

BEYOND TODAY

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Temptation – *Thoughts that lead to sin*

There is a fine line between temptation and sin. Where and why do we cross that line?

Resisting temptation so it does not become sin can be a tall order. Half of all respondents to the survey question, “Why do we give in to temptations?” didn’t really know. The remainder variously acknowledged escapism, enjoyment, avoiding pain, satisfying the expectations of others, taking a shortcut to success or lacking willpower as reasons to succumb. A very few claimed it was due to their sinful human nature (Barna Group study conducted for Todd Hunter’s book *Our Favourite Sins* (Thomas Nelson, 2012)).

Examples of temptation

Temptation can be defined as an enticement or allure-ment, especially to something known to be evil. In modern society where the lines between good and evil have become blurred, we need to go back to biblical definitions of right and wrong as stipulated by God Himself.

Scripture defines sin as breaking or “the transgression of” the law of God (1 John 3:4, KJV). The New King James Version calls it “lawlessness.” The Almighty gives a stark warning to those who try to alter His standards: “Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness” (Isaiah 5:20).

When God created Adam He instructed him not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil lest he die. Satan deceived Eve by informing her that were she to eat from it she would not die but would become as wise as God. Scripture is silent on how long Eve had been with

Adam in the Garden of Eden knowing that this tree was forbidden (Genesis 3:2-3), but all of a sudden she “saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise.” Eve knew God was wise and this may have seemed a useful shortcut to speed up the process of becoming like Him. She “took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate” (verse 6). She was deceived into disobeying her Creator whose wisdom she acknowledged.

Even among Christ’s disciples worldly ambition reared its head. The gospel of Mark records, “Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Him, saying, ‘Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask.’ And He said to them, ‘What do you want Me to do for you?’

In modern society, where the lines between good and evil have become blurred, we need to go back to biblical definitions of right and wrong as stipulated by God Himself.

They said to Him, ‘Grant us that we may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on Your left, in Your glory.’” (Mark 10:35-37). These disciples were guilty of pride and a desire to appear greater than their companions. Christ explained that was not the right attitude (verses 42-45).

Another temptation is lying to impress others. An example of this is found in the account of Ananias and his wife, Sapphira, who sold a possession. Instead of telling

the apostle Peter that they were only donating part of the proceeds, they insisted they were giving the whole sum, which was untrue. Sadly, both husband and wife paid with their lives for giving in to this temptation (Acts 5:1-11).

Sin begins as a thought

In the Sermon on the Mount, Christ pointed out that temptation begins in the mind, and that hatred, contempt or being unreasonably angry with someone was equivalent to spiritual murder: “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.’ But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, ‘Raca!’ shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, ‘You fool!’ shall be in danger of hell fire” (Matthew 5:21-22).

He gave similar warnings regarding sexual sins: “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart” (Matthew 5:27-28).

Temptation is only sin when we give in to it, but this applies even if we give in to it in what we might believe is the privacy of our thoughts. “The LORD knows the thoughts of man,” says the writer of Psalm 94 (in verse 11). King Solomon remarked, “The thoughts of the wicked are an abomination to the LORD” (Proverbs 15:26). Even our darkest and most secret thoughts are known to God.

We need to choose to put the evil thought out of our minds before it becomes entrenched and leads us to sin (James 1:14-15). Dwelling on an evil thought is just as much a sin as the action, because it damages our minds. Sin can be committed in the imagination just as much as

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literally, hence Christ’s warnings. Everything we allow into our minds has an effect, including what we read, what we watch, what we listen to and what we imagine. What is in our hearts eventually becomes plain to all. “A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things” (Matthew 12:35).

As disciples mature, temptations change

We never outgrow temptations, but they can become more subtle and harder to spot as we continue to emulate Christ. When we overcome in one area Satan often attacks us in another. Sometimes we can find ourselves considering a wrong action and wondering “Where did that thought come from?”

We can be tempted by pride, self-righteousness (often revealed in being judgmental of others), covetousness and spiritual ambition. Christ gave this example in regard to prayer: “Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other men – extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.’ And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted, (Luke 18:9-14).

