

# HOPE

## *IN DISTRESSING TIMES*

My dear Reader,

We all know that we are living in very anxious times. It is just as the Master said:

“Men’s hearts will faint from terror, being apprehensive of what is coming upon the world; for the *very* powers of the heavens will be shaken.” (Luke 21:26)

And the apostle James prophesied about a financial collapse in the endtimes.

“Come now, you rich, weep and wail because of the miseries that are coming upon you. Your wealth has become rotten, and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will testify against you and will consume your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in **the Last Days!**”  
(James 5:1-3)

So we can expect to see at least the beginnings of this awful disaster before the Rapture, for James gives this word to believers:

“Be patient, therefore, brethren, until the coming of the Master. See how the farmer waits expectantly for the precious ‘fruit of the earth,’ waiting patiently until *the land*

receives the early and late rains. **You too be patient.** Establish your hearts, for **the coming of the Master is near.**” (James 5:7-8)

“The Farmer” in this prophecy, of course, is the Heavenly Master Himself who is waiting for the final ingathering of souls into the Church – the universal Body of Christ. And that ingathering is going on tremendously today – mostly in non-western nations.

More threatening than Iran’s and North Korea’s nuclear programs is the threat of deep economic instability in the US and around the world.

In this issue I have included reports on the current alarming situation in the US. But the economic situation is also severe in Europe, Japan, and in most of the world. Australia also, will soon be looking into the abyss.

Dr. David R. Reagan, a well informed prophecy teacher in the US, has written a solemn article, entitled, **“Is this the End of the American Experiment?”** (See below). And much of his commentary can apply to the whole Western world.

Now you may be saying, “Oh brother, how about a bit of good news for a change!”

Well if I believed some prosperity teachers, I would say, “You have a glorious decade ahead!” But I don’t! There’s a financial collapse, a world war, and a 7-year Tribulation with disasters upon disasters coming.

There **is** good news in many “non-Christian countries” – multitudes coming to Christ! But there is also the inevitable severe persecution that follows awakening.

The really Good News I have for you, is **the glorious Gospel ...**

“THE GOOD NEWS ... that the **Messiah died for our sins**, and that He was buried, and that **He was raised** on the third day according to the Scriptures.” (1 Cor 15:1-4). **“God has made this Y’shua whom you crucified, both Master and Messiah.”** (Acts 2:36)

“If you **confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord** - *your* Master and Saviour, and **believe in your heart** that God raised Him from the dead, **you will be saved ... for whoever will call upon the Name of the Heavenly Master will be saved.**” (Rom.10:9-13)

My reader, if you have not yet received Jesus (Y’shua) as your own personal Saviour, I urge you to believe and **call on Him today. Tomorrow may be too late!**

And here’s **comforting news** and **Divine assurance** for all who trust in the Saviour. Please meditate on these promises, and be encouraged in your Heavenly Master:

“**Do not fear**, for I am with you. Do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will **strengthen** you; definitely I will **help** you; I will **uphold** you with My righteous right hand.” (Isaiah 41:10)

“YHWH is my Shepherd, I shall not be in want ... When I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, **I will fear no evil**; for You *are* with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.” (Psalm 23:1, 4)

“So do not throw away your confidence which has a great reward; for you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise. For in just a very little while, the *One who is coming* WILL COME, AND *HE WILL NOT DELAY.*” (Hebrews 10:35-37)

“The Messiah, *the Anointed One*, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, **will appear a second time**, not *bearing sin again, but bringing* salvation to those who are *eagerly* expecting Him.” (Hebrews 9:28)

Believer, we do have a glorious expectation – “the Hope of Glory.” And we are told to hold fast till the Master comes. Y’shua says to His dear ones:

“**I am coming quickly** - *soon!* Hold on to what you have, so that no-one will take your crown.” (Revelation 3:11)

“Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but *let us exhort and encourage one another* - and all the more, as you see the Day approaching.” (Hebrews 10:25)

