

A wooden cross is positioned at the top center of the page, appearing to float on a pond. The water is dark and reflective, with several splashes of water creating white foam and ripples. The background is a blurred, dark greenish-brown, suggesting a forest or a natural setting.

Behold  the Lamb
Publications

Rocks in a Pond

Volume X

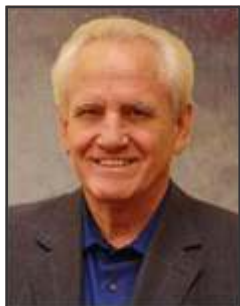
by Leroy Surface

“Rocks in a Pond X”

The story behind the title

About thirty two years ago, as God was giving me understanding of “The Truth,” which Jesus said would “make you free,” the Spirit of God began telling me to “say what I say.” The first time I heard these words was in 1992: “If you will say what I say, I will put your ministry on television, and it will cost you nothing.” Within a month I was contacted by the owner of channel 22 in Houston Texas. Someone had given his eighty year old sister a “Behold the Lamb” booklet about the blood of Jesus. She contacted her brother, who wanted to interview me, and God did the rest. “Behold the Lamb” was seen two times weekly for eight years without charge to us.

That same year I had a dream from the Lord. In the dream, I was throwing rocks into a pond and watching the ripples as they went to the edges. As I threw one rock after the other, engrossed in the “ripples,” the Lord spoke to me, “If you will say what I say, one day you will throw a rock into a pond, and the ripples will wash up on the shores of every nation.” I told that dream many times over the years, but there seemed to be no possibility of such a thing happening. One day I was watching the telecast of a worldwide ministry with his panel of ministers as they were telling of how their ministry was



Leroy Surface

touching every nation. I was a little discouraged at the time, and said to God, “This man’s message may sweep the nations like a tidal wave, but you promised me a ripple! Are you keeping your promise to me?” The very next words from that telecast were from one of the ministers who said, “No man can throw a rock into a



Keith Surface

pond and the ripples not ripple their way around every obstacle to every possible shore.” The man could not possibly have known why he said such a thing, or who he said it to, but I knew from that moment that God would keep His promise if I would simply “throw the rock into a pond.” ...continued on inside back cover...

Rocks in a Pond

Volume X

A compilation of Gospel messages by Leroy Surface

Table of Contents

What is Sin?	4
The Appointment	7
This Generation	11
The Return	15
Awake or Woke	19
Resurrection	22
Israel... War...and Prophecy	25
What is Freedom from Sin?	30

The Lamb of God

Published in the May 2023 issue of Newsmax Magazine

“Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.” John 1:29

With these words, John the Baptist introduced Jesus of Nazareth to the Jewish people. Under the Law of Moses, the blood of millions of lambs had been sacrificed, but there was never a lamb offered whose blood could *“take away sin,”* which is why there had to be *“the Lamb of God.”*

Jesus of Nazareth, whom the world believed to be the son of Joseph the carpenter, was actually the redeemer whom the prophets had promised would come. He was *“the seed of the woman”* whom God had promised to *“bruise the head of the serpent”* Genesis 3:15, who was also called the Devil. Four thousand years passed, and just as there was never a lamb out of the millions offered which could *“take away sin,”* so there was never a man found who could *“bruise the head of the serpent.”* Every person born into this world was born with a sinful nature, which was received from the serpent when Adam disobeyed God.

The prophet Isaiah spoke of *“the seed of the woman”* when he said, *“Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel (God with us)”* Isaiah 7:14. The *“seed of the woman”* which would *“bruise the head of the serpent,”* could not have a human father, and His mother must be a virgin. Jesus was *“conceived of the Holy Ghost,”* and born to the Virgin Mary. He is the Son of God. There was no sin in his heart or nature, and His blood was *“holy blood,”* which could wash away sins. Revelation 1:5.

According to the apostle Paul, the Son of God was “*made of a woman*” and “*made under the law*” Galatians 4:4, but Christ had existed for eternity before the incarnation. The apostle John spoke of Him as “*The Word,*” writing, “*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made.*” John 1:1-3. John then tells of the incarnation of Christ, saying, “*And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us ...*” John 1:14.

The reason for the incarnation is revealed by the apostle Paul who wrote, “*For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins. Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me...Lo, I come to do thy will, O God*” Hebrews 10:5-9. The “will of God” was to offer Himself, in the person of His Son, Jesus Christ, to “*take away the sin of the world.*”

“*By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.*” Hebrews 10:10

Perhaps you have been taught that “sanctified” means “set apart.” This has never been the proper meaning, however. In the Old Testament Hebrew, sanctified meant “*to make clean,*” while in the New Testament Greek, it means “*to make holy.*” No one can be biblically “holy” as long as sin remains in their heart.

