

## Trumpets Announce Christ's Return

*Christians eagerly await a time when God will send Jesus Christ to rescue this world from disaster and to bring eternal life. The Feast of Trumpets, one of God's Holy Days, anticipates these events.*

Ever since Adam's sin in the Garden of Eden, death has been mankind's cruel companion, sometimes accompanying us on our physical journeys, sometimes lurking up ahead for the unwary, but always waiting somewhere at the end of the line. In addition to offering eternal life to His obedient followers, God has promised that one day death itself will be destroyed forever.

This centenary year of the start of the First World War has focused many minds on death. Remembrance Day 2014 will no doubt be particularly poignant. While death is always with us, some try to ignore it. However, 2014 has also seen other terrifying events. War seems to maintain a constant presence, as do earthquakes, floods and storms, but there are other potential tragedies waiting in the wings, including the deadly Ebola virus, which threatens to find its way into Europe.

### Heralding Christ as King

Trumpets are often associated with war or warnings, but also provide fanfares for announcing the arrival of royalty. In the future, the blowing of an awesome trumpet will proclaim Christ's accession: 'Then the seventh angel sounded and there were loud voices in heaven saying, the kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and His Christ' (Revelation 11:15).

In His Olivet prophecy, Jesus Christ informed His disciples about His return at a time of worldwide turmoil, 'Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from . . . one end of heaven to the other' (Matthew 24:30-31). Here a mighty

trumpet blast proclaims Christ's imminent return with all the power of Almighty God.

Trumpets also feature in the apostle Paul's description of Christ's return, 'For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first' (1 Thessalonians 4:16).

The significance of the trumpet in these events did not have to be explained to the early Church, since one of God's festivals included a memorial of blowing of trumpets (Leviticus 23:23-24). Among the ancient Israelites, this Holy Day focused on the future time of God's intervention on their behalf. This same festival retains its importance to Christians today.

### Gathering the elect

At His return, Christ will also gather His elect, either by resurrecting them or, if alive at His coming, changing them from mortal

to immortal. The references above in Matthew 24 and 1 Thessalonians 4 both mention this. The apostle Paul also informed the Corinthians that this future event will be accompanied by the sound of a trumpet. Early first century Christians, by keeping this Feast Day, knew exactly what Paul was referring to when he wrote, 'In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed' (1 Corinthians 15:52).

Thus God's intervention in human affairs is synonymous with the resurrection of the just, those who have accepted the call to salvation. 'Those who are with Him [the saints] are called, chosen and faithful' (Revelation 17:14).

### Meeting Christ in the air

Paul continues in his first letter to the Thessalonians, 'And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord' (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17). *Vine's Expository Dictionary* explains that the word 'meet' here has the sense of an 'official welcome of a newly arrived dignitary' or the people of a city coming out to greet their returning lord.

Christ will then return to the exact place from where He ascended two millennia ago (Acts 1:9-12). As prophesied throughout the Old Testament scriptures, He will return and rule the world from Jerusalem (Zechariah 14:1, 3-4, 9).

### The last enemy

Thus far, only Christ has been raised to eternal, spiritual life. He is the 'firstborn of the dead' (Revelation 1:5). The book of Revelation speaks of those in the first resurrection and those who will rise later

(Revelation 20:4-6).

The apostle Paul refers to the Son of God as the 'only Potentate, King of kings and Lord of lords' (1 Timothy 6:15). All authority comes from the Father, and all authority is now Christ's until He returns all to the Father (Matthew 28:18; 1 Corinthians 15:27-28).

Yet before all things can be returned to the Father, man's much-feared companion, death, must be destroyed. Paul wrote of this in his first letter to the Christians in Corinth (chapter 15:24-26 and 50-55). Only when all is in a state fit to be returned to God the Father will there be no more death or its accompanying grief and pain (Revelation 21:1-4).

### Feast of Trumpets

Observing the Feast of Trumpets and its depiction of these significant future events keeps their importance in our minds. Almighty God will bring man's unjust rule to an end by sending His Son back to Earth to reign with equity and justice. This holy day anticipates a dramatic turning point in world history. Failing to observe this day reveals that much of professing Christianity has forgotten its significance.

For more information, please request or download our booklet *God's Holy Day Plan* which explains the relevance of all seven Holy Days in God's plan of salvation, and Christ's role in them.

