

THE SABBATH SCOOP

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GOD WILL SEE US THROUGH!

No matter what evil lies ahead, God can protect us, as He has protected his people in the past.

By Gregory Dullum

Before Jesus Christ returns to this earth, we must go through some *horrible* times! They will be WORSE than *any other time* in history (Mat. 24:21-22)!

We don't need to FEAR these times. God PROMISES to *protect* those who *stay close to Him!* He WILL see us through! To encourage us, He has left *examples* of how He helped others through similar trials in the past.

Let's look at a number of *prophecies* of end-time troubles, God's *promises* to protect his people through them, and *past examples* of similar help.

False Religion

When asked what would be the sign of his coming, the *first* thing Jesus Christ warned about is deception from false religions and false christ.

Prophecies: "Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many...."

"Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many...."

"Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There!' do not believe it. For false christ and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect" (Mat. 24:4-5, 11, 23-24).

False christ and false prophets are represented by the first of "four horsemen of the apocalypse" who will ride at the end time (Rev. 6:1-2).

Promises: God doesn't want us to be deceived or led astray. His promise to us is simple: "being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ" (Philip. 1:6).

Jesus Christ promises that his church will endure to the end and NOT be DESTROYED by deception. "...I will build My church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Mat. 16:18).

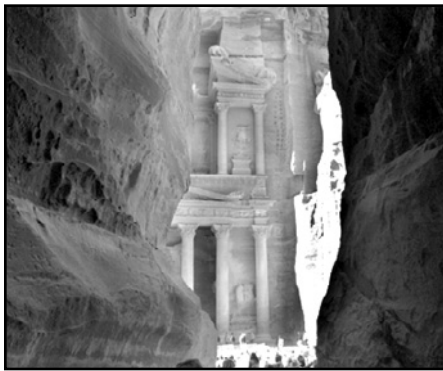


photo by Chris Finlay

God will protect his church in the wilderness (desert) for 3-1/2 years during a time of Satan's wrath (Rev. 12:14). Some have speculated this place of safety may be the rock city of Petra, seen highlighted by the sun beyond this dark entrance.

Past examples: King David prayed for protection from deception and God *answered* his prayer: "In my distress I cried to the LORD, and He heard me; Deliver my soul, O LORD, from lying lips and from a deceitful tongue" (Ps. 120:1-2).

God will ALWAYS have *true* followers who remain *loyal* and *obedient* to Him. At one point in Israel's history, the prophet Elijah thought he was the only one left in the whole country who obeyed God. He told God, "I have been very zealous for the LORD of hosts; because the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life" (1 Kings 19:14). However, God told Elijah, "Yet I have reserved seven thousand in Israel, all whose knees have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him" (v. 18).

Hebrews 11 lists many who remained *faithful* to God and were NOT deceived by false teachings in their day.

Of the church at Ephesus, Christ said, "I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear evil. And

you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for my name's sake and have not become weary" (Rev. 2:2-3).

To the church at Pergamos, Christ said, "I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells" (Rev. 2:13).

Wars

After false prophets, the next thing Christ warned about is war.

Prophecies: "And you shall hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom" (Mat. 24:6-7).

"Because you did not serve the LORD your God with joy and gladness of heart, for the abundance of all things, therefore you shall serve your enemies, whom the LORD will send against you... and He will put a yoke of iron on your neck until He has destroyed you. The LORD will bring a nation against you from afar, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flies, a nation whose language you will not understand, a nation of fierce countenance, which does not respect the elderly nor show favor to the young" (Deut. 28:47-50).

War is pictured by the second of "four horsemen of the apocalypse" who will ride at the end time (Rev. 6:3-4).

Promises: God promises to protect his people in times of war. "I will say

GOD'S PROTECTION

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God's Protection

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of the LORD, 'He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust.' Surely He will deliver you from the snare of the fowler.... You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, nor of the arrow that flies by day... nor of the destruction that lays waste at noonday. A thousand may fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand; but it shall not come near you.... For He will give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways" (Ps. 91:2-3, 5-7, 11).