Keeping the Law of Moses perfectly was the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees. The Law said, “*Thou shalt not commit adultery,*” but Jesus said, “*whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart*” Matthew 5:27-28. This statement reveals why Jesus said, “*...except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of*

heaven” Matthew 5:20. Without something which could wash sin from our heart, we would all be damned along with the self-righteous “scribes and Pharisees.”

Why Christ Died

God has always, since the beginning of time, forgiven the sins of those who repent and turn to Him. When God declared himself to Moses, He said, “*The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, Keeping mercy for thousands, **forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty***”

Exodus 34:6-7. Seven hundred years before Jesus was born, the prophet Isaiah said, “***Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon***” Isaiah 55:7.

Since both forgiveness and pardon were available to lost humanity before Christ died on the cross, we must ask, “So why did Jesus Christ die on the cross?” Remember, as John the Baptist told the people from the beginning, Jesus is “*the Lamb of God*” who offered His body and blood on the cross, to “*take away the sin of the world.*” If you are one who can believe this, He will actually take sin out of your heart, and His “*righteousness*” will fill the void. I have written many books to explain in detail all that Christ accomplished on the cross for you. Please let me begin to send them to you, one or two at a time, anywhere you are in the world, free of charge. Jesus said, “*You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free*” John 8:32. If you believe “*the truth,*” you will live the rest of your life in “*righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost*” Romans

What is Sin?

Published in the June 2023 issue of Newsmax Magazine

Heaven is a holy place, Filled with glory and with grace—
Sin can never enter there; All within its gates are pure,
From defilement kept secure—
Sin can never enter there.

Refrain:

Sin can never enter there, Sin can never enter there;
So if at the judgment bar
Sinful spots your soul shall mar,
You can never enter there.

If you hope to dwell at last, When your life on earth is past,
In that home so bright and fair,
You must here be cleansed from sin,
Have the life of Christ within—
Sin can never enter there.

You may live in sin below, Heaven's grace refuse to know,
But you cannot enter there;
It will stop you at the door,
Bar you out forevermore—
Sin can never enter there.

If you cling to sin till death, When you draw your latest breath,
You will sink in dark despair
To the regions of the lost,
Thus to prove at awful cost,
Sin can never enter there.

Gospel song written by Charles W Naylor 1874-1950

I received a letter from a lady recently who objected to our teaching, according to the KJV Bible, that a child of God is not a sinner, and does not “commit sin.” To prove we are “all sinners,” she said it is a sin to “eat too much ice cream.” If she is correct, I am most certainly a sinner. But is the lady correct in her definition of sin? Only the scriptures can tell us. The Apostle John wrote the following in his old age:

“And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him. Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.” I John 3:5-7

The “test” is found in the next verse, where the apostle writes *“He that committeth sin is of the devil...”* I John 3:8. If we are “all sinners,” it follows that we are “all of the devil,” and if to eat too much ice cream is a sin, then we must say “Those who eat too much ice cream are of the devil.” Can you see the absurdity of such a statement? So, what is sin?

The Scribes and Pharisees, the religious leaders of Jesus’ day, had a sin test which Jesus, the sinless Son of God could not pass. The Law of Moses forbid a person to work on the Sabbath Day. When Jesus healed a man who was born blind on the Sabbath, they condemned Him as a sinner. They said, *“This man is not of God, because he keepeth not the sabbath day”* John 9:16. When they were convinced the man had indeed been blind, but now he could see, they said *“Give God the praise: we know that this man is a sinner”* John 9:24. After all, Jesus healed the sick on the Sabbath Day, and His disciples gathered corn and ate it with unwashed hands on the Sabbath Day Luke 6:1.

The apostle Paul leaves no doubt in his explanation of what sin is. In fact, he labels those who are sinners. *“Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God”* I Corinthians 6:9-10. These can be saved, but true salvation will change them. Paul continued his exhortation; *“And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God”* I Corinthians 6:11.

Jesus established that every sinful act originates in the heart of the sinner. He said, *“For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man”* Matthew 15:19-20.