“For our citizenship is in heaven, from where we also **eagerly wait for a Saviour**, the Master, Y’shua the Anointed.” (Philippians 3:20)

“And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the **crown of glory** that will never fade away.” (1 Peter 5:4)

“And now, little children, live *and* remain in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.” (1 John 2:28)

“You are not lacking in any gift as you **eagerly** wait for the revealing of our Master, Y’shua the Messiah, who will also **establish and keep you to the end**, *so that you will be* blameless on the day (*of the coming*) of our Master, Y’shua the Anointed.” (1 Corinthians 1:7-8)

“Be patient, therefore, brethren, until the coming of the Master. ... **The coming of the Master is near.**” (James 5:7-8)

And now, may Yahweh, the Eternal One, our Heavenly Father, bless and keep you, and give you His shalom – His peace – until the Master calls us to the Heavenly City.

- Your brother, *Don Stanton*



# **IS THIS THE END OF THE AMERICAN EXPERIMENT?**

BY DR. DAVID R. REAGAN

– [www.lamblion.com](http://www.lamblion.com). Used by permission.

As I view the future of our nation today, I must admit that I have ambivalent feelings. I am extremely sad, and yet I am full of joyful expectation.

I feel a deep sense of sadness as I see the Great American Experiment in representative government come to an end. We have been abundantly blessed by God ever since our forefathers arrived on this continent, and we have served as a channel of His blessings to other nations, both as a proclaimer of the Gospel and as a champion of human rights.

## **KEYS TO OUR SUCCESS**

One of the secrets to our great success was our commitment to the Judeo-Christian principles revealed in God's Word. Those principles served as the basis of our systems of government, education, and economics.

An even greater reason for our phenomenal success was our commitment to the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Our forefathers came to this continent in search of freedom to proclaim the Gospel. Our nation was established as a Christian nation. Our relationships were governed by Christian principles. Our laws were based upon God's commandments. The Church, whether Catholic or Protestant, provided us with our reason for being.

## **OUR TRACK RECORD**

We were far from perfect. We struggled with difficult issues like race relations, women's rights, and the balance between labor and management. But our hearts were in the right place because of the Christian principles which propelled us in the right direction. We steadily made progress in all these difficult areas, and many others.

Throughout the centuries as we sought to evangelize the American continent, we also sent missionaries to the uttermost parts of the earth.

In the first half of the 20th Century, we soared to great heights as we came to the world's rescue in two world wars. In both cases, we entered these international

conflicts for selfless purposes — not to gain territory but to “make the world safe for democracy.”

### **OUR STUMBLING POINT**

But at the height of our glory and power, following our victory in World War II, we began to turn our back on God. We took our eyes off the One who had blessed us so abundantly and began to focus on ourselves. We gave our hearts to materialism.

In the process, we began to divorce God from our lives — kicking Him out of our schools and separating Him from our government processes. The secularization of our society became our passion, and the result was increasing paganism in every aspect of life.

### **OUR PERSISTENT REBELLION**

We have mocked God. We have given our hearts to idols. We have forgotten the source of our blessings. We have turned a deaf ear to the prophetic voices God has raised up to call us to repentance. We have ignored the remedial judgments He has placed upon us, writing them off to coincidence.

We must now face the consequences of our rebellion. God has stepped back and lowered our hedge of protection. He is allowing evil to multiply.



**Greed is destroying our economy.**

**Incivility is ripping apart our social structure.**

**Money has become our god.**

**Belief in Man has become our religion.**

**The pursuit of pleasure has become our lifestyle.**

**And the payoff is nihilism.**

**We are wallowing in despair.**

We are destined for destruction. But even as I witness the disintegration of all that I hold dear, my heart is full of joyful expectation because the signs of the times are literally shouting that all of history is about to arrive at its consummation with the return of Jesus.

### **A BIBLICAL REMINDER**

My mixed feelings remind me of Jeremiah after his beloved city and temple had been destroyed by the Babylonians and his nation had been taken into captivity. He wrote a funeral lament called Lamentations in which he vented the agony of his heart. But right in the middle of it, in a great act of faith, he suddenly paused and made one of the most hopeful declarations to be found in all of God's Word (Lamentations 3:21-24):

“This I recall to mind, therefore, I have hope. The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases. His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning.