Past examples: Assyrian King Sennacherib laid siege against Jerusalem. Jewish King Hezekiah prayed for deliverance.

"And it came to pass on a certain night that the angel of the LORD went out, and killed in the camp of the Assyrians one hundred and eighty-five thousand; and when the people arose early in the morning, there were the corpses—all dead. So Sennacherib king of Assyria departed and went away, returned home, and remained at Nineveh" (2 Kings 19:35-36).

The prophet Elisha and his servant awoke one morning to find their home surrounded by a Syrian army. While the servant feared, Elisha remained calm, knowing God would protect them.

"And when the servant of the man of God arose early and went out, there was an army, surrounding the city with horses and chariots. And the servant said to him, 'Alas, my master! What shall we do?' So he answered, 'Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.' And Elisha prayed and said, 'LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see.' Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha" (2 Kings 6:15-17).

God struck the Syrian army with blindness and Elisha led the invaders to the king of Israel. The enemies were given food and water and they returned to their own country (vv. 18-22). The result? "So the bands of Syrian raiders came no more into the land of Israel" (v. 23).

Famine

After war, the next thing Christ foretold was famine.

Prophecies: "And there will be famines..." (Mat. 24:7).

"But it shall come to pass, if you do not obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that these curses will come upon you and overtake you... Cursed shall be your basket and kneading bowl....

"And the heavens which are over your head shall be bronze, and the earth which is under you shall be iron. The LORD will change the rain of your land to powder and dust: from heaven it shall come down until you are destroyed....

"And you shall eat the fruit of your own body, the flesh of your sons and daughters whom the LORD your God has given you, in the siege and desperate straits in which the enemy shall distress you" (Deut. 28:15, 17, 23-24, 53).

Famine is pictured by the third of "four horsemen of the apocalypse" who will ride at the end time (Rev. 6:5-6).

Promises: "Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear Him, on those who hope in His mercy, to deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in the famine" (Ps. 33:18-19).

"The LORD knows the days of the upright, and their inheritance shall be forever. They shall not be ashamed in the evil time, and in the days of famine they shall be satisfied" (Ps. 37:18-19).

Past examples: God provided food for Elijah during a three-year drought. "The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning, and bread and meat in the evening; and he drank from the brook" (1 Kings 17:6).

When the brook dried up, God sent Elijah to live with a widow. He miraculously provided for them both during the famine. Elijah told the widow, "For thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'the bin of flour shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil run dry, until the day the LORD sends rain on the earth'" (1 Kings 17:14, 16).

Pestilences

Following famine, the next curse upon this world will be pestilences, or diseases.

Prophecies: "And there shall be pestilences..." (Mat. 24:7).

"Then the LORD will bring upon you and your descendants extraordinary plagues—great and prolonged plagues—and serious and prolonged sicknesses. Moreover He will bring back on you all the diseases of Egypt, of which you were afraid, and they shall cling to you. Also every sickness and every plague, which is not written in the book of this law, will the LORD bring upon you until you are destroyed" (Deut. 28:59-61).

Deadly pestilence is pictured by the fourth "horsemen of the apocalypse" who will ride at the end time (Rev. 6:7-8).

Promises: "...If you diligently heed the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am

the LORD who heals you" (Ex. 15:26).

"Surely He will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the perilous pestilence.... You shall not be afraid of the terror by night... nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness" (Ps. 91:3, 5-6).

Past example: When God sent a pestilence upon Egyptian livestock, he protected the Israelite livestock that was there. Moses told Pharaoh: "behold, the hand of the LORD will be on your cattle in the field, on the horses, on the donkeys, on the camels, on the oxen, and on the sheep. There will be a very severe pestilence. And the LORD will make a difference between the livestock of Israel and the livestock of Egypt. So nothing shall die of all that belongs to the children of Israel" (Ex. 9:3-4).

If God can protect Israelite LIVESTOCK from pestilence, He certainly can protect his *precious* PEOPLE! He knows when a lowly sparrow falls to the ground and Christ added, "Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows" (Mat. 10:29, 31).

