoples are losing homes and retirement savings.

Governments keep pumping trillions of dollars into bankrupt financial institutions, yet there are few signs that they make much of a difference: more banks, more companies, more financial institutions are getting bankrupt everywhere.

Experts have blamed America’s sub-prime real estate bubble for the current world crisis. But how could real estate be a bubble? Bubbles vanish in the slightest breeze, but real estates?

I am not an economist, so I cannot pretend to understand all the intricacies of modern economics, but I have done a lot of reading trying to understand this phenomenon. What I

discovered is nothing short of unbelievable. People have simply given up on dealing honestly with their fellow human beings. Greed is what is moving this world, not honesty, trust and credit. Bank balance sheets are not worth the paper they are written on. Trillions of dollars injected into financial institutions in order to restore the credit needed to keep modern economies moving are vanishing without trace as if in a black hole. I cannot help seeing the words of Apostle Paul being fulfilled everywhere I look.

1Ti 4:1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,

1Ti 4:2 speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, ...

2Ti 3:1 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come:

2Ti 3:2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

2Ti 3:3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good,

2Ti 3:4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

2Ti 3:5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

The world has been bombarded with the notion that sub-prime lending to customers who could not maintain mortgage payments for too long is the reason for America's financial crisis, which in turn caused the worldwide economic meltdown. But banks have always had a percentage of non-performing loans on their books, and that hardly ever sent any into bankruptcy. A few non-performing loans do not cause havoc in the whole world.

No, the truth is that modern world, with its intricate interconnecting financial and economic systems, has been built on sand, or better said, on greed, deception, corruption, and falsehood.

It all started with insurance policies against failure. Banks that lent to poor people, whom they expected to fail before long, took out insurance policies from other banks against such an outcome. But the insuring banks, or financial institutions, decided that they too wanted to be insured against failure, and so they took insurance from other banks too. And so began the chain of insurance: banks insuring banks, insuring banks, insuring banks, in a chain that resembled the spokes of a bicycle wheel in the end.

This had two effects: first, it created the illusion of wealth. The original real estate asset ended up on the books of a number of banks. Every new transaction generated commissions and dividends along the way, so bank managers did not care if a few mortgages went bankrupt. They had already generated enough income to be dispensable. Bank managers encouraged the issue of such mortgages even when they knew that they were risky, because that inflated their balance sheets, and their salaries and commissions.

And so, the original real estate asset, which was real to begin with, became a bubble when it generated illusionary wealth on the balance sheets of a number of banks. It was a pyramidal scheme of things, only that this time it had the stamp of approval of financial leaders, government departments, and regulatory authorities.

Honest people, who had worked a lifetime to pay their mortgages, were encouraged to borrow money on account of their assets, and invest in this bubble economy in order to get rich quick. And so, when this pyramidal scheme of things failed, as it was bound to, many more than the poor found themselves on destitute lines.

Second: When American entrepreneurs discovered that they could create wealth out of nothing, and their market became saturated or too small for their schemes, they took their gospel to the world. And, sure enough, when European, Asian, and other banks got whiff of the American way of making money, they joined the bandwagon. Central Banks kept on printing money in order to reflect the new acquired wealth. Out the door went the checks that kept a correlation between real wealth and productivity, and the printing of new notes.

The financial system of the entire world ended up being held up by nothing but artificial props that could collapse anytime. And collapse they did. When real estate bankruptcies became a torrent in America, they dragged the whole economic world down with them.

This explains why credit, without which no economy could work, has drained, and banks refuse to lend to each other anymore. They do not know which is solvent and which is not.

Fabulous balance sheets mean nothing, for they all know that they do not tell the truth, or reflect reality anymore.

After extensive research through specialist literature, we have selected two articles that we believe best explain what is happening in the world at present. First, an article from the *International Herald Tribune*.

“World worries how U.S. will pay for stimulus” “DAVOS, Switzerland: Even as the U.S. Congress looks for ways to expand President Barack Obama's \$819 billion stimulus package, the rest of the world is wondering how Washington will pay for it all. Few people attending the World Economic Forum question the need to revive America's economy, the world's largest, with a package that could reach \$1 trillion over two years. But the long-term fallout from increased borrowing by the U.S. government, and its potential to drive up inflation and interest rates around the world, seems to be getting more attention here than in Washington.

"The U.S. needs to show some proof they have a plan to get out of the fiscal problem," said Ernesto Zedillo, the former Mexican president who helped steer his country through a financial crisis in 1994. "We, as developing countries, need to know we won't be crowded out of the capital markets, which is already happening."

Zedillo said that Washington, unlike most other countries, had the option of simply printing more money, because the dollar was a reserve currency for the rest of the world. Over the long run, that could force long-term interest rates higher and drive down the value of the dollar, undermining the benefits that come with its special status. Until now, most fears about surging government debt have focused on borrowing by European countries like Spain, Greece and especially Britain, which is also in the midst of a sizable bank bailout. That bailout recently pushed the British pound to a 23-year low against the dollar. While the dollar's status as refuge in a time of turmoil should prevent that kind of sell-off for now, a number of financial specialists warned that if fundamental factors like the lack of American savings and bloated budget deficits did not change, the dollar could eventually fall sharply.

"There aren't that many safe havens," said Alan Blinder, a Princeton economist who is a former vice chairman of the Federal Reserve in Washington, explaining why the dollar's status as a reserve currency was unlikely to be threatened.

Instead, he suggested, it is the dollar's long-term value against other currencies that is vulnerable. "At some point, there may be so much Treasury debt that investors may start wondering if they are overloaded in dollar assets," Blinder said.

The focus in Washington has been on putting together a stimulus package that will attract broader political support when it comes up for a vote in the Senate. But here in Davos the talk has been about the coming avalanche of Treasury debt needed to pay for the plan, on top of the bailout measures approved last autumn, like the \$700 billion Troubled Asset Relief Program or TARP. The stimulus was approved Wednesday by the House without Republican support, and could grow larger - mostly likely with additional tax cuts - to attract a bipartisan coalition. U.S. officials maintain they are aware of the challenge. A top White House adviser, Valerie Jarrett, promised in Davos on Thursday that once the stimulus plan had achieved its intended affect, the United States would "restore fiscal responsibility and return to a sustainable economic path."

Jarrett, a confidante of Obama and his wife, Michelle, is the highest-ranking administration official at Davos.

To be sure, Congress and the White House will ultimately need to refill the government's coffers, but how they might do that is barely on the radar screen in Washington at this point.

"Even before Obama walked through the White House door, there were plans for \$1 trillion of new debt," said Niall Ferguson, a Harvard University historian who has studied borrowing and its impact on national power. He now estimates that \$2.2 trillion in new government debt will be issued this year, assuming the stimulus plan is approved.

"You either crowd out other borrowers or you print money," Ferguson added. "There is no way you can have \$2.2 trillion in borrowing without influencing interest rates or inflation in the long term."

Ferguson was particularly struck by the new borrowing because the roots of the current crisis lay in an excess of American debt at all levels, from individual homeowners with subprime mortgages to Wall Street banks who let their balance sheets balloon. "This is a crisis of excessive debt, which reached 355 percent of American gross domestic product," he said. "It cannot be solved with more debt."

Ferguson is skeptical about the Keynesian thinking behind Obama's plan - rather than borrowing and spending to stimulate the economy, he favors corporate tax cuts. But even supporters of the plan like Zedillo and Stephen Roach, the chairman of Morgan Stanley Asia, have called on the White House to address quickly how it will pay for the spending in the long term. "It's huge," Roach said. "President Obama has now laid out a scenario of multiyear, trillion-dollar deficits."

To make matters worse, he said, the United States "is a savings-short, deficit economy. When we decide to borrow, we're asking lenders from around the world to step up and give us the money."

The stimulus is widely expected to pass, but once it does, Roach said the focus would shift to **"who foots the bill and what is the exit strategy. We don't have the answer to either question."**

Zedillo, who remembers the way Mexico was forced to tighten its belt when it received billions of dollars from Washington to keep its economy from collapsing in 1994, was even more blunt. "People are not stupid,"

Zedillo said. "They see the huge deficit, the huge spending, and wonder what comes next." (By Nelson D. Schwartz, *International Herald Tribune*, January 30, 2009).

And here is a transcript of a program from Australia's SBS television network.

George Negus (presenter and interviewer): Given the severity of the financial crisis preoccupying the globe, Barack Obama's 800 billion dollars stimulus package was meant to grab the world's attention; but did it?

But when Wall Street veteran Bill Rogers speaks, the investment community actually tends to take notice. After all, he is a former business partner of billionaire philanthropist George Soros.

Earlier this month, he raised the ire of Gordon Brown when he declared Britain finished, and urged investors to dump sterling. So what does this outspoken monetary maverick think of all these monster stimulus packages currently being dolled out from Washington to Canberra? I spoke with him earlier from his base in Singapore.

Jim Rogers thanks for your time. As I understand it, your views on the current world financial economic crisis are pretty blunt. I mean is it true that you believe, given what we've been hearing from Barack Obama about this stimulus plan, that that is going to make things worse rather than better?

Jim Rogers: Well the people who get the money, George, is going to make it better for them, but for the rest of the country, and the rest of the world, no, is not going to make things better, is going to make them worse. We are in perilous times, and he doesn't seem to understand that he is making things much worse.

G.N. I guess I have to ask you, I knew that you've had years of experience on the financial markets, etc. Does anybody really know, let alone the cause of this, what the solution is?

J.R. Well, I'll tell you what has worked in the past George. What has worked in the past is that people go bankrupt when they fail, you clean up the system, you take a year, or two, or three, of paying whatever it is, and then you start all over. The confident people come in, take over the assets from incompetent people, and you start over.

This way of bailing out everybody in sight just doesn't work. The Japanese tried it in 1990s, they had zombie banks, zombie companies, and they still talk about the 1990s as the lowest decade. It is 19 years later in Japan since they tried all that, stock market is down 80 per cent – eight zero per cent – from where it was 19 years ago. This has never worked. It doesn't matter, I am not doing it ideologically here, I am saying this has never worked. The things that have worked are take your pain and start all over.

G.N. So you are saying all this bailing out that is going on, just bailing people out, seems, as you've suggested, to be the way that everybody thinks we should go, that's what the stimulus packages are all about, to get people to spend more money. I mean there is no way in the world, that you, or me, or anybody else, is going to stop the Obamas, and the Browns, and the Rudds of this world, in our case, from going ahead with these stimulus packages.

J.R. I am afraid you are right. All these politicians, they run around, they think they've got to be doing something, they pass out enough money and hope that they will get through to the next election and someday things will be OK. Unfortunately they are not going to be OK. The only way we are going to get rid of them is these programs are going to fail and then they will be thrown out of office.

G.N. What about our friend Mr. Bernanke saying that this will be all over by the end of this year. I mean, he is a little bit more optimistic than yourself, to say the least.

J.R. George, Mr. Bernanke has never been right for five ... what he's been in government for six or seven years, he has never been right. If I came on your tv show every week and was wrong eight or nine weeks in a row, you'd probably stop inviting me. Mr. Bernanke has been wrong three hundred weeks in a row. He has never been right.

If you get your advice from Mr Bernanke, George, you are going to get broke very quickly.

G.N. And apparently you are not a fan of the current Secretary of the Treasury either.

J.R. Oh my God! You bat me for my nervous system George. Of course not! Mr. Geithner was head of the New York Fed for several years. And the New York Fed was the group that was in charge of the Wall Street and the major commercial banks. He sat there and saw all these things happening; he is part of the problem. It is astonishing to me that Mr. Obama run on a platform of change, and he's brought in people who caused the problem, and they are now supposed to solve the problem.

G.N. What about the companies that are vital to the economic structure, the infrastructure of countries like the US, the UK, and even our own, they are too big to allow them to fail.

J.R. What do you mean they are vital, too big to allow them to fail? There is no such thing as too big to fail. There are plenty of banks in Australia, in Americas, in other places, who've been doing what they were supposed to, minding their own manners, not going into crazy things, waiting for these moments to come so that they could come in and expand market share and grow and prosper. Now these people are being held back by all these, "banks that are too big to fail", because governments are giving them free money and saying, now you compete with competent people. I mean, George, this is horrible economics, and it is outrageous morality; not that politicians care about morality.

G.N. Jim, why shouldn't we see you as yet another doomsayer?

J.R. Well..., doomsayer, I am very optimistic about a lot of facts ...

G.N. Make me feel better, Jim, because you are painting a pretty bleak picture.

J.R. Listen, we have to face reality, George. If you do not face reality and sit there and twiddle along and believe Mr. Bernanke that everything is OK, you are going to hurt very, very badly. So I would urge you to be prepared.

But some parts of the world economics are going to boom. George you should become a farmer. Agriculture is about to become the most exciting industry in the world for the next twenty, thirty years. There are plenty of people in the world who are going to do extremely well in the times that are coming up, but is not Wall Street, is not the city of London. People who've been driving Lamborghinis for the past ten years, are suddenly going to be driving taxis. Maybe they will learn to drive a tractor so that they could work for the farmers who now will have the Lamborghinis.

G.N. George Brown wasn't impressed when you told him that Britain is finished and that you are pulling out your money, you are pulling out your sterling and tell everybody else to do the same, and it had a big impact in the UK. What are you doing with your American dollars?

J.R. Well, I do own US dollars but I plan sometime this year to get rid of the rest of my US dollars, and my few remaining US shares.

