

LAMPLIGHTER

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

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No. 5



The Beginning and The Ending



Observations by the Editor

Interpretation

I am so tired of people spiritualizing the Bible, arguing that it doesn't mean what it says, but that it means instead what they say.

W. A. Criswell (1909-2002), the pastor of First Baptist Church in Dallas for over 50 years (1944-1995), once referred to spiritualizers as purveyors of "Leopard Theology." As he explained it, "They believe the Bible is inspired only in spots and that they have the ability to spot those spots."

As I point out in the lead article in this issue, the spiritualizers have had the most fun playing around with the beginning and the ending of the Bible — with the story of Creation and with the prophecies concerning the Second Coming.

Christian leaders need to stop this nonsense. God wants to communicate with us. He knows how to do so, and He has done so in His Word. Spiritualizers need to stop trying to explain to us what God really meant to say!

The Bible claims repeatedly to be the Word of God (1 Samuel 9:27 and Hebrews 4:12). That means it is totally truthful and reliable because God cannot lie (Numbers 23:19 and Titus 1:2). I urge you to accept what it says for its plain sense meaning, even when you do not understand it. After all, we are called to live by faith (Habakkuk 2:4, Romans 1:17, and Hebrews 10:38). ✚



Dr. Reagan at the grave of Horatio Spafford on Mount Zion in Jerusalem. Spafford is the man who wrote the hymn, "It Is Well With My Soul."

2012 Calendar

Each year we publish a calendar featuring scenes of Israel.

The last two years our calendars have been composed of photographs of the Holy Land by an outstanding photographer named Todd Bolen. In 2010 we featured churches in the Holy Land. This year the emphasis was on the gates of Jerusalem.

The theme for next year's calendar is going to be "The Galilee of Jesus."

The calendar sells for \$5, plus the cost of shipping. You can place an order now by calling 972-736-3567 between 8am and 5pm Central time, Monday through Friday. These calendars make great Christmas presents. For orders of 10 or more, the price is \$4 each, plus the cost of shipping. ✚

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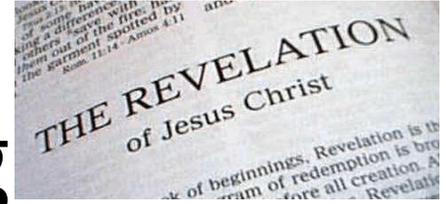
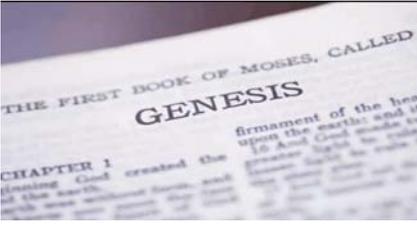
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2012 Holy Land Calendar

Lamb & Lion Ministries



The Beginning and The Ending



Dr. David R. Reagan

A Preamble

This article is one I have been ruminating about for some time. It was about three years ago when the Lord laid the title on my heart. I began praying about it and searching the Scriptures and turning it over and over in my mind.

Finally, the message began to burn in my heart for a release, and so I decided to pull it together for presentation at our annual Bible conference.

I consider it to be a personal testimony about my faith. As such, you may not agree with what I have to say, but I hope you will respect it, even as I respect those fellow believers who would disagree with me.

Introduction

Let's get started by taking a look at the words that begin and end the Bible.

The Bible begins with these words: "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1).

The Bible ends with these words: "He [Jesus] who testifies to these things says, 'Yes, I am coming quickly.' Amen. Come, Lord Jesus" (Revelation 22:20).

The Bible begins with a revelation. The Bible ends with a promise.

Do you believe these words? Do you really believe them without reservation?

If you do, then you are an exception to the norm, for the fact of the matter is that the vast majority of professing Christians — both Catholic and Protestant, including even Evangelicals — do not accept the plain sense meaning of these verses.

The reason is that the beginning and ending of the Bible are the two most abused areas of God's Word. That's be-

cause they have been spiritualized into meaninglessness.

The Abuse of Spiritualization

For those of you who may not be familiar with the term, spiritualization, let me explain that it means to argue that the plain sense meaning of Scripture is **not** its true meaning.

Let me give you a classic example of spiritualization taken from the writings of a theologian by the name of Loraine Boettner. It has to do with his interpretation of Zechariah 14:1-9.

That passage says that in the end times Jerusalem will be surrounded by enemy forces and will be ready to fall to them when the Lord will suddenly return to the Mount of Olives. When His feet touch the Mount, it will split down the middle. The Lord will then speak a supernatural word that will instantly destroy all the enemy forces. And on that day, the Lord will become King over all the earth.

In his commentary on this passage, Boettner completely spiritualized it.¹

He argued that the Mount of Olives stands for the human heart. The enemy forces symbolize the evil in this world that surrounds and attacks the heart. The Lord's return represents what happens when a person accepts Jesus as Lord and Savior.

Thus, when Jesus comes into a person's heart, their heart (the Mount of Olives) splits in contrition, and all the evil influences in the person's life are defeated, and Jesus becomes king of that person's heart.

That's what I call an exercise in imagination!

Personal Experience

I personally know a lot about spiritualization because I grew up in a church that specialized in this perversion of Scripture. Let me give you an example, and once again, it relates to Zechariah 14, verses 1-9.

I discovered that passage when I was 12 years old, and I couldn't believe my eyes when I read it, because all the



Source: www.scenicreflections.com

preachers I had ever heard had been hard core Amillennialists — people who do not believe that Jesus will ever return to this earth to reign for a thousand years. Over and over I had heard these preachers proclaim, “There is not one verse in the Bible that even implies that Jesus will ever put His feet on this earth again.”

Well, here was a passage that did more than imply. It said point blank that the Messiah will return to the Mount of Olives and that when His feet touch ground, the mountain will split in half!

So, in fear and trembling, I went to my pastor, showed him the passage, and asked what it meant. He studied it a long time, and then he stuck his finger in my face and said, “Son, I don’t know what this passage means, but I will guarantee you one thing, it doesn’t mean what it says.”

Why People Spiritualize

People love to spiritualize the Scriptures because when they do so, they can make the Bible say whatever they please, and in the process they get to play God.

Most professing Christians today are members of churches whose leaders use spiritualization to play fast and loose with the beginning and ending of the Bible. The preaching and teaching they hear is based upon spiritualization, and it converts the opening chapters of the Bible into a mythical story, and the ending of the Bible into mythical promises.

The Beginning

Regarding the origins of our planet and life, the Bible plainly reveals that both were created by God in six days about 6,000 years ago.

Christendom seemed to have no problem with this revelation until the 19th Century. Scientists before that time — even the man acknowledged to be the greatest scientist in history, Sir Isaac Newton — believed the biblical story and affirmed it in their writings.

The Attack of Science

But in the 19th Century, scientists began to challenge the biblical story, reaching its culmination with Darwin’s Theory of Evolution which was proposed in 1859 in his book, *On the Origin of Species*.²

As the 20th Century began, the Bible was on the defensive, and the battle came to a climax with the Scopes Trial in 1925 when William Jennings Bryan tried to defend the biblical view while Clarence Darrow mocked and scoffed.³



The conflict between the Bible and Science was the focal point of the Scopes Trial in Tennessee in 1925. Clarence Darrow is shown above on the left talking with William Jennings Bryan. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scopes_Trial)

The Christian Response

In response to the relentless attacks of scientists, Christian theologians scrambled to try to make the biblical story line up with the claim of the scientists that the universe was billions of years old and that all life had evolved haphazardly from a single source.

This was accomplished primarily in one of two ways, or a combination of both.

First, was the Day-Age Theory that converted each day of the Genesis creation week into a million or more years.

The second was the Gap Theory. According to this idea, there is a gap of millions or billions of years between the first two verses of Genesis.

There are different versions of the Gap Theory, but all versions postulate that God’s original creation was most likely corrupted by the rebellion and fall of Satan. Then millions or billions of years later, God decided to bring order out of the chaos by re-creating the earth and its heavens. Some who subscribe to the Gap Theory believe that the re-creation process took only 6 literal days. But most would contend that each of the days were actually millions of years.

They thus combine the Gap Theory with the Day-Age Theory and end up with a creation process that took place over a time span of billions of years.

The Situation Today

Today, the Gap Theory, or some version of it, is held by most Christians — even Evangelicals. Many believe that God intervened at some point and created Man.

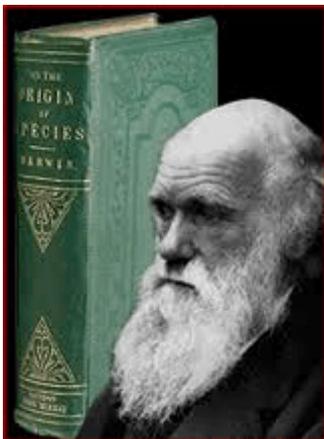
But many, if not most believe in Theistic Evolution. In other words, they believe God created all life, but that it emerged over a long period of time through a process of guided evolution.

When challenged to simply believe the creation story in the Bible, they often respond with scoffing.

Personal Experiences

I experienced this early in the history of this ministry when I was speaking to the combined adult Sunday School classes of a church in Oklahoma. I just happened to mention in passing that we should accept the Genesis story of creation to mean what it says — namely, that God created the universe and life supernaturally in six literal days some 6,000 years ago. That off-the-hand remark prompted an explosion! A man jumped to his feet and started yelling. “I can’t believe that you believe such nonsense,” he shouted. He then added, “It’s ignorant people like you who make Christians look like fools!” At that point, he stomped out of the room.