Earthquakes

Following false prophets, war, famine and pestilence, is the promise of earthquakes.

Prophecy: "And there shall be... earthquakes in various places" (Mat. 24:7).

"I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake..." (Rev. 6:12).

"When He opened the seventh seal... there were noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake" (Rev. 8:1, 5).

"In the same hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. In the earthquake seven thousand men were killed, and the rest were afraid and gave glory to the God of heaven" (Rev. 11:13).

"Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air.... And there were noises and thunderings and lightnings, and there

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was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth.... Then every island fled away, and the mountains were not found" (Rev. 16:17-18, 20).

Promise: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; though its waters roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with its swelling. Selah" (Ps. 46:1-3).

Past example: Many Israelites survived to flee to safety during a great earthquake in the days of King Uzziah: "Then you shall flee through My mountain valley.... Yes, you shall flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah" (Zech. 14:5).

Persecution

The next thing Christ warns about is persecution.

Prophecies: "Then they will deliver you up to tribulation..." (Mat. 24:9).

"...[T]hey will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to synagogues and prisons, that you will be brought before kings and rulers for My name's sake" (Luke 21:12).

Promises: God will USE persecution to *further his will!* "But it will turn out for you as an occasion for testimony. Therefore, settle it in your hearts not to meditate beforehand on what you will answer; for I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to contradict or resist" (Luke 21:13-15).

God will NOT forget his people who are imprisoned by persecutors! "For the LORD hears the poor, and does not despise His prisoners" (Ps. 69:33). "The LORD gives freedom to the prisoners" (Ps. 146:7).

Past examples: The Apostle Paul was questioned by Roman authorities after his first arrest. He *preached the Gospel* before Roman rulers and was NOT executed at that time (Acts 24:10-27).

He later was brought before King Agrippa (Acts 25:13, 26:1-23), who was impressed by Paul's words. Agrippa told Paul, "You almost persuade me to become a Christian" (Acts 26:28).

Some early church leaders were miraculously freed from prison! See Acts 5:17-20, 12:3-10, 16:24-30.

Martyrdom

Some true Christians (but NOT *all*) will be martyred. They may LOSE their *physical* lives but will GAIN *eternal* life!

Prophecies: "Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and to kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My

name's sake. And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another" (Mat. 24:9-10).

"You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relatives and friends; and they will send some of you to your death. And you will be hated by all for My name's sake" (Luke 21:16-17).

"And when He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. And they cried with a loud voice saying, 'How long O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?' And a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed" (Rev. 6:9-11).

Promises: "But not a hair of your head shall be lost" (Luke 21:18).

"But he who endures to the end shall be saved" (Mat. 24:13).

"He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life" (John 12:25).

Past examples: Hebrews 11 mentions many of God's people who were martyred. "And others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword... And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise" (Heb. 11:35-37, 39).

They did not receive the *fulfillment* of the promise; they remain dead to this day (John 3:13). But they stayed faithful and were convinced they would receive eternal life! "These all 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.... Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them" (Heb. 11:13, 16).

Satan's Anger

Many evils will come upon this world as we near Christ's return. Satan will angrily try to destroy mankind, especially God's true followers. While *some* of God's people will suffer at the hands of Satan, *others* will be PROTECTED!

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

"And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him....

"Therefore rejoice O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time. Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman [church] who gave birth to the male Child" (Rev. 12:7-9, 12-13).

Promises: "But the woman [church] was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent" (Rev. 12:14).

"Because you have kept my command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth" (Rev. 3:10).

"Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me" (Ps. 50:15; see also Ps. 9:9, 12:5).

Past example: Satan complained to God that he was unable to hurt Job, because of God's protection: "So Satan answered the LORD and said, 'Does Job fear God for nothing? Have you not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side?' " (Job 1:9-10).

God can [and does!] put a hedge around us, as He did Job, to protect us from EVERY evil Satan throws our way!