G.N. Seriously? And invest where, Jim? Where are you going to put your money?

J.R. Ah, George, that is a brilliant question. I do not know right now, but it looks as I will probably wind up putting a lot in real assets such as cotton, or zinc, or gold, or oil, or whatever happens to be.

G.N. Into the real economy, if I could say, not the unreal economy of the finance world.

J.R. Absolutely! I am talking of real products that people use every day. You and I know what cotton and silk and zinc are. Most other people do not have a clue what a dot com was, or a CDO was, and yet billions of dollars are put into it. That all is going to change. Those days are over. The financial community is going to be very, very bad place to be for the next 20, 30 years.

G.N. Are we looking at not the great depression, but the even greater depression?

J.R. If you ask me, yes, we are going to have another depression in the United States, because the politicians keep bungling it. That's what caused the great depression in the 1930s. Politicians around the world made mistake after mistake after mistake, and I am afraid is happening again including protectionism.

G.N. You don't blame, like so many people, the bankers and the hedge market players like yourself? They are not to blame, it's the politicians.

J.R. It's mainly Central Banks more than anybody else. If you are going to have one single cause, is the Central Bank in the United States. We had a man, Allan Greenspan, running the Central Bank; he refused to let anybody fail. Every time people got into trouble, they would call up and say, save me, save me, save me, and he would bail out everybody.

Had he left the market work, had he let people fail over the past fifteen years, Lehman Brothers would still be in business, you know, Bear Sterns would still be in business.

G.N. Jim, let's finish on this note. Here in Australia we are on a stimulus band wagon, for better or worse, rightly or wrongly. What's your feeling about this country at the moment, because there seems to be going down the same mini version of Barrack Obama trail?

J.R. Australia is one of the countries that is going to come out of this in good shape, because you have a lot of natural resources. I said before, the people who are going to inherit the earth are going to be the people who produce real goods such as Australia's. Unfortunately, your politicians are as bad as American politicians. They keep spending money on projects that are just make-work projects, rather than building for the future. Look at China and Singapore, for instance. They are mainly spending money trying to make the country competitive down the road.

G.N. You seem to be saying this country is kidding itself if we still regard ourselves lucky country.

J.R. Well, Australia has been a lucky country at times. I am afraid, Australia is not so lucky right now, because Australian politicians just keep on making mistakes; just like mine do.

G.N. Jim, is good talking to you. I hope next time we talk, things are looking a little brighter. I hope that your optimism for the long term future we'll see a little earlier maybe.

J.R. George, go become a farmer.

G.N. Ah, ha, ha, ha! I'll think long and hard about that, Jim. It sounds like that is a good advise. Thanks for your time.

J.R. Thank you.

G.N. Thank you. Jim Rogers. And what a pity we couldn't get him to tell us what he really feels." (Jim Rogers, Dateline, SBS, TV, March 1, 2009).

Now what of the future? Well, we who believe God and His Word know that the real reasons for the world's problems are not physical but spiritual. Humanity has turned its back on God, and He Has turned His back on it.

The common refrain in the religious world is that God never makes people suffer no matter what they do; that Satan is the author of pain and suffering. Well, the Scriptures tell us a completely different story.

Lam 3:37 *Who is he who speaks and it comes to pass, When the Lord has not commanded it?*

Lam 3:38 *Is it not from the mouth of the Most High that woe and well-being proceed?*

Amo 3:6 If a trumpet is blown in a city, will not the people be afraid? If there is calamity in a city, will not the LORD have done it?

Amo 3:7 Surely the Lord GOD does nothing, Unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.

If a calamity in a city comes from the Lord, how much more a worldwide calamity? And if it is from the Lord, where are the prophets to whom the Lord has revealed these things in order to tell the world about it. And why tell the world about it? This is why.

Isa 58:1 "Cry aloud, spare not; Lift up your voice like a trumpet; Tell My people their transgression, And the house of Jacob their sins.

Isa 58:2 Yet they seek Me daily, And delight to know My ways, As a nation that did righteousness, And did not forsake the ordinance of their God. They ask of Me the ordinances of justice; They take delight in approaching God.

Isa 58:3 'Why have we fasted,' *they say*, 'and You have not seen? *Why* have we afflicted our souls, and You take no notice?' "In fact, in the day of your fast you find pleasure, And exploit all your laborers.

Isa 58:4 Indeed you fast for strife and debate, And to strike with the fist of wickedness. You will not fast as *you do* this day, To make your voice heard on high.

Isa 58:5 Is it a fast that I have chosen, A day for a man to afflict his soul? *Is it* to bow down his head like a bulrush, And to spread out sackcloth and ashes? Would you call this a fast, And an acceptable day to the LORD?

Isa 58:6 "*Is* this not the fast that I have chosen: To loose the bonds of wickedness, To undo the heavy burdens, To let the oppressed go free, And that you break every yoke?

Isa 58:7 *Is it* not to share your bread with the hungry, And that you bring to your house the poor who are cast out; When you see the naked, that you cover him, And not hide yourself from your own flesh?

Isa 58:8 Then your light shall break forth like the morning, Your healing shall spring forth speedily, And your righteousness shall go before you; The glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

Isa 58:9 Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; You shall cry, and He will say, 'Here I *am*.' "If you take away the yoke from your midst, The pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness,

Isa 58:10 *If* you extend your soul to the hungry And satisfy the afflicted soul, Then your light shall dawn in the darkness, And your darkness shall *be* as the noonday.

Isa 58:11 The LORD will guide you continually, And satisfy your soul in drought, And strengthen your bones; You shall be like a watered garden, And like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail.

Isa 58:12 Those from among you Shall build the old waste places; You shall raise up the foundations of many generations; And you shall be called the Repairer of the Breach, The Restorer of Streets to Dwell In.

Isa 58:13 "If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath, *From* doing your pleasure on My holy day, And call the Sabbath a delight, The holy *day* of the LORD honorable, And shall honor Him, not doing your own ways, Nor finding your own pleasure, Nor speaking *your own* words,

Isa 58:14 Then you shall delight yourself in the LORD; And I will cause you to ride on the high hills of the earth, And feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father. The mouth of the LORD has spoken."

For two decades, we have faced the world opprobrium for being "prophets of doom". Now, we not only have to confront a secular world that long ago has turned its back God, but a chorus of religious leaders who are desperately trying to negate our warnings that humanity is facing its nadir. They just don't want to hear of an end to this world, and so they deny that these calamities come from the Lord, or that the current world tribulations have anything to do with the end of this age.

One day the world will know who has told it the truth, and who has deceived it. People find it impossible to believe that the whole world has fallen into the hands of deceivers, and yet this is what God is telling us in His Scriptures.

Co 4:3 But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,

2Co 4:4 whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

2Co 4:5 For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake.

Amen!

Pro 28:20 A faithful man will abound with blessings,
But he who hastens to be rich will not go unpunished.

Pro 28:22 A man with an evil eye hastens after riches,
And does not consider that poverty will come upon him.

Astonishing New Catholic Counter-Reformation

Some people in the Protestant movement never tire criticizing the hierarchy of the Catholic Church. Not us! We like to give credit to whom credit is due. We believe this is the case with Cardinal Pell, the head of the Catholic Church in Australia.

What we have heard from him lately, led us to believe that he deserves our unreserved praise. He made statements that we thought we would never hear from a Catholic leader. This in part is what he said.

“Nations built on values” “We are now in the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression, which will certainly get worse before it improves. The trouble began in the US and we are better placed than either Britain or the US to battle through. But Australia is only a middle-size fish in a big pond and the giants are in trouble.

The US is living beyond its means. On one estimate, its debt is equivalent to \$26,100 for every citizen. If the situation deteriorates in China we could see huge stresses where we know of thousands of crowd protests a year. Some of the huge corporations which went bankrupt lied about their profits, recorded daily costs as capital expenditure, gave billions in loans to executives, which were not recorded in the accounts. People were deceived into taking out loans they had no chance of repaying. More so than in the US, the courts in NSW acted against this effectively.

President Obama pinpointed greed and irresponsibility as major meltdown causes. Dishonesty is another cause. All three destroy social capital.” (*The Sunday Telegraph*, Feb. 8, 2009).

No one could fault him on his assessment of the economic meltdown. However, we are particularly encouraged by his condemnation of the vices mentioned by President Obama – greed and irresponsibility – and especially the one he added – dishonesty.

He assures us that “all three destroy social capital”.

Well, we don't quite know what he means by “social capital”, but what we do know is that these destroy more than that, they destroy souls, characters, and any chance of salvation.

Another statement from him must have shocked many people in the Catholic Church, for they imply a transformation in the Church of a magnitude never seen before. Here are his words again.

“I accept the 10 Commandments, believe in moral principles, accept that there are inviolable human rights and believe that a Christian is not free to reject these. Moral development will be twisted or destroyed if children are encouraged to make up their own minds about what is right or wrong. They should be taught to follow moral truths.

Nobody consistently accepts the primacy of conscience in every area. No one says about a terrorist or rapist that these actions are OK because they were following their conscience. More important issues are at stake. **We all should strive for consistency.** MOST of us try to do the right thing most of the time. But **being honest** we also know that we get things wrong. I don't think it is very helpful to tell a person it is enough to follow his conscience. Of course, this is no defence in a court of law, when the judge would say, for example, that we should have known that we cannot drink more than the limit for alcohol and then drive a car. We understand the judge won't be much impressed when we claim that we can “hold” our alcohol, that “my reflexes aren't affected by a few beers”.

Neither am I sure how often God will be impressed by the excuse that “I followed my conscience”, when I refused to obey one of the commandments, or denied someone's human rights.

There is no doubt we could have come to this wrong conclusion in complete innocence, but there are other possibilities. Years of bad habits might have blinded us to the truth on a particular issue such as adultery, or stealing. Sometimes, Catholics have an unusual way of

talking. A few suggest that you can disagree with fundamental Christian teachings on faith and morals and still be as good a Catholic as the Pope, as long as you are “honestly following your conscience”. You can perform abortions, or practise mercy killings on the aged or the sick, have sex before marriage or even commit adultery and still be in good standing with God and the Church, because each act followed a decision of conscience.

For years, I have argued that this line of reasoning is wrong, that there is no “primacy” of conscience, because the particular judgment of any individual cannot have the last word. Sometimes, the equally conscientious decisions of other people will be contrary to that judgment. In these cases, as always, **we appeal to the truth, to what God would want us to do. Truth has the primacy**; that is why we believe in human rights and God will be the final judge. **Christians are not free to reject the commandments** or the beatitudes. The Church, like the state, has to set down limits.” (*The Sunday Telegraph*, March 12, 2006, emphasis added).

A Catholic leader “accepting” the Ten Commandments after millennia of persecution by the Church of those who kept the Commandments, even to the point of burning them at stake? Strange things are happening these days.

To assure us that he is serious about it, he qualified his statement with such appellatives as, “**consistency**”, “**being honest**”, “**truth**”, “**truth has primacy**” and “**we appeal to truth, what God would want us to do**”.

Now that is wonderful. Nothing pleases a Christian more than to hear, “We appeal to truth, what God would want us to do”. This is why we grant him our unreserved praise.

For more than a millennium, making such statements from the pulpit of a Roman Catholic Church would have sent one to the gallows, but not any more, because this Church is now totally given over to truth. Clearly, the leaders of this Church have seen the light and decided to come clean before God, just in time for the return of Jesus Christ.

Now let us consider what keeping the Ten Commandments will mean for this Church. We assume that “accepting the 10 Commandments” also means keeping them. First we present them in their entirety, as God gave them to Moses, and then we will see how each one will transform the Church.

Exo 20:1 And God spoke all these words, saying:

Exo 20:2 "I *am* the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

Exo 20:3 "You shall have no other gods before Me.

Exo 20:4 "You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness *of anything* that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth;

Exo 20:5 you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, *am* a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth *generations* of those who hate Me,

Exo 20:6 but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

Exo 20:7 "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold *him* guiltless who takes His name in vain.

Exo 20:8 "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

Exo 20:9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work,

Exo 20:10 but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. *In it* you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates.

Exo 20:11 For *in* six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

Exo 20:12 "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.

Exo 20:13 "You shall not murder.

Exo 20:14 "You shall not commit adultery.

Exo 20:15 "You shall not steal.

Exo 20:16 "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

Exo 20:17 "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's."

Here now is the analysis of each Commandment individually.

- **The First Commandment:** "You shall have no other gods before Me."

The Church will have a hard time getting used to this one. It could no longer think of its leader as God, or refer to him as Holy Father. That title belongs to God the Father, and to Him alone. It is found only once in the Bible, in a context that makes it clear that use by any other person would be blasphemy.

Joh 17:11 Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as *We are*.

It is the ultimate hypocrisy, vanity and blasphemy to assume God's title of Holy Father. Few people realise that by addressing a man by that title, they themselves commit blasphemy. Not only that, but Jesus Christ told His disciples not to call anyone on earth Father, for God in heaven is their Father.

Mat 23:9 Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven.

And what do Catholic priests call themselves? Fathers! But not anymore! We are yet to see what new title they will acquire for themselves this time.

- **The Second Commandment:** "You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of *anything* that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, *am* a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth *generations* of those who hate Me,

Anyone who has seen Catholic Churches would know that they are adorned with countless images of things in heaven and on earth. People wonder why God does not answer their prayers. This might give them the answer.