Here’s another example of what I’m talking about. In 2009 we aired a series of television programs with Dr. Jobe Martin who has a great ministry that focuses on the Creation-Evolution conflict.⁴ In one of those programs, he told why he believes the Genesis story of creation means exactly what it says.



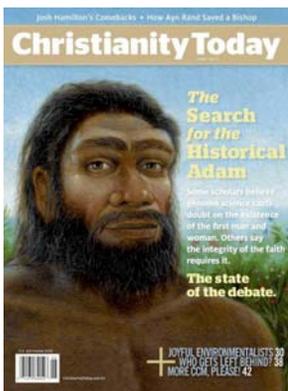
Charles Darwin

In response, I received a letter from a Christian who watched the program via satellite in Latvia, one of the former Russian Baltic Republics. He wrote:

Is the cause of Christ really advanced by having on your show a wild-eyed fanatic who cannot comprehend the concept of proof? Possibly we are not talking about the same Creator? My Lord can not lie, thus, He cannot create an old-looking earth to deceive the modern man . . . Satan's best troops in the battle to stymie Christianity are the Young Earth advocates. There are hundreds of reasons that speak of earth's age, but the well-meaning fools refuse to learn some science before they argue against it . . . Dear sir, preach what you will but not in the name of Christianity. Do not make my Lord a deceiver and Christians an uneducated lot.

And lest you think these are isolated examples, let me point out that a group of Evangelicals have formed an organization called BioLogos whose purpose is to convince Christians that "the process of evolution is a tenable biblical position, and . . . is the best Christian apologetic to defend Genesis 1-3 against its critics."⁵

This group has actually taken the position that if Christians do not accept the theory of evolution, the Church will soon die off, because it will be rejected as "an insignificant cult."⁶



The relevance of this issue was demonstrated recently on the cover of *Christianity Today* magazine, published in June 2011.⁷

This is a magazine founded in 1956 by Billy Graham to espouse and defend biblical truths. But in recent years, it has become increasingly liberal, while still claiming to be Evangelical.

The magazine's cover featured a drawing of Adam as a Neanderthal looking person, and the lead article presented him as being most likely a mythical person. The article is also a shameless apologetic for Theistic Evolution.

Key Questions

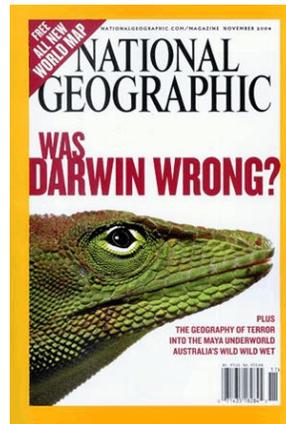
Let's consider for a moment some of the key questions that are always posed by those who scoff at the Genesis account of creation:

- 1) How do you account for the apparent age of the earth?
- 2) How do you explain the fossil records?
- 3) How do you explain the fact that light from distant stars is reaching us — light that would have taken millions of years to arrive?
- 4) How do you explain the complexity of life without millions of years for it to develop?

On and on the questions go.

From a secular viewpoint, the questions appear to present an invincible argument against the biblical story. But from a faith viewpoint, they do not present insurmountable problems.

A Fundamental Principle



That's because all of these questions can be answered by one simple observation: *Special creation always carries with it the impression of age.*

Thus, if I were to create a full grown tree instantly and then reveal it to you, you would argue that it was at least 10 to 15 years old. Or, if I were to create a full grown man instantly and then introduce him to you and ask you to guess his age, you would probably say he was at least 18 years old.

In both cases, there would be an appearance of age, but it would be an illusion.

A Second Consideration

Another factor to consider is that the earth looks old because it is in bondage to decay.

The original earth was perfect, and the Bible indicates that it was encased in a thick vapor canopy and that there was lush vegetation throughout the earth (Genesis 1:6-8, 20).

But that earth was spoiled by the sin of Man. When Adam and Eve rebelled, God responded by putting a curse on the earth, and all of creation was put in bondage to decay. (If you don't believe it, just go look in a mirror!)

That second earth was then further changed radically by the Noahic Flood that suddenly created great mountains and chasms. Consider the Grand Canyon, for example. It appears to have developed as the result of millions of years of erosion. But we know from the Mount St. Helens eruption in 1980 that such canyons can be created literally overnight.⁸ They do not require great eons of time.

A Basic Issue

The lack of a need for time brings us back to a basic issue. The Bible teaches that God is omnipotent (Matthew 19:26). He could therefore have created the whole universe in the twinkling of an eye. *He did not need time.*

He chose instead to create the universe and all life in 6 days because the Bible says He wanted to give us a model for life — namely, 6 days of labor followed by one day of rest.

Answering the Skeptics

Let's return now to the questions posed by the skeptics:

1) How do you account for the apparent age of the earth?

Answer: The apparent age is just that: it is apparent and not real.

The original earth looked old when it was created, and that appearance of age has been accelerated by the curse of God which put the whole universe in bondage to decay.

Nor is it dishonest of God to create an earth that looks old. Again, the appearance of age is a corollary of special creation. Furthermore, God has clearly told us how He created in His Word. How can He be accused of deception when He has told us how He did it?

2) How do you explain the fossil record?

Answer: The fossil record is not a record of age. Rather, it is the record of an event — the Noahic Flood.

3) How do you explain the light of the distant stars reaching the earth?

Answer: God created the light already reaching the earth. Therefore, what we observe today through a telescope is what has been happening to those stars since 6,000 years ago when they were created.

4) How do you explain the complexity of life without millions of years for it to develop?

Answer: God doesn't need time for special creation.

Thus, when Jesus converted water into wine at the marriage feast in Cana, He did so instantly, proving He was the God of time (John 2:1-11). With God, there is no need for time.

Age Theory is that they contradict the teaching of the Bible that death did not exist until the sin of Adam and Eve. That's because both theories propose that life evolved slowly over a long period of time, and there was constant life and death long before Mankind, resulting in the survival of the fittest. That assumption of life and death before Man is directly contrary to Scripture.

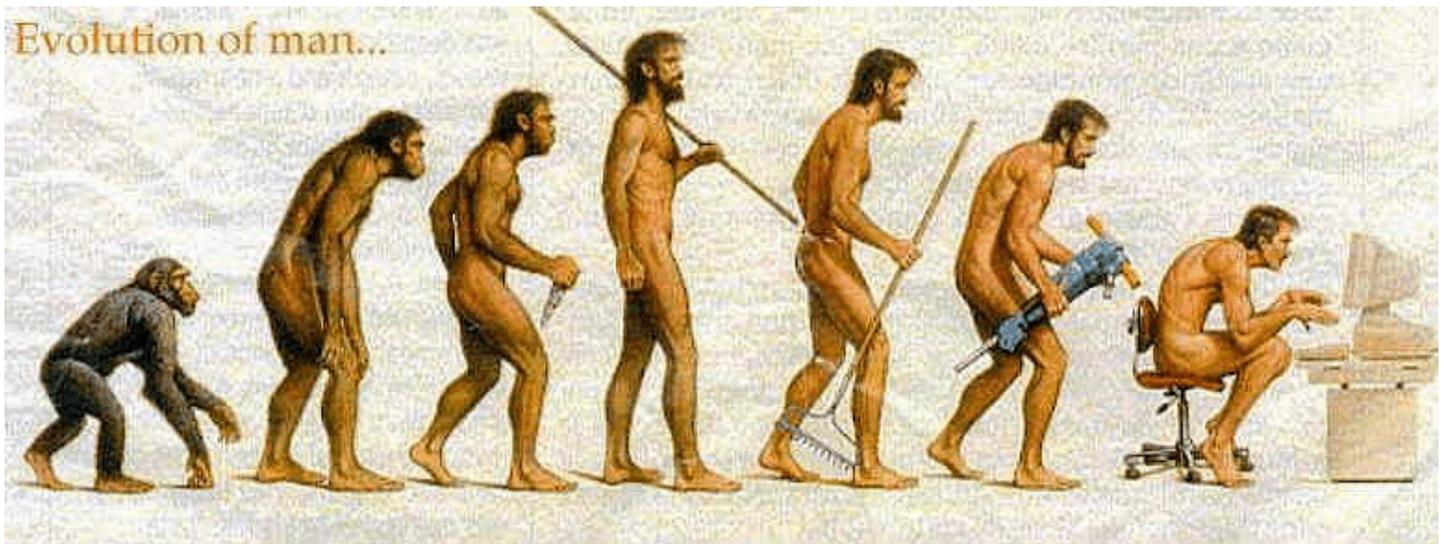
Evolution

The whole theory of Evolution is the greatest fairy tale ever concocted by the depraved mind of Man.

The complexity of both the universe and life attests to intelligent design and the necessity of a Creator. To deny this is equivalent to standing in front of Mount Rushmore and saying, "Wow! Isn't it amazing what can be accomplished accidentally by erosion?"

A scientist would write off such a person as insane. Yet, that same scientist will then turn around and argue that both the universe and life evolved accidentally. It is no wonder that Ray Comfort wrote a book entitled, *You Can Lead an Atheist to Evidence, But You Can't Make Him Think.*⁹

Take, for example, the theory that the creation of the universe began billions of years ago with a Big Bang. This



(Source: www.bordalierinstitute.com)

Improper "Solutions"

To try to solve the contradiction between scientific theory and the biblical story by using the Gap Theory or the Day-Age Theory or both is an admission that God needs time.

One problem with the Gap Theory is that it appears to contradict Scripture. Consider this verse from Isaiah 45:18 —

For thus says the Lord, who created the heavens, (He is the God who formed the earth and made it, He established it and did not create it a waste place, but formed it to be inhabited), I am the Lord and there is none else.