Great is Thy faithfulness. The LORD is my portion, says my soul; therefore I will hope in Him.” (RSV)

Just like Jeremiah, even as I witness all I love being destroyed around me, I can look to the future with great hope and joyful expectation because of the marvelous promises concerning the future that are contained in God's Prophetic Word.

### **SOME CERTAINTIES**

Based on those promises, I know with absolute certainty:

- \* That Jesus is returning soon.
- \* That He will defeat all the enemies of God.
- \* That He will establish a worldwide reign that will bring peace, righteousness, and justice to all the nations.
- \* And that all of us who are believers will be given the incredible blessing of ruling with Him.

I can hardly wait. All that is within me yearns for the glorious day very soon when Jesus will break from the heavens.

### **THE NEW WORLD ON THE HORIZON**

The corrupt world system that currently dominates this globe is destined to be destroyed. A new world is coming where there will be no homeless, no poor, and no hungry. Justice will prevail. Fairness and equity will abound.

The nations of that world will be committed to the Lord, and the blessings of the Lord will cover the earth as the waters cover the seas.

It is no wonder that the Apostle Paul wrote:

“I consider the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.” (Romans 8:18)

In the dark days that lie ahead, let us keep in mind that God is on His throne, He still hears prayers, He still answers prayers, and He has the wisdom and power to

orchestrate all the evil of Satan and Man to the triumph of Jesus. Keep in mind also that:

“No eye has seen, No ear has heard, nor has the mind of Man conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him.” (1 Corinthians 2:9)

But God has revealed those things to us in His Word. Cling to those revelations in the days ahead. Cling to His glorious promises, and you will be sustained.

“Oh Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your Name in all the earth!” (Psalm 8:1)

## THE UNITED STATES TODAY

### TOTAL U.S. DEBT

**\$ 14,300,000,000,000**

July 21/10. <israelreport@hotmail.net.au> gives an analysis of the US economy. A few main points:

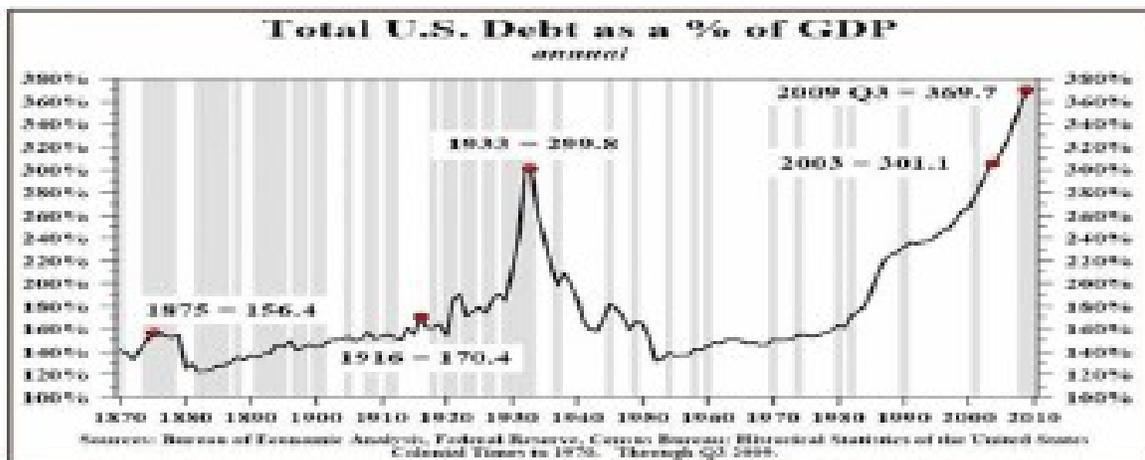
The US GDP (Gross Domestic Product) is currently around \$14.3 trillion.