*Gerhard Marx*

## Halloween Dabbling With Demons?

Instead of resisting or opposing the devil, too many allow their minds to be filled with demonic thoughts, vicarious violent feelings and the graphic visual imagery from 'adult' movies, games and other media. Even children as young as six have been seen acting out aggressive scenes from computer games (*Metro*, 13 February 2014).

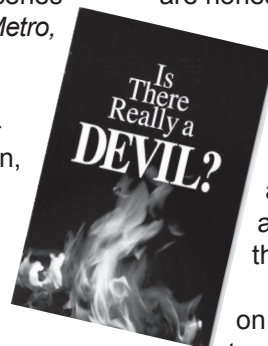
On the other hand, many films and celebrations, such as Halloween, try to portray Satan and evil spirits as just a bit of fun. Even in Britain, where it used to be Bonfire Night that took precedence, Halloween parties are becoming popular and people wish each other 'Happy Halloween.'

If we do not recognise our enemy for what he really is, how can we hope to resist him? In a world so much influenced by Satan,

Christians would do well to heed James 4:7 'Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.'

We need to guard our minds from the wiles of the devil. The apostle Paul wrote, 'Whatever things are true, whatever things are honest, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report; if there be any virtue and if there be any praise, think on these things' (Philippians 4:8).

For more information on our adversary and how to resist him, please request or download our free booklet *Is There Really a Devil?* You may also like to view our *Beyond Today* television programme 'Dabbling with Demons' at [www.ucg.org/beyond-today-program/satan/dabbling-demons](http://www.ucg.org/beyond-today-program/satan/dabbling-demons).



# What Is *Redemption*?

*Religious terminology often seems vague, complex or otherwise difficult to comprehend. How can Old Testament customs and practices enhance our understanding of the New Testament meaning of ‘redemption’?*

In Old Testament Israel, redemption was a market-place term. For instance, a close relative could redeem or buy back a bankrupt brother’s property for him (see Leviticus 25:23-25). This is seen in the story of Ruth, where Naomi had been forced to sell a portion of land, and Boaz, who was second in line in the family hierarchy, redeemed it (Ruth 4:1-6).

The same principle applied to a poor man who had to sell himself into servitude to survive. Another family member could redeem him or buy him out of slavery (Leviticus 25:47-49).

## **Bought and paid for**

In a similar manner, Jesus Christ redeemed us from the effects of our sins (eternal death – Romans 6:23), buying us back by paying a very steep ransom price. All of us have been kidnapped spiritually by Satan the devil (the arch-adversary of God and man), but the shed blood of Christ more than covers the ransom price. Several New Testament passages explore these truths.

The apostle Paul wrote, ‘You are not your own, for you were bought with a price’ (1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 7:23). The apostle Peter tells us both what and how high the price was. He wrote: ‘Knowing you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a

Lamb without blemish and without spot’ (1 Peter 1:18-19).

As Jesus Himself had said, He came ‘to give his life a ransom for many’ (Mark 10:45). Paul clearly states: ‘We have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins’ (Colossians 1:14). He repeats the same phrase in Ephesians 1:7, adding ‘according to the riches of His grace.’

## **The Father’s decisive role**

In the beginning of this letter to the Colossians, Paul explains that it is ‘the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ’ (Ephesians 1:3). The Father’s role is often overlooked in this process of redemptive salvation. We must be reconciled

*Redemption includes our future role as eternal co-rulers assisting Christ during His coming 1000-year reign on earth (see Revelation 20:4-6).*

to Him who gave His only begotten Son that we might have eternal life in His Kingdom (John 3:16).

Paul further wrote, ‘For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God [the Father], being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God

has passed over the sins that were previously committed’ (Romans 3:23-25).

Jesus said: ‘I work and My Father works’ (John 5:17). Together They direct their efforts to preparing many sons and daughters for eternal glory in the Kingdom of God.

## **Obtaining eternal redemption**

The writer of Hebrews tells us that Christ ‘with His own blood . . . entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption’ (Hebrews 9:12). There is more to the meaning of redemption than just the sacrifice of Christ, important and foundational though it is. The book of Hebrews introduces us to the concept of eternal redemption, that is, its effects run on and on into the future – eventually culminating in everlasting life.

Our redemption in Christ is past, present and future. Remember, ‘Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever’ (Hebrews 13:8).

Even though our past sins are forgiven through the blood of Christ, still an important aspect of our redemption is yet future.