The prophecies of evil times *are* SURE! They *are* coming! But God's promises of his protection *are* *equally* SURE!

We must do our part to make sure we are worthy of God's protection. Jesus Christ instructed us: "Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass..." (Luke 21:36).

To "watch" means to watch world news and recognize the signs of the times (vv. 29-33). It also means to examine ourselves, to be circumspect, ready for Christ's return.

What QUALITIES have those who escape these evils? Go back and read *to whom* God promises protection. They *trust* God, *fear* Him, *hope* in his mercy, are *upright*, diligently *heed the voice* of the LORD, *do* what is *right* in his sight, *give ear* to his *commandments* and *keep* all his *statutes*, are *poor* [humble] *servants* who *persevere*. If we develop these qualities, God *promises* PROTECTION from coming end-time evils!

College Letters

Lessons of Life Learned at Ambassador College

Keep a humorous book on hand to read when depressed. Where do you date the Trojan War?

If gas gauge breaks, keep track of mileage so you won't run out of gas.

December 16, 1974

Grant Spong used to be in the submarine corps—but they kicked him out because he kept sleeping with the window open!

Dear family,

I thought I'd write you again real quick before I begin to delve into the tons of school work I have to do tonight.

It was a blast talking to you Saturday night. We ended up talking 35 minutes and it cost \$5.25. That's not too bad. But I had to take the money out of my [bank] account to pay for it, because I forgot about the call, and spent a lot of money on Sunday. But too bad you had to miss a half hour of *My Fair Lady*. It came on [TV] at 9 p.m. out here, and is continued tonight. I have to see the rest of it, if I get my work done first. It was pretty good, but I still like the play I saw three times better.

The basketball team won their third straight game Saturday night. YAY!

Sunday morning I went shopping with Linda, Linda Holfelder, and Terri Short. We went to Eagle Rock shopping center. It is a lot like Southdale. The first store I went to was Florsheim's Shoes. I looked at their boots, and they were a little cheaper than the ones I had seen. So I tried on a pair, but they fit kind of weird, I think they were too narrow. Then he brought out another pair that he said cost forty-some dollars, but had just been reduced to 29 dollars. I tried them on and loved them. So I got them. The whole bill came to 33 dollars. And these boots are all leather, and are higher than the last pair I had. They are so comfy... and good lookin' too! I got some boot polish too.

Then I looked around in the other stores. I got a 45 record: *Cat's in the Cradle*. It's a cool song. I wanted some others too, but they didn't carry oldies. I went to the bookstore. After much searching, I found a novel about flying, that I couldn't pass up: *Band of Brothers*. I also got a Charlie Brown book, so I would have something funny to read if I ever get depressed.

I finally got a date for Sunday night: Sharon Melnychuk.

The Mystery Girl [MG for short] called. We talked from 3:30-4:30. We had picked up the note from her earlier, that

she had put in Grant's mailbox. She cut a lot of stuff out of magazines, but her organization was poor, and it took her to explain what it all meant. She told me she had put it in Grant's box, because she put something else in my box. I told her that as soon as we hung up, I was going to run to my box and get it. And I did. It was a postcard (no writing or signature) with the picture of monkeys and a barrel, and the words: WE'RE HAVING MORE FUN THAN A BARREL OF MONKEYS! This is especially fitting because Santana has a rubber monkey on his desk, and I have Freddy [a ceramic monkey] on mine.

I was walking to the phone in the student center to call Sharon and tell her of a time change when I was paged. I had a phone call on line one. It was MG. We talked for another fifteen or thirty minutes. I made another bet with her. If she has a green dress, I have to buy another order of fries with the dinner I owe her when we find out who she is. She said you don't get many fries with their hamburgers [at the Salt Shaker].

Santana took Neila McMichael, and Sharon and I went to see *Dr. Zhivago*. It was so super cool! I loved it. And it made me glad I'm spending my winter here in California instead of the frozen Midwest.