Isa 46:3 "Listen to Me, O house of Jacob, And all the remnant of the house of Israel, Who have been upheld *by Me* from birth, Who have been carried from the womb:

Isa 46:5 "To whom will you liken Me, and make *Me* equal And compare Me, that we should be alike?

Isa 46:6 They lavish gold out of the bag, And weigh silver on the scales; They hire a goldsmith, and he makes it a god; They prostrate themselves, yes, they worship.

Isa 46:7 They bear it on the shoulder, they carry it And set it in its place, and it stands; From its place it shall not move. Though *one* cries out to it, yet it cannot answer Nor save him out of his trouble.

Isa 46:2 They stoop, they bow down together; **They could not deliver the burden, But have themselves gone into captivity.**

Psa 115:1 Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, But to Your name give glory, Because of Your mercy, Because of Your truth.

Psa 115:2 Why should the Gentiles say, "So where is their God?"

Psa 115:3 But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases.

Psa 115:4 Their idols are silver and gold, The work of men's hands.

Psa 115:5 They have mouths, but they do not speak; Eyes they have, but they do not see;

Psa 115:6 They have ears, but they do not hear; Noses they have, but they do not smell;

Psa 115:7 They have hands, but they do not handle; Feet they have, but they do not walk; Nor do they mutter through their throat.

Psa 115:8 **Those who make them are like them; So is everyone who trusts in them.**

Psa 135:13 Your name, O LORD, endures forever, Your fame, O LORD, throughout all generations.

Psa 135:14 For the LORD will judge His people, And He will have compassion on His servants.
 Psa 135:15 The idols of the nations *are* silver and gold, The work of men's hands.
 Psa 135:16 They have mouths, but they do not speak; Eyes they have, but they do not see;
 Psa 135:17 They have ears, but they do not hear; Nor is there *any* breath in their mouths.
 Psa 135:18 **Those who make them are like them; So is everyone who trusts in them.**

Three clear statements that images and statues, or icons as they call them, are not accepted as objects of worship. "Those who make them are like them; *So is everyone who trusts in them*". And there are many more statements like these in the Bible.

Much labour will be needed to remove the idols from all the Catholic Churches in the world. This could have a beneficial effect on the unemployment of many nations.

Catholic Churches, will have a completely new look. Here is an idea: why not go for geometrical designs, like those in the Muslim world. We may not like aspects of their religion, but we cannot deny the exquisite designs of their buildings. And if I may say so, some of their music is nothing short of divine either. It is wrong to assume that God loves only the syrupy type music usually used in traditional churches, or the throbbing, thumping, numbing music used in charismatic and evangelical churches.

- **The Third Commandment:** "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain"

One cannot think of a more blatant taking in vain of God's name than apportioning His title of Holy Father. As we dealt with this under the First Commandment, we will leave it at that.

- **The Fourth Commandment:** "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy".

This Commandment will come as a thunder to the members of this Church. How do you tell them that this is the correct day of rest and worship, when they have worshipped God on the Day of the Sun for so long? Yet, told they must, because the Sabbath is not only the day of rest and worship, but the day God designated as the sign between Him and His people too.

Exo 31:13 "Speak also to the children of Israel, saying: 'Surely My Sabbaths you shall keep, for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, that *you* may know that I *am* the LORD who sanctifies you.

Exo 31:17 [The Sabbath] is a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever; for *in* six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He rested and was refreshed.' "

Eze 20:12 Moreover I also gave them My Sabbaths, to be a sign between them and Me, that they might know that I *am* the LORD who sanctifies them.

Eze 20:19 I *am* the LORD your God: Walk in My statutes, keep My judgments, and do them;

Eze 20:20 hallow My Sabbaths, and they will be a sign between Me and you, that you may know that I *am* the LORD your God.'

Four clear statements about how important to God it is the observance of His Sabbaths. Bear in mind that in the Bible the word "Sabbaths" also includes the correct Holy Days.

Then we have the statement from Jesus Christ who made it clear what day He expects to find His followers observing when He returns to this world.

Mat 24:20 And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath.

Mat 24:21 For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.

Mat 24:22 And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.

Who are the elect of God for whose sake He will intervene and cut those days short before all flesh is wiped out? Those who keep the Sabbath! Therefore, we are happy to welcome the Catholic people among the elect of God.

- **The Fifth Commandment:** "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.

Notice what Apostle Paul said about this Commandment: "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother (which is the first commandment with a promise), so that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth." (Eph. 6:1-3).

Have you ever wondered why families are falling apart; why there is so little love between children and parents, and parents and children, these days? This Commandment might give you the answer. Only in the context of keeping all of God's Commandments will this one be effective too. For example, if people do not keep the Sabbath, God does not recognise them as their people. And if He is not their God, they could never have the Holy Spirit. And without the Holy Spirit, there could never be love between parents and children, and children and parents, or between anyone else for that matter, for God is love.

1Jn 4:7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

1Jn 4:8 He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

1Jn 4:15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

1Jn 4:16 And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

- **The Sixth Commandment:** "You shall not murder."

This should no longer cause problems for the Church, for long ago it has given up on murdering its opponents. Occasional murders, however, still occur within the walls of the Vatican. Like that of Pope John Paul I, who was eliminated one month after coronation, apparently for intending to clean up the Church's murky financial affairs. Other than that, we are not aware of any other murderous activities that the Church must give up.

- **The Seventh Commandment:** "You shall not commit adultery." In this case, for the Catholic Church a more appropriate expression might be, "You shall not engage in sexual misconduct", for that would include homosexuality. The Church will no longer be able to move its errant priests from parish to parish so as to allow them to abuse even more children.

Do you know why this Church does not expel its troublesome priests except when it comes under severe public pressure? Because it has a secret doctrine according to which its priests could never lose their salvation no matter what they do.

- **The Eighth Commandment:** "You shall not steal."

This should be the easiest of the Commandments. When you wear a cassock and are so visible, it is not easy to engage in thievery.

- **The Ninth Commandment:** You shall not lie [paraphrased].

This will be another difficult Commandment for the Church. Over time, so many lies have found their way into the doctrines and teachings of this Church that getting rid of them all will not be easy. However, truth is worth any sacrifice.

Among the first lies to be eliminated is the notion that the Church could also be a State.

Jesus Christ told His disciples to go out and make disciples of all nations (Mat. 28: 19), not to create a State within a State. And why not? Because their Kingdom is not of this world!

Joh 18:36 "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here."

Therefore, if the Kingdom of Jesus Christ is not of this world, neither is that of His followers. None of the Churches of God mentioned in the Bible, behaved like, or had any resemblance to a State. Since Jesus Christ does not allow any additions or detractions from the Scriptures (Rev. 22: 18-19), any notion that a Church is also State has to be nullified.

Consequently, another lie that will go out the window is that the Church has a king. The Churches of God have but one King – Jesus Christ.

How could a Church of God have a king in this world when Jesus Christ made it clear that those who live in royal luxuries could not be His disciples?

Luk 7:24 And when the messengers of John had departed, He began to speak to the people concerning John. What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken with the wind?

Luk 7:25 But what did you go out to see? A man clothed with soft clothing? Behold, those in splendid clothing and being in luxury are in kings' palaces.

Luk 7:26 But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to you, and much more than a prophet.

Luk 7:27 This is *he* of whom it is written, "Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, who shall prepare Your way before You."

Luk 7:28 For I say to you, Among *those* who are born of woman there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist. But he who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.

Mar 10:23 Then Jesus looked around and said to His disciples, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!"

Mar 10:24 And the disciples were astonished at His words. But Jesus answered again and said to them, "Children, how hard it is for those who trust in riches to enter the kingdom of God!

Mar 10:25 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

Another lie that will bite the dust is that Apostle Peter was the Church's first Pope. That claim comes from the following statement of Jesus Christ.

Mat 16:13 When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?"

Mat 16:14 So they said, "Some *say* John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

Mat 16:15 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"

Mat 16:16 Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Mat 16:17 Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven.

Mat 16:18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

Mat 16:19 And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

The problem is that not only did Apostle Peter never stepped foot in Rome (see *TCH 16*), but that Jesus Christ did not say that he would become king of the Church. A pillar of the Church yes, but a king, no! And why not a king? Because, as we said, the Church has only one King – Jesus Christ Himself!

Joh 18:37 Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say *rightly* that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."

In chapters 2 and 3 of Revelation, the glorified Christ addresses seven of His Churches by name. The Church of Rome is not among them. Now could a Church whose Pope and King would have been Apostle Peter be so ignored by Jesus Christ?

Another lie that this Church has to deal with is about its Holy Days. Not one of the Holy Days sanctioned by God in the Bible is observed by this Church, and not one of the Holy Days observed by this Church is sanctioned by God in the Bible.

Therefore, out go Christmas, Easter, Sunday, and various Saint Days, and in come Passover, Days of Unleavened Bread, Pentecost, Day of Atonement, and the Feasts of Trumpets and Tabernacles.

Jesus Christ was not born at Christmas, and not resurrected at Easter. Both of these Holy Days have pagan origins. Christmas was formerly called Saturnalia, from Saturn or Satan, and celebrated the birth of Mithra, a pagan mythological figure, and Easter celebrated the birth and resurrection of an animist pagan goddess.

The same is true of Sunday worship. This practice had its roots in ancient Egypt, not in the Bible. As we pointed out when we discussed the fourth Commandment, when Jesus Christ returns to this earth He expects to find His disciples observing the Sabbath, not Sunday.

Other lies that need to be dealt with are:

- That sinners could wash out their sins in a purgatory after death;
 - That human beings have immortal souls;
 - That there is life after death;
 - That people go to heaven after death; and many more.
- **The Tenth Commandment:** "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's."

Perhaps this Commandment should have included children. Given the troubles this Church has had with paedophile priests in recent times, it is clear that they have coveted their neighbours' children more than their wives, oxen, or anything else.

These then are the Commandments that this Church has vowed to keep.

This Church has remembered that Jesus Christ said, "If you love Me, keep My commandments" (Joh 14:15). Therefore, its hierarchy has decided to prove its love for Jesus Christ by keeping His Commandments.

That is a transformation the world needs to be informed about, which is what we do in this edition, for the whole world will benefit from it.

The Bible is full of promises that those who are in God's good graces benefit from His blessings and protection. Never before has the world needed that more than it needs now.

This Church could never have had a timelier Counter-Reformation than at this time.

Will there be another split in the Church because of it? Time will tell, but we doubt it. One, because there is no time for it anymore. The signs are unmistakable that the return of Jesus Christ is at hand. And two: because people have learned their lesson.

For millennia, ever since the great schism of the 11th century, which split the Greek Orthodox Church from the Roman Catholic Church, there have been countless attempts to reunify the two Churches but without success.

In fact, with the passage of time, the two churches drifted even further apart. The Greek Orthodox Church became more static and community oriented, satisfied merely to preserve its existing flock and boundaries, while the Roman Catholic Church became more dogmatic, aggressive and expansionary. Then came the Protestant Reformation of the 16th century that shook the Church to its foundations. And, once again, the Church confounded its critics by finding the resources to regenerate itself with an equally powerful Counter-Reformation.

The next two centuries were some of the bloodiest in the history of the world. Catholics murdered Protestants, and Protestants murdered Catholics. Jews and true Christians (who had gone underground when the Roman Church imposed its pagan beliefs upon the Empire in the fourth century) often found themselves in the middle, and butchered by both.

The American and French Revolutions loosened the shackles of intolerance and rigidity of the Church, forcing it to retreat in the face of the advancing ideas of enlightenment and democracy. These created conditions for the resurfacing of the long persecuted little flock of Jesus Christ who formed the true Church of God. Satan however was not about to give up easily on his deceptive practices. The nineteenth and twentieth centuries saw a proliferation of "Churches of God". How godly these Churches are can be seen from what they do to their members. They mercilessly tear families apart, separating their members from the "evil" influence of the world, which includes unconverted parents and siblings. It is clear that these people have ripped apart chapter two of the second epistle to the Corinthians from their Bible.

Let us have a look at it.

2Co 2:1 But I determined this within myself, that I would not come again to you in sorrow.

2Co 2:2 For if I make you sorrowful, then who is he who makes me glad but the one who is made sorrowful by me?

2Co 2:3 And I wrote this very thing to you, lest, when I came, I should have sorrow over those from whom I ought to have joy, having confidence in you all that my joy is *the joy* of you all.

2Co 2:4 For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you, with many tears, not that you should be grieved, but that you might know the love which I have so abundantly for you.

2Co 2:5 But if anyone has caused grief, he has not grieved me, but all of you to some extent—not to be too severe.

2Co 2:6 **This punishment which *was inflicted* by the majority is sufficient for such a man,**

2Co 2:7 **so that, on the contrary, you *ought* rather to forgive and comfort *him*, lest perhaps such a one be swallowed up with too much sorrow.**

2Co 2:8 **Therefore I urge you to reaffirm *your* love to him.**

2Co 2:9 For to this end I also wrote, that I might put you to the test, whether you are obedient in all things.

2Co 2:10 Now whom you forgive anything, I also *forgive*. For if indeed I have forgiven anything, I have forgiven that one for your sakes in the presence of Christ,

2Co 2:11 lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.

2Co 2:12 Furthermore, when I came to Troas to *preach* Christ's gospel, and a door was opened to me by the Lord,

2Co 2:13 I had no rest in my spirit, because I did not find Titus my brother; but taking my leave of them, I departed for Macedonia.