God did not create the earth and then allow it to become a "waste place" for billions of years before restoring it to His original intention — as a home for Mankind.

Another problem with both the Gap Theory and the Day-

theory is based on supposed evidence that the universe is expanding.

But the Bible has an explanation for this. Eleven times we are told in the Scriptures that God "stretched out the heavens" from the point of creation. Here is one example taken from Isaiah 42:5 —

Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk in it . . . (ESV)

If the universe truly is expanding, then it is most likely left over momentum from God's stretching of the heavens.

The whole idea of the universe originating from a "big bang" explosion is preposterous. Let me ask you a simple question: How many explosions have you ever witnessed or have

heard of that produced order instead of chaos?

And how many explosions have ever occurred from nothing? In that regard, I love a poster I discovered recently that pokes fun at the Big Bang Theory. It says, "In the beginning there was nothing — which exploded."

The whole idea of the universe and life originating from an explosion is as absurd as thinking — as some Evolutionists have postulated — that if you would only give 10,000 monkeys enough time, they would eventually produce the entire works of Shakespeare by randomly tapping the keys on typewriters!

Just a Theory

And concerning The Theory of Evolution, it is just that — a theory. The scientific method requires observation. No scientists were present to observe the creation of the universe or life. The only one who was present has revealed to us in His Word how it happened.

The reality is that the advocates of the Theory of Evolution have been running for cover ever since the discovery of DNA and its incredible complexity. Thus, Richard Dawkins, one of the world's leading evolutionists, recently said that his current best guess is that life on earth either came here floating on crystals in space, or else it was planted here by aliens.¹⁰

The bottom line is that these so-called scientists are unwilling to admit the existence of a Creator God because then they would be responsible to someone.

The Bible sums it up best. In the Old Testament it says, "The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God"" (Psalm 14:1). In the New Testament it says: "Even though they [speaking of ungodly people] knew God, they did not honor Him as God . . . but they became futile in their speculations . . . Professing to be wise, they became fools" (Romans 1:21-22).

The Days of Genesis 1

Let's return to the biblical text. We are told in Genesis 1 that God created the universe and life in six days and then rested on the seventh. How do we know they were six twenty-four hour days? The answer is simple. We know the text is speaking of 24 hour days, because it says so! Each day is described literally as an "evening and a morning."

The fact that the Genesis account is speaking of 24 hour days is affirmed in Exodus 20:8-11 —

- 8) Remember the Sabbath Day, to keep it holy.
- 9) Six days shall you labor and do all your work,
- 10) But the seventh day is a Sabbath of the Lord your God; in it you shall not do any work.
- 11) For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day . . .



Could the images on Mount Rushmore have been formed accidentally through natural erosion? (Photo by author)

6,000 Years of History

And how do we know all this happened only about 6,000 years ago? Because the biblical genealogies going back to Adam and Eve cover a time span of only 6,000 years from today's time.

And Jesus Himself said in Mark 10:6 that the beginning of creation dates from Adam and Eve: ". . . from the beginning of the creation, God made them male and female."

In this regard, I think it is interesting to note that the Bible is the only written account of human civilization that provides historical information before the flood of Noah

that took place some 4,300 years ago. All other records of human history, such as the Chinese and Egyptian, date back only to the time of the flood.

Carbon Dating

But what about carbon dating? Hasn't it revealed human skeletons much older than 6,000 years, as well as animals like dinosaurs that are even millions of years old?

The problem with carbon dating is that it is based on evolutionary assumptions — the primary one being the principle of uniformitarianism, which is the scientific theory that life on earth has been uniform ever since the beginning and therefore the carbon content in the atmosphere has always been the same.

Even those who put their faith in carbon dating will admit that if there ever was a world-wide flood, then all carbon-dating is inaccurate. But they deny the occurrence of any such world-wide catastrophe, even though there is overwhelming evidence of it throughout the earth and there are references to it in the folk lore of all ancient civilizations.

Science Book

Some skeptics respond at this point by saying, "The Bible is not a science book, so we cannot take seriously what it says about scientific matters."

It is true that the Bible is not a science book, but it is also true that when the Bible speaks about scientific matters, it speaks with authority and truth. In fact, it would be impossible for the Bible to contradict true science because God is the author of both.

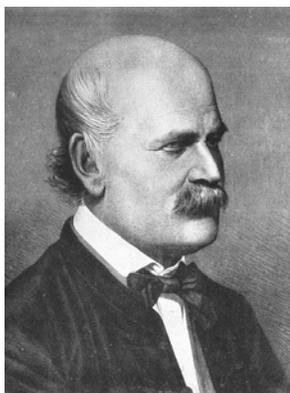
Below are listed some examples of scientific truth that can be found in the Bible, and these examples are only a few of those that could be cited. All these scientific principles were expressed in the Bible long before they were "discovered" by scientists.

- 1) The earth is a sphere suspended in space (Isaiah 40:22 and Job 26:7)
- 2) Atmospheric circulation (Eccl. 1:6)
- 3) Ocean currents (Psalm 8:8)
- 4) The hydraulic cycle (Isaiah 55:10)

- 5) Life is in the blood (Leviticus 17:11)
- 6) The First Law of Thermodynamics (2 Peter 3:7, 13) — this is the law of the conservation of mass and energy that was not discovered until 1850.
- 7) The Second Law of Thermodynamics (Romans 8:21) — all of creation is in bondage to decay. (Also discovered in 1850.)
- 8) Basic laws of hygiene (Leviticus 11-15)

Regarding the final point above, the basic laws of hygiene outlined by Moses in the book of Leviticus were far superior to anything practiced in ancient times, whether in Egypt or anywhere else.

During the period of the Great Plague in Europe in the 14th Century, the Jews were often blamed for it because their infection rate was far less than the general public. But their seeming immunity was due to the practice of the Mosaic laws of hygiene. (Keep in mind that this was a time in history when people took baths only once a year — and then, only if they really needed one!)



Ignaz Semmelweis

(Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org>)

To further illustrate how far ahead of science the hygienic laws of the Bible were, consider the incredible story of Ignaz Semmelweis.¹¹ He was a Hungarian doctor who was practicing medicine in Vienna in 1847 when he noticed the high rate of infection and death in the obstetrics ward. He observed that the doctors were performing vaginal exams after having done autopsies. Assuming they were transferring something from the dead bodies, he suggested they start washing their hands after completing the autopsies. This resulted in a dramatic improvement, but the idea was still rejected by the medical community as nonsense. He died before the germ theory of disease was developed in the 1860's by Louis Pasteur and Joseph Lister.¹²

So What?

Some of you may be thinking at this point, “So what? What difference does it make how the Genesis record of Creation is interpreted?”

Let me assure you that it makes a lot of difference.

For one thing, the integrity of the Bible as the Word of God is at stake. For example, if we cannot believe what the Bible says about the Creation, then how can we believe what it says about the Resurrection? Or what it says about the return of Jesus?

And that brings me to the ending of the Bible.

The Ending

Like the Beginning, the Ending of God's Word has been spiritualized into meaning anything except what it says.

The viewpoint of End Times that prevails in the Church today — both Catholic and Protestant — is Amillennialism, the belief that there will never be a millennial reign of Jesus on this

earth.

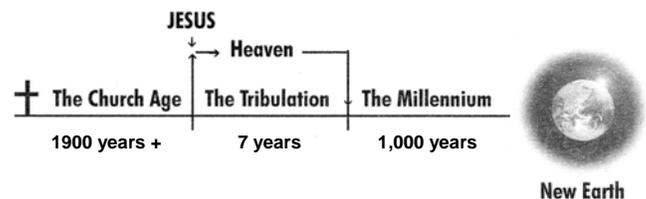
This view is based on a spiritualization of Scripture.

The Biblical View

The Bible says point blank Jesus will return to this earth to reign for a thousand years (Revelation 20:4). It further states that Satan will be bound during that time (Revelation 20:1-3), and that the earth will be flooded with peace, righteousness and justice as the waters cover the seas (Isaiah 9:6-7 & Isaiah 11:9).

The Bible also teaches that at the end of that reign, this earth will be consumed with fire and out of that fiery inferno will come a new earth that will serve as the eternal home of the Redeemed (2 Peter 3:12-13 and Revelation 21:1). It also teaches that God will come down to earth and that the Redeemed will live in glorified bodies in His presence forever (Revelation 21:2-4).

The Biblical View Of End Time Events

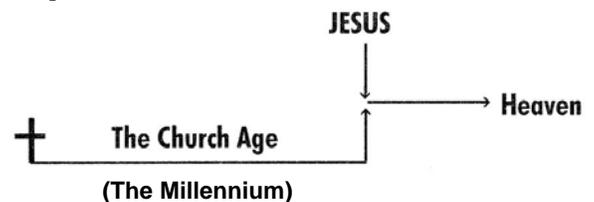


The Amillennial View

The Amillennial viewpoint spiritualizes all of this.

It argues that the Millennium began at the Cross with the binding of Satan and that the Millennium continues to this day with Jesus reigning from Heaven through His Church. In other words, the Church Age is the Millennium. There is no Rapture in this viewpoint, nor is there any Great Tribulation.

Most Amillennialists would further argue that when Jesus returns, He will simply appear and then take all believers, both living and dead, back to Heaven with Him to live eternally in an ethereal spirit world.



The problems with this view are overwhelming.

- 1) If we are in the Millennium now, why isn't the world flooded with peace, righteousness and justice?
- 2) If Jesus is reigning now, why is He doing such a poor job? After all, every nation in the world is in rebellion against Him. And if He is reigning now as King of kings, then why does the Bible portray Him instead as our High Priest before God's throne? (Hebrews 3:1 and Hebrews 4:14-16).