To explain further, the testimony of the apostle John enters the picture. He quotes the 24 elders (powerful angelic beings residing in heaven) as singing a new song about Christ. ‘For You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by your blood out of every tribe and tongue [language], and people and

nation, and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth' (Revelation 5:9-10). This passage marries our redemption by Christ, the forgiveness of our sins, to our future role as eternal co-rulers assisting Christ during His coming 1000-year reign on earth (see Revelation 20:4-6).

Jesus Himself foretold this in His Olivet Prophecy. 'They shall see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with great glory. Now when these things happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near' (Luke 21:27-28). The apostle Paul wrote of this

same time in future history when he said, 'Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption' (Ephesians 4:30). This will be at the Second Coming of Christ when the firstfruits of God will be resurrected to everlasting life.

### **The final deliverance**

Currently the world is plunging deeper and deeper into moral, economic and political chaos. The apostle Paul wrote, 'For we know that the whole creation groans and labours with birth pangs together until now. Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the

[Holy] Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption [or sonship], the redemption of our body' (Romans 8:22-23).

Redemption cancels out our sins through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and looks forward to the day when our physical bodies will be transformed from flesh into spirit (Philippians 3:20-21; 1 Corinthians 15:50-54). We understand from Hebrews and other New Testament books that redemption is eternal in its effect – everlasting life in the Kingdom of God.

*John Ross Schroeder (1937-2014)*

# The Negative Power of Gossip

**W**ords carry immense power. God created the world through His words. Positive words can afford great healing, while negative words can cause tremendous damage. Talking negatively about other people unleashes that harmful power. Gossip and slander can ruin reputations, break up marriages, separate friends, destroy communities and divide churches.

## **Why do we gossip?**

Gossiping about others' sins and mistakes can provide an ego boost, making us feel superior to our target. If we want others to side with us, gossip can draw people into our own hurt and anger. We tell our version of the story, then our friends repeat it and on it goes. Even if true, it does not justify passing on hurtful information about someone.

Human nature finds excitement in hearing the 'dirt' on others. Tabloids are filled with scandal about the rich and famous. Proverbs 20:19 says, 'A gossip betrays a confidence; so avoid a man who talks too much' (NIV). Participating in negative conversations harms us spiritually, and pain comes when we are on the receiving end of the gossip trail. Words, once uttered, can never be recalled.

Gossip also hurts the gossiper. When you speak ill of someone, you alienate yourself from that person. Have you ever tried to look someone in the eye after you have talked about him or her behind his or her back? That is guilt, and it comes when we don't follow the biblical principle found in Matthew 18:15.

## **How to avoid gossiping**

Examine why you speak negatively and ask God for strength to confront and overcome those temptations. Confess the times you've gossiped in the past, and invite God to transform you. Be open to God's correction and guidance. Pray for people you have hurt. Ask God to heal them.

We can ask God to help us resist being pulled into negative conversations and to grant us wisdom (James 1:5). If someone begins talking negatively to us about another, encourage accountability by asking, 'Is this something I need to hear about?', 'Who told you this?', 'Have you spoken to those people directly involved?' and 'What are you expecting from me?'

Respond to gossip or criticism with encouraging words about the person being discussed. As Ephesians 4:29 explains, 'Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear' (NRSV).

Another key to positive communication is to subscribe to the simple formula 'T-H-I-N-K' before speaking of any person or subject that is controversial. Is it True? Is it Helpful? Is it Inspiring? Is it Necessary? Is it Kind? If what we are about to say does not pass these tests, we should keep our mouths shut and strive in future to use words for healing.

*Janet Treadway*

*Abridged from a Vertical Thought article*



# Focused Fasting

*Long viewed with suspicion by the medical profession, suddenly fasting is very much de rigueur. How can total abstinence produce both physical and spiritual benefits?*

Recent research from scientists at the University of Southern California has found that ‘refraining from food for as little as two days can regenerate the immune system, helping the body to fight infection,’ according to a report in *The Independent* (6 August 2014). The item continues, ‘In mice, each cycle of fasting then “flipped a regenerative switch” that triggered stem cell-based regeneration of new white blood cells, thereby renewing the body’s defence system.’

It seems a practice that can literally make us sick to the pit of our stomach is actually very good for us. As a religious exercise, humans seem to resist it, but God endorses fasting and, done appropriately, it can truly transform spiritual lives.

Although a valuable tool, most Christians use fasting infrequently and often as a last resort. However, its benefits and achievements merit the inclusion of more frequent fasts in the Christian walk.