Neila Lang asked Grant to take over for her morning [KAC radio] show on Monday. So Grant and I slept in the study, so we could listen to music on my stereo while sleeping. We got about 4 hours of sleep before we had to get up. I co-hosted the show with him. He felt it is the best show we've done so far.

Grant and I talked to MG this morning from 9:00 until 12:45. This is the longest we've ever talked. But it was with the two of us. What kills me, is that she said both Grant and I have talked to her face to face. And we didn't even know it!

Gag a maggot! Stone a crow! And there are no "r"s in "Turner!" And if you don't understand what the last three sentences mean, you probably misheard me. These are terms we use when talking to MG. Most of them are Australian. I kid you not! I wouldn't lead you up the Garden Path!

Till next time,
Greg

Tuesday, 12-17-74

Dear family,

I got the two checks yesterday, and put the one (\$1,200) in the bank and cashed the other. It was beautiful yesterday. Temp. in the low 80s, sunny and clear.

Sunday I rechecked my finals schedule, and found out I had written one on the wrong day. So I can go see *That's My Momma* being filmed at ABC one week from today!

That night I was typing up an outline of history so I could have something easy to study for the Western Civ. final. But I couldn't find when the Trojan War was. Finally, in desperation, I cried, "Where do you date the Trojan War?" "Take her to Sabbath services," Santana said.

Today is my last Tuesday! Next semester will definitely be easier on Tuesday. Today, I was in such a good mood. I still am. It feels like May. The weather, and the fact that classes end this week. I had my last Princ. of Living class forever, my last speech lecture this semester, and will have my last Intro. to Mass Comm. today, and my last West. Civ. until next semester.

I hope to carry 16 credits next semester instead of 15 like this one. I won't be taking P.E., because it takes 3 hours a week, and I only get one credit. So I figure I'll take two Mass Comm. courses to replace Intro to Mass Comm., Princ. of Living and PE. The more credits I can get rid of this year, before prices go up, the better—huh?

Hey, I talked to Harvey Horswell at lunch today, and we got talking about our brothers. Ron is now writing for the *PT* [Plain Truth]!

Carol Duffield got the pictures back from Thanksgiving. Some are pretty good, but a lot are blurry. I still have to show them to Dianne Spencer. She, Steve and I are going to study Life and Teachings of Jesus (tomorrow) together, and maybe I'll show her the pictures then.

I have now spent more than 31 hours on the phone with the Mystery Girl. Last time, I found out she was born on Dec. 25. So when we run this fact thru the computer, we may get her. I hope so. We

COLLEGE LETTERS

Continued on Page 6

Be Not Deceived!

Seven steps to avoid being deceived in these last days!

By Gregory Dullum

As we get closer to the return of Jesus Christ, one of the GREATEST dangers we face is becoming *deceived*! If Satan can trick us into believing a lie and *giving up* the TRUTH, he has won the battle!

When asked what would be the sign of his coming and of the end of this age, Jesus said, "Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many" (Mat. 4:4-5). He added, "Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.... For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect" (Mat. 24:11, 24).

The Apostle Paul warned that many would fall away before Christ returns: "Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed" (2 Thes. 2:3).

Becoming deceived is a *very real* POSSIBILITY! The command, "Be not deceived" is repeated *many times* in the Bible. Our very nature lends itself to being deceived: "The heart is *deceitful* above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?" (Jer. 17:9 emphasis added).

How can we avoid becoming deceived? The Bible gives us seven steps to take.

1. Pray that we be not deceived. Ask God to PROTECT us from deception. David prayed thus and God heard him: "In my distress I cried to the LORD, and He heard me; Deliver my soul, O LORD, from lying lips and from a deceitful tongue" (Ps. 120:1-2).

2. Stay close to God through obedience, prayer and Bible study. "Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and he will draw near to you" (James 4:7-8).

We are told to "pray without ceasing" (1 Thes. 5:17).

The Bereans were praised because they "received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so" (Acts 17:11). Timothy was told to "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (1 Tim. 2:15).