The Bible says Jesus came the first time as our Savior. He currently serves as our High Priest. He will return as our King of kings.

- 3) If Satan is bound now, then why does evil abound in the world, and why do Scriptures written long after the Cross portray

him as continuing to be the ruler of this world?

Furthermore, the Bible says Satan is going to be bound in a special way during the Millennium. He will be restrained so that he can no longer deceive the nations of the world. Yet, everywhere we look today, we see nations deceived.

4) What would God have to do to convince us that Jesus is returning to reign for a thousand years?

Repeatedly throughout the Old Testament we are told that the Messiah will reign over all the world from Mount Zion in Jerusalem (Isaiah 2:1-4; Isaiah 9:6-7; Daniel 7:13-14, 18, 27; and Micah 4:1-7). And in chapter 20 of the book of Revelation we are told six times that His reign will last 1,000 years.

5) Finally, how do you explain eternity in an ethereal world as a spirit being when the Bible says we will live forever in glorified bodies on a new earth? (Revelation 21:1-7).

Furthermore, when it comes to the interpretation of prophecy, there is a fundamental fact that must be kept in mind — namely, all First Coming prophecies were literally fulfilled in their plain sense meaning. Why, then, would the Second Coming prophecies be any different?

Conclusion

The bottom line is that we need to stop playing games with God's Word. We need to accept it for what it says — and stop trying to make excuses for it.

Hundreds of times, in both the Old Testament and the New Testament, the claim is made that the writers of the Bible are speaking the Word of God (1 Samuel 9:27 and Hebrews 4:12). If so, then what they wrote must be without error, for God cannot lie, nor can He make mistakes.

I therefore challenge you to accept the Bible for what it



“Maranatha!” by Stephen Gjertson (Source:www.wallpaperama.com)

Interpretation

It all comes down to a matter of interpretation.

As with the interpretation of the beginning of the Bible, the interpretation of the ending depends upon whether you are going to accept the plain sense meaning of the text or whether you are going to insist on spiritualizing the text to mean what you want it to mean.

I believe the fundamental rule for the interpretation of all the Bible, from beginning to end should be what I call the Golden Rule of Interpretation:

If the plain sense makes sense, don't look for any other sense, lest you end up with nonsense.

claims to be — the Word of God — and I challenge you to believe it for what it says.

And I want to conclude by emphasizing that my challenge to you to accept the Bible for what it claims to be, and to believe it for what it says, is a challenge that comes directly from Jesus Christ Himself. Here is what He is recorded as saying in John 5:46-47:

... if you believed Moses, you would believe Me, for he wrote about Me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?

Moses was the one who wrote the book of Genesis. We need

to believe what he wrote.

Your Christian faith will have full meaning only when you believe that the universe and the life it contains was supernaturally created by God for a purpose.

And you will never experience the fullness of Christian hope until you start believing the promises of God's Prophetic Word.

The Beginning and the Ending —

May God forgive us for ignoring them.

May God forgive us for abusing them.

May God forgive us for playing games with them.

May we commit ourselves to their revival in the teaching and preaching programs of our churches.

God was there at the beginning. He will be there at the end. He holds the whole universe in His hands. Let us find peace in the knowledge that He is sovereign.

My message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God. (The Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 2:4-5) ❖

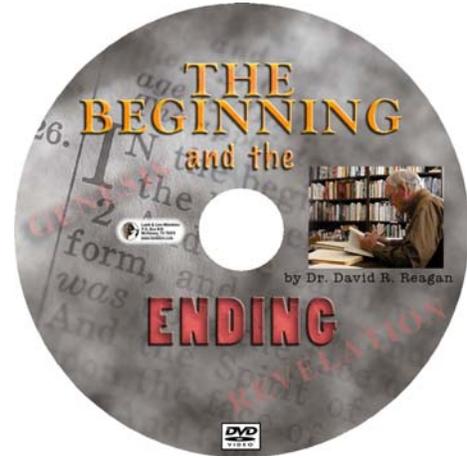
Notes:

- 1) Loraine Boettner, *The Millennium* (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing Co., 1957).
- 2) Charles Darwin, *On the Origin of Species* (London: John Murray Publisher, 1859).
- 3) Dr. David Menton, "The Scopes 'Monkey Trial' — 80 Years Later," www.answersingenesis.org/docs2005/0711scopes.asp. It should be noted that Bryan did not believe in a young earth. He took the Day-Age position, arguing that each day of creation represented millions of years.
- 4) Jobe Martin's outstanding book about his conversion from Evolution to Creationism is titled, *The Evolution of a Creationist*. It can be obtained from Lamb & Lion Ministries for \$15 plus the cost of shipping. To order, call 972-736-3567.
- 5) The BioLogos Forum, About The BioLogos Foundation, <http://biologos.org/about>.
- 6) Lawrence Ford, "Confronting Evolutionary Ideas," www.icr.org/article/confronting-evolutionary-ideas, 2011.
- 7) Richard N. Ostling, "The Search for the Historical Adam," www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2011/june/historicaladam.html, June 3, 2011.
- 8) Dr. Steven A. Austin, "Mt. St. Helens and Catastrophism," www.icr.org/article/mt-st-helens-catastrophism, 1986.
- 9) Ray Comfort, *You Can Lead an Atheist to Evidence, But You Can't Make Him Think* (Washington, D.C.: WND Books, 2009).
- 10) William Hooper, "Richard Dawkins on Intelligent Alien Design," www.theoligarch.com/richard-dawkins-aliens.htm, May 2008, updated January 2011.
- 11) Wikipedia, "Ignaz Semmelweis," http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ignaz_Semmelweis.
- 12) Wikipedia, "Germ theory of disease," http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Germ_theory_of_disease.

Available on DVD

Dr. Reagan's presentation, "The Beginning and the Ending," is available in video format on a single DVD. It was videotaped before a live audience at the recent Lamb & Lion Annual Bible Conference.

It comes in a video album that can be purchased for \$12, plus the cost of mailing. The presentation runs approximately 50 minutes in length and contains all the PowerPoint slides that Dr. Reagan used to illustrate his points.

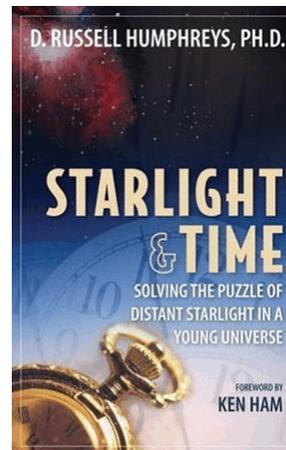


Since this presentation was made at the banquet after the end of the conference, it is not included in the conference album that is advertised on the back cover.

To order the presentation, call 972-736-3567 between 8am and 5pm (Central time), Monday through Friday. ❖

The Problem of Starlight

For those who may be interested in pursuing the problem of starlight as it relates to belief in a young earth and cosmos, you should take a look at a new theory developed by Dr. Russell Humphreys. It is called "time dilation." The theory is spelled out in his book, *Starlight & Time* (Green Forest, AR: Master Books, 1994).



Dr. Humphreys earned his doctorate in physics from LSU in 1972, by which time he was a fully convinced creationist. For the next 6 years he worked in the High Voltage Laboratory of the General Electric Company. In 1979 he started working for Sandia National Laboratories in New Mexico doing research in theoretical atomic and nuclear physics.

For an excellent discussion of the starlight problem, see Jason Lisle's article, "Does Distant Starlight Prove the Universe Is Old?"

(www.answersingenesis.org). ❖

Creation Ministries

Dr. David R. Reagan

There are a number of very fine ministries that focus on the issue of creation versus evolution. The ones I am recommending below are those that I am personally acquainted with. All of them are thoroughly biblically based, and as such, they teach a young earth and the supernatural creation of life.

The Institute for Creation Research



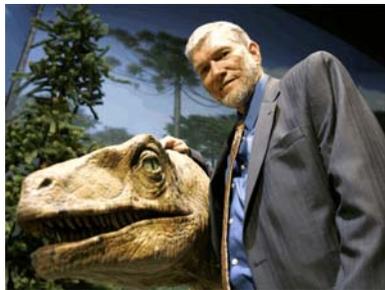
Dr. Henry Morris

This is the oldest of the creation ministries. It was founded in 1970 by Dr. Henry Morris, who is considered to be the father of the modern day creation movement. He was serving as a professor of hydraulic engineering at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in 1961 when he published the book, *The Genesis Flood*, which presented scientific reasoning for a young earth, the supernatural creation of life, and the historicity of

the Noachic Flood. Dr. Morris died in 2006, and the operation of the ministry was taken over by his two sons, John Morris and Henry Morris III. In 2007 the ministry was moved from the San Diego area to Dallas, Texas. The ministry publishes a great variety of educational materials designed for all age groups. The ICR website can be found at www.icr.org.

Answers in Genesis

This is the largest and perhaps the most influential of all the creation ministries. It was founded by Dr. Ken Ham, an Australian who moved to the United States in 1987. After working for ICR for several years, he founded AIG in 1994. The ministry is located in Petersburg,



Dr. Ken Ham

Kentucky (just south of Cincinnati). They recently opened a Creation Museum that has attracted over one million visitors in its first three years of operation. They are currently building a full scale model of Noah's Ark. Dr. Ham has a daily radio program called "Answers with Ken Ham." It is broadcast on more than 900 stations in the United States.