2Co 2:14 Now thanks *be* to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place.

2Co 2:15 For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing.

2Co 2:16 To the one *we are* the aroma of death *leading* to death, and to the other the aroma of life *leading* to life. And who *is* sufficient for these things?

2Co 2:17 For we are not, as so many, peddling the word of God; but as of sincerity, but as from God, we speak in the sight of God in Christ.

Apostle Paul was chastening the Corinthian Church for not being forgiving towards one who had sinned and repented when his sin was brought to his attention. He urged them to reaffirm their love to him. Now how could modern day fundamentalist churches, who isolate their members under penalty of expulsion, show love when they preach hatred? I can tell you now, with the understanding that God Almighty, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit have given me, that no church that isolates its members and splits families in that manner will ever be part of the Kingdom of God.

It is impossible to have a decent rational discussion with members of fundamentalist churches such as Jehovah's Witnesses, Seventh Day Adventists, Brethren, Baptists, or the new charismatic and evangelical Churches. Their beliefs and practices are hardly different from those of the early Roman Church, which forced underground the true Church of God.

The great surprise now is that the Church that for millennia had persecuted and eliminated those who kept the Commandments of God, has changed its mind and is now advocating keeping those Commandments.

This Counter-Reformation is far greater than the one the Church experienced in the sixteenth century, for it changes the character of the Church completely.

An unkind person may well say, we have not seen any such changes in the Church since that statement was made three years ago. But that would mean to forget that this is a worldwide institution, whose wheels of change can only move slowly.

Besides, we have the words of Cardinal Pell, and he is an honourable man who does not speak with a forked tongue. He would not tell us fibs.

Jer 9:23 Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise *man* glory in his wisdom,
 Let not the mighty *man* glory in his might, Nor let the rich *man* glory in his riches;
 Jer 9:24 But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me,
 That I *am* the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight," says the LORD.

A cold shower on Darwin's 200th anniversary

Earlier this year, we received an email from a well wisher who informed us about the appearance of a book on the creation/evolution controversy, entitled *Thousands ... Not Billions* (Master Books, 2005), which concluded that there is now ample evidence which proves a young age for the earth and the universe. We had a look at this book, and were so impressed that we decided to reproduce its concluding chapter. We hold our comments for later.

“A BEGINNING”

“This book surveys eight years of radioisotope research by the team of RATE scientists. Since each member maintains a professional career, participation in the RATE project required an extra commitment of time. The effort included many hours of laboratory work, travel, data analysis, discussion, and writing. It also required a large financial investment and sincere appreciation is expressed to each donor. The title of this final chapter does not imply that our research on radioisotope dating and the age of the earth has concluded. Instead, it has just began. Several new areas for scientific exploration were identified during the project. RATE scientists and colleagues will actively continue the evaluation of current radioisotope dating techniques. As is the general care in science, there is a need for additional research on nearly every topic in this book. On the positive side, the RATE project has made good progress in challenging evolution's icon or assumption of deep time. The following sections highlight the guiding principles of RATE, its major findings, and some of the unfinished work.”

“GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF RATE”

“One principle agreed on by all RATE members is that the earth is young, on the order of 6,000 years old. This is not simply a working hypothesis to be tested as to whether it is true or false. Instead, it is a basic conclusion drawn from the biblical record of creation as written by the only One who was present, God himself. This creation position is neither outdated nor anti-scientific. It does not require a stifling of scientific inquiry or the rejection of any data. Instead, the creation viewpoint presents new directions for research and data interpretation. As just one example, the Bible describes in detail the flood of Noah's day, an event which completely transformed the earth's surface as well as human history. Flood geology on this global scale provides unique research opportunities which simply are not recognized by the current science establishment.

A second guiding principle the RATE team realized from the start is that a large amount of nuclear decay has taken place in the past. This history of radioactive decay is amply demonstrated by accumulated daughter decay products in close association with their parent isotopes in many earth materials. There are also vast numbers of defects caused by nuclear decay in crystalline rocks, including radiohalos and fission tracks. We assume that the earth was not created with an appearance of age at this microscopic level of detail. Alongside this principle, however, there is not the usual constraint that radioisotope decay has always been governed by today's measured nuclear half-life values. Instead, RATE team concludes that there have been episodes of major acceleration of nuclear decay in the past. This intriguing concept is directly related to the biblical, catastrophic view of earth history.”

“RATE FINDINGS”

“Only the major results of the RATE effort will be summarized in this section. Some of the secondary findings, not covered here, may eventually turn out to be important keys to our understanding of radioisotope data. All the results, both major and minor, are included in the two technical RATE volumes. The following conclusions are listed in no particular order, and are taken from the preceding chapters.

1. *For some years there has been a growing realization that carbon-14 atoms are found where they are not expected.* With a half-life of 5,730 years, C-14 should no longer exist within “ancient” fossils, carbonate rocks, or coal. Yet small quantities of C-14 are indeed found in such samples on a worldwide scale. The RATE work extends this information with carbon-14 measurements in additional coal samples and also in diamonds. The RATE carbon-14 experiments on diamonds are the first ever reported in the literature. Measurable levels of C-14 are found in every case for both coal and diamond samples. This evidence supports a limited age for the earth. There is a widely held misconception that carbon-14 dating is in direct conflict with creation and the young-earth view. Instead, however, the carbon-14 findings strongly support a recent supernatural creation.

2. *Zircons play a prominent part in the RATE studies.* These are tiny crystals which often occur in granite, one of the most abundant rock types on earth. Within their crystal structures, many zircons hold helium atoms which can result from the decay of internal uranium atoms. Zircons brought to the surface from deep underground are assumed to be ancient. The New Mexico zircons studied by the RATE team have a radioisotope age of 1.5 billion years. If this were true, then the internal helium atoms should long ago have escaped from the zircons. Instead, however, the RATE scientists and others find high concentrations of helium still present inside the zircon crystals. RATE research obtained some of the high-precision data on helium diffusion in zircon. A theoretical model based on this data gives an age for the earth of about 6,000 years. The presence of helium in zircons is a serious challenge to the concept of deep time. The helium also represents compelling evidence of accelerated nuclear decay in the past.

3. *Radiohalos are tiny spherical defects in rocks.* They result from the decay of clusters of radioactive atoms, mainly uranium and polonium. The frequent occurrence of these halos in rocks is evidence for widespread nuclear decay. Halos are present in abundance in granites whose formation accompanied the Genesis flood. This indicates that a large-scale acceleration of nuclear decay occurred during the year-long Flood event.

There is a long standing mystery concerning radiohalos. Many of them appear to have formed during the decay of short-lived polonium radioisotopes. Those transient isotopes must in turn be supplied by the decay of other isotopes with much longer half-lives. However, evidence for the long-life parents often is missing. These halo-forming isotopes include the polonium isotopes 210, 214, and 218. To explore this mystery and other questions, many thousands of radiohalos were measured in rocks worldwide. This was perhaps one of the largest-scale radiohalos studies ever undertaken.

The RATE research suggests that the polonium isotopes are derived from uranium via accelerated decay. The polonium atoms then were rapidly removed and transported away from their uranium sources by underground hydrothermal fluids. The polonium atoms accumulated at new sites and formed secondary radiohalos near their uranium parents halos. Thus, the short-lived isotopes are not parentless after all, but instead were physically removed from their point of origin.

4. *Many rock units worldwide were analyzed by radioisotope dating techniques.* These experiments include the parent-daughter isotopes potassium-argon, rubidium-strontium, samarium-neodymium, and also the lead-lead method. The efforts gave fresh data on apparent ages and their consistency. Some examples of concordance, or agreement in age were found, while many other examples showed discordance, or disagreement. In fact, both extremes often occurred for the same rock unit.

Great trust is traditionally placed in the results from isochron plots. These are graphs which are thought to give valid information on initial conditions, possible sample contamination, and sample age. The RATE results raise serious cautions concerning the interpretation of isochrons. Even when an isochron plot of data appears to produce a straight line with excellent statistical support, the calculated sample age is often in conflict with other results. The conclusion is that no isochron age can be trusted with confidence.

5. *There are three important assumptions made in radioisotope dating.* Each has been addressed by RATE research and found to be subject to failure. The first assumption is that the initial condition of rock samples can be determined accurately. This is challenged by the many discordant isochron dates. Also, ancient dates are often obtained for volcanic rocks known to be very recent in origin. The second assumption is that the open or closed nature of rock samples can be determined and quantified. However, there are frequent indications of the mixing of mantle and crystal isotopes with rock samples. Also, polonium radiohalos show the movement of isotopes through rocks and minerals by hydrothermal transport. The third assumption is that nuclear half-lives have remained constant throughout history. This assumption is countered by the unexpected helium found in "ancient" zircons. Also, there are abundant radiohalos and fission tracks which were rapidly deposited during the Flood.

6. *The concept of accelerated decay arises many times in RATE work.* It is the logical inference of placing millions or billions of year's worth of nuclear decay, at present rates, into a short time frame. The episodes of increased nuclear activity appear to have occurred during the creation week and also during the flood of Noah's day. The evidence for vast amounts of decay include the abundance of nuclear decay products, high concentrations of helium atoms residing in zircon crystals, radiohalos, and fission tracks. Theoretical RATE studies suggest several possible ways by which nuclear decay could have been accelerated. Of special interest are large changes in decay rates that can result from a temporary adjustment of various physical constants and parameters. The ideas are rather complex, and involve nuclear forces, higher dimensions, and string theory. This theoretical RATE work provides possible mechanisms for accelerated nuclear decay.

7. *The RATE radioisotope dating measurements also contribute information regarding accelerated nuclear decay.* These measurements reveal two distinct trends. First, the isotopes which decay by alpha particle tend to give older dates than isotopes which undergo beta decay. Second, heavier isotopes tend to give older dates than lighter isotopes. Neither of these trends should exist if the radioisotopes have had constant half-lives and accurately measure the ages of rocks. This decay information may provide useful clues to understanding the mechanisms responsible for accelerated nuclear decay.

8. *The linguistic studies of Genesis 1:1—2:3 likewise support a recent creation.* This research shows that biblical texts may be identified either narrative or poetry with a high degree of confidence, based on Hebrew verb forms used by the authors. The distribution of finite verbs in numerous Old Testament narrative and poetic passages were analyzed. The Genesis creation story is found to be a narrative account describing literal historical events. This conclusion challenges all efforts to explain away the early chapters of Genesis as non-literal poetry, metaphor, or allegory. The research also contradicts the currently popular idea that the Genesis account describes the big-bang theory in pre-scientific terms.

"CHALLENGES FOR THE FUTURE"

"Skeptics of the RATE project might prefer to call this "the section of unsolved problems." It is certainly true that the RATE effort does not answer every question nor solve every problem encountered. Of course, this was never the intent of the scientists involved. The following are some of the areas which await further work, in no particular order of priority.

1. *Accelerated nuclear decay involves millions or billions of years worth of decay occurring in just days or months of time.* Even at present rates, considerable heat is produced by radioactive nuclear decay. An

acceleration of the process will multiply the heat output greatly. This heat, which is produced within rocks, must be removed, or it could melt or even vaporize the earth's crust. This clearly did not happen to the earth. In fact, the existence of zircons within helium, radiohalos, and fission tracks shows that the host rocks and minerals have not experienced excessive heating. These physical records of nuclear decay would rapidly disappear if temperatures increased to hundreds of degrees. Possible mechanisms have been explored that could safeguard the earth from severe overheating during accelerated decay events. One of these involves cosmological or volume cooling, the result of a rapid expansion of space. Many details remain to be filled in for this and other proposed processes of heat removal.

2. *The acceleration of nuclear decay gives rise to some basic unanswered questions.* Why did it occur and what was the mechanism? Exactly when did the decay rates increase? Each of these questions has both scientific and theological components. There is also a serious concern for the protection of plant, animal, and human life from increased nuclear radiation during the Genesis flood event. Further insight is needed on these issues.

3. *The RATE project has been limited in its scope to earth materials.* However, radioisotope studies of lunar and meteorites also yield ancient radioisotope ages. The youngest known lunar meteorite, found in Africa's Sahara Desert, is dated at 2.9 billion years by radioisotope methods. Several meteorites found in Antarctica and elsewhere appear to have originated from Mars. These specimens also show ages in excess of a billion years. Other key meteorites are used as indexes or standards for dating the earth and the rest of the solar system. Similar isotope information implying large-scale nuclear decay is found in the light spectra from distant stars. To explain these additional observations, the concept of accelerated decay needs to be extended to include the solar system and beyond. Indeed, half-life alteration appears to be a cosmic or universe-wide phenomenon.

4. *The RATE age studies of various rock formations should be expanded to additional samples and geological sites.* For example, the helium retention in zircons has been explored mainly at one location, the deep borehole in New Mexico. There are countless samples from all around the world which are available for detailed helium analysis.

Other specific areas of new data collection and analysis would be especially helpful. Consider, for example, the trends of nuclear decay whereby alpha decay isotopes appear to give older ages than the beta decay isotopes. Also, the heavier isotopes tend to give the oldest ages for samples. These are significant results which need further verification. There are several other radioisotopes, not explored by the RATE team, which could reinforce these trends. Lutetium-hafnium and rhenium-osmium isotopes, listed in Table 2-1, are both beta emitters. Many of their isochron dating results are already available in the literature and await analysis from the young-earth creation perspective.