The Remedy for Sin

When John saw the Holy Ghost lite upon Jesus in the form of a dove, he recognized Jesus as the Son of God and introduced Him to the people, saying, *“Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world”* John 1:29. Over sixty years later, the Apostle John wrote his first epistle in his old age and said to his congregation, *“And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not...”* I John 3:5-6. Jesus did not have to die on the cross to forgive our sins. God has from the beginning of time forgiven those who repented and turned to Him. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, suffered and died on the cross as “the Lamb of God” to “take away our sin.” The angel Gabriel told the prophet Daniel that

Christ would “make an end of sins.” For those who believe this simple truth and trust in Jesus Christ to do it, He will take sin out of their heart, and they will be “*free from sin to serve God*” Romans 6:22. They will understand the words of the Apostle Paul, “*...I live, yet not I, but Christ lives in me*” Galatians 2:20. They will experience the “rest” which Jesus promised to everyone who will come to Him.

“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Matthew 11:28

The Appointment

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“And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.” Hebrews 9:27

First, the bad news. We all have an appointment with death! Rich or poor, wise or foolish, no one has ever succeeded in breaking this appointment. Modern medicine may extend our lives, but death will surely come. Nothing is as certain for every person born into this world as is our appointment with death.

The Bible reminds us of the certainty of death, and then says, “*but after this the judgment.*” Death is not an end, only another “beginning.” The word of God also assures us of a resurrection of both “*the just and the unjust*” Acts 24:15. Both shall live forever. The “just” in the new heavens and new earth God has promised, and the “unjust” in the everlasting lake of fire. The angel Gabriel told the prophet Daniel of the resurrection, saying, “*...many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt*” Daniel 12:2.

The Bible tells us, “*...by one man (Adam) sin entered into the world, and death by sin...*” Romans 5:12. The fact that death entered into the world simultaneous with sin is actually a merciful thing. Consider all the evil men who have risen up to commit unthinkable atrocities. Without death, they would all be alive today. Genghis Khan, Adolf Hitler, Joseph Stalin, Attila the Hun, Pol Pot, just to name a few.

When we consider all the evils that came into the world with the dominion of sin, death often seems to be a welcome end. Sickness and disease often bring with them unimaginable pain and suffering. Loneliness, despair, betrayal, or heartbreak, sometimes leave a person looking for an end. But death is not an end. After it comes the resurrection and our hour of judgment.

We know that Christ was incarnate in the person of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. We know that He died on the cross to “*take away our sin*” I John 3:5, and God raised Him from the dead. Today Jesus sits with the Father in heaven, awaiting the hour of His return at which time there will be a resurrection of the righteous dead. The Apostle Paul said, “*The dead in Christ will rise first*” I Thessalonians 4:16. It may be that the wicked dead will not resurrect for another

thousand years, but they will rise again for the great hour of judgment, where the scripture says, *“And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire”* Revelation 20:15, where, as the Bible declares, they will be *“tormented day and night for ever and ever”* Revelation 20:10.

After seeing this great white throne judgment, the Apostle John saw a *“new heaven and a new earth”* Revelation 21:1. He describes all the wonderful things he sees, and says of the redeemed as they arrive there, *“And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away”* Revelation 21:4.

These promises are the inheritance of the overcomer. God said, *“He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. **But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death”*** Revelation 21:7-8.

Notice God begins with *“the fearful and unbelieving.”* That includes multitudes of “good people” who have not trusted in Jesus Christ to save them from their sin. Next, He speaks of the *“abominable,”* which is a one-word description of perversion which has taken over our nation. (Read Leviticus chapter 18). He then includes *“murderers* (abortionist), *whoremongers* (sex traffickers), *sorcerers* (drug culture), *idolaters* (worshippers of false gods), *and all liars* (which politicians might fit this?).”

In the midst of this we find the “good news.” God’s word says, *“as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the*

judgment: So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many...” Jesus did not die on the cross so God could forgive us. God has always forgiven those who turn to Him. Jesus died on the cross to “*save us from our sins*” Matthew 1:21. He died as “*the Lamb of God*” to take away our sin, out of our heart and nature. John said “*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness*” I John 1:9.

The apostle Paul said, “*Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved*” Romans 10:13. “*Whosoever*” is all inclusive; no one is left out. Whether you are good and moral, but fearful and unbelieving person, or whether you are a drag queen, everyone who receives Jesus Christ as savior is changed from the inside out. Jesus loved you when He died for you, and He lives to make you free from sin. I have written hundreds of books explaining salvation. Let me send one to you.