Deal with temptation when it first appears

Like a tenacious weed, it is easier to throw out a wrong thought immediately it is noticed than to allow it to take root and then try to eradicate it. Temptation left unchecked can entwine itself into our minds and lead to breaking God’s law, the penalty for which is death (Romans 6:23). James, a half-brother of Jesus Christ, explained, “Each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death” (James 1:14-15).

We need to choose to eject the evil thought and deliberately replace it with thoughts more appropriate to a follower of Christ (Philippians 4:8). If we are failing in this because the thoughts are so intrusive, we can try meditating on the scriptures, singing psalms or crying out to God in prayer for help. All the thoughts of a disciple of Christ are to be brought into subjection “to the obedience of Christ” (2 Corinthians 10:5). Impossible for human beings trying to do it alone but not with the help of Christ and the Father.

Lifestyle changes can help diminish temptation. For example, consider the company we keep. The apostle Paul admonished, “Do not be deceived: ‘Evil company corrupts good habits’” (1 Corinthians 15:33).

Consider how we spend our time, our money, and our emotions. Does what we do glorify God? Or does it damage our mind or our body?

We must be responsible for our lives and take control. With God’s help gambling, smoking, drinking too much, impulse buying, viewing pornography and many other sins can be overcome – but not if we continue to frequent places where such temptations are rife or saturate the mind with media influences that glorify sinful practices.

Complacency is another enemy. No one is immune to temptation. “Therefore, let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall” (1 Corinthians 10:12). Pride, anger, lust and greed have a nasty habit of creeping up on us unnoticed.

Christ knows what temptation is like

The writer of Hebrews explained that “we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathise with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need” (Hebrews 4:15-16).

Jesus had set aside His glory to become a man and face the same temptations we do (Philippians 2:5-8). In the gospel of Matthew three inducements are listed when Christ was tempted by Satan the devil. In the first, Satan tried to come between Christ and His Father by suggesting Christ satisfy His physical needs instead of continuing His fast; the second appealed to spiritual pride (which the Son of God didn't have) and the third offered a shortcut to the rulership He had not yet been given (Matthew 4:1-11). In each case, Jesus cast out the sinful thought the devil had tried to place in His mind and replaced it with the word of God.

Although our High Priest and Saviour never allowed

those thoughts to mature into sin, He knows what temptation is like. For this reason, He can empathise with us and ask the Father to help us when we cry out in our personal battles with evil. They are there ready to come to our aid, even when we don't know what to pray (Romans 8:26).

There is a great purpose in temptations: “Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love him” (James 1:12).

Christ overcame sin and the world and has entered His glory. In our battle we often slip up, but if we continue to repent and strive, with God's help, against temptation and its consequences, our Heavenly Father promises to forgive us and blot out our sins. As James stated, there is a great reward for those who succeed in this battle.

Bryan Ellams

For more help on this subject, request or download our free booklet Tools for Spiritual Growth.

Brexit is just one of the challenges the EU faces

Britain can no longer be the “fall-guy” for all the EU's woes.

Since the triggering of Article 50, the Business Section of *The Daily Telegraph* has identified a number of other challenges facing the European Union. Columnist Ambrose Evans-Pritchard observed that with Britain's exit the EU “has become (to the dismay of the German people) a German Europe.” This leaves France in a subordinate role, and Mr Evans-Pritchard suggests that it would be “better for France to hang onto a tight Franco-British defence and security pact for a little strategic ballast” (29 March 2017).

Other nations such as “the Scandinavians, Dutch and the Baltic states” relied on Britain “to defend the free market and to balance ideological power.” These members have lost an ally and could now be outvoted on key issues.

Various crises beset the 19-nation eurozone. Italian voters may take an anti-euro stance in elections in 2018. Presidential elections in France due to conclude on 7 May this year will be unlikely to stop the rising tide of euroscepticism among its people (“France has become a Eurosceptic nation whoever wins the election,” 6 April 2017). The first round already indicates an anti-establishment preference. This could have serious repercussions for Franco-German relations.

Italy, Ireland, Greece, Portugal, Spain and France are
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all struggling within the single currency union. In fact the EU spends much of its energy and resources trying to “hold the euro together.”