5. *Chapter 9 mentioned the possibility that potassium-40 might have been lacking in pre-Flood forms of life including people.* The reason is to avoid a lethal dose of internal radiation during accelerated decay events. It should be possible to investigate this idea. There are fossil organisms available whose basic makeup has been preserved without the loss their internal chemical elements. For example, ants, beetles, caddis flies, feathers, and plant fragments are found trapped and sealed in amber. Amber is hardened resin or sap which was secreted by pine trees in the distant past. Some of these fossils may date from pre-Flood or early post-Flood times. Samples of these entombed fossils could be analyzed for their potassium-40 content if technical difficulties of such analyses could be overcome. The results would show whether historic, organic potassium-40 levels were lower than the amounts present in organisms living today.

6. *Additional potential radioisotope research involves what are called extinct isotopes.* There are dozens of stable daughter products found in nature that are derived from radioactive parents which no longer exist in significant amounts. These "orphan" daughter isotopes are found across the earth and also in space. One particular daughter product, magnesium-26, is detected in the light spectra of stars. It is thought to result from the decay of aluminium-26, an extinct isotope with a half-life of about 720,000 years. Other half-lives of extinct isotopes range from thousands to millions of years. The study of these extinct isotopes could provide additional information on the mechanisms of accelerated decay."

"THE IMPACT OF RATE"

"The RATE results provide support for a young-earth paradigm or model for earth history. Many creation scientists in past decades laid the foundation that the RATE team has further refined and developed. Some of this new work has been presented at professional meetings of the American Geophysical Union and the Geological Society of America. This summary book is accompanied by two technical publications and also a video production, all designed to communicate the RATE research results to a diverse audience. Other RATE public presentations and writings are underway. The RATE team does not anticipate that the young-earth creation model will overtake evolution and its broadly accepted icon of deep time in the near future. However, we are encouraged by wide popular interest in the biblical young-earth view.

The case can be made that all scientific research is actually creation research. After all, any exploration of nature is an inquiry into the details of the present-day creation. It is the interpretation of data which sometimes goes astray and conflicts with the biblical world view. It is our hope that this summary of the RATE project provides some needed balance in promoting the creation view of origins. We also hope the work will serve three major purposes. The first purpose of the RATE effort is to provide a reasoned courteous challenge to skeptics of young-earth creation. If the earth is much younger than usually assumed, then there are many profound implications to consider. The second purpose is to encourage the millions of advocates worldwide who hold to a

recent supernatural creation. Young-earth creation is neither outdated nor in opposition to science. Instead, it is a refreshing alternative to modern evolutionary assumptions. The third major purpose of RATE concerns the many students who have an intense interest in the creation world view. This includes all levels of study from elementary through post-graduate programs and beyond. In future years, some of you will greatly advance creation research. It is our hope that the RATE project will inspire your generation to advance this exciting work to new levels of scholarship and discovery.” (The author, Don De Young, is a member of ICR’s RATE team of scientists. He is a physics professor at Grace College, Winona Lake, Indiana. He has written 12 books on Bible-science topics).

Now Our Comments:

This book was first published in 2005. Now given the seriousness of the subject and the competent and scientific way in which it is treated, it should have made waves around the world, but it hasn’t. If it weren’t for alternative publishing houses, which cater to a limited audience, we may never have heard of it.

The reason publications like this are kept out of the mainstream media is that the evolution/creation controversy has long since passed from the domain of science into that of religion. The public has been hoodwinked into believing that evolution means science and creation means religion. Far from it, the truth is the exact opposite. There is now ample evidence that evolution is religion, and a satanic one at that, while creation is reason and true science. If this were not the case, evolutionists would not be hell bent against any notion of a young earth. Or against any notion of design in nature, They foam at the mouth when God comes into the picture and trample under foot or under the carpet any proof that goes against their evolutionary belief.

We have no illusion that the mainstream academic world will take much note of this book any more than it has done so with previous publications on this topic. They know that other forces are at work than the simple equation of long age versus young age for the earth and the universe. Those forces, which are holding the academic world in their grip, make sure that books on creation science never get their deserved publicity and recognition.

It is rare to find a scientist who is also an academic who believes in the biblical account of creation, and much less so if he tries to prove in a scientific way that the earth is of a young age. This is why the RATE group of scientists have our respect and admiration.

Four years should have been long enough for a publication like this to have come to the attention of mainstream academia, and yet what do we have this year? A never ending chain of noxious eulogies on the occasion of Darwin’s 200th anniversary! It is as if the universe had anxiously waited the appearance of this “genius”. They do not know that the end result of his “enlightening theory” is death for the world. The more the world is imbued with it, the closer that end is.

Jesus Christ said that by the time of the end there would be so much deception in the world that, if possible, even the elect of God would be deceived. Well, that deception does not come from religious pulpits only, but from academic lecterns of the “wise” of this world too. If there was any reason in the past to believe in Darwin’s theory, there certainly isn’t now.

We advise anyone who may have doubts in regard to the truth of this matter to look at our previous articles on this topic also in *The Christian Herald* 1 and 12. No one who believes in evolution when there is so much evidence to the contrary, evidence of a recent creation, will have part in the Kingdom of God and salvation of Jesus Christ. For Jesus Christ and His Apostles had no doubt when and who created this world, and neither should you, if you are honest with yourself.

The book “Thousands ... Not Billions” demolishes the notion that the earth and the universe are billions of years old. It does so not from a theological point of view, which academia has foolishly discarded long ago, but after meticulous scientific research and data analysis. Without long ages, evolution crumbles into nothingness.

This group of brave scientists have had the courage to confront the mainstream scientific world with irrefutable proofs that radioisotopes decay, used to date inorganic matter, and carbon-14 decay, used to date organic matter, are unreliable, giving contradictory readings under different circumstances.

These serious scientists, who hold positions in respected tertiary institutions, present their findings in a balanced, non-confrontational, non-judgmental manner. Well, we don’t have to be non-judgmental about their findings, for we look at this matter from a theological/Christian point of view. As such we have a duty before God and before our Lord and Saviour to call a spade, spade, and warn humanity that evolution represents a cataclysmic danger for the world.

Eph 2:1 And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins,
Eph 2:2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,
Eph 2:3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

Yes, there is a wicked spirit, a prince of the power of the air, who works in the sons of disobedience, by perpetrating a lie that destroys those who are caught by it.

Eph 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.
Eph 6:11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.
Eph 6:12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.
Eph 6:13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.
Eph 6:14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,
Eph 6:15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;
Eph 6:16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.
Eph 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Theological Proofs of a Young Earth, and of the Return of Jesus Christ

If the world is billions of years old, as evolutionists would have us believe, biblical prophecies are of no value, and Jesus Christ will never return to this earth, for His return firmly depends upon a young earth.

In a godless world, prophecies serve no purpose. Those who claim to understand the mysteries and prophecies of God are laughed at and marginalised. In such a world, it is easy to present God's messages as mere ramblings of psychotic men. This is why the world is oblivious to prophecies that speak of catastrophic changes to the world, and place the return of Jesus Christ at a specific time in history, which happens to be our time.

Faith and belief in God have all but disappeared from the world, yet few people stop to ask themselves whether the current world tribulations may have something to do with it.

Taking a position that is contrary to God is a matter of pride and honour for the "wise" of this world, for which they are also greatly honoured. Churches have had a role to play in this charade too, the most telling example being that of Darwin, the scourge of the world, who has been buried in a place of honour, alongside great believers and luminaries of the Church. They might have buried the Devil himself in that place if they could. But then, isn't this what one would expect from people who do not have the Holy Spirit, who have no idea what He could do for them? The Holy Spirit does not come to people who blaspheme and dishonour Him. In the Bible, God identifies Himself with the Holy Spirit, so those who deny Him and His creation, who take His name in vain and honour idols, will never be forgiven and granted immortality in His eternal Kingdom.

It is not for nothing that Jesus Christ said: when the blind are leading the blind they both end up in a ditch. The problem is that through their sheer number, the ungodly have come to dominate the world. They have ignored God's messages, twisted history to fit their view of the world, and portrayed evolution as true science and religion as mere "opium of the masses". As a result, the fate of the whole world is in balance right now.

The big events – the Flood of Noah, the Exodus of Israel, the giving of the Ten Commandments, the life, sacrifice and resurrection of Jesus Christ – have become non-events. In such a world, it was easy to twist the Gospel of Jesus Christ too, and the purpose for which God placed humanity on this planet. Creation itself is presented as a capricious act of God, a happenstance that went awry from the very beginning. Truth, of course, is very different. Creation was done for a purpose and planned long in advance. That purpose became clear in the New Testament when the Holy Spirit became available to those with an inquiring mind and a thirst for truth.

The enemies of God, however, were not interested in the truth. They had "proof" that the earth was much older than biblical chronology made it. No matter how many proofs one could bring to the contrary, they always fell back on to the same argument: the dating methods. Radioisotope dating of inorganic matter told them that the earth was billions of years old, and Carbon 14 dating of organic matter that humanity is many thousands of years older than Genesis made it. Being an atheist became the trademark of the enlightenment. They do not know that atheism is as old as humanity itself.

Psa 14:1 The fool has said in his heart, "*There is no God.*" They are corrupt, They have done abominable works, There is none who does good.

Psa 14:2 The LORD looks down from heaven upon the children of men, To see if there are any who understand, who seek God.

Psa 14:3 They have all turned aside, They have together become corrupt; *There is none who does good*, No, not one.

Psa 14:4 Have all the workers of iniquity no knowledge, Who eat up my people *as they eat bread*, And do not call on the LORD?

Psa 14:5 There they are in great fear, For *God is with the generation of the righteous.*

Fools do not need science to deny God; atheism has been in their hearts from the very beginning, therefore it is not science that has done away with God, but men's hearts – carnal nature that is hostile to God.

Far from being the age of enlightenment, this is the darkest spiritual age the world has ever seen. God, however, has not let those who sought His truth to stumble in the darkness, for He had always revealed Himself to those who diligently sought Him.

For the first time in modern history, we now have a correlation between true science and Bible chronology regarding the age of the earth. The book, ***Thousands ... Not Billions***, (Master Books, 2005) discussed elsewhere in this edition, provides conclusive evidence that traditional dating methods have been wrong, that a correct reading of scientific data gives the earth the same age as biblical chronology.

Without deep ages, evolution has nothing to stand on. However, we have no illusion that this will change the minds of those who are beholden to evolutionary thinking. This is their world, and God has given them the privilege to do what they want. They will reap their reward in due time.

If truth were their guiding principle, they would have seen the light long ago, for there are many books on the market which have looked at the world from different perspectives and come to the one and only logical and safe conclusion that the world is neither very old, nor could it have come into existence by itself.

Fulfilled prophecy is the greatest proof of God. If major world events have taken place as predicted thousands of years in advance, no one can deny God and His hand in world history.

Prophecies about the captivity of Israel, the destruction of Jerusalem, the rebuilding of its temple, the scattering the people of Judah, their return to their ancestral land, and many more, are well known and documented. There is however, one prophecy that has major implications for our time, for it speaks of nothing less than the return of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the world, to this earth. God knows, this world has never needed a Saviour more than it needs now. For although things are getting worse by the day, world leaders would not turn to the One and only Power that could set this planet aright again – the Almighty God.

We will prove to you that just as His first arrival occurred at the exact prophesied time, so also will His glorious return to this earth. We begin with one of Apostle Peter's sermons. Some of the Bible quotes are long; however, we ask you to bear with us and read them carefully for they provide valuable lessons and often touch on other prophecies as well.

- Act 3:1 And on the same *day* Peter and John went up into the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth *hour*.
Act 3:2 And a certain man, who was lame from his mother's womb, was being carried. And they laid him daily at that temple gate which is called Beautiful, to ask alms from those who entered into the temple.
Act 3:3 Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked *to receive* alms.
Act 3:4 And fastening his eyes on him, Peter with John said, Look on us!
Act 3:5 And he paid heed to them, expecting to receive something from them.
Act 3:6 But Peter said, Silver and gold have I none, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!
Act 3:7 And taking him by the right hand, he lifted *him* up. And immediately his feet and ankle-bones received strength.
Act 3:8 And leaping up, he stood and walked and entered with them into the temple, walking and leaping and praising God.
Act 3:9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God.
Act 3:10 And they recognized him, that it was him who sat for alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple. And they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.
Act 3:11 And as the lame one who was healed held Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the porch that is called Solomon's, greatly wondering.
Act 3:12 And seeing *this*, Peter answered the people, Men, Israelites, why do you marvel at this? Or why do you stare at us, as *though* we had made this man to walk by our own power or holiness?
Act 3:13 The God of Abraham and of Isaac and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified His son Jesus, whom you delivered up, denying Him in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to let *Him* go.
Act 3:14 But you denied the Holy and Just *One* and desired a murderer to be given to you.
Act 3:15 And you killed the Prince of Life, whom God has raised from *the* dead, of which we are witnesses.
Act 3:16 And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong, this one whom you see and know, His name made firm. And the faith which came through Him has given him this perfect soundness before you.
Act 3:17 And now, brothers, I know that you did *it* through ignorance, as also your rulers *did*.
Act 3:18 But those things which God before had shown by the mouth of all His prophets, *that* Christ should suffer, He fulfilled in this manner.
Act 3:19 Therefore repent and convert so that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from *the* presence of the Lord.
Act 3:20 And He shall send Jesus Christ, who before was proclaimed to you,
Act 3:21 whom Heaven truly needs to receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by *the* mouth of His holy prophets since the world began.
Act 3:22 For Moses truly said to the fathers, "*The* Lord your God shall raise up a Prophet to you from your brothers, *One* like me. You shall hear Him in all things, whatever He may say to you.
Act 3:23 And it shall be *that* every soul who will not hear that Prophet shall be destroyed from among the people."
Act 3:24 And also all the prophets from Samuel and those following after, as many as spoke, have likewise foretold of these days.
Act 3:25 You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying to Abraham, "And in your Seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed."
Act 3:26 Having raised up His son Jesus, God sent Him to you first, to bless you in turning every one of you away from his iniquities.