This Generation

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“Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy” Daniel 9:24

As the Jews seventy years of captivity in Babylon came to an end, the prophet Daniel prayed for understanding of what was yet to come. God sent the angel Gabriel to tell Daniel of another “*seventy weeks,*” or 490 years in which they would serve other nations. Those years were added to “*finish the transgression, make an end of sins, make reconciliation for iniquity, bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most holy.*” At the beginning of the seventieth week of the prophecy, “*the Messiah, the Prince*” would come to accomplish all these things. Jesus came into His ministry in the same year designated for the Messiah to come, and He accomplished everything God had promised when He died on the cross just 3½ years before the end of the 490 years, or in the middle of the seventieth week of the prophecy. The 70th week continued another 3½ years as God “*poured out His Spirit*” Joel 2:28 in Jerusalem and the regions of Judea. This marked the end of the 490 years determined upon the Jews, and the gospel began to go to the Gentiles. The year was 33½ A.D; the prophetic time of the Jews was fulfilled, and the times of the Gentiles were just beginning.

Understand the significance of what I say now. From the time circumcision was instituted by God with Abraham until the end of the seventy weeks prophecy to the Jews was 1933½ years. From that time until June 1967, the end of the times of the Gentiles, was exactly 1933½ years. **God gave equal prophetic time to both the Jew and the Gentile.** A coincidence? It could hardly be so. Sadly, both Jew and Gentile rejected Jesus Christ, and the “*times of the Gentiles*” ended on June 6, 1967, when Jerusalem returned to Jewish control.

This event marked the beginning of the generation of which Jesus said, “**this generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled.**” In this generation the nations have been in moral decline, as evidenced by institution of “legal” abortion, pornography, drugs, gay marriage, and the fact that America has become an idolatrous nation. This generation has brought the greatest “falling away” and “apostasy” since the dark ages. “*Another gospel*” II Corinthians 11:4 has been preached, and “*another spirit*” has been received. At the same time, sexual impurity has become rampant in many churches, with 68% of the men regularly viewing pornography, along with 54% of their pastors, according to one survey. Most “believers” today believe sin is the norm for a child of God. What is most amazing to me is the fact that “Christian ministers” are preaching to the largest crowds in the history of the world, while at the same time we are losing the nations. The “spirit of antichrist” is presently taking control of our national government. Sadly, it had to find a place in the church before it could come to our nation.

“And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh” Luke 21:28. *“So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass,*

*know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand. Verily I say unto you, **this generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled.** Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away”* Luke 21:31-33.

“And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth.” Luke 21:34-35

Jesus said **“Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not”** Luke 12:40. I can remember when Israel became a nation in 1948, and there was a stir in churches. People were *“getting ready”* for Jesus to come. Again, in June 1967 during the six day war in Israel the churches filled up with people who were *“getting ready.”* Across the nation people gathered in all night prayer meetings, crowds filled the churches, believing that at any moment Jesus would come. Perhaps some can remember the phenomenon of 1988. A man wrote a book titled *“Eighty Eight Reasons Why Jesus Must Come In 1988.”* Multitudes around the world were convinced. Again the churches filled to capacity with people seeking to *“get ready”* for Jesus to come. In each of these cases the multitudes soon cooled off, and people went back to their self-centered living, seeking the things of this present world rather than the things of Heaven. The next alert came in the year 2000, and vast multitudes were again *“getting ready.”* Vigils were held, while others made a pilgrimage to Rome. Still others made the trip to Jerusalem to meet Jesus when He came. Everyone with any Christian belief at all was *“getting ready.”*

Sounds good, right? Except for one thing. Jesus did not say, “*get ready,*” but rather He said, “***be ready.***” He did not say He would come when the multitudes expect Him and prepare themselves, instead He said He would come “***...at an hour when ye think not.***”

Even though very little has been said about the return of Jesus in recent years, He is still coming. This is still the generation which Jesus said “*...shall not pass away til all be fulfilled.*” Jesus is coming! One thing is certain, those who wait to “*get ready*” will not “*be ready*” when He comes. The unfaithful servant who said in his heart “*My lord delayeth his coming*” Luke 12:45 was not ready when his lord came. The foolish virgins slumbered and slept without oil in their lamps Matthew 25:3. They had prepared for an earlier time, but he came in an hour that they thought not. Today is the day of salvation. Now is the acceptable hour. Tomorrow will be too late for many. Even so, come quickly Lord Jesus.

The Return

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As Jesus foretold the destruction of Jerusalem and calamities which followed, he said *“Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled”* Luke 21:24. Eighteen-hundred ninety-seven years after it was destroyed the Roman legions, Jerusalem returned to Jewish control on June 6, 1967. Jesus marked this event as the beginning of the generation which would see the return of Christ, saying, *“Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled. Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away”* Luke 21:32:33. How certain was Jesus of the things He said? More certain than the universe itself; Heaven and earth would pass away before any of His words would fail.