## Length of fast

According to Gesenius’ *Hebrew-Chaldee Lexicon*, the root of the word ‘fast’ in the Old Testament conveys the idea of ‘the mouth being shut.’ In the New Testament the Greek equivalent means ‘to abstain as a religious exercise from food and drink: either entirely, if the fast lasted but a single day, or from customary and choice nourishment, if it continued several days’ (*Strong’s Concordance*). This definition reveals that not all fasting requires a 24-hour period, nor always demands

total abstinence. Apart from the Day of Atonement (Leviticus 16:29 and 23:26-27), when refraining from both food and water is required for the entire day, God does not specify how long we should fast.

Scripture reveals that Christ, Moses and Elijah each fasted for 40 days and 40 nights. Yet such lengthy fasts were associated with supernatural intervention and are not an example to follow. Health experts agree that any longer than three or four days without water will cause permanent damage to the body’s organs, and more than seven days without water will almost certainly result in death.

To save the Jewish population in Babylon, Esther requested a fast of three days and three nights (Esther 4:15-16). Following Saul’s burial,

*‘To loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, to let the oppressed go free and that you break every yoke . . .’*

his valiant men abstained from food for seven days (1 Samuel 31:13). David fasted six days when his child by Bathsheba was ill (2 Samuel 12:15-18).

## Why fast today?

The preceding paragraphs reveal the Old Testament background to fasting. But do Christians really need to fast in this modern age? Christ’s instructions reveal the answer, ‘Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But you, when

you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place’ (Matthew 6:16-18, emphasis added).

Christ clearly expected His followers to be fasting, and doing so in a proper attitude and manner.

## A hypocritical approach

The approach to fasting is important, as is the anticipated achievement from it. On God’s behalf, the prophet Isaiah explained to Israel about the wrong type of fast. He wrote, ‘They seek Me daily, and delight to know My ways, as a nation that did righteousness, and did not forsake the ordinance of their God. They ask of Me the ordinances of justice; they take delight in approaching God. “Why have we fasted,” they say, “and You have not seen? Why have we afflicted our souls, and You take no notice?”’ (Isaiah 58:2-3).

Isaiah continued God’s analysis of the situation, culminating with ‘You will not fast as you do this day, to make your voice heard on high’ (verse 4).

The Almighty assessed that these people were fasting for their own ends. It is as if they were saying, ‘God, I have fasted, so now You should grant my demands.’

In response God asks, ‘Is it a fast that I have chosen, a day for a man to afflict his soul? Is it to bow down his head like a bulrush, and to spread out sackcloth and ashes? Would you call this a fast, and an acceptable day to the LORD?’ (verse 5). God was not interested

in their outward shows of piety. Like the Pharisees in Christ's time, they were behaving in such a way that everyone would know they were fasting and marvel at how 'righteous' they were. However, God was not impressed.

### **A right approach**

Isaiah explains the kind of focus and approach God wants to see in a fast. 'Is this not the fast that I have chosen: To loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, to let the oppressed go free and that you break every yoke?' (verse 6).

A closer look at the meanings of the words reveals the intent behind this verse.

'Wickedness' occurs elsewhere in Scripture in the context of fraudulent balances (scales), or obtaining things by deceit. Satan is trying to deceive everyone in the world for his own ends. God says one reason for fasting is to request greater awareness to avoid Satan's deceptions.

The word 'heavy' translates as a pole or yoke and the word 'burdens' can actually be addressing slavery. How are people enslaved? The apostle Paul addressed this in his letter to the Romans: 'God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness' (Romans 6:17-18). Here Paul is saying that having been liberated from Satan we need to stay free. If we slip, or are in danger of slipping, back into our old ways, it can be a real struggle to free ourselves, but fasting can help release these bonds.

Strong defines 'oppressed' as 'to be crushed.' It highlights people who have problems stacking up against them, one thing after another, until they feel trampled. On occasion, we personally might suffer

that way. God declares that it would be acceptable to fast for those who feel oppressed.

'Breaking every yoke' implies a sense of power and strength, sufficient to throw off the burden of sin under which we are groaning. Through appropriate fasting, God will provide that power.

### **Further reasons to fast**

Continuing in Isaiah 58, verse 7 adds, 'Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and that you bring to your house the poor who are cast out; when you see the naked, that you cover him and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?'