I have only one reservation about this ministry, and that is the fact that Dr. Ham has publicly stated that it makes no difference to him what people believe about end time Bible prophecy. I wrote and asked what he would think if I were to say that it made no difference to me what people believe about the origin of the universe and life. I am still waiting for an answer. The leaders of all the rest of the creation ministries featured on this page believe in a literal, plain-sense interpretation of end time Bible prophecy. The AIG website can be accessed at www.answersingenesis.org.

The Creation Truth Foundation

This ministry, located in Noble, Oklahoma, was founded in 1989 by Dr. Thomas Sharp who holds science degrees from Purdue University and the University of Oklahoma. He has been a science educator since 1964. Dr. Sharp is a much sought after conference speaker who delights audiences with the use of many object lessons. He is a skilled educator who serves as editor-in-chief of a Bible based science curriculum called "Truth in Science." His ministry's website is at www.creationtruth.com.



Dr. Thomas Sharp

Biblical Discipleship Ministries



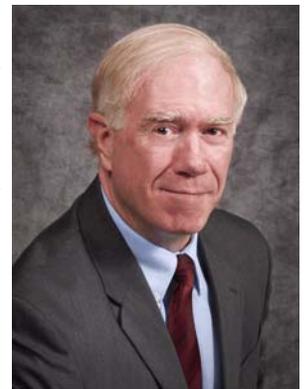
Dr. Jobe Martin

Dr. Jobe Martin is the founder of this ministry that is based in Rockwall, Texas, a suburb of Dallas. He is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh Dental School. He was teaching at the Baylor College of Dentistry when a student challenged his allegation that teeth had evolved from fish scales! He accepted the challenge, and his study led him to reject evolution — a story he tells in his best-selling book, *The Evolution of a Creationist*. Dr. Martin gave up his career in

dentistry and entered Dallas Theological Seminary. In 1984 he founded BDM Ministries, which focuses on the teaching of Creationism. He has produced a series of highly innovative videos called, "Incredible Creatures That Defy Evolution." His ministry's website can be found at <http://biblicaldiscipleship.org>.

Creation Training Initiative

The newest of the creation ministries is this one founded by Mike Riddle. It was established earlier this year, and is based in Hebron, Kentucky. The ministry may be new, but its founder has been involved in creation ministry for over 30 years. Mr. Riddle holds degrees in Mathematics and Education. Prior to getting involved in creation ministry, he was a captain in the U.S. Marines and a national champion in track and field. His business career included managing both U.S. Sprint and Microsoft's world-wide technical training. Mr. Riddle has a passion for teaching people how to teach and defend the biblical view of creation. He serves as an adjunct speaker for AIG, and he is a featured speaker at the Stealing the Mind Conferences sponsored by Compass Ministries. His ministry's website can be found at www.creationtraining.org. ❖



Mike Riddle

How I Lost Faith in Evolution

Dr. James Hugg, Ph.D.

(Editor's note: Dr. Hugg earned B.S. and M.S. degrees in physics at California Institute of Technology. His doctorate is in nuclear physics and was earned at Stanford University. After serving for ten years as a research physicist for Shell Oil and British Petroleum, he decided to change careers and focus on the field of medicine. He received a post-doctoral fellowship in medical imaging from the University of California in San Francisco. He then served in academic positions with The Henry Ford Health Science Center in Detroit and the University of Alabama in Birmingham. After discovering his Jewish heritage, he decided to emigrate to Israel, together with his Jewish wife, Susan, and their two children. He became an Israeli citizen and went to work for General Electric Global Research in Haifa, focusing on the development of MRI technology. He currently serves as vice president and chief technology officer at Gamma Medical-Ideas in Northridge, California. He and his family attend Shepherd of the Hills Church in Porter Ranch. Dr. Hugg has been the recipient of many prestigious scientific awards and research grants. He currently serves as vice president of the Lamb & Lion Board of Trustees.)



Dr. James Hugg

As a child, I believed in Santa Claus, the Easter Bunny, the Tooth Fairy, God, and the Bible. When I discovered that Santa Claus, the Easter Bunny, and the Tooth Fairy were lies, I suspected that God and the Bible were lies, too. As I approached adolescence, I read many science books and developed a skeptical attitude about the supernatural.

As a Boy Scout I worked to earn the God and Country award by volunteering my service in my family's mainline church. I questioned the pastor about the authenticity of the Bible, the divinity of Jesus, and the existence of God. He cynically denied them all and said his ministry was to offer the congregation psychological help to cope with life and feel better about themselves!

Rejecting God

I was 13 when I rejected God, declared myself an atheist, and enthusiastically embraced Evolution as my worldview. My humanistic textbooks and teachers further convinced me that the Bible was an invention of ruling men who wanted to control the uneducated multitude. I frequently quoted Karl Marx who proclaimed, "Religion is the opiate of the masses." The Bible was supposedly full of mythology, superstition, and contradictions — a compilation of legends taken from many cultures.

I ridiculed Christians and persecuted them for believing imaginary nonsense. I competed successfully in several high school debate and oratory tournaments, winning first place trophies by delivering a dramatic (although mocking) rendition of

Jonathan Edward's famous sermon "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God," earning for myself the facetious nickname "Reverend."

Turning Points

Two events caused me to question atheistic Evolution while I was studying physics at the California Institute of Technology (CalTech). The motto of CalTech is "The truth shall set you free" (although the quote is never attributed to Jesus).

The first event was the sudden death of my father. He was killed in a gas-well explosion on my 18th birthday, which led me at his funeral to begin to wonder if there might be life after death.

The second turning point came during my sophomore year. I took a biology course called "Topics in Evolution Theory." It was taught by Nobel Prize winner Max Delbrück. He frankly told the class that the Bible offered a simpler explanation of the scientific observations related to the origin of life and the universe. However, he rejected the biblical account simply because of his worldview that there was nothing supernatural in the universe.

He claimed that no scientist could even entertain the possibility of the supernatural. He had tremendous faith that natural science would eventually explain the universe as the result of a Big Bang followed by the spontaneous formation of galaxies, stars, planets, and life — evolving all the species living and extinct over billions of years guided only by natural selection from random mutations of DNA. Professor Delbrück revealed in his course that the Theory of Evolution is full of holes, is contradicted by many facts, and is based on blind faith in the non-existence of God.

I rejected Professor Delbrück's claim that a scientist could not consider the possibility of the supernatural. In contrast, I believed that true science is the pursuit of truth, wherever that pursuit leads, even to consider the supernatural.

Competing Worldviews

As a result of that class in Evolution, I re-examined God and the Bible. In the process I discovered that many reputable scientists believe that the Bible provides a better explanation of the facts of nature about the origin of the universe and life on earth. The two worldviews, Evolution and Creation, provide opposing explanations of these facts. Both worldviews are scientific and both are also religious.



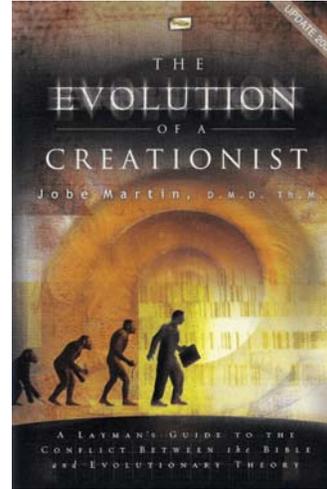
The Helix Nebula, often called "The Eye of God."

(<http://apod.nasa.gov/apod/ap110108.html>)

Learning From My Students

Dr. Jobe Martin, D.D.

(Editor's note: The essay below is excerpted from Dr. Martin's outstanding book, *The Evolution of a Creationist*. It is available from our ministry for \$15 plus the cost of shipping. Dr. Martin earned his dental degree from the University of Pittsburgh Dental School. He later earned a Th.M. degree from Dallas Theological Seminary.)



Frustration was not an adequate word to describe my feelings! Which was true — evolution and billions of years, or creation in six 24-hour days? Two of my students at Baylor College of Dentistry had challenged me to investigate the possibility that the God of the Bible had created everything in six 24-hour days, as described in the first chapter of Genesis. My first reaction was, “Only an ignorant fool would believe in those ancient myths of the Book of Genesis.”

I was an evolutionist. My years as a biology major at Bucknell University and a dental major at the University of Pittsburgh had convinced me that we are here because of evolutionary processes — all very logical and explainable through the Scientific Method.

This was A.D. 1971! We were living in the days of modern, hi-tech-science, which had claimed proof of evolution to be true. And yet, these two dental students were brilliant young men. They held advanced degrees in the sciences. Surely, there must be a simple way to prove that their six-day view of creation was wrong.

One of the questions those two dental students asked me was this: “Doctor Martin, have you ever heard of the concept of God creating things with the appearance of age?” At that point in my pilgrimage, I certainly had not, but it sparked a desire to learn more . . .

A Radical Transformation in Thinking

As I talked with those Baylor students, I began to realize that evolutionary theory and the Biblical creation account cannot be merged. The belief that God used evolutionary processes or even successive creations over extended periods of time to change primitive molecules into you and me (Macroevolution, Theistic Evolution, Progressive Creation) is inadequate.

It portrays a vicious, stupid God who needed millions of years of ferocious animals eating animals or “survival of the fittest,” to produce something He considered perfect enough to announce that man was finally in His own image. Evolution destroys God, His infinite power and His image. Furthermore, evolution enslaves God to the restrictive boundaries of time and robs Him of His glory (Isaiah 48:11). ❖

The order and beauty of the universe are either evidence of billions of years of gradual godless evolution, or they are evidence for the work of a Creator. I decided that it takes much more faith to believe in godless Evolution than to believe in the well-supported biblical account of Creation by God. I lost faith in Evolution, renounced atheistic humanism, and accepted God, His Bible, and His account of Creation as the truth in June of 1972.