3. Stir up God's spirit in us. God has given us a spirit of power and love and of a SOUND MIND. Stir up that power—use it (2 Tim. 1:6-7)! The spirit of TRUTH (John 14:17) will lead us into all TRUTH (John 16:13)—it will not lead us into deception. Stirring up the spirit helps us to fight de-

ception!

4. Cling to truth we have been taught. Jude commands us to: "contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 3). Paul commands, "Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or by epistle" (2 Thes. 2:15).

5. Avoid false teachings. There is no need to fill our minds with the teachings of deceptive false prophets. Paul tells us, "But avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and useless. Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition, knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned" (Titus 3:9-10).

We are further told, "shun profane and vain babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness" (2 Tim. 2:16).

We are commanded to avoid false teachers who arise *within* the church: "But we command you, brethren, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us" (2 Thes. 3:6).

6. Love the truth. A great false prophet will come before Christ returns and "will deceive many" (2 Thes. 2:3). This man will use signs and lying wonders: "The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them a strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness" (2 Thes. 2:9-12).

To avoid being sucked in by deception, we must LOVE the truth, BELIEVE the truth, and *take no pleasure in unrighteousness* (sin or disobedience to God).

7. Recognize false prophets. Many people will believe in false prophets if their *prophecies come true* or if they *perform miracles*, thinking these are PROOFS that *God is working through them*. God gives us the true test: FALSE prophets will lead people AWAY from obeying Him. They will preach ANOTHER GOD or they will teach that God's law longer needs to be kept (Deut. 13:1-5). If they preach against God's law, don't believe them!

Practice these seven principles and it will be very difficult to be deceived!

Fun Fact



Drawing and Fun Fact are courtesy of NAPS

The pretzel was first made by monks in southern Europe as a reward for children who learned their prayers. It is shaped to represent the crossed arms of a child praying.

Witerature

Wit and wisdom to complement the truths of the Holy Bible can be found in secular writings.

Forever Lies! by Charmian Carr,
Viking, 2000, p. 227.

Giving Up to Hang On

"In the course of a single week, the family was faced with three requests from the Third Reich, all of which they intended to decline. And they knew—they couldn't say no to Hitler three times and not be in danger.

"A momentous and difficult choice was at hand. Georg put it to his children. 'Do we want to keep the material goods we still have: our home, our friends, all of the things we are fond of? Then we shall have to give up the spiritual goods: our faith and our honor.'

"In most people's eyes, they chose the harder path.... Each packed a single suitcase.... They left their home, fleeing not by secretly hiking over the Alps, as depicted in the film [*The Sound of Music*], but under the ruse of taking a brief holiday. This may have been less dramatic, but it carried the same risks and sacrifices."

Mat. 6:24, 7:14, 16:26, 19:21-22, 29,
Luke 12:15, 21

Quotable Quote

"Every effort must be made in childhood to teach the young to use their own minds. For one thing is sure: If they don't make up their own minds, someone will do it for them." —Eleanor Roosevelt

Memory Scripture

"Drink water from your own cistern, and running water from your own well." —Prov. 5:15 NKJV

College Letters

Continued from Page 4

won't tell her right away when we find out. We'll string her along—or "lead her up the godden poth" as Grant would say—because Australians don't pronounce their "R"s. That's why there are no "R"s in Turner.

Love y'all. Stay healthy and have fun. Don't freeze too much. Snow yet?

Greg

December 21, 1974

Dear Greg,

We got your letter today. You had to rub it in a little bit about sunny Calif. and 80° didn't you? We have had snow flurries for the past couple of days. There are a few inches of snow on the ground and the temperature has been in the teens. It doesn't seem very cold though. Suppose it's because there isn't any wind.

I had the flu last Monday so came home from work after a couple hours. Worked the rest of the week but didn't feel good. Had a sore stomach and felt so weak. Feel O.K. now so guess it's over with.

Mrs. Maher has been going to a clinic for a physical examination to find out how she is and what's wrong with her. One thing they found out is she has emphysema. They will probably find more wrong after they finish all the tests. Wish it were easier to get to see her.