A number of points come out of this passage, among which are:

- Great faith comes to those who believe in Jesus Christ.
- God had shown by the mouth of all His prophets *that* Christ should suffer.
- The Heaven will receive Him until the time of restoration.
- "Every soul who will not hear this Prophet shall be destroyed from among the people."

When Jesus Christ returns to this earth, those who did not believe in Him will have no reason for further existence. They will simply be wiped out from the face of the earth. This is one reason for the Great Tribulation, besides cleansing the earth of its physical, moral and spiritual pollutions. The question is when will these things take place. If you ask a Christian, he will most certainly quote to you this statement.

Mat 24:36 "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.

In so doing, they fail to take into consideration what Jesus Christ said prior to that.

Mat 24:29 "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

Mat 24:30 Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

Mat 24:31 And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Mat 24:32 "Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near.

Mat 24:33 So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near—at the doors!

Mat 24:34 Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place.

We do not need to know the day and hour of His return in order to know the general time of His coming. Indeed, there are many tender branches now, which indicate that His coming is imminent.

Now what does this have to do with the age of the earth, someone may ask? It may surprise people to know this but the Scriptures make it clear that this event will take place at a specific time in world history, namely at the confluence between six thousands years of history and the onset of a thousand years sabbatical kingdom, more commonly known as the Millennium Kingdom.

For a long time, we have wondered why Jesus Christ withheld the book of Revelation from His Apostles, but not anymore. This book speaks of the Millennium Kingdom and gives us the time of Jesus' return. But first, notice the last question they asked Him before raising to heaven, and what He told them.

Act 1:6 Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"

Act 1:7 And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority.

Act 1:8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Act 1:9 Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

Act 1:10 And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel,

Act 1:11 who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This *same* Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."

They were to receive power through the Holy Spirit to be His witnesses in Jerusalem, in Judea, in Samaria, and to the end of the world. That they did, but that would be a work of long duration – for centuries afterwards.

With the passage of time, however, that Gospel would not only cease from being taken to the world, but be twisted beyond recognition and disappear from the world altogether. This is why, after receiving the Holy Spirit, Apostle Peter understood that before Jesus Christ returns to this earth, there would be a need for the restoration of that Gospel.

Act 3:18 But those things which God before had shown by the mouth of all His prophets, *that* Christ should suffer, He fulfilled in this manner.

Act 3:19 Therefore repent and convert so that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from *the* presence of the Lord.

Act 3:20 And He shall send Jesus Christ, who before was proclaimed to you,

Act 3:21 whom Heaven truly needs to receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by *the* mouth of His holy prophets since the world began.

Before they received the Holy Spirit, the disciples of Jesus Christ believed, like the Pharisees of their time, that Messiah would come to restore the glorious kingdom of Israel. Now notice what Jesus Christ answered Pilate when he asked Him about His Kingdom.

Joh 18:33 Then Pilate entered the Praetorium again, called Jesus, and said to Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?"

Joh 18:34 Jesus answered him, "Are you speaking for yourself about this, or did others tell you this concerning Me?"

Joh 18:35 Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You to me. What have You done?"

Joh 18:36 Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here."

Joh 18:37 Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say *rightly* that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."

Joh 18:38 Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?" And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews, and said to them, "I find no fault in Him at all."

Joh 18:39 "But you have a custom that I should release someone to you at the Passover. Do you therefore want me to release to you the King of the Jews?"

Joh 18:40 Then they all cried again, saying, "Not this Man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a robber.

"My Kingdom is not of this world". Now if the Kingdom of Jesus Christ is not of this world, why is He coming back to this earth? Fundamentalist Christians never tire preaching that Jesus Christ returns to set up the Kingdom of God upon this earth, in spite of the fact that He clearly stated that His Kingdom is not of this world. It only shows how good their much trumpeted understanding of the Scripture is, compared with that of mainstream Christianity whom they accuse of knowing very little about it.

Mainstream Christians preach that people's judgment takes place immediately after death; therefore, there is no need for Jesus Christ to return to the earth. However, the judgment does not take place after death, but after resurrection, and that is why Jesus Christ needs to return to this earth.

Earlier in His ministry, His disciples asked Him a question which linked His return with the end of this age.

Mat 24:1 Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple.

Mat 24:2 And Jesus said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not *one* stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down."

Mat 24:3 Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? And **what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?**"

Mat 24:4 And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you.

Mat 24:5 For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many.

Mat 24:6 And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all *these things* must come to pass, but **the end is not yet.** . .

Jesus Christ acknowledged that there is an end to this age, and went on to list the signs that would precede His return. He told His disciples to watch out for those signs – the buds that portend the arrival of spring.

Now herein lays the crux of the matter, for His return is clearly linked in the Scriptures with a young earth.

Elsewhere in this edition, we discuss the book, *Thousands . . . Not Billions*, (Master Books, 2005), which makes a competent case that traditional dating methods have been wrong, that a correct reading of scientific data reveals an age of the earth of about 6,000 years, the same as that obtained from biblical chronology. This is what Wikipedia says on this topic.

"**James Ussher** (sometimes spelled **Usher**) (4 January 1581–21 March 1656) was Anglican Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland between 1625–1656. He was a prolific scholar, who most famously published a chronology that purported to time and date creation to the night preceding 27 October 4004 BC, according to the proleptic Julian calendar.

The chronology is sometimes called the Ussher-Lightfoot chronology because John Lightfoot published a similar chronology in 1642–1644. This, however, is a misnomer, as the chronology is based on Ussher's work alone and not that of Lightfoot. Ussher deduced that the first day of creation began at nightfall preceding Sunday October 23, 4004 BC, in the proleptic Julian calendar, near the autumnal equinox. Lightfoot similarly deduced that Creation began at nightfall near the autumnal equinox, but in the year 3929 BC.

Ussher's proposed date of 4004 BC differed little from other Biblically-based estimates, such as those of Bede (3952 BC), Ussher's near-contemporary, Scaliger (3949 BC), Johannes Kepler (3992 BC) or Sir Isaac Newton (c. 4000 BC)^[1]. Ussher's specific choice of starting year may have been influenced by the then-widely-held belief that the Earth's potential duration was 6,000 years (4,000 before the birth of Christ and 2,000 after), corresponding to the six days of Creation, on the grounds that "one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day" (2 Peter 3:8). This view had been almost completely abandoned by 1997.^{*[citation needed]*} six thousand years after 4004 BC. Some biblical scholars, as well as a number of evangelical Christians, declare their literal interpretation of the Bible and a 6000-year-old Earth.^[2]

Ussher was able to establish an unadjusted Creation date of about 4000 BC. He moved it back to 4004 BC to take account of an error perpetrated by Dionysius Exiguus, the founder of the Anno Domini numbering system. Josephus indicated that the death of Herod the Great occurred in 4 BC; therefore, Jesus could not have been born after that date. Jesus was born some time between 37 BC (when Herod came to power) and 4 BC. In the event, Ussher calculated that Christ's birth year must have been 4 BC.

Ussher's chronology provides the following dates for key events in the Biblical history of the world^[4]:

- 4004 BC - Creation
- 2348 BC - Noah's Flood
- 1921 BC - God's call to Abraham
- 1491 BC - The Exodus from Egypt
- 1012 BC - Founding of the Temple in Jerusalem
- 586 BC - Destruction of Jerusalem by Babylon and the beginning of the Babylonian Captivity
- 4 BC - Birth of Jesus

“It may be an accident of history that Ussher's chronology remains so well known while those of Scaliger and Bede, amongst others, have slipped into obscurity. From about 1700 onwards, annotated editions of the immensely influential *King James* translation of the Bible began to include his chronology with their annotations and cross-references. The first page of Genesis was annotated with Ussher's date of Creation, 4004 BC, though in reality, Ussher's *Annales* is estimated to have relied on the Bible for only one sixth of its volume. It was included in the widely distributed *Scofield Reference Bible*. More modern translations of the Bible usually omit the chronology, but there are still many copies of the annotated *King James* in circulation.”

Years ago, before I knew anything about Usher, Lightfoot, Bede, Scalinger, Kepler, and Newton's calendars, I did my own calculations and came roughly to the same conclusion. This is not all that difficult to do. First, we have the ages of the Patriarchs before the Flood, then the ages of Noah's and Abraham's descendants, and then the history of Israel to the time of Jesus Christ. Some problems arise in relation to a few kings of Israel, the lengths of whose reigns are not very clear due to divided monarchy, parallel regency, or imprecise recordings. However, these differences are few and not major, and can be corroborated by other historical documents or archaeological discoveries. This is why those great biblical scholars came up with slight differences in their calculations of the date of Creation – 4004, 3929, 3952, 3949, 3992, and 4000 B.C.

The reason these dates were abandoned by 1997 is because many people believed Usher when he said that the end of the world would occur after six thousand years. 1997 would have been the last year if Creation took place in 4004 B.C. For some reason, Usher ignored the prophecies of the New Testament, in particular the book of Revelation, which is nothing but history and prophecy.

Usher's mistake came from his belief that Creation week comprised only six days. Creation was not completed in six days, but in seven. God worked for six days and rested on the seventh. In like manner, he gave man six days to do his work, and left the seventh day for rest and worship.

Apostle Peter's observation that "one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day", means that the first six days of Creation represent six thousand years that God gave men to do their dirty work and discover that they could not govern themselves, while the seventh day, the Sabbath, represents the Millennium Kingdom – a time of rest for the earth and peace for humankind.

Usher and the biblical scholars who abandoned his chronology, failed to take into consideration a number of prophecies that are to take place at the confluence between the six thousand years and the Millennium Kingdom. Usher may be forgiven for that, for he lived almost four centuries earlier, and may have thought that such prophecies would be fulfilled by the time the earth reached six thousand years, but that is inexcusable for modern day theologians who should have known better.

What do these prophecies tell us? First, that there is a delay in the return of Jesus Christ!

Mat 25:1 "Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.

Mat 25:2 Now five of them were wise, and five *were* foolish.

Mat 25:3 Those who *were* foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them,

Mat 25:4 but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.

Mat 25:5 But while **the bridegroom was delayed**, they all slumbered and slept.

Mat 25:6 "And at midnight a cry was *heard*: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!'

Mat 25:7 Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps.

Mat 25:8 And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us *some* of your oil, for our lamps are going out.'

Mat 25:9 But the wise answered, saying, 'No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.'

Mat 25:10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut.

Mat 25:11 "Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!'

Mat 25:12 But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.'

Mat 25:13 "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.

That could explain why the age of man did not end in 1997. The fact that ever since that time the world has undergone tribulations after tribulation tells us that this transitional period is full of perils for the world.

The world should consider itself lucky that God has given it extra time to mend its ways before He unleashes the Great Tribulation which will cleanse the earth of more than moral, physical and spiritual pollutions. The earth will swallow up those who have abused it and blasphemed their Creator. Unfortunately, human beings

seldom learn the lessons of history and the Scriptures. Instead of using this extended period for good, they have sunk even deeper into a cesspool of immorality, abominations and blasphemies.

When 1997 came and went, and the end did not come, people who had set their heart on that date lost faith in God and in His Word. They abandoned Usher and the other scholars, and gave up on biblical chronology. The return of Jesus Christ became irrelevant or a mere point in a distant future. A prominent church leader once told me that Jesus Christ could return a thousand years from now as far as he was concerned, no one knows when. He had little awareness of the prophecies that link His return with our time. That is a deadly mistake, for it turns the members of those churches against the people that pass on God's messages and warn the world of impending catastrophe unless they return to God in heartfelt repentance and worship. In at least two prophecies, men turn against God's people and kill them for daring to speak in His name. Let us look at them.

1) The work of Elijah.

Mal 4:4 "Remember the Law of Moses, My servant, Which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel, *With the statutes and judgments.*

Mal 4:5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.

Mal 4:6 And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.

What Law did God give Moses on Mount Horeb? The Ten Commandments, the Holy Days, and a series of statutes and judgments according to which they were to conduct their life! Failure to live by them would cause the Almighty to strike the earth with a curse, or as some people suggest it should be translated, utter destruction. Here is a brief quote from Deuteronomy about the importance of God's laws.

Deu 4:5 "Surely I have taught you statutes and judgments, just as the LORD my God commanded me, that you should act according *to them* in the land which you go to possess.

Deu 4:6 Therefore be careful to observe *them*; for this *is* your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, 'Surely this great nation *is* a wise and understanding people.'

Deu 4:7 "For what great nation *is there* that has God *so* near to it, as the LORD our God *is* to us, for whatever *reason* we may call upon Him?

Deu 4:8 And what great nation *is there* that has *such* statutes and righteous judgments as are in all this law which I set before you this day?