Growing in Faith

Over the past four decades, I have continued to find evidence of the truth of God's Word, and my faith in God and His Son, our Messiah continues to grow. I am convinced that the Genesis account is true and more plausibly explains life and the universe than the Theory of Evolution. I have found the Bible to be accurate in all fields of science, including physics, medicine, and archaeology.

I do not have space here to explain Creation Science,* but I recommend to parents and children the publications of the Institute for Creation Research. They have outstanding publications for all levels, pre-school through college.

The contradictions I once thought filled the Bible have evaporated as my understanding of God's Word has grown. I believe that many cultures have borrowed from the truth of the Bible to shape their myths and superstitions. I believe that the recently discovered “Bible Codes” confirm the supernatural origin of the Bible and emphasize the importance of believing the plain sense meaning of this incredible “love letter from God.” Most importantly, God has transformed my life and proven to me His existence and His love for His creation. I can see His hand at work daily. The instructions for life given by our Creator God are reliable and good.

Finally, I am impressed by the fact that multitudes of Bible prophecies have been fulfilled with 100% accuracy. And I am confident that the remaining Bible prophecies will be fulfilled precisely and completely as “the Lord has declared.”

Confidence in God's Word

I too am confident that God's Word is absolute truth from Genesis through Revelation. God is the Creator and Sustainer of the Universe; He is the loving Father who sent His only Son to be the Savior of His creation; He is the Righteous Judge who will one day judge His rebellious creation and send His Son back to Earth as King of kings and Lord of lords to reclaim it and establish a reign of perfect peace, justice, and righteousness.

Just as God's Prophetic Word foretold exactly the events surrounding Messiah's first advent, the same Word is clear about His second advent. He will come precisely as He said He would.

Maranatha, come quickly, Lord! ❖

*We hope to soon publish an article by Dr. Hugg entitled, “Why I Believe in a Young Earth.”

For a publications catalogue from the Institute for Creation Research, you may visit their web site at <http://www.icr.org> or call 1-800-628-7640 or write them at PO Box 59029, Dallas, TX 75229.

Educational Insanity

In July of this year the State Legislature of California passed a bill mandating the public schools to teach the contributions of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered individuals. Governor Jerry Brown signed the bill immediately and praised it. The bill requires the rewriting of textbooks to present the LGBT community in a positive light. It applies to K-12 students. This means that children as young as 5 years old will be taught that sexual perversion is normal and okay and even to be celebrated. Thankfully, the Pacific Justice Institute worked quickly behind the scenes and, together with several pro-family organizations, has launched a referendum to allow voters to directly repeal the legislation. Under California law, that means the new law is automatically suspended. The referendum supporters have 90 days to garner 500,000 valid signatures to get the repeal on the ballot. Pray for their success.

*Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil.
Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness.*
Isaiah 5:20

Presidential Blasphemy

President Barack Obama declared the month of June to be “National Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month,” as he has done annually since his election. Who would ever have dreamed that an American President would ask the nation to celebrate sexual perversion? For the third time, Dr. Reagan wrote to the President asking why he had omitted prostitutes, pedophiles, and those who practice bestiality. In response to the President’s decadent proclamation, the Federal Reserve Bank in Richmond, Virginia ordered that the gay pride flag be flown on their flag pole, beneath our national flag. A Fed spokesman said, “It represents the bank’s commitment to diversity and inclusion.”



Gay Flag at the Fed

Christian Apostasy

A group of one hundred Christian ministers in the Omaha, Nebraska area recently signed a proclamation declaring that homosexuality is not a sin. The signers included ministers from Lutheran, Episcopalian, United Church of Christ, United Methodist, and Presbyterian churches. In other words, they were representatives of the old mainline denominations that have been bleeding to death over the past 40 years, and which will continue to do so as they thumb their noses at God’s Word. Who do these ministers think they are? By what reasoning do they think they have the right to deny the clear teaching of the Bible that the only sex that is moral is sex between a married man and woman? How can they have the audacity to approve a sexual perversion that is clearly condemned in both the Old and New Testaments? In fact it is a sin so grievous that the Bible says point blank that those who practice it “will not inherit the kingdom of God” (1 Corinthians 6:9-10). These apostate Christian leaders are loving homosexuals into Hell by not calling them to repent, and in the process they are condemning their own souls.

TIMES and Seasons

Urban Madness

A judge has ruled that a ban on circumcision cannot appear on the ballot in the San Francisco city elections in November. The measure would have prohibited circumcision among males under the age of 18. Any violation would have been punishable with a fine up to \$1,000 or one year in jail. There would have been no religious exemptions. The supporters claimed that they were motivated by a conviction that circumcision is a form of genital mutilation. But some of the campaign literature they printed was virulently anti-Semitic. In a comic book type publication, entitled “Foreskin Man,” the rabbi who performs circumcisions is called “Monster Mohel.” His image was taken directly from movie posters advertising the 1940 Nazi film, *Der Ewige Jude* (*The Eternal Jew*).



Nazi Poster



San Francisco Booklet

Seeker-Friendly Nonsense

One of our nation’s most prominent Christian ministries has decided to take Christ out of its name. Campus Crusade for Christ has announced that it is changing its name to “Cru,” which prompted many to ask, “What is a ‘Cru’?” The vice president of the ministry stated, “We felt like our name was getting in the way of accomplishing our mission.” He went on to explain that researchers had found that 9 percent of Christians and 20 percent of non-Christians were alienated by the name Campus Crusade for Christ.

This incredible decision is part of a nation-wide movement to make Christianity more “seeker-friendly.” New church buildings are being built to look more like office complexes than churches. The cross is being removed from steeples and from interior decorations. And names are being changed. For example, Bible Churches, which once were considered to be bedrock Evangelical institutions, are now dropping the word, Bible, from their names for fear that the very mention of God’s Word might scare people away.

All this posturing ignores the fact that the Bible teaches that although both Christ and the Cross will always be offensive to the unsaved because they are convicting of sin, we are to proclaim them anyway because people need to be convicted of their sins. The Apostle Paul wrote: “The word of the cross is to those who are perishing foolishness, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God” (1 Corinthians 1:18). We don’t need to pander to people, we need to confront them with their sin and their need for a Savior. ✚

The Image Of Jesus

“One of the greatest American sculptors was Gutzon Borglum who died in 1941. It was he who made the great carvings of the heads of presidents on Mount Rushmore in South Dakota.

“At one time he worked for many months on a six ton block of marble. A woman who cleaned his studio every day wondered what that great block was for. Finally, after much toil and labor, when the features began to emerge from the marble, the cleaning lady exclaimed, ‘Mr. Borglum, how did you know that Abraham Lincoln was in that stone?’

“That block of marble would still be only a block, were it not for the fact that Gutzon Borglum’s mind, heart, chisel, and artisanship had worked upon it to form the amazing head of Lincoln which is now housed in the Capitol in Washington, D.C.

“Oh, how did God know that Jesus Christ could be seen in you and me, rough blocks that we are? He did! My sincere prayer these days is, ‘Lord, keep chiseling on me until someone recognizes that Christ Jesus lives in me.’” — Ken Humphries of Treasured Truth Today Ministries in Northern Ireland (www.treasuredtruthtoday.org)

God’s Nature

Thoughts by Dr. James MacDonald, pastor of Harvest Bible Chapel in Rolling Meadows, Illinois:

“God is never late, but He is hardly ever early.”

“I have found God to be very unresponsive to ultimatums.”

“When we pray, ‘God you’ve got to do it by a certain time,’ what we really are saying is, ‘Do it Lord while I can still help you!’”



Dr. James MacDonald

Spiritual Insights

“Hatred of the Jews is a genetic part of the Adamic nature.” — Don McGee of Crown & Sickle Ministries (www.crownand-sickle.com)

“In order to defend true Christianity against the encroachment of error, people must be active in finding the wolves who dwell amongst the flock. Sadly, ‘apologetics’ has become a dirty word. Few Christian leaders want to be the bad guys. They would rather make friends with the enemies so they won’t lose out on financial opportunities that come with these alliances.” — Todd Strandberg of Rapture Ready (www.raptureready.com)

“When ideas are no longer anchored in the belief that objective truth exists, we have no reason to seek God’s truth or His reality.” — Craig L. Parshall, general counsel for the National Religious Broadcasters



American Society

“Too often in our day, people are not considered responsible for their own actions. Many in America have lost any real understanding of sin. We live in a society where killing, rape and violence are part of our daily lives through movies, books, TV, and the Internet. Instead of wickedness and sin, we see entertainment. Instead of repentance, we shift responsibility. America accepts a non-stop stream of sin portrayed as entertainment, much of it delivered right into our homes, and when real-life wickedness interrupts, we watch with fascination instead of falling on our knees in prayer.” — Franklin Graham of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association (www.billygraham.org)

“I’m predicting that America will no longer be one nation, but more like the Roman Empire — a conglomeration of races and cultures held together by a regime. The country I grew up in was

culturally united, even if it was racially divided. We spoke the same language, had the same faith, laughed at the same comedians. We were one nationality. We’re ceasing to be that when you have hundreds of thousands of people who want to retain their own culture, their own language, their own loyalty. What do we have in common that makes us fellow Americans? Is it simply citizenship? Or is it blood, soil, history and heroes?” — Pat Buchanan, syndicated columnist (www.buchanan.org)

Interpretation of Prophecy

J.C. Ryle (1816-1900), the Bishop of Liverpool, was considered the best man in the Church of England by Baptist pastor Charles Spurgeon. He was a man of the Word who interpreted Bible prophecy literally. The following is from his book, *Are You Ready for the End of Time?* (1867):