The US government debt has passed \$13 trillion, and it is poised to overtake the GDP in the next year.

(To compare: the World GDP is around \$60 trillion; the EU GDP is \$16.5 trillion; the UK \$2.2 trillion; Australia \$1 trillion; and India is \$1.4 trillion.)

**THE TOTAL OF ALL U.S. DEBT (government, business and consumer) is now above 360 percent of its GDP. Never before has the United States faced a debt bubble of this magnitude.**

During the Great Depression of 1933, the **total US debt** was just under 300% of GDP. See chart. Today the situation is far worse in many ways.



1 - Back in the 1930s, tens of millions of Americans lived on farms or knew how to grow their own food.

2 - A vast horde of American Baby Boomers is **expecting to retire**, and the “**Social Security trust fund**” has nothing but 2.5 trillion dollars of government IOUs in it.

3 - American workers **never had to compete for jobs with workers on the other side of the world back in the 1930s**. Today, millions of jobs have been “outsourced” to China, India, and to third world nations where desperate workers are happy to slave away for big global corporations for less than a dollar an hour.

4 - Back in the 1930s, there was **nothing like the gigantic derivatives bubble** that hangs over us today. The total value of all derivatives worldwide is estimated to be somewhere between **600 trillion and 1.5 quadrillion dollars**. The danger that we face from derivatives is so great that Warren Buffet has called them “financial weapons of mass destruction.” **When this bubble pops there won't be enough money in the entire world to fix it.**

5 - During the **Great Depression**, the US economy was **relatively self-contained**. Today we truly do live in a global economy. Unfortunately that means that a severe economic crisis in one part of the world **is going to affect us as well**. Right now, the US is far from alone in dealing with a massive debt crisis. Greece, Spain, Italy, Hungary, Portugal and a number of other European nations are in real danger of actually defaulting on their debts. **Japan** (the third biggest economy in the world) **is on the verge** of complete and total economic collapse. So what happens to the U.S. economy **when the dominoes start to fall?**



## **BERNANKE SLAMS U.S. ECONOMY!**

July 21/10. For the first time in many years, the Chairman of the Federal Reserve went before Congress, to make some hard-hitting statements about the US economy. Bernanke said:

**On jobs:** “This is the worst labour market since the Great Depression.”

**On housing:** “The market remains weak, with the overhang of vacant or foreclosed houses weighing on home prices and construction.”

**On fears about the future:** “Most ... viewed uncertainty about the outlook for growth and unemployment as greater than normal, and the majority saw the risks to growth as weighted to the downside.”

**On tight credit for small businesses:** “Bank loans outstanding have continued to contract. Small businesses, which depend importantly on bank credit, have been particularly hard hit.”

All this is coming from a man whose job makes him extremely reluctant to admit to negative trends in any sector at any time — if Bernanke is saying things are bad, you can bet **they are far worse.**

### **U.S. MARKS THIRD-LARGEST, SINGLE-DAY DEBT INCREASE**

The nation’s debt leapt **\$166 billion in a single day**, on June 30. It was the third-largest increase in US history, and it comes at a time when Congress is balking over higher spending, and debt has become a key policy battleground.

The one-day increase totaled \$165,931,038,264 - bigger than the entire annual deficit for fiscal year 2007 and larger than the \$140 billion in savings the new health care bill will produce over its first 10 years. -

[www.washingtontimes.com](http://www.washingtontimes.com)

**AMERICAN COMMENT:** There’s no doubt we’re living in some of the most difficult times of our generation. If experts are correct it’s been 2½ years since this recession officially began, and many workers have already exhausted their jobless benefits. But others are just now being laid off and according to projections, another **million families** will lose their homes in the coming months.

### **WITH THE US TRAPPED IN DEPRESSION, THIS REALLY IS STARTING TO FEEL LIKE 1932**

July 7/10. The US work force shrank by **652,000** in June, one of the sharpest contractions ever.

The share of the US working-age population with jobs in June fell to 58.5pc. The ratio was 63pc three years ago.