Jesus went into graphic detail when describing the condition of the world in this final generation. He compared it with two previous generations, both of which had to be destroyed because of their wickedness, violence, and moral perversion.

1. “And as it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all.” Luke 17:26-27

How was it in the days of Noah? The Bible says, *“God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil*

continually” Genesis 6:5. *“The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence”* Genesis 6:11.

Eating, drinking, and marrying wives is not a sin, but it describes a generation of people who had become numb to their surroundings. They knew of Noah, who was building an ark on dry land while preaching repentance and the wrath of God to come. They thought Noah was crazy, and considered the wickedness and violence around them was normal. They just wanted to be left alone to live their lives, but the scripture says they *“...knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be”* Matthew 24:39.

2. *“Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all.”* Luke 17:28-29

The words *“likewise also”* express an accumulative force, which connects these two generations as one in this last day. We have the corruption and violence of Noah’s generation, and we have the perversions and abominations of Sodom and Gomorrah in Lot’s generation. The decline of America began with the 1962/63 Supreme Court decisions against prayer and bible readings in public schools. Previously, every child received some knowledge of Jesus Christ, and was influenced by the Ten Commandments hanging on the wall of most every classroom. Today, many people have lived in America for seventy years without any godly influence whatsoever. The result is an amoral generation which in many cases no conscience at all.

A Gallup poll, taken in 2021, surveying the percentage of Americans self-identifying as LGBTQ reveals some astounding results. The “traditionalist generation,” born before 1946 has less

than 1% who are LGBTQ. The rest of the results are shown below.

Traditionalists (born before 1946)	0.8%	LGBTQ
Baby boomers (born 1946-1964)	2.6%	LGBTQ
Generation X (born 1965-1980)	4.2%	LGBTQ
Millennials (born 1981-1996)	10.5%	LGBTQ
Generation Z (born 1997-2003)	20.8%	LGBTQ

A more recent CDC study revealed that nearly 25 percent of high school students identify as something other than “straight.” These latest statistics were compiled two years ago at the very beginning of an explosion of perversion in America, with the highest office in the land actually hosting drag queen parties, and promoting the perversion that has gripped our nation. These things I have written of only serve to confirm the words of Jesus concerning the last generation; *“as it was in the days of Noah,”* and also *“as it was in the days of Lot.”* We have arrived. Recently, in the month of June, 2023, which was designated as “gay pride month, a group of drag queens marched in a “pride parade” chanting *“We’re here, we’re queer, and we’ve come for your children.”* Defenders of the LGBTQ said this was just a joke, but is it still a joke when you remember the CDC studies show that 25% of America’s sons and daughters of High School age have already been seduced by this spirit of perversion? Jesus said...

“For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.” Luke

21:35-26

Those who believe and trust in Jesus find consolation in His words, *“When these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.”* Luke 21:28

AWAKE OR WOKE

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The great spiritual revival which we call “The Great Awakening” swept through the British American colonies in the 1730s. This spiritual awakening profoundly affected the culture of that period and laid the moral groundwork for the birth of an independent nation. John Adams, our 2nd President, would later write, “Our constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.”

Our great nation was founded in an “awakened generation.” Almost two hundred and fifty years later, we live in a “woke generation.” We have become everything our founding fathers feared. They had fled from Europe to escape governments such as ours today. They fought for liberty from oppression under King George of England against impossible odds. Yet, with God's help, they prevailed, and established the greatest nation in the history of the world.

Today, less than two hundred and fifty years later, we are in danger of losing it all. Our constitution is being shredded, and there seems to be nothing we can do about it. The continual moral decline in America's culture most definitely dates back to the Supreme Court's decision to take prayer and bible readings out of the public schools. Sixty years later, we have drag queens where God once was. We are a nation that has forgotten God, and we are suffering the consequences.

The wicked are cast into hell when they die. Nations are not “cast into hell;” they are “turned into hell” when they “forget God.”

Their culture becomes twisted and perverted. Violence fills the streets of their cities and life becomes a literal “hell on earth.” It is the righteous judgment of God to prepare those who “forget God” for their final destruction.

The Bible gives the record of what happened to ancient Israel when they forsook God who had delivered them from slavery in Egypt and established them as a nation. This biblical account written below reads like a description of the 21st century America.

“And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them. Romans 1:28-32

In the Biblical prophecy, Lucifer “fell from heaven” Isaiah 14:12, to be “brought down to hell” Isaiah 14:15. God said, *“They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms; That made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof...”* Isaiah 14:16-17.