Beyond the boundaries of the EU “Alarm bells ring out as the world sinks deeper in debt” (5 April 2017). Global debt soared to £173 trillion last year, much of it fuelled by the rapid growth of credit in China. The International Monetary Fund said that the “sheer size of debt . . . could thwart the fragile economic recovery.” That danger threatens the entire world, not just the EU. Matthew Lynn writing on 16 April also expressed concern that “Germany's trade surplus is a threat to global stability.”

All these factors, inside and outside the EU, raise the question of whether any Brexit deal can be struck before something else gives. The surprise British general election, called for 8 June, adds to the uncertainty.

The Bible indicates that in the last days, at a time of chaos and uncertainty, a superpower will arise – the last one that will be ruled by man.

To study further please request or download our booklets *Seven Prophetic Signs Before Jesus Returns* and *The Final Superpower*.

David Fenney

God is everywhere

Our Creator can sometimes seem distant, yet His power is visible for all to see.

We live in a world powered by what we cannot see – solar energy (radiation), electricity, gravity, even radio waves and wifi. It is remarkable then that many suppose that there is no God simply because they cannot see Him.

Although He is invisible to our human eyes, if we were to look upon the Almighty in His full glory we would die, and that is the last thing our loving Father wants. Those who saw the LORD God in the Old Testament saw the pre-incarnate Christ and then only in a likeness that would not harm them. (If you are unfamiliar with this understanding, please request or download our booklet *Jesus Christ: The Real Story*.) Even Moses was only allowed to see God's back in His glorified form (Exodus 33:18-23).

While we may not directly see God, we can glimpse His power. Go outside on a clear, starry night and look up. As the Psalmist wrote, "When I consider Your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars which You have ordained" (Psalm 8:3). David could see the power of God just as we can.

Consider how Earth sits 93 million miles from the Sun, 230,000 miles from the moon and tilts at 23.5 degrees. Without the sun being the right size and producing sufficient but not too much heat, the moon the correct distance to influence the tides and the tilt able to provide seasons, nothing could live on Earth!

All this is held together by the creative power of God through Jesus Christ (Colossians 1:15-17; Hebrews 1:1-3). This power is God's Spirit (Genesis 1:1-3; Psalm 104:30).

Almost any TV wildlife programme, or a walk in our beautiful countryside, will demonstrate how each individual plant, fish, animal and insect is designed to give us a balanced earth to live in. Every creature has a purpose and links to the others with everything working perfectly.

All this is from God: "For the LORD is God and He created the heavens and earth and put everything in place. He made the world to be lived in, not to be a place of empty chaos" (Isaiah 45:18, *New Living Translation*).

We must be careful to thank God for this beautiful planet He has created for us and never forget that "since the creation of the world his invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened" (Romans 1:20-21).

So can we see God? Not directly, but we can see His gift of life. It is all around us. If we are growing to be like

His Son, our Saviour, we can share in His eternal spirit life. In spirit form, we will be able to gaze upon the magnificence of God the Father, His Son Jesus Christ and the spirit realm with no danger to ourselves because we shall have become part of it – made like Christ (1 John 3:2). What an honour that will be!

The first steps we take towards belief in God we take in faith. The second step and each one after that is profound and life changing, so always remember when doubting – open your eyes – God is right in front of you everywhere you look!

Stuart Hull

Sleep can consolidate bad feelings

Irritation, discontent and anger can be difficult to manage at the best of times. A new study explains why sleeping on a problem is not ideal.

According to a report in the Times (30 November 2016), the old adage "don't go to bed angry" seems to have a scientific foundation. Scientists at the Beijing Normal University have proved that angry or unsettling thoughts at bedtime can become harder to eradicate after a night's sleep.

Yunzhe Liu, who co-authored the study suggests that "people try to get a bad memory out of their minds as soon as they can, not to think about it too much, and especially not to sleep on it."

Apparently, during sleep newly acquired memories are assimilated into "more distributed areas of the brain" making them "more resistant to suppression." In this same vein, nearly two thousand years ago the apostle Paul advised: "Be angry and do not sin': do not let the sun go down on your wrath" (Ephesians 4:26).