“The economy is still in the gravitational pull of the Great Recession,” said Robert Reich, former US labor secretary. “All the booster rockets for getting us beyond it are failing. Home sales are down. Retail sales are down. Factory orders in May suffered their biggest tumble since March of last year. So what are we doing about it? Less than nothing,” he said.

California is tightening faster than Greece. State workers have seen a 14pc fall in earnings this year due to forced furloughs. - [www.telegraph.co.uk](http://www.telegraph.co.uk)

### **\$14 TRILLION DEBT IS DESTROYING U.S. LIKE ‘CANCER FROM WITHIN’**

The heads of President Barack Obama's national debt commission, Republican Alan Simpson and Democrat Erskine Bowles, speaking to a meeting of the National Governors Association, painted a gloomy picture Sunday as the United States struggles to get its spending under control.

The nation's total federal debt next year is expected to exceed \$14 trillion — about \$47,000 for every U.S. resident.

“This debt is like a cancer,” Bowles said in a sober presentation. “It is truly going to destroy the country from within. The rest of the federal government, including fighting two wars, homeland security, education, art, culture, you name it, veterans, the whole rest of the discretionary budget, is being financed by China and other countries,” said Simpson. China alone currently holds \$920 billion in U.S. IOUs.

Bowles said if the U.S. makes no changes it will be spending **\$2 trillion by 2020 just for interest on the national debt.** – [www.newsmax.com](http://www.newsmax.com)

### **PASTOR FIRED FOR USING “JESUS” IN PRAYER**

A North Carolina pastor was relieved of his duties as an honorary chaplain of the state house of representatives after he closed a prayer by using the name of Jesus.

“I got fired,” said Ron Baity, pastor of Berean Baptist Church in Winston-Salem. He had been invited to lead prayer for an entire week but his tenure was cut short when he refused to remove the Name of Jesus from his invocation.



### **THE US & ISRAEL**



### **NEW CHAPTER IN ISRAEL-US RELATIONS?**

July 8/10. Israel has hailed a new chapter of warm ties with the White House after an upbeat summit between Barack Obama and Benjamin Netanyahu this week, which was big on backslapping but short on detail.

“A president is now working with the premier, not against him,” declared the right-wing *Jerusalem Post*. “This time, publicly at least, there were none of the harsh demands, none of the hectoring, none of the patronizing.”

Commentators in Israel warned, however, that the new friendly atmosphere would not last forever. “After the false sweetness dissolves, Netanyahu will be asked about a peace plan and be asked to present maps,” Alon Pinkas, a former Israeli consul general in New York, wrote in *Maariv*. “And then we will again talk of a crisis in relations and the Obama plan,” he wrote.

- [www.news.yahoo.com](http://www.news.yahoo.com)

## BEHIND THE PRAISE

Barry Rubin has expressed the following comments about the recent meeting between Obama and Netanyahu.

At the recent meeting between US President Barack Obama and Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, the president could not have been more effusive. They had an “excellent” discussion, Netanyahu’s statement was “wonderful,” and the US Israel relationship is “extraordinary.”

Hard to believe this is the same Obama!

The US president wants to improve relations with Israel for several reasons.

Obviously, he doesn’t want to be bashing Israel in the period leading up to the November Congress elections. Polls show that for Americans, his administration’s relative hostility toward Israel is its least popular policy. But there is more to this trend.

What Obama wants is to be able to claim a diplomatic success in advancing the Israel-Palestinian “peace process,” perhaps the only international issue he can so spin. He wants Netanyahu’s cooperation for moving to direct talks.

In the Gaza Strip also, Obama wants to claim he has defused a crisis he has called “unsustainable.” He wants to keep the Israel-Arab front calm while he deals with Afghanistan, Iraq, and Iran, seeking above all to avoid crises and confrontations.

So here’s the deal as he sees it: Give Israel some US support in exchange for modest steps that the administration hopes accomplishes its goals. Israel will concede on some things that don’t appreciably hurt its interests in order to maintain good relations with the US.