Has America “fallen from heaven” to be “brought down to hell?” We were the nation that saved Europe in WWII, and brought imperial Japan down to unconditional surrender. No nation on earth could destroy America from without, but today we are

destroyed from within. Isaiah spoke of Jerusalem, saying, *“How is the faithful city become an harlot! it was full of judgment; righteousness lodged in it; but now murderers. Thy silver is become dross, thy wine mixed with water: Thy princes are rebellious, and companions of thieves: every one loveth gifts, and followeth after rewards: they judge not the fatherless, neither doth the cause of the widow come unto them.”* Isaiah 1:21-23. This is America today.

Only forty years ago Ronald Reagan spoke of America as a “shining city on a hill.” People were proud to be Americans, and patriotism was in vogue. It was as though the citizens were a congregation and Reagan was our pastor. The question arises today with America as with Jerusalem in Isaiah's day; how is the “shining city on a hill” become so tarnished and broken? The answer is simple; our nation has forgotten God and our churches are asleep while our nation is in turmoil.

Today in America is “the worst of times.” Rather than “awake,” we have become a “woke” nation. The scripture says, “Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God” I Corinthians 15:34. “Awake” in this verse means “to arouse oneself out of stupor.” For several years America has been in a spiritual “stupor,” and it seems she cannot be awakened. God spoke through the prophet Jeremiah concerning Babylon of his day, saying, “In their heat I will make their feasts, and I will make them drunken, that they may rejoice, and sleep a perpetual sleep, and not wake, saith the LORD. I will bring them down like lambs to the slaughter...” Jeremiah 51:39-40. This seems to be the plight of America today.

RESURRECTION

Published in the November 2023 issue of Newsmax Magazine

Our nation is sick. Whether it is a “sickness unto death” depends on one thing. Will we return to the God of our Father's? In the scriptures, Lazarus, who was a dear friend to Jesus, was sick. His sisters sent word to Jesus to come because Lazarus was very sick. Jesus told His disciples, *“This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby”* John 11:4, then waited two days until Lazarus died before beginning the long journey to Bethany. When Jesus arrived, Lazarus had been wrapped in grave clothes and placed in a tomb for four days. Jesus wept when He came to the tomb, yet He would see the greatest triumph of His ministry when Lazarus came out of the tomb, alive and well. Jesus had told Lazarus' sister, Martha, *“I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?”* John 11:25-26. Martha answered, *“I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world.”* This was the faith that raised Lazarus from the dead, and proved for all time that Jesus Christ is “the resurrection and the life.” It was never too late to call upon Him. We would think Jesus arrived at the house of His friend Lazarus four days too late, but the reality is, He was just in time.

The America I grew up in during the 1950's is dead. She began to die when the Lord's Prayer, Bible readings, and the Ten Commandments were taken out of the public schools. Sixty years later, it seems as though we are governed by the “spirit of antichrist” as the war against Christianity is increasing in intensity. I, along with millions of others, hope for Donald Trump

to be re-elected president in 2024, and I believe he will. To think, however, that this is the ultimate answer for a dead or dying America is a grave error. The chaos in America will only increase as the warfare between the “good” and the “evil” among men continues.

When Jesus arrived at the tomb of Lazarus, He was four days too late. It will soon be “four years too late” for America. The sickness that is destroying America, however, did not begin four years ago; it has been eating at our inward parts for sixty years, since God was taken out of our public schools. When Mary and Martha called for Jesus to come, it was already too late to heal Lazarus. Jesus waited two days before going to Bethany, but Lazarus had been dead four days when Jesus arrived. Lazarus did not need healing; he needed resurrection. When Jesus told the men to roll the stone away from Lazarus' tomb, his sister Martha protested, “*By now he stinketh*” John 11:39. The stench of death fills our land today, and it seems it is four years too late, but we must remember, Jesus Christ is the resurrection for all who, in the hour of their desperation, call upon Him. Millions have found this to be true, as they have “passed from death to life” when they first believed and called upon Jesus for salvation.

The 16th chapter of Leviticus describes the morality of the Amorites who dwelt in the land of Canaan before God gave it to the children of Israel. Adultery, fornication, incest, infanticide, homosexuality, and bestiality were among the things which were common to their land. So great was their abominations that God said, “The land itself vomiteth out her inhabitants” Leviticus 18:25. Four hundred years before, God had promised this land to the descendants of Abraham, but God told him it would be yet four hundred years, because “the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full” Genesis 15:16.