For help with dealing with negative emotions please request our Bible Study aid "Dealing with Difficult People."

Biblical festivals point to our human potential

Far from being out of date or archaic, the “Feasts of the Lord” outlined in the Old Testament explain the steps to salvation and our future rulership with Christ in the Kingdom of God.

The genuinely biblical Holy Days constitute an integral part of the festive calendar of God’s true Church which is more significant than the man-made festivals of mainstream Christianity. The New Testament Church that Jesus stated would exist throughout the ages (Matthew 16:18) will be keeping the seven holy days mentioned in the Bible. There is good reason for this; they reveal the very plan of God for all humanity, not just for those who have been privileged to live in countries where the Judeo/Christian teachings have been accessible.

From the Spring Festival after Passover to the Eighth Day following the Feast of Tabernacles in the autumn (Leviticus 23), these seven holy days are highly revealing. Without these important and divinely appointed feasts, God’s Church would be at a loss as to know how the Creator of mankind will work out His plan of salvation for the entire creation.

God’s inspired Word, the Bible, makes it crystal clear that there is only one name given through which we can attain everlasting life. Talking of Jesus Christ, we read in Acts 4:12, “Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is

no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

A plan of salvation for all nations

But where does that leave those who have lived in countries where His name was never known or where the message of Jesus Christ was forbidden to be preached? We are reassured by the apostle Paul that God “desires all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth” (1 Timothy 2:4). But how, will this come about, given that millions have died never having known of the essential part Jesus Christ plays in their salvation?

The Holy Scriptures, as cited above and elsewhere, show us that salvation and true knowledge go together. Merely knowing the name of Jesus isn’t sufficient and that knowledge alone will save no one. An understanding of the biblical festivals, however, shows us clearly that God has a time scale for giving every human being a genuine opportunity for salvation. Without them we would not understand the process involved in extending salvation to all.

Knowing the name of Jesus isn’t sufficient . . . That knowledge alone will save no one.

The annual feasts described in the Bible also explain the fate of those who are presently uninterested in the question of salvation. This includes agnostics, atheists and unbelievers in general.

Regarding the Holy Days that God commands us to keep, one festival concerns “the firstfruits of His creatures” (James 1:18) and “the firstfruits to God” (Revelation 14:4). Since there are people called firstfruits, then there must be others who are going to have that opportunity at a later time – they could be called “secondfruits.”

The seven Holy Days have their parallel in the agricultural cycle of the Old Testament. The early crops reaped



In Israel, barley is the first crop to be harvested in the Spring.

Shutterstock

consist of grain, first barley and then wheat. This is called the “firstfruits” harvest. Grapes and olives are gathered towards autumn. This is commemorated around the time of “the Feast of Ingathering at the end of the year” (Exodus 23:14-16).

What we see here is that God used the agricultural year to outline His plan of salvation. The climate in the Middle East allows for a long growing season, hence the words “firstfruits” and “ingathering.” Scripture makes it clear that in God’s plan of salvation some men and women will be called ahead of others, but the rest are not neglected. They don’t lose out on salvation. Notice what the apostle Paul tells us about the time schedule using his own people, the Israelites, as an example: “I say then, has God cast away His people? Certainly not!” (Romans 11:1). In verses 5 and 7, he explains that “at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace.” And in verse 7 he says, “What then, Israel has not obtained what it seeks; but the elect have obtained it, and the rest were blinded.” In other words, the elect are the firstfruits of God’s calling.

In verses 25-26 Paul shows that in the future, the majority of Israel will be saved – and that goes for the rest of the world as well. Notice: “For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved . . .” How that will transpire is shown by the seven annual holy days, each outlining a stage in His plan of salvation.

A message of hope

Where does that leave those whom God is calling now to salvation? As firstfruits, as the elect of God, we carry the responsibility to help bring this message of hope to others. The annual holy days which the Bible teaches have their origin with God as we read in Leviticus 23:4: “These are the feasts of the LORD, holy convocations which you shall proclaim at their appointed times.” These festivals are God-ordained and commanded to be observed by His people, the “firstfruits” of his salvation.