The Palestinian Authority is so **uneager** for a peace agreement that anything Israel says on the subject is most unlikely ever to be implemented. And it seems that the Obama administration has some sense to understand that **it isn’t going to get an Israel-Palestinian peace agreement**; so it doesn’t want to look foolish in making this a high priority and then failing.

Thus, Israel’s strategy is as follows: try very hard to get along with the administration, seek to keep it happy, and avoid confrontation without making any major irreversible concessions or taking serious risks. Have no illusions, but keep the US government focused on Iran as much as possible. - [www.jpost.com](http://www.jpost.com)

**OBAMA PLEDGED TO SELL ISRAEL OUT  
IN EXCHANGE FOR “VICTORY” IN AFGHANISTAN**

Last year President Obama is said to have pledged to Saudi Arabia that the US would force Israel to withdraw from eastern Jerusalem and the West Bank by 2012.

Diplomatic sources said Obama relayed a pledge to King Abdullah that he would take any measure necessary to ensure an Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and Jerusalem over the next 18 months.

The sources said Obama relayed the pledge to Abdullah during the president's trip to Riyadh in June 2009, four months after he assumed office, in exchange for Abdullah's help to arrange for the end of the Taliban war in Afghanistan. - Washington / July 4/10

### **HOW OBAMA IS USING TAXPAYERS' MONEY IN KENYA!**

July 20/10 An investigation by three Republican congressmen has revealed the Obama administration has secretly spent \$23 million of US taxpayer dollars in Kenya to fund a "Yes" vote on a constitutional referendum scheduled for Aug. 4 that would increase access to abortions in Kenya, and establish legal status for Islamic law tribunals. - Worldnetdaily



**EUROPE & THE UNITED NATIONS**



### **GLOBAL GOVERNANCE "EXTREMELY NECESSARY"**

The President of the European Central Bank, Jean-Claude Trichet, told Forbes that global governance is extremely necessary if we want to prevent another financial crisis.

In his prepared printed and spoken remarks to the Council on Foreign Relations, Trichet emphasized that politicians, economists, and financiers must work across the Atlantic and collaborate on methods to create an international set of standards. - [www.blogs.forbes.com](http://www.blogs.forbes.com)

### **UN CALLS FOR WORLD CURRENCY**

After strong criticism of the US dollar in recent weeks from world leaders, the UN added another scathing report calling for a new international reserve currency issued by the International Monetary Fund.

"A new global reserve system could be created, one that no longer relies on the US dollar as the single major reserve currency," said the UN World Economic and Social Survey for 2010. "[The dollar has proved not to be a stable store of value](#), which is a requisite for a stable reserve currency."

In late June, French President Nicolas Sarkozy and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev openly discussed replacing the old global financial system with a new international monetary order and a [world currency](#).

The Federal Reserve has already injected untold trillions into the economy throughout the economic crisis. And big banks and prominent analysts are warning of “[monster](#)” [money printing ahead](#). All of that money-supply growth (inflation) represents devaluation of dollars already in circulation and [theft](#) against everyone holding Federal Reserve Notes including Americans, foreign governments, and central banks.

[The dollar is in big trouble](#). The massive money printing is bad enough on its own, but if and when the world loses confidence in America’s paper money, the result will be a catastrophe of immense proportions — unless the problems are rectified, and soon.

The important question — at least long-term — now seems to be: What will replace Federal Reserve Notes? Hopefully, rather than the same fraudulent debt-money system at the global level, educated citizens who understand economics and monetary theory can turn this potential disaster into an opportunity for restoring [sound](#) money. The alternative — a global fiat currency scheme — will be immeasurably worse than the current system. - [www.thenewamerican.com](http://www.thenewamerican.com) July 8 /10



## **TODAY’S MUSIC & THE CHURCH**

### **- ROCK MUSIC - A TREND THAT CANNOT BE REVERSED?**

**By PASTOR AARON YEOMAN, NSW, AUSTRALIA**

As a new believer I attended a conservative fellowship that, at times, introduced rock music. Coming from an unsaved background that included singing in rock bands and living the ‘rock’ lifestyle, I found this type of music strangely inappropriate in church but did not know why.