In the year 1620 the pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock to establish a colony where they would be free to worship God, the Father of Jesus Christ freely. Four hundred years later brought us to 2020, and the present evil in America. Oh people! It must be that America's "iniquity" is "full." Consider the word of God to Jerusalem shortly before it was utterly destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar;

"Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward. Why should ye be stricken any more? ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment. Your country is desolate, your cities are burned with fire: your land, strangers devour it in your presence, and it is desolate, as overthrown by strangers." Isaiah 1:4-7

Who cannot see America in these fateful words which God spoke to backslidden Jerusalem? There is still time to call upon Jesus Christ, because He is "resurrection" and "life." Jerusalem did not call, and their end is described...

"But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till there was no remedy." II Chronicles 36:16

ISRAEL...WAR...AND PROPHECY

Published in the December 2023 issue of Newsmax Magazine

In the book of Zechariah, God identifies himself as the one who, “stretcheth forth the heavens, and layeth the foundation of the earth, and formeth the spirit of man.” In others words, God did not “create,” then “forsake” His creation. His language is present and ongoing. God is very active in the present affairs of man. Having established His place in the current affairs of men, God said *“I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem.”* Zechariah 12:2

Jerusalem is called “The Holy City,” but more blood has been shed for control of Jerusalem than any city in the history of the world. For most of the last 1953 years, beginning with the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D., Jerusalem was under the control of Gentile (non-Jewish) nations and governments. Jesus foretold this when telling of the coming destruction of Jerusalem which came in the year 70 A.D., saying, *“And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled”* Luke 21:24.

When Jerusalem returned to Jewish control in June, 1967, it was because the prophetic “times of the Gentiles” to occupy and control Jerusalem had come to an end. This event also marked the beginning of the last generation before the return of Jesus Christ to earth. Jesus confirmed this, saying, *“This generation...,”* which began in June, 1967, *“...shall not pass away until all things be fulfilled”* Luke 21:32.

The Prophet Zechariah gave a “blow by blow” account of this last generation in Israel in the 12th and 13th chapters of Zechariah. Ten times in two chapters he said “in that day.” In every case, the words “in that day” indicate another last generation circumstance in Israel. For example, *“In that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it”* Zechariah 12:3. The “day” in this verse speaks of the entire generation beginning in June, 1967. The next verse, *“In that day, saith the LORD, I will smite every horse with astonishment, and his rider with madness: and I will open mine eyes upon the house of Judah, and will smite every horse of the people with blindness”* Zechariah 12:4, seems to speak of the six day war in which Israel preemptively attacked Syria on their north, Jordan on their east, and Egypt on their south. The enemy was astonished as Israel destroyed most of the Egyptian and half the Syrian air forces on the ground in the first day.

“In that day will I make the governors of Judah like an hearth of fire among the wood, and like a torch of fire in a sheaf; and they shall devour all the people round about, on the right hand and on the left: and Jerusalem shall be inhabited again in her own place, even in Jerusalem.” Zechariah 12:6

The verse above clearly foretells the end of the six day war, with Jerusalem returning to Jewish control for the first time in 1897 years.

“In that day shall the LORD defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and he that is feeble among them at that day shall be as David; and the house of David shall be as God, as the angel

of the LORD before them. And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.” Zechariah 12:8-9

Those nations which God seeks to destroy, He brings against Israel. Each ensuing war will involve more nations until the time God says, *“I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle...”* Zechariah 14:2. It will seem certain annihilation is at hand, when God intervenes;

“And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon (toward) me whom they have pierced (crucified), and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.” Zechariah 12:10

In that day, there will be a great “turning” to Jesus Christ in Israel. They have prayed daily at the Wailing Wall for their Messiah to come, but just when their genocide seems certain, they will realize their Messiah did come, and they rejected Him to be crucified. Mourning for the one they pierced (crucified) will fill the land. “Mourning in Zion” Isaiah 61:3 always brings revival. The greatest revival in history will come to Israel as the inhabitants turn to Jesus, but sadly, only after two-thirds have perished in war. Zechariah 13:8. The scripture says...

“And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God.”

Zechariah 13:9

WHAT IS FREEDOM FROM SIN

Published in the January 2024 issue of Newsmax Magazine

The central objective of Behold the Lamb books is to say exactly what the Bible (KJV) says concerning Jesus Christ and the purpose of His death on the cross. One of the most asked questions by new recipients of these books is “What is freedom from sin?”

Although I can point to the many scriptures that proclaim freedom from sin, if God does not reveal them, no one can receive them. The true answer is found in the simple understanding of who Christ is, and what He came into the world to accomplish.