To find out more about how God will bring salvation to all except those who deliberately and wilfully reject the call, please request or download our booklets *God’s Holy Day Plan: The Promise of Hope for All Mankind* and *Holidays or Holy Days: Does It Matter Which Days We Observe?*

Gerhard Marx

The seven Festivals

Each of God’s Holy Days reveals a significant step in His marvellous plan of salvation. They can be summarised as follows:

Passover represents our justification through repentance and obedience leading to forgiveness. For this we need faith in Christ’s sacrifice (Romans 1:1-3; 8:30; Titus 3:3-7).

The *Feast of Unleavened Bread* has two sides to it. To put leaven out for these seven days represents us putting sin out of our lives with God’s help. To eat unleavened bread for the same period depicts us putting on the character of Jesus Christ and being set apart as holy by Him (1 Corinthians 5:6-8).

Pentecost reveals the transforming power of God’s Holy Spirit given to help us become more like Christ (Romans 8:4-17).

The *Feast of Trumpets* foreshadows the return of Christ in glory, when His saints will be resurrected to spirit and will live with Him (Daniel 12:1-3; 1 Corinthians 15:50-52; 1 John 3:2).

The *Day of Atonement* pictures the removal of Satan just before a period of 1,000 years, during which Christ and the saints rule on earth (Romans 16:20; Revelation 20:1-4).

The *Feast of Tabernacles* represents the Eden-like Earth that will result from Christ’s benevolent 1000-year rule (Isaiah 2:1-4; 11:6-9).

The *Eighth Day*, which immediately follows the last day of the Feast of Tabernacles, looks ahead to the great judgment of all people. For many this will be the first time they have heard of Jesus Christ and His sacrifice. Others may have heard but not realised the significance or understood the content of the message (Ezekiel 37:1-14). All will be judged on the same basis that the saints were judged – by the word of God found in the Bible (1 Peter 4:17-18; Matthew 11:20-24; Revelation 20:5, 11-12).

The Eighth Day also looks to the completion of God’s plan and to the New Jerusalem coming down to a new Earth. At this time God the Father will also descend from Heaven to dwell with His spirit-born family (Revelation 21:1-7; 22:1-5).



Q If they didn't go to heaven what became of Enoch and Elijah?

FAQ

A Genesis 5:24 tells us that “Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.” Hebrews 11:5 adds: “By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, and was not found, because God had taken him; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God.”

Some jump to the conclusion that Enoch was taken up into heaven, but the Bible nowhere says this. It simply says that God “took him.” It does not specify where he was taken. Jesus Christ later states that “Scripture cannot be broken” – one passage of the Bible cannot contradict another (John 10:35). This same Gospel of John reveals a fact very pertinent to this matter: “No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven” (John 3:13).

Clearly, Jesus Christ was the only human being who had ascended into heaven. The phrase “who is in heaven” lets us know that this was written by the apostle John after Christ's return to heaven. So even when this statement was written, toward the end of the first century AD, no human being – and that includes Enoch – had ascended into heaven.

Let the Bible Answer . . .

Does the Bible tell us how to separate truth from error?

Truth is defined in Psalm 119:142, 151, 160 and John 17:17. Principles are identified in Luke 4:4 (from Deuteronomy 8:3); Isaiah 8:19; Deuteronomy 13:1-4. Warnings against deceivers include Matthew 24:23-24; 2 Corinthians 11:13-15; 2 Thessalonians 2:7-12; Revelation 12:9.

We read about Enoch's eventual fate in Hebrews 11:13. “These all [including Enoch] died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth” (Hebrews 11:13). So Enoch definitely died along with the rest of the faithful.

God doesn't give us the details of what happened but a few scenarios have been proposed that do not conflict with the fact that Enoch died as the Bible says. It may be that God transported Enoch elsewhere to keep him from being killed at a certain time – perhaps protecting him from martyrdom at the hands of angry persecutors who didn't like his announcement of coming divine judgment (see Jude 14-16). Again, we don't have enough details to know exactly what is intended. But we do know from Scripture that Enoch did not skip death and go to heaven. He died and is awaiting the resurrection of the just.