“I believe we have cherished an arbitrary, reckless habit of interpreting first advent texts literally, and second advent texts spiritually. I believe we have not rightly understood ‘all that the prophets have spoken’ about the second personal advent of Christ, any more than the Jews did about the first . . . But suppose the Jew asks you if you take all the prophecies of the Old Testament in their simple literal meaning. Suppose he asks you if you believe in a literal personal advent of Messiah to reign over the earth in glory, a literal restoration of Judah and Israel to Palestine, a literal rebuilding and restoration of Zion and Jerusalem. Suppose the unconverted Jew puts these questions to you, what answer are you prepared to make? Will you dare to tell him that Old Testament prophecies of this kind are not to be taken in their plain literal sense? Will you dare to tell him that the words Zion, Jerusalem, Jacob, Judah, Ephraim, and Israel, do not mean what they seem to mean, but mean the Church of Christ? Will you dare to tell him that the glorious kingdom and future blessedness of Zion, so often dwelt upon in prophecy, mean nothing more than the gradual Christianizing of the world by missionaries and gospel preaching? Will you dare to tell him that you think it ‘carnal’ to expect a literal rebuilding of Jerusalem, ‘carnal’ to expect a literal coming of Messiah to reign? Oh, reader, if you are a man of this mind, take care what you are doing! I say again, take care.” ❖

A Tribute to a Great Man of God

Dr. David R. Reagan

A dear friend and ministry colleague, Ron Carlson, was called home to his Creator on June 16, 2011. He died peacefully in his sleep while taking a nap before dinner. His death was sudden and totally unexpected. He was only 61 years old. He is survived by his wife, Marge, and by two sons, Jason and Jared. His sons are both ordained ministers and will be taking over the direction of the great ministry that God developed through their dad.



Dave Reagan and Ron Carlson

Ron's ministry, called Christian Ministries International, was founded in 1975. The name proved to be prophetic because Ron taught and preached the Word of God in a total of 90 nations on six continents before his death. The ministry, which his capable sons will continue, focuses on evangelism and apologetics. The ministry's theme verse is Jude 3: "Contend earnestly for the faith."



Ron Carlson speaking at our 2009 annual Bible conference.

And that's exactly what Ron did in his writings, teachings, and sermons. He had an overwhelming passion for the Word of God — for studying it, proclaiming it, and defending it. At the time of his death, he was deeply concerned about the fast-growing and swiftly-spreading apostasy in the Church.

Ron was one of the gentlest, kindest persons I have ever known. He had great compassion for the victims of spiritual deception, and he had an overwhelming zeal to reach them with the Gospel.

I had the privilege of ministering with Ron at many conferences. He was one of the featured speakers at our annual Bible conference in 2009. On two occasions, he came to our headquarters to be interviewed for television programs. During those memorable visits, we recorded a total of six programs which were later published as two video albums, one on the cults and the other on the major world religions.

We have always stocked his remarkable book, *Fast Facts on False Teachings*. It contains an overview summary of the beliefs of the major Christian cults and the leading world religions.

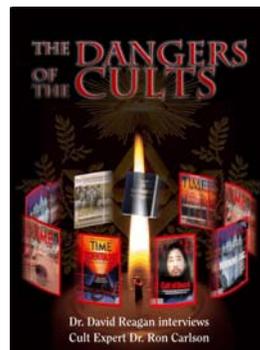
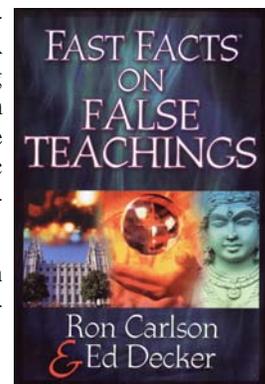
The Body of Christ is going to greatly miss the truth-speaking voice of Ron Carlson. Let us pray for his mantle to be passed to his sons. ✚

Ron Carlson Teachings Available at Lamb & Lion

A comprehensive book about Christian cults and false world religions. A total of 16 groups are covered, ranging from major world religions like Islam and Hinduism to belief systems like Atheism and Humanism to cultic groups like the Mormons, the Jehovah's Witnesses and Freemasonry.

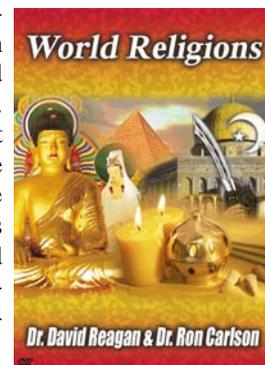
This is a book that is very much needed in these end times when deception is so widespread.

258 pages, \$15.



Ron Carlson speaks out forcefully concerning the three major cultic groups that are a danger to Christianity today — the Mormons, the Jehovah's Witnesses, and the Masons. The errors of each group are exposed in the light of Scripture. Discover how DNA technology has caused a major crisis of faith among Mormons. Learn about the false prophecies that have characterized the history of the Jehovah's Witnesses. Understand why Masonry is thoroughly un-Christian. DVD format. 85 minutes. \$12.

Ron Carlson discusses the distinctiveness of Christianity, the lure of Eastern Religions, the essence of Islam, and the nature of the New Age Movement. The discussion clearly reveals that Christianity is the only religion whose founder has been resurrected from the dead and whose concept of salvation is by grace through faith. All other world religions teach the Satanic lie of salvation through good works. DVD format. 90 minutes. \$12.



Shooting in Israel

In mid-July Dr. Reagan took a video crew to Israel to shoot television programs. They worked five days and were able to shoot five complete programs and parts of two others. The days were long and hot and the work was exhausting, but the Lord greatly blessed the effort.

Four of the programs focused on the mountains of Jerusalem — the Mount of Olives, the Temple Mount, Mount Zion and Mount Herzl. Dr. Reagan conducted a tour of the major sites on each mountain and then concluded the programs by talking about the prophetic significance of the mountains. The fifth program was a walking tour of the Old City.

The video crew visited two graves for the first time. One was the grave of Eliezer ben Yehuda on the Mount of Olives. He is the man who single-handedly resurrected the Hebrew language from the dead. The other grave was located on Mount Zion. It was the grave of Horatio Spafford, the 19th Century Chicago businessman who wrote the great hymn, “It Is Well With My Soul.” ✚



Dr. Reagan stands at the grave of Eliezer ben Yehuda on the Mount of Olives. The stones on the graves are “stones of remembrance,” placed by visitors.



Dr. Reagan stands with his Israeli guide, Shai-Shalom Matter, at the grave of Theodor Herzl, considered to be the founder of modern day Israel. The grave is located on Mount Herzl.

“Christ in Prophecy” Broadcast Schedule

National Networks

Daystar Network DirecTV Channel 369 DISH Channel 263 On cable networks throughout the nation.				
Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day Time	Wed. 4:00pm	Wed. 5:00pm	Wed. 6:00pm	Wed. 7:00pm

Inspiration Network Available on cable networks DirecTV Channel 364 DISH Channel 259				
Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day Time	Mon. 8:30pm	Mon. 9:30pm	Mon. 10:30pm	Mon. 11:30pm

The Church Channel DirecTV Channel 371				
Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day Time	Sat. 6:30pm	Sat. 7:30pm	Sat. 8:30pm	Sat. 9:30pm

National Religious Broadcasters Network DirecTV Channel 378				
Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day Time	Sun. 2:00pm	Sun. 3:00pm	Sun. 4:00pm	Sun. 5:00pm

Golden Eagle Broadcasting Network DirecTV Channel 363				
Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day Time	Tues. 4:00pm	Tues. 5:00pm	Tues. 6:00pm	Tues. 7:00pm

Regional Networks



“Christ in Prophecy” is broadcast throughout southern Louisiana on the **Family Vision Network** at various times. See: www.kajn.com/familyvision.



New Mexico Family Stations is a network consisting of two stations in Albuquerque. Our program is broadcast on Thursday at 11:00pm and on Saturday at 3:00pm.

A Very Blessed Bible Conference

Our annual Bible conference, held during the last weekend in June, was greatly blessed by the Lord. We had around 800 people present from 22 different states and several different foreign countries.

The theme of the conference was “Christianity Under Attack.”

The conference began on Friday evening with an inspirational concert by the renowned Christian musician, Dallas Holm. In addition to singing and leading in worship, Dallas also gave a running commentary on the danger of apostasy within the Church today.

Dallas’ concert was followed by the first speaker, Kerby Anderson, who spoke about the challenge of Islam. On Saturday morning, the initial speaker was Frank Wright, the president of the National Religious Broadcasters. He spoke about the challenge of government and explained in detail how liberals attempt to marginalize Christians in the ongoing war of values. He was followed by James Walker, president of Watchman Fellowship, one of Christendom’s foremost cult watching ministries. James spoke on the serious problem of increasing apostasy within the Church today, and he pulled no punches in his hard-hitting presentation.



Kerby Anderson of Probe Ministries spoke on “The Challenge of Islam.”



Dave Reagan with Frank Wright

Three speakers were featured on Saturday afternoon. John Morris, president of The Institute for Creation Research, spoke on the challenge of Evolution. He was followed by Ron Rhodes, founder and director of Reasoning from the Scriptures Ministries. He spoke on the challenge of Humanism and Atheism. Dave Reagan concluded the conference with a presentation entitled, “The Promise of Victory.”

On Saturday evening a banquet was held which was attended by 300 people. Jack Hollingsworth of Acts 29 Ministries led a very anointed worship service and presented a Gospel concert. Dr. Reagan then spoke on the topic, “The Beginning and the Ending.”