John the Baptist introduced Jesus at the beginning of His ministry, saying, “Behold the lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world” John 1:29. Can you hear John's message? Millions of lambs had been offered over a period of fifteen hundred years, but not one of them could cleanse the human heart. Jesus was different. He was the “Lamb of God.” His blood was holy blood, and when it was shed on the cross it was sufficient to wash sin from the heart of every person throughout all the ages who would simply “believe” and “trust” in Him for salvation. The washing of sin from the heart through faith in Jesus Christ is the only thing that can make a person “free from sin.”

Sixty years after Jesus was crucified and resurrected, the Apostle John, who was almost a hundred years old, wrote, “And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins...” I John

3:5. Notice he said to his congregation, “You know!” To them, his words were not a doctrine but a reality. They “knew” because faith in Jesus Christ had taken their sin away, and they were “free from sin” to serve God in “righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost” Romans 14:17.

The Apostle John continues, describing the result of being made free by Christ, saying, “...Whosoever abideth in Him sinneth not: ...whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him. ...He that committeth sin is of the devil; ...Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin...” I John 3:6-9.

This work that Christ came to accomplish was first revealed to the prophet Daniel through the angel Gabriel. Gabriel told of one called “the Messiah the Prince” who would come into the world “...to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity,” and “to bring in everlasting righteousness” Daniel 9:24. “The Messiah, the Prince” in the Hebrew language of the Old Testament and “The Christ, the Son of God” in the Greek language of the New Testament speak of the same person. So powerful was the salvation which Christ accomplished on the cross that the Apostle John said, “Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God” I John 5:1.

Some people believe these things I write are “too hard” or even “self-righteous.” One person withstood me for simply quoting exactly what the apostle John said. He said to me, “That's just your interpretation,” but no, it was what God actually said in the Bible through the Apostle John.

Warring against something evil in your heart is a never-ending struggle. Having your heart washed from evil brings rest unto your soul. Jesus made a promise to everyone who would come to

Him, saying, *“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”* Matthew 11:28. He spoke to the average man or woman who were under the oppression of religion (the Law of Moses), and those who enforced it. Jesus promised rest from the oppression of the Law, and freedom from the oppression of sin.

The modern church has a confession many make every Sunday morning as they begin their services with the “sinners' prayer.” Their confession is “We are all sinners; we sin every day; we will continue to sin as long as we live in this body of flesh.” The apostle Paul instructed us to have an opposite confession. He wrote. *“For in that he (Jesus) died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.”* Romans 6:10-11. The proper confession for a Christian is that “Christ has taken our sin away.”

According to the Apostle Paul, the gospel of Christ is based upon the fact of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and by faith, our death and resurrection in union with Him. He wrote, *“Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with (in union with) him, that the body of sin (the sin nature) might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead (in union with Christ) is freed from sin.”* Romans 6:6-7

Freedom from sin is not a labor; it is the “glorious liberty of the sons of God” Romans 8:21. It is “clean hands and a pure heart” Psalms 24:3-4. Let me tell you more about this wonderful freedom from sin which Christ has provided for those who believe and trust in Him. I invite you to request this free Behold the Lamb book today.

...continued from inside front cover...

The “rock” we throw is the message of “*The Christ.*” Peter answered Jesus’ question concerning who He is, saying, “*Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.*” Jesus told Peter that this understanding was a “*revelation from the Father,*” and “*...upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*” The “*revelation*” of “*Jesus, the Christ*” who came into the world to “*make an end of sins*” is the rock we “*throw.*”

Nine years ago we have purchased a full page in Charisma Magazine, not to sell anything, but to “*give*” the truth that Jesus said will make the believer free, and they will be “*free indeed.*” Since that time our mail list has increased from less than 1000 to over 43,000 people in 160 nations of the world. Testimonies come continually from those who have been “*made free*” simply by “*believing the truth*” they read in “*Behold the Lamb.*” God promised if we would “*say what He says,*” and “*freely give*” the message we have “*freely received*” from Him, He would bring the finances to support it, without our either selling or begging. God is so faithful to do all He has promised if we will do what He has asked.

“Rocks in a Pond X” is a compilation of messages we have published the “Newsmax Magazine.” These are “*the rocks we throw,*” and the “*ripples*” are touching the nations. I do want to thank everyone of you who have supported this ministry with your free will offerings. You are the ones God has chosen to share in the blessing of touching the nations with the truth of Christ.

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“**Behold the Lamb**” is sent free of charge to those who wish to receive it. If for any reason you do not wish to receive it, simply clip your name and address from the mailing envelope and send it to us in the return envelope with the words “*please remove,*” or you can email us at contact@cochurch.org. We do respect your right to privacy.