These probably all have physical as well as spiritual connotations. From a biblical point of view, in John 6:35, Jesus tells us that He is

### ***If we are in danger of slipping back into our old ways, fasting can help release these bonds.***

the Bread of Life and that whoever comes to Him will never go hungry. It would be appropriate to fast for some aspect of God's work to further the message of the gospel.

God's people are being built up into a spiritual house or temple (1 Peter 2:5). As more people are called, we can pray for help to become a stable and welcoming part of His household.

Christians should not be found naked, but 'clothed with righteousness' (Isaiah 61:10). Another facet would be to fast both for those who are, or who are in danger of becoming, spiritually naked? That could include ourselves.

With regard to 'hiding from your own flesh,' this appears to concern asking God to reveal our sins to us. In Psalm 139:23-24 David pleads, 'Search me, O God, and know my heart . . . see if there is any wicked way in me.' We can deceive our-

selves into thinking we are right with God. Satan does not want us to be aware of inner darkness and to repent of hidden sin. God, on the other hand desires that we come to Him in humility and ask Him to reveal these things to us.

### **The mechanics of fasting**

A spiritual fast requires a spiritual purpose and should be a planned occasion, not a mere physical exercise. It should always be accompanied by a considerable amount of prayer. What is the point of fasting to draw close to God and to seek His will without communicating with Him?

Another consideration is setting aside enough time for Bible study so we can become better acquainted with Him. Especially if we are seeking His will, His correction or His guidance, it makes sense to read the scriptures He inspired for us.

Finally, some physical preparation may be necessary. Perhaps decrease coffee or tea intake a day or so before and drink plenty of water to flush out toxins to reduce headaches. Those on certain medications or with serious health issues should seek professional advice before attempting a fast. If you haven't fasted before, maybe try just skipping a meal or two to begin with.

God promises us if we fast in the way that He has instructed, 'Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry, and He will say, 'Here I am' (Isaiah 58:9).

A fast for physical reasons can bring about minor weight loss, afford a chance for the body to reboot its immune system and maybe produce an improvement in long-term health. A spiritual fast achieves so much more. For more information, please request or download our booklet *Tools for Spiritual Growth*.

*Carl Torcetti*



does not force His creation to do His bidding. As we see in the fifth book of the Bible where God gives humanity free choice of whether they will follow His ways or the ways of Satan, 'I have set before you today life and good, death and evil, in that

I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, His statutes and His judgements, that you may live and multiply. I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live' (Deuteronomy 30:16-19).

Unfortunately, man has been eager to follow his own way and has opened himself to influence from the 'prince of the power of the air' – Satan (Ephesians 2:2). But as reflected in Daniel 2:44 and 7:14, there is coming a millennial age (1000 years) when Satan will no longer influence mankind.

It is also important to understand that while people seem to get away with the evil they commit in this present age, there will come a time of reckoning. Scripture makes it clear that there will be consequences for all the evil that we commit. If sins are not repented of, salvation will not be offered (see 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 and Revelation 22:15). Eternal death awaits all who will not repent (Revelation 20:12-15). However, it is God's desire for everyone to repent and accept His offer of salvation (2 Peter 3:9).

Once the period of judgement is finished, God will destroy both death and the grave. Following this He will create a new heaven and a new earth for Himself, Jesus Christ and all Their children. In that new

world, all the terrible things that have happened to people will no longer be remembered (Revelation 21:1-7).

Our booklet *Why Does God Allow Suffering?* goes into this question in much more detail.

**Q** Where was God living before heaven and earth were created?

*A J, Hungary*

**A** In John 4:24 we read that 'God is Spirit,' and as such is not confined to the material universe. The prophet Isaiah reveals that God 'inhabits eternity' (Isaiah 57:15). Since the material universe had a beginning (Genesis 1:1), all that we see with the naked eye or through telescopes exists because God as Creator brought it into existence. That does not mean that the Creator of the universe always remains outside His physical creation. Through His all-pervasive Spirit, the Almighty can be anywhere He wishes to be (see Psalm 139:7-10).

The book of Revelation gives a partial description of God's heavenly throne (Revelation 11:16-19). In Scripture, heaven can refer to sky and space, as well as to God's very throne (Revelation 19:1 and 20:11).

When we delve into some of the specifics regarding the exact location of God's throne or the like, we have a principle given us to bear in mind. It is found in the Pentateuch. 'The secret things belong to the LORD, but those things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of the Law' (Deuteronomy 29:29). The Bible does let us in on some of the secret things of God which we need to know, but the more important thing for us is to acquaint ourselves with what God has revealed in His Word in working out His plan of salvation for all of mankind.