Do you get the two weeks off for over Xmas and New Year's like the rest of the school kids? Can't remember if Linda did or not. I forget so fast.

Mrs. Prusinski is having a sledding party the nite of the 24th for a bunch of kids again so she asked me to come along with Brad. She also asked us over for dinner on the 25th. I was going to have Mrs. Maher so maybe I can have her on New Year's.

I got a gift certificate for \$15 to eat at the Lemon Tree and Brad got one for \$5 so we can do some eating out for nothing.

Did I tell you the gas gauge on the car broke so the tank always shows empty? I keep track of the miles I drive so sorta have an idea when the tank is getting empty. I'm going to have it fixed someday. May wait until after the first of the year.

Linda sent a picture of herself in her car. Now I know why she likes her car. It is a cute one. I certainly hope she gets the papers on it soon. Guess that's about all the news from here.

Lots of love,
Mom

END-TIME EVENTS

RECENT WORLD EVENTS & THEIR PROPHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

North Korean Nuclear Talks Collapse Dec. 11

"A final push by [U.S.] President [George W.] Bush to complete an agreement to dismantle North Korea's nuclear weapons program collapsed Thursday [Dec. 11], leaving the confrontation with one of the world's most isolated and intractable nations to the administration of President-elect Barack Obama.

"Four days of negotiations in Beijing ended in an impasse after North Korea refused to agree to a system of verifying that it ended all nuclear activity, which it had pledged to do. Among other things, the North Koreans have objected to allowing soil and air samples to be taken near nuclear facilities and sent overseas for testing....

"During Mr. Bush's presidency, North Korea has tested its first nuclear weapon and has accumulated enough nuclear fuel to build eight more weapons, according to American estimates" ("In Setback for Bush, Korea Nuclear Talks Collapse" by Steven Lee Myers, *The New York Times*, nytimes.com, Dec. 12, 2008, p. 1).

At "the time of the end" a king of the North (European beast power) will occupy the Holy Land (Dan. 11:40-41). "But news from the east and from the north shall trouble him; therefore he shall go out to war with great fury to destroy and annihilate many" (v. 44).

What will be this news from the east and from the north? It appears to be a military threat from a great Asian bloc of nations called "kings from the east."

As the time of Christ's return draws near, the Euphrates River will be dried up, allowing an army to come from the East into the Holy Land. "Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared" (Rev. 16:12).

A massive army of 200 million will come from the East across the Euphrates to attack the king of the North in the Holy Land (Rev. 9:13-16). What nation could man an army this large? It most likely will be a conglomeration of Asian nations, and may well include

China, North Korea, Japan and Russia. A nuclear armed North Korea today could be part of preparation for this military power of the future.

When the armies of the king of the North and kings from the east meet near Jerusalem, what will happen?

They will prepare to battle each other in one last war to determine who will control the world. This battle is called "the battle of the great day of God Almighty" (Rev. 16:14).

If this war between these two super-powers were not stopped, no flesh would be saved alive (Mat. 24:22).

Before these two armies can wipe out human existence, Christ will return with an army from heaven! The earthly armies will turn from fighting each other to fight Christ and his army.

"And I saw the beast [king of the North], the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat upon the horse and against His army. Then the beast was captured and with him the false prophet.... These two were cast into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the rest were killed with the sword... (Rev. 19:19-21).

Indeed, these armies will make war with Christ, the Lamb of God, but the Lamb shall overcome (Rev. 17:14).

8-Year-Old Boy Kills Father, Another Man

"A week after the police charged an 8-year-old boy in the premeditated shooting deaths of his father and another man, the boy's mother, teachers and others who knew him say they are no closer to understanding the roots of such a heinous crime....

"Prosecutors charged the boy as an adult" ("Mother baffled in Arizona Murders" by Solomon Moore, *The New York Times*, nytimes.com, Nov. 13, 2008, pp. 1, 2).

This bizarre murder is another example indicating we are in the last days. "But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: for men will be lovers of themselves... disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving... brutal" (2 Tim. 3:1-3).