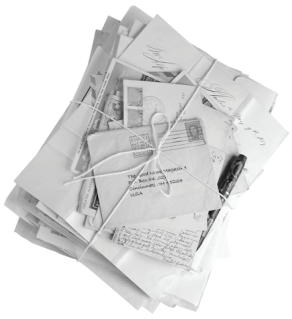
With regard to Elijah, the Bible states that “Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven” (2 Kings 2:11). However the aforementioned testimony of John's gospel, stated some 900 years after Elijah's time, applies here too (John 3:13).

Careful study shows that three “heavens” are actually discussed in the Bible. One is God's dwelling place – the place of His throne – and the heaven where the resurrected Jesus is today (Hebrews 8:1). A second heaven discussed in the Bible is what we call outer space – the domain of the moon, planets, comets, asteroids, sun and stars. Yet another heaven, closest to us in proximity, is the envelope of air that surrounds our planet, consisting of oxygen and other gases. This heaven is earth's atmosphere (Job 35:11; Jeremiah 16:4).

To determine which heaven is meant here, we must carefully consider the context. We see from 2 Kings 2:16 that the sons of the prophets knew the whirlwind had simply removed Elijah to another location on earth and were concerned for his safety. It was into the lower reaches of this first, closest heaven – the earth's atmosphere – that Elijah was taken.

Another passage proves conclusively that Elijah was not taken up to live in heaven. Several years after he was removed in the whirlwind, and a few years into the reign of King Jehoram of Judah, Scripture records that Elijah wrote to warn him of the dire consequences of his wickedness. This letter is recorded in 2 Chronicles 21:12-15 and proves that the prophet was still alive and on earth some years after he was removed by the whirlwind and replaced by Elisha.

The Bible tells us nothing more about Elijah's life following his writing of the letter. But he eventually died just like the other prophets and righteous men of the Old Testament such as Enoch, who all died in faith, not yet receiving the eternal life God has promised (Hebrews 11:39).



Letters From Our Readers

Truth is a source of blessing

I was brought up as a Roman Catholic. My guilt for sin was so strong I felt unworthy and stopped attending mass. Your wonderful magazines have taught me the truth and real knowledge of the Bible and Jesus Christ, particularly His sacrifice and unmerited grace and love for those who accept Him and try our best to follow Him.

Reader from London

I enjoy reading *Beyond Today* and pass them all on to others who are also blessed by reading them.

Reader from Huddersfield

Beyond Today is a very precious magazine, reminding us and teaching us what God is trying to tell us in His word – the Holy Bible.

Reader from Royston

Keeping up with world events

The only way I find I can keep up with world events in connection with biblical prophecy is through the United Church of God. I was brought up in the Church of England but they and the Catholic Church have sadly watered down their faiths. I think many denominations now hardly regard the Bible as the Word of God. Political correctness now dictates that

we “hide our light under a bushel” for fear of upsetting other religious organisations. Keep up the good work and may God bless you.

Reader from Northampton

I am learning so much about what God is doing in the world today and in the future as prophesied. I pass on this learning to others in my church.

Reader from Milton Keynes

I have four versions of the Holy Bible which I use to cross check. I find your booklets and magazines give a more in-depth understanding of what the Holy Bible tells us. Keep up the good work!

Reader from the Isle of Man

Editor’s comment: We encourage all our readers to prove for themselves that our teachings are in accordance with Scripture (Acts 17:11; 1Thessalonians 5:21).

I find your explanations of current events in the light of biblical prophecy very clear and encouraging.

Reader from Banstead

Thank you for the *Beyond Today* magazine and Supplement which help me to make sense of the fast-moving

events in the world, and along with the Bible give hope for the future.

Reader from Wakefield

Plenty of scriptures appreciated

I look forward to receiving *Beyond Today*. I appreciate you using lots of scriptures and comparing relevant scripture with scripture. Not many magazines in the church generally do this. A real credit to your writers.

Reader from Rotherham

Holidays or Holy Days

I found your booklet on *Holidays or Holy Days* very interesting. It gives an insight into how Christianity and pagan religion got mixed together. The early bishops and popes should never have allowed this to happen. They broke God’s commandments by not sticking to the scriptures of the Holy Bible.

Reader from Manchester

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