Later, while I was training for the ministry, I attended a more biblical pre-millennial fellowship that only used hymns and choruses. I grew to have a deep love for these inherited masterpieces of the faith, as they sincerely impart a real and accurate sense of the righteousness, majesty and timelessness of God.

I have been truly changed by the Holy Spirit in this most important area of my walk with Christ and am thoroughly convinced that the much more common progression, in the opposite musical direction, is plainly spiritual error.

One of the most frequent justifications heard from Christians who support rock music in Churches actually tries to exploit the great work of the hymn writers. It is argued that because the hymn writers used some of the melodies of their day, it must be correct to use the music styles of our day, meaning 'rock'. On first hearing there seems to be a certain logic to this argument, yet in reality it is severely lacking in wisdom.

Over the intervening centuries, music has degenerated at an alarming rate in tandem with other aspects of our society. Most of the music of the hymn writers' day did not bring forth the fruit of rebellion, especially because the society then would never have accepted otherwise. It was a unique time when the most beautiful music ever written was available to be used to glorify God, and the hymn writers did not miss this great opportunity.

A similar form of this argument is based on the lives of some of the classical composers themselves. It has become popular for historians to attempt to discover some transgression in the private lives of history's famous personalities. A number of the great classical composers have not escaped such treatment.

These allegations are used to attempt to justify the use of rock music by bringing classical music 'down by association' with its less than perfect composers. Even if any of these allegations were true, again, this attempt fails because no matter what the lifestyles of the composers, the classical music in itself does not bring forth the fruit of rebellion.

The 'rock' era, like the Jazz era that preceded it, was marked by rebellion and sexual immorality. Rock music surely must be the greatest conduit of filth and depravity ever to assail mankind. It has the power to incite certain behaviour no matter why it was composed or what its lyrical content is because the hearer conforms to its fruit.

This influence on society is clearly visible today and these obvious trends are more subtly emulated in the congregations that have introduced it. One only has to observe the effects on young females, the extreme emotional reactions and the unbridled illogical devotion to rock performers, to discern a hidden power in the music. A brief overview of the historical beginnings of rock music will amply provide evidence as to its fruit.

Described as a "seminal" and "pioneering" rock performer, Bill Haley's career was marred by acts of violence by his teenage audience. His song "Rock Around The Clock", when included in the soundtrack of the film "The Blackboard Jungle", incited the vandalism of cinemas. This was Britain's first taste of postwar hooliganism in November 1955.

On the 30th of June 1956, 25 fans were hospitalised from an incident at a concert at Asbury Park, New Jersey. The film "Don't Knock The Rock", which already had been previously banned in some countries', was withdrawn from Sunday screenings

in Britain in September 1956 due to a proliferation of 'rock' inspired gangs. On 26.10.58, at a concert in the then divided and isolated West Berlin, a major riot developed amongst 7000 of Haley's fans that resulted in a rise of East/West Cold War tensions.

Even in the twilight of his career in 1976 his music still incited violence at a London concert. However, Bill Haley's music does not have the monopoly on this kind of influence, as his successors in the Beatles and the Rolling Stones have also exhibited the fruit of rock music. The Beatles encouraged the use of L.S.D., the practice of Eastern religions and witchcraft, and John Lennon was a notorious blasphemer.

Their more disheveled cohorts, the Rolling Stones, were well aware of their power to manipulate fans into violence and sexual immorality and had close personal links with organised Witchcraft. This is well attested by the authors Tony Sanchez and Tony Scaduto.

From my own personal experience of the rock music industry, there were many young people who were seriously harmed. One young man was \$250,000 in debt by the age of 21 due to reckless ambition.

One young woman became suicidal after being influenced by her peers into casual sexual relationships. Evidence of Satanism and the Occult was also prevalent in the beginning of the "dance party" era. Certain individuals organized dance parties in the mid eighties that were dedicated to the ancient Greek deity Bacchus, the god of debauchery and immorality. Dance or 'Rave' parties with the attendant use of illegal drugs are still extremely popular twenty years later.