A video album with two DVDs is available that contains all the conference presentations. Dr. Reagan’s banquet presentation is available separately. You can find all the information about ordering these items on the back cover of this magazine.

Plans are already being made for the 2012 conference which will also be held during the last weekend in June. The exact dates are June 29 & 30. Once again, the conference is scheduled to be held at the Marriott Courtyard Hotel and Convention Center in Allen, Texas, a suburb of Dallas. The theme of the 2012 conference will be “Israel in the End Times.”

The speakers and their topics for the 2012 conference will be as follows:

Dave Reagan: “An Overview of Israel in Prophecy: Past, Present and Future.”

Jeff Seif: “The Arabs and Israel.” Jeff is a former professor of Jewish Studies at Christ for the Nations Institute. He succeeded Zola Levitt as the spokesman for that ministry. He now serves as a free lance writer and speaker, focusing on Israel and the Jewish heritage of Christianity.

Mark Hitchcock: “Israel in the Tribulation.” Mark is pastor of Faith Bible Church in Edmond, Oklahoma. He is also a prolific writer of books about Bible prophecy.

Arnold Fructenbaum: “Israel in the Millennium.” Arnold is the founder and director of Ariel Ministries and is a recognized scholar in the field of Jewish studies.

Bill Koenig: “The United States and Israel.” Bill is a White House correspondent who publishes a weekly news report about international events called “Koenig’s Watch.”

Gary Frazier: “The Salvation of Israel.” Gary is the founder and director of Discovery Worldwide Ministries. He has been to Israel more than 100 times and is considered an expert on Middle East politics.

The featured musical artist for the 2012 conference will be **Ted Pearce**, who is considered to be one of the foremost writers and singers of Messianic music.

Like all our conferences, the one planned for 2012 will be free of charge, but registration will be required. Registration will be opened after the first of the year. ✚



Ted Pearce

Ministry News

Schedule —

In **September** Dr. Reagan will attend the meeting of the President's Council of the National Religious Broadcasters in Washington, D.C. (14-15). Later that month he will speak at the annual West Coast Prophecy Conference sponsored by According to Prophecy Ministries. It will be held at the San Diego Christian Worship Center in San Diego, CA (18-20). Dr. Reagan will begin the month of **October** speaking at the Shepherd of the Hills Church in Porter Ranch, CA (8-9). Upon returning to Texas, he is scheduled to speak at Valley View Christian Church in Dallas (10). At the end of the month, he will depart for Israel to lead a pilgrimage group on a tour of the Holy Land (October 20 - November 9). In **November** Dr. Reagan will speak at the Ninevah Christian Church in Lawrenceburg, KY (19-20). Dr. Reagan does not have any speaking engagements for the month of **December**. He will begin that month by conducting a three day retreat for the Lamb & Lion Board of Trustees (2-4). Following the retreat, he will attend the annual Pre-Trib Study Group Conference in Dallas (5-7).

Both Dr. Reagan and Nathan Jones, the ministry's Web Minister, are currently accepting invitations for 2012.

Presentation —

Dr. Reagan was given a special presentation during our annual Bible conference in June. Dr. Gary Frazier, president of Discovery Worldwide Ministries, the organization that serves as our tour broker to Israel, presented Dave with a beautiful silver plated shofar. It was given in recognition of Dave's leadership in taking more than 40 groups to Israel on Holy Land pilgrimages.



Shown above holding the silver plated shofar are (left to right) Victor Frazier, Dave Reagan, Sandra Frazier, and Gary Frazier.

Our next general tour of Israel is tentatively scheduled for May 5-16 of 2012. The pilgrimage group will be limited to 50 people, and Dr. Reagan will personally lead it. The group will spend two nights in Tel Aviv, two nights in Tiberias (on the Sea of Galilee), and five nights in Jerusalem. Anyone interested in joining this pilgrimage should give the ministry a call at 972-736-3567 on Monday through Friday between 8am and 5pm Central time. Detailed brochures should be available in early January.



Prophecy Partners —

Our Prophecy Partners provide the spiritual and financial foundation of our ministry. They are committed Christians who believe in the soon return of Jesus and who pledge to pray for us regularly and to supply us with a donation of \$20 a month or more for one year. We currently have over 2,500 Prophecy Partners, and we praise God for each one. Dr. Reagan writes them a letter each month about the activities of the ministry, and he

includes a gift with the letter — usually a DVD containing a video program about Bible prophecy. To become a Prophecy Partner, give us a call at 972-736-3567. Thanks!



Dr. Reagan is pictured above with two Prophecy Partners who attended our June Bible conference: Larry and Vicky Neichter of Louisville, Kentucky. Larry is a retired businessman. Vicky is retired from the U.S. Postal Service. Both are active members of Southeast Christian Church in Louisville. Behind them is one of the beautiful banners that were displayed at this year's conference. They were supplied by Betty Fisher of Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Special Guests —

Two of the many special guests who attended our annual Bible conference were Dr. and Mrs. Caesar Agnir, who traveled all the way from the Philippine Islands. Dr. Agnir is a former international businessman who currently serves as president of Northern Christian College, located in Laoag City on the island of Luzon. The college has over 2,000 students and also contains a Christian seminary (www.ncc.edu.ph). ❖



Dr. Reagan and his wife, Ann, are shown above with Dr. and Mrs. Caesar Agnir.



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Conference Presentations

The six presentations that were made at our last Bible conference, held in June of this year, are now available in a video album containing two DVDs.

The presentations, each running about 50 minutes in length, are as follows:

Kerby Anderson — “The Challenge of Islam”

Frank Wright — “The Challenge of Government”

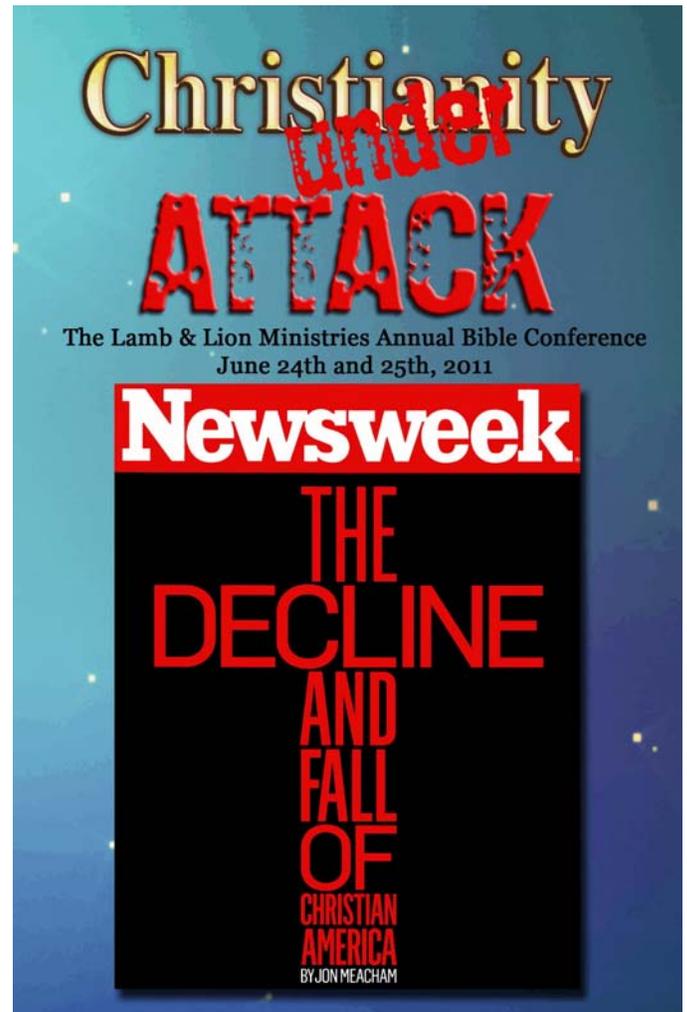
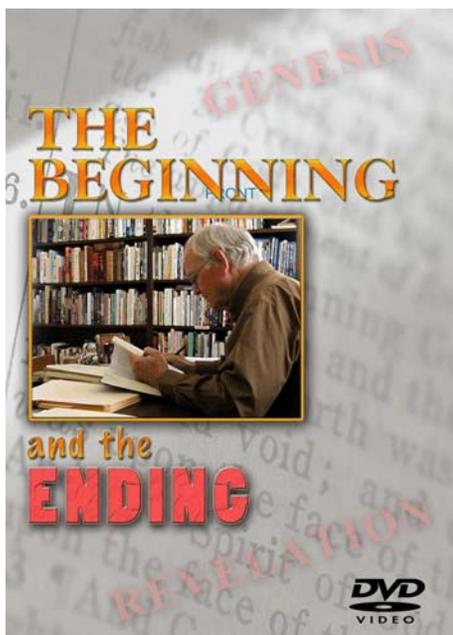
James Walker — “The Challenge of Apostasy”

John Morris — “The Challenge of Evolution”

Ron Rhodes — “The Challenge of Humanism and Atheism”

Dave Reagan — “The Promise of Victory”

The special presentation that Dr. Reagan made at the conference banquet, called “The Beginning and The Ending,” is available in a separate video album.



Both albums can be purchased from the ministry by calling 972-736-3567 between 8am and 5pm Central time, Monday through Friday.

The conference album, containing two DVDs sells for \$25 plus the cost of shipping. The album containing Dr. Reagan’s special presentation sells for \$12 plus the cost of shipping.

Both albums may be purchased for a cost of \$30 plus the cost of shipping, for a savings of \$7. This offer is good through the end of December.

These albums would be great gifts for your pastor. ✚