**Q** Why do the wicked get away with hurting others?

*A C, Rochford*

**A** We certainly see a lot of evil in the world, with violence seemingly increasing with each passing year. In order to understand why there is so much evil in the world, and why man seems to be getting away with it, we need to realise two facts.

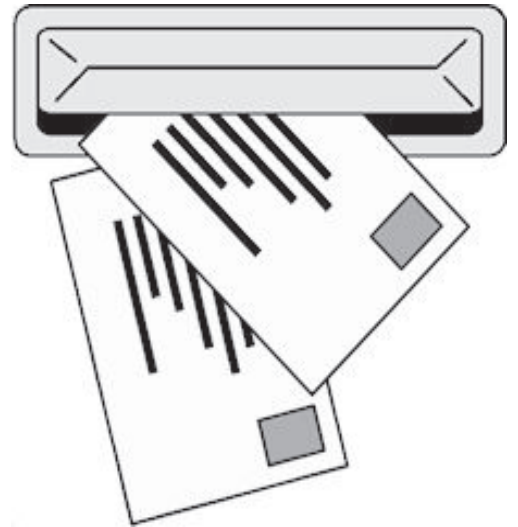
Firstly, the Bible states in the words of Jesus himself, that, 'My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world then My servants would fight' (John 18:36). A better translation for the word 'world' is 'age.' Other Scriptures show that God's kingdom or government is still future, as indicated in Daniel 2:44 and Daniel 7:14.

Secondly, in this age of man, Satan the devil has a great influence over human beings, and much of the evil we witness is Satan's doing, or due to people being heavily influenced by the devil. He is referred to as the 'god of this world [age]' in 2 Corinthians 4:4. Of course, God is in overall control of this planet and Satan can only go so far, as we see in the example of Job. Please read the first two chapters of Job, notably 1:12 and 2:6.

God in His wisdom does not force His just ways on anyone. He is willing to guide us into His way of life by His indwelling Spirit, given through the laying on of hands following repentance and baptism. However, during this age of man He



# Letters from our readers



## Relationships grow through *Bible Study Course*

Having finished Lesson 10, I believe I have grown in my relationship with God and His Son, Jesus Christ. The most striking thing I have found out is that we need Jesus more than ever because Satan's hold in this world is getting stronger. Thank you for your continued instruction.

*R F, Birmingham*

Please renew my subscription. Every time I read [the articles], I find I become closer to God. Please keep up the good work. *The Good News* and the booklets I share with my church.

*G W, Milton Keynes*

## **The Good News – inspirational and informative**

*The Good News* has been such a great inspiration for me. Two friends and I meet every Wednesday to do Bible Study and *The Good News* has been a great source of information for us.

*R F, Swindon*

I read your magazine from start to finish. It is very informative and

keeps my faith on track. More people should read it.

*N K, Radstock*

Your magazine is very welcome and I learn a lot about the truth, about how God's Word is to be accepted and believed, and how it is relevant to now.

*D P, Dorchester*

Thank you so much for all the books and God bless your ministries and your hands. What you are doing is a great blessing to those who need to know more by reading but cannot afford to buy the books.

*J S, Leicester*

- *There is no charge for any of our literature.*

Thanks for this wonderful magazine. It has brought much exposure to the Word of God. May the Lord continue to enrich you all.

*S J, Co Meath, Ireland*

Thank you so very much for all the literature you have sent. In these turbulent times, it is certainly agreed that our prophetic focus indicates the momentous end-time event. 'Thy Kingdom come' is our prayer, for we know not when. It is

not given for us to know the precise time – our privilege is to pray that we may be worthy when it does.

*G N, Aberdeen*

I wish to thank you for *The Good News* magazine. You have your finger on the pulse of the accelerating conditions of evil and wickedness throughout the world.

*J M, Northern Ireland*

## **Changing lives**

Just to thank all of you who are making it possible for us to receive *The Good News*. It has changed my life and I am very grateful.

*M O, Corby*

## **Interesting Supplement articles**

Regarding 'Smoothing the Way' (Supplement, May/June 2014), these principles should apply to modern-day living. 'What Is a Saint' and 'Priorities in Prayer' are very interesting.

*R C, Portsmouth*

## **How Our Literature Is Funded**

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