Even on becoming a believer, I was given a pertinent reminder of rock music's sheer incompatibility with the Christian life. On playing an old recording that I had come across I felt so oppressed by evil, that I had to cease playing the recording immediately. I then recalled that one of the Band's other albums had displayed satanic symbols, so I did some research.

I found some relevant information in the "Guinness Who's Who of Independent and New Wave Music", which said that the lead singer had been "fascinated by the Occult". The lead singer also had fled from the U.K. to Iceland a number of times, fearing that the end of the world had come, and had influenced a number of the band members to follow!

It could be argued that this was a more extreme form of 'rock', but I have seen so called '[Christian Punk Rock](#)' advertised as being performed in [conservative churches](#). However, one only has to walk out the front door to observe how rock culture has permeated society. The middle aged who refuse to grow up, with inappropriate fashions, much body piercing and tattoo's, obscene language (spoken and displayed), hearing damage, and so on. This is sheer paganism!

To suggest that these 'outside influences' have not affected Christian congregations is not only naive, it is inaccurate as the influence of rock music is now often accepted and even cultivated within the church. Accusations of legalism and the need for relevance will abound if one suggests that the 'rock' path is an error to those who

have committed themselves to its proliferation. However, the lack of separation from the world in the [modern church](#) is irrefutable evidence of the fruit of 'rock' music.

The Occult power of repetitive drums, rhythm, and chanting, has long been acknowledged as tools of mind manipulation and control. The ancient mystery cults, paganism, voodoo, shamanism, and certain so called 'Christian' cults, have in the past all used these well proven techniques to propagate their influence.

Every genuine believer who is serious about their service to Christ should be dismayed at these Occult strategies becoming widespread in churches, especially when said techniques are expected to aid in the Lord's work. Yet there seems to be champions for rock music in almost every Christian denomination. Why?

Unfortunately it seems that rock music has been with us so long now and is so widespread that it is just accepted, without any spiritual discernment. Christians forget the appeal of the Apostle Paul in Romans Chapter 6.

“What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are ashamed? For the end of those things is death.” (Romans 6:21)

The fact is that many are unwilling to turn from the things of the World, being fearful of losing the acceptance of what must often be a 'Christian' rock majority in fellowships and even family. The path of Christ, however, is often unpopular and yet it is the necessary way to please our Lord and to have a good testimony. God requires the Christian to, *“make melody in your heart to the Lord.”* (Ephesians 6:19)

Rock music is anything but. Those under the influence of 'rock', in the Lord's strength, need to listen only to [melodious](#) music for a time and they will begin to notice the rebelliousness and lifelessness of the former. In spite of Christian 'fashions' the believer must discern.

Appropriate church music need not be the older compositions alone; any songs that are clear on doctrine and have a truly musical, as opposed to 'rock' style, are suitable. The melody must be beautiful and predominate, with the rhythm only in a limited supporting role as it is in classical music. There is also a need to encourage congregations to continue to give their gift of singing praise to the Lord.

Large bands and the use of projectors (though not bad in themselves) over hymnals in congregations sometimes create an atmosphere of a concert performance rather than that of a church service. Music should always complement and not overpower the voices of the saints.

It would seem the church as a whole could now easily be compared with one of Christ's observations of the Pharisees. Jesus rebuked them in chapter 16 of Matthews Gospel:

“When it is evening, ye say, it will be fair weather: for the sky is red. And in the morning, it will be foul weather today; for the sky is red and lowering. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?” (Matthew 16:2-3)

The church age is ending and falsehood is increasing, but many overlook the Lord's prophesied warnings in His Word about the churches' increasing apostasy. Rather, believers rush head long to embrace the latest so-called 'Christian' fad.

Could it be that this new kind of 'fervor' for the Lord is actually a cloak for the contemporary believer's reticence to use the tried and true methods that