Deu 4:9 Only take heed to yourself, and diligently keep yourself, lest you forget the things your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. And teach them to your children and your grandchildren,

Deu 4:10 especially concerning the day you stood before the LORD your God in Horeb, when the LORD said to me, 'Gather the people to Me, and I will let them hear My words, that they may learn to fear Me all the days they live on the earth, and *that* they may teach their children.'

Deu 4:11 "Then you came near and stood at the foot of the mountain, and the mountain burned with fire to the midst of heaven, with darkness, cloud, and thick darkness.

Deu 4:12 And the LORD spoke to you out of the midst of the fire. You heard the sound of the words, but saw no form; *you only heard* a voice.

Deu 4:13 So He declared to you His covenant which He commanded you to perform, the Ten Commandments; and He wrote them on two tablets of stone.

Deu 4:14 And the LORD commanded me at that time to teach you statutes and judgments, that you might observe them in the land which you cross over to possess.

Deu 4:15 "Take careful heed to yourselves, for you saw no form when the LORD spoke to you at Horeb out of the midst of the fire,

Deu 4:16 lest you act corruptly and make for yourselves a carved image in the form of any figure: the likeness of male or female,

Deu 4:17 the likeness of any animal that *is* on the earth or the likeness of any winged bird that flies in the air,

Deu 4:18 the likeness of anything that creeps on the ground or the likeness of any fish that *is* in the water beneath the earth.

Deu 4:19 And *take heed*, lest you lift your eyes to heaven, and *when* you see the sun, the moon, and the stars, all the host of heaven, you feel driven to worship them and serve them, which the LORD your God has given to all the peoples under the whole heaven as a heritage.

Deu 4:20 But the LORD has taken you and brought you out of the iron furnace, out of Egypt, to be His people, an inheritance, as you are this day.

Now does anyone have any doubt that what has happened in the world in recent times are curses from God because people do not keep His Commandments, His Holy Days, and His statutes and judgments?

Jesus Christ and His disciples had no doubt that Elijah would come according to prophecy.

Mat 17:9 Now as they came down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, "Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man is risen from the dead."

Mat 17:10 And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?"
Mat 17:11 Jesus answered and said to them, "Indeed, Elijah is coming first and will restore all things.
Mat 17:12 But I say to you that Elijah has come already, and they did not know him but did to him whatever they wished. Likewise the Son of Man is also about to suffer at their hands."
Mat 17:13 Then the disciples understood that He spoke to them of John the Baptist.

Unlike His disciples, however, Jesus Christ knew that there would be two Elijahs. The first was John the Baptist, and the second would come before His return to "restore all things".
Now do you remember what Apostle Peter said? Here it is again.

Act 3:19 Therefore repent and convert so that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from *the* presence of the Lord.
Act 3:20 And He shall send Jesus Christ, who before was proclaimed to you,
Act 3:21 whom Heaven truly needs to receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by *the* mouth of His holy prophets since the world began.

And what are the things that need to be restored by Elijah before Jesus' return? The Ten Commandments, the Holy Days, the statutes, the judgments, AND the Gospel of Jesus Christ! None of these are observed by the churches of today. The Gospel that Jesus Christ and His Apostles preached to the first Christians is virtually unknown in the churches of today. And yet, Jesus Christ made it clear that without the Commandments of God no one could be saved (Mat 19:17-23). He also told His disciples the following:

Joh 14:15 "If you love Me, keep My commandments.
Joh 14:16 And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—
Joh 14:17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.
Joh 14:18 I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.
Joh 14:19 "A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also.
Joh 14:20 At that day you will know that I *am* in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.
Joh 14:21 He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."
Joh 14:22 Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, "Lord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?"
Joh 14:23 Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.

What do you think would happen if one went to his preacher and told him that God the Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit dwell in him? I do not suggest you do it if you want to remain a member of that Church. It is not a mere coincidence that the prophecy about Elijah is being fulfilled now, at the junction of six thousand years and the Millennium Kingdom. Your Church leader, who preaches a different gospel, will most likely deny that this prophecy is being fulfilled at present. To admit that would be tantamount to acknowledging that he is a false preacher. But then, what did Jesus Christ say about this time?

Mat 24:11 Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.
Mat 24:24 For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.

False preachers will never deceive the elect of God. What few people realize is that deception does not come from the pulpit of churches only, but from academic lecterns too, from people who teach evolution and long ages.

2) Another prophecy that must be fulfilled at this time is the work of the two witnesses of Revelation.

Rev 11:3 And I will give *power* to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth."
Rev 11:4 These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth.
Rev 11:5 And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner.
Rev 11:6 These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire.
Rev 11:7 When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them.
Rev 11:8 And their dead bodies *will lie* in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.
Rev 11:9 Then *those* from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three-and-a-half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves.

Rev 11:10 And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth.
Rev 11:11 Now after the three-and-a-half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them.
Rev 11:12 And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them.

Wherever we look at the prophecies about the end of this age, people are hostile to God and to His people. That people who preach the truth of God are being killed, and then resurrected, confirms that their work takes place just prior to the return of Jesus Christ, when a wider resurrection takes place too.

Rev 20:1 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.
Rev 20:2 He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is *the* Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years;
Rev 20:3 and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.
Rev 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then *I saw* the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received *his* mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.
Rev 20:5 But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.
Rev 20:6 Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.
Rev 20:7 Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison
Rev 20:8 and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea.
Rev 20:9 They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them.
Rev 20:10 The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet *are*. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.
Rev 20:11 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them.
Rev 20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is *the Book of Life*. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.
Rev 20:13 The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.
Rev 20:14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.
Rev 20:15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

The last thousand years will be completely different from the previous six. By removing Satan from the world, humanity will have a thousand years of peace. Then this universe will be rolled back and a new earth and new heaven be set up which shall never have an end. This is prophesied in both the Old and the New Testaments.

Isa 65:14 Behold, My servants shall sing for joy of heart, But you ["who forsake the LORD", v11] shall cry for sorrow of heart, And wail for grief of spirit.
Isa 65:15 You shall leave your name as a curse to My chosen; For the Lord GOD will slay you, And call His servants by another name;
Isa 65:16 So that he who blesses himself in the earth Shall bless himself in the God of truth; And he who swears in the earth Shall swear by the God of truth; Because the former troubles are forgotten, And because they are hidden from My eyes.
Isa 65:17 "For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; And the former shall not be remembered or come to mind.
Isa 65:18 But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create; For behold, I create Jerusalem *as* a rejoicing, And her people a joy.
Isa 65:19 I will rejoice in Jerusalem, And joy in My people; The voice of weeping shall no longer be heard in her, Nor the voice of crying.
Isa 65:20 "No more shall an infant from there *live but a few days*, Nor an old man who has not fulfilled his days; For the child shall die one hundred years old, But the sinner *being* one hundred years old shall be accursed.
Isa 65:21 They shall build houses and inhabit *them*; They shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.
Isa 65:22 They shall not build and another inhabit; They shall not plant and another eat; For as the days of a tree, *so shall be* the days of My people, And My elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

Isa 65:23 They shall not labor in vain, Nor bring forth children for trouble; For they *shall be* the descendants of the blessed of the LORD, And their offspring with them.

Isa 65:24 "It shall come to pass That before they call, I will answer; And while they are still speaking, I will hear.

Isa 65:25 The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, The lion shall eat straw like the ox, And dust *shall be* the serpent's food. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain," Says the LORD.

2Pe 3:1 Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in *both of* which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder),

2Pe 3:2 that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior,

2Pe 3:3 knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts,

2Pe 3:4 and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as *they were* from the beginning of creation."

2Pe 3:5 For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water,

2Pe 3:6 by which the world *that* then existed perished, being flooded with water.

2Pe 3:7 But the heavens and the earth *which* are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

2Pe 3:8 But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day *is* as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

2Pe 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

2Pe 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

2Pe 3:11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner *of persons* ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,

2Pe 3:12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?

2Pe 3:13 Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

2Pe 3:14 Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless;

2Pe 3:15 and consider *that* the longsuffering of our Lord *is* salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you,

2Pe 3:16 as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable *people* twist to their own destruction, as *they do* also the rest of the Scriptures.

2Pe 3:17 You therefore, beloved, since you know *this* beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked;

2Pe 3:18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him *be* the glory both now and forever. Amen.

Rev 21:1 Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. . .

Jesus Christ could not tell His disciples when these things will take place. They were to go out into the world and make disciples of all the nations, not wait for His return. Our mission, however, is quite different. First, it is to restore the Gospel of salvation which has become lost by now, and second, to warn the world of utter destruction unless it returns to its creator God. Conditions in the world are exactly those prophesied for this time – the transition between six thousand years and the Millennium Kingdom.

This is the time that Jesus Christ is scheduled to return to this world, which confirms a young age for the earth. However, before that could occur, certain frightening prophecies need to be fulfilled. They are frightening because they speak of nothing less than the very destruction of this world. We have discussed these prophecies at length in previous editions, so we are having only a brief look at those that are more relevant for us now.

Eze 38:1 Now the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

Eze 38:2 "Son of man, set your face against Gog, of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal, and prophesy against him,

Eze 38:3 and say, "Thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, I *am* against you, O Gog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal.

Eze 38:4 I will turn you around, put hooks into your jaws, and lead you out, with all your army, horses, and horsemen, all splendidly clothed, a great company *with* bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords.

Eze 38:5 Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya are with them, all of them *with* shield and helmet;

Eze 38:6 Gomer and all its troops; the house of Togarmah *from the far north* and all its troops—many people *are* with you.

The geographical location “in the far north”, identifies the nations of Gog, Rosh, Meshech, Tubal, Gomer and Togarmah as belonging to the Russian Federation and its allies. How remarkable that Persia (Iran) Ethiopia, and Libya should be “with them” at this time. Bear in mind that this prophecy was given more than two and a half millennia ago.

Eze 38:7 "Prepare yourself and be ready, you and all your companies that are gathered about you; and be a guard for them.

Eze 38:8 After many days you will be visited. **In the latter years** you will come into the land of those **brought back from the sword** and gathered from many people on the mountains of Israel, which had long been desolate; they were brought out of the nations, and now all of them dwell safely.

Is it a mere coincidence that at this precise time these nations pose an existential threat to Israel – the people “brought back from the sword”? At what other time in history could this prophecy have been fulfilled?

Eze 38:9 You will ascend, coming like a storm, covering the land like a cloud, you and all your troops and many peoples with you."

Eze 38:10 "Thus says the Lord GOD: "On that day it shall come to pass *that* thoughts will arise in your mind, and you will make an evil plan:

Eze 38:11 You will say, 'I will go up against a land of unwalled villages; I will go to a peaceful people, who dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates'—

Eze 38:12 to take plunder and to take booty, to stretch out your hand against the waste places *that are again* inhabited, and **against a people gathered from the nations**, who have acquired livestock and goods, who dwell in the midst of the land.

Eze 38:13 Sheba, Dedan, the merchants of Tarshish, and all their young lions will say to you, 'Have you come to take plunder? Have you gathered your army to take booty, to carry away silver and gold, to take away livestock and goods, to take great plunder?' " "

Eze 38:14 "Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say to Gog, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "On that day when My people Israel dwell safely, will you not know *it*?"

Eze 38:15 Then **you will come from your place out of the far north, you and many peoples with you**, all of them riding on horses, a great company and a mighty army.

Eze 38:16 You will come up against My people Israel like a cloud, to cover the land. It will be **in the latter days that I will bring you against My land**, so that the nations may know Me, when I am hallowed in you, O Gog, before their eyes."

It is not a question of ‘if’ or ‘maybe’ or ‘perhaps’, that these nations will come against Israel, but a fact guaranteed by God. A Chinese proverb says, ‘may you live in interesting times’. One can hardly think of more interesting times than our own.

Eze 38:17 Thus says the Lord GOD: "Are *you* he of whom I have spoken in former days by My servants the prophets of Israel, who prophesied for years in those days that I would bring you against them?"

Eze 38:18 "And it will come to pass at the same time, when Gog comes against the land of Israel," says the Lord GOD, "*that* My fury will show in My face.

Eze 38:19 For in My jealousy *and* in the fire of My wrath I have spoken: 'Surely in that day there shall be a great earthquake in the land of Israel,

Eze 38:20 so that the fish of the sea, the birds of the heavens, the beasts of the field, all creeping things that creep on the earth, and all men who *are* on the face of the earth shall shake at My presence. The mountains shall be thrown down, the steep places shall fall, and every wall shall fall to the ground.'

I would not live in a high rise if I were in Israel, or anywhere else in the world for that matter, for a great earthquake is said to strike the whole world at this time.

"Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame." And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon. Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, "It is done!" And there were noises and thunderings and lightnings; **and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth.** Now the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath. Then every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. And great hail from heaven fell upon men, each hailstone about the weight of a talent. Men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, since that plague was exceedingly great. (Rev 16:15-21)

Are the Jews still asking why the Holocaust took place, where God was in those days, or why He allowed it to happen? They should read their own Scriptures to find that out.

- Eze 39:24 According to their uncleanness and according to their transgressions I have dealt with them, and hidden My face from them." "
- Eze 39:25 "Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: 'Now I will bring back the captives of Jacob, and have mercy on the whole house of Israel; and I will be jealous for My holy name—
- Eze 39:26 after they have borne their shame, and all their unfaithfulness in which they were unfaithful to Me, when they dwelt safely in their *own* land and no one made *them* afraid.
- Eze 39:27 When I have brought them back from the peoples and gathered them out of their enemies' lands, **and I am hallowed in them in the sight of many nations,**
- Eze 39:28 then they shall know that I *am* the LORD their God, who sent them into captivity among the nations, but also brought them back to their land, and left none of them captive any longer.
- Eze 39:29 And I will not hide My face from them anymore; for I shall have poured out My Spirit on the house of Israel,' says the Lord GOD."

And if these prophecies still do not convince you that these things will take place at the conclusion of six thousand years, just in time for the return of Jesus Christ, the following prophecy should.

- Zec 14:1 Behold, the day of the LORD is coming, And your spoil will be divided in your midst.
- Zec 14:2 For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; The city shall be taken, The houses rifled, And the women ravished. Half of the city shall go into captivity, But the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city.
- Zec 14:3 Then the LORD will go forth And fight against those nations, As He fights in the day of battle.
- Zec 14:4 And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, Which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, From east to west, *Making* a very large valley; Half of the mountain shall move toward the north And half of it toward the south.
- Zec 14:5 Then you shall flee *through* My mountain valley, For the mountain valley shall reach to Azal. Yes, you shall flee As you fled from the earthquake In the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Thus the LORD my God will come, *And* all the saints with You.
- Zec 14:6 It shall come to pass in that day *That* there will be no light; The lights will diminish.
- Zec 14:7 It shall be one day Which is known to the LORD Neither day nor night. But at evening time it shall happen *That* it will be light.
- Zec 14:8 And in that day it shall be— *That* living waters shall flow from Jerusalem, Half of them toward the eastern sea And half of them toward the western sea; In both summer and winter it shall occur.
- Zec 14:9 And the LORD shall be King over all the earth. In that day it shall be "The LORD is one," And His name one.
- Zec 14:10 All the land shall be turned into a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem. *Jerusalem* shall be raised up and inhabited in her place from Benjamin's Gate to the place of the First Gate and the Corner Gate, and *from* the Tower of Hananel to the king's winepresses.
- Zec 14:11 *The people* shall dwell in it; And no longer shall there be utter destruction, But Jerusalem shall be safely inhabited.
- Zec 14:12 And this shall be the plague with which the LORD will strike all the people who fought against Jerusalem: Their flesh shall dissolve while they stand on their feet, Their eyes shall dissolve in their sockets, And their tongues shall dissolve in their mouths. [*Only in a nuclear war could this happen*].
- Zec 14:13 It shall come to pass in that day *That* a great panic from the LORD will be among them. Everyone will seize the hand of his neighbor, And raise his hand against his neighbor's hand;
- Zec 14:14 Judah also will fight at Jerusalem. And the wealth of all the surrounding nations Shall be gathered together: Gold, silver, and apparel in great abundance.
- Zec 14:15 Such also shall be the plague On the horse *and* the mule, On the camel and the donkey, And on all the cattle that will be in those camps. So *shall* this plague be.
- Zec 14:16 And it shall come to pass *that* everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.

They will not go to Jerusalem to celebrate Easter, Christmas, Sunday, saints days, or any of the 'holy days' that 'Christians' observe these days, but the Feast of Tabernacles, and God's other scriptural Holy Days.

- Zec 14:17 And it shall be *that* whichever of the families of the earth do not come up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, on them there will be no rain.
- Zec 14:18 If the family of Egypt will not come up and enter in, they *shall have* no rain; they shall receive the plague with which the LORD strikes the nations who do not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.
- Zec 14:19 This shall be the punishment of Egypt and the punishment of all the nations that do not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.
- Zec 14:20 In that day "HOLINESS TO THE LORD" shall be *engraved* on the bells of the horses. The pots in the LORD's house shall be like the bowls before the altar.

Zec 14:21 Yes, every pot in Jerusalem and Judah shall be holiness to the LORD of hosts. Everyone who sacrifices shall come and take them and cook in them. In that day there shall no longer be a Canaanite in the house of the LORD of hosts.”

God’s Word cannot be changed, and that is why Palestinians should turn to God and Jesus Christ now, while they can still do it, and not sacrifice their children to the god of death anymore, for God can give them a great land in His Kingdom, not on that patch of unfortunate land.

These then are the prophecies that need to be fulfilled at the end of six thousand years, prior to the onset of the Millennium Kingdom. Only a blind person could not see that the world is in the midst of preparatory stages to those awesome events. However, we still have not answered the question of why Jesus Christ returns to this earth if His Kingdom is not of this world.

Verses 4 to 7 of Zechariah 14 tell us that when He comes His feet will stand on the Mount Olives, the place they crucified Him. From then on, “the LORD shall be King over all the earth. In that day it shall be “The LORD is one,” And His name one.” Let us now go briefly to the book of Revelation.

Rev 14:1 Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred *and* forty-four thousand, having His Father’s name written on their foreheads.

Rev 14:2 And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps.

Rev 14:3 They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred *and* forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth.

Rev 14:4 These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from *among* men, *being* firstfruits to God and to the Lamb.

Rev 14:5 And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God.

Rev 14:6 And I saw another angel flying in mid-heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those dwelling on the earth, even to every nation and kindred and tongue and people,

Rev 14:7 saying with a great voice, Fear God and give glory to Him! For the hour of His judgment has come.”

Concomitant with the return of Jesus Christ, there will be a resurrection of one hundred and forty-four thousand people. Who are these people and what role will they play?

Rev 5:1 And I saw in the right *hand* of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals.

Rev 5:2 Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?”

Rev 5:3 And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it.

Rev 5:4 So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it.

Rev 5:5 But one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.”

Rev 5:6 And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth.

Rev 5:7 Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.

Rev 5:8 Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

Rev 5:9 And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,

Rev 5:10 And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.”

These are the new kings and priests who will reign over the world under Jesus Christ during the Millennium Kingdom. However, they will play the role of judges too, just as it was in the beginning of the Kingdom of Israel when its rulers were also its judges.

Can you see now why the current world rulers cannot play any role in the Kingdom of Jesus Christ? Those whom God prepares to be kings and priests in His Kingdom are being trained through fire, so to speak, until the law of God is firmly anchored in their hearts, and the mind of God imprinted in their heads.

Php 2:5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,

Php 2:6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,

Php 2:7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men.

Php 2:8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of* death, even the death of the cross.

Php 2:9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,
 Php 2:10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,
 Php 2:11 and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
 Php 2:12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;
 Php 2:13 for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure.
 Php 2:14 Do all things without complaining and disputing,
 Php 2:15 that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,
 Php 2:16 holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

If Jesus Christ, who had the Holy Spirit, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, neither should His disciples who also have the Holy Spirit and are of one mind with Him and the Father.

That the new kings and priests will also play the role of judges is proved by the following Scriptures too.

1Co 6:2 Do you not know that the saints shall judge the world? And if the world shall be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters?

1Co 6:3 Do you not know that we shall judge angels, not to mention *the things of this life*?

Therefore, during the thousand years Millennium Kingdom, those who are resurrected at the return of Jesus Christ, will reign over the earth (Rev 5:10), preach the Gospel to all nations (Rev 10:11), judge those who have lived since the beginning of the world (1Cor 6:1,2), Rev. 14:7), and follow Christ to the throne of His Father in heaven (Rev 14:3).

From there, He and His new kings and priests will reign over the earth and guide the affairs of the world in an invisible manner, in the same way that He and the Father have been guiding the world until now.

It is not possible for spirit beings to live side by side with human beings. That is why those who say that Jesus Christ returns to set up the Kingdom of God upon this earth, and live in the world as human beings do have no idea what they are talking about.

The Millennium Kingdom and the Kingdom of God are not the same thing. The first one is being set up at the end of six thousand years, and lasts for one thousand years only, and the latter will be set up after the Millennium Kingdom, not upon this earth, but upon a new earth and a new heaven, and will last forever.

Rev 21:1 Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.

Rev 21:2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Rev 21:3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them *and be* their God.

Rev 21:4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

Rev 21:5 Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful."

Rev 21:6 And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts.

Rev 21:7 He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.

Rev 21:8 But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

In conclusion, if the earth is billions of years old, the current world difficulties are a mere blimp on an indefinite history of the world. Men will reverse global warming; climate change will stabilise; draughts, floods and other unusual phenomena will come back to normal; world economies will recover from the current slump; and humanity will enjoy another long period of 'peace, progress and prosperity'.

If, on the other hand, the earth is young, and the world follows a predetermined course, the globe will get hotter; climate change will become unstoppable; draughts, floods, and other natural extremes will get worse; famine and pestilences will take plagues proportions; world economies will remain in the doldrums; nations will become unstable and scramble for diminishing resources; a major war will ensue; world population will be reduced to a trickle; none of the wicked will survive; Jesus Christ will make a triumphant return; the survivors will turn to God en masse; and a real new world order will be set up – one of true peace, prosperity and holiness.

The spiritually wise of this world will have no problem understanding which one is true.

They will be preparing for the inevitable; in a hurry.

THE CHRISTIAN HOLY DAYS FOR THE YEARS 2009 - 2011

	2009	2010	2011
The Passover (Pesah – Nissan 14) Unlike the Jews, who used to kill the Passover lamb “at the twilight” of Nissan 14 (meaning in the evening towards Nissan 15), we, Christians, observe the Passover when our “Lamb” – Jesus Christ – was sacrificed. That happened on the afternoon of Nissan 14, before the twilight of Nissan 14, meaning that we keep it a little earlier than the Jews. We commemorate His death, not His supper, which occurred the previous evening, as some churches do. The time when His body was broken, not when He broke the symbolic bread.	8 April	29 March	18 April
Days of Unleavened Bread (Nissan 15 – 21) On the first and seventh days there shall be holy convocations. No work shall be done on these days.	9 – 15 April	30 March – 5 April	19 – 25 April
Pentecost (Shavuot – Sivan 6)	29 May	19 May	8 June
Feast of Trumpets (Rosh Hashanah – Tishri 1)	19 Sept.	9 Sept.	29 Sept.
Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur – Tishri 10)	28 Sept.	18 Sept.	8 Oct.
Feast of Tabernacles (Succoth – Tishri 15 – 22) On the first and the eighth days there shall be holy convocations. No work shall be done on these days	3 – 10 Oct.	23 Sept. – 30 Sept.	13 – 20 Oct.

Yes, children should partake of the Lord’s Supper

Among the myriad of contentious emails we have had to deal with, was one which purported to clarify the question of whether children should partake of the Lord’s Supper. This is what they said:

“Should children partake of the Lord’s Supper? The Lord’s Supper is an act of remembering, a commemorative event. Every time we take the Lord’s Supper we remember the price Jesus Christ paid for us on that cross. He took upon Himself the judgment that God would have given us. He gave His body to be destroyed (the broken bread), and for the forgiveness of our sins He poured out His blood (the wine symbolises this fact). At the Lord’s Supper, we meditate over what happened at Golgotha, remembering that these events were experienced personally by Jesus Christ on our behalf, and in so doing He wiped out our guilt on that cross. Our attitude must be one of gratitude, the Holy Scriptures are warning us to beware not to take the Lord’s Supper in an unworthy manner, but to receive it with reverence and humility. In this context, the term ‘unworthy’ means not to take the Supper unaware of its significance. For this reason, people who have not been born again should not partake of this Super.” (Received on Feb. 15, 2007)

First of all, these people think that they have been ‘born again’ when every indication is that they do not have the Holy Spirit. We have reason to believe that this is a Sunday observing church, and no such church could ever have the Holy Spirit. Even many Sabbatarian churches do not have the Holy Spirit these days, let alone those who observe the Day of the Sun.

Second, the Lord’s Supper, or Passover as it should be more correctly called, is one of seven biblical Holy Days. You keep them all, or you keep none, which is what Sunday observing churches have been doing for millennia anyway.

Third, the Passover must be observed once a year at the right time, not willy-nilly every time there is a gathering for a religious service. It loses its significance if you do it that way. Since Sunday observing churches know nothing of God’s calendar – a lunar calendar, as opposed to the Roman solar calendar – it means that whatever they observe cannot be the Passover.

Fourth, the apostles made no distinction between people who were born again and those who were not born again. They merely said that people must not receive the Lord’s Supper in an unworthy manner. Some of those who claim to be born again are further away from God than many worldly people. Why do you think Jesus Christ said that many are called but few are chosen? The chosen come from among the called, from among those who think that they are born again.

Human beings cannot know a worthy person from an unworthy one, unless he is obviously a boisterous drunkard or sinner. Only God knows that. If they know that they are unworthy, and still partake of the Lord’s Supper, let it be upon their own head. Let them be responsible before Jesus Christ, and let not humans be judges of that.

If people want to partake of the Lord’s Supper, even strangers, they should not be prevented from doing so. The only requirement being that they observe the solemnity of the occasion. And that goes for children too.

What greater joy could parents have than to see their children quietly participate and take in the meaning of such an important memorial? I can assure you that Jesus Christ would not turn children away from commemorating His sacrifice.

In fact, I would suggest that if you have relatives, friends, or neighbours whom you think are worthy of it, who may benefit from it, and might be willing to participate in it in the appropriate manner, invite them along.

And no, there is no washing of feet on that occasion. Those who know that they are going to have their feet washed, scrub them thoroughly before hand, so that exercise becomes nothing more than an exercise in futility.

Jesus Christ gave us an example that we may live by it in the real world, not when we commemorate His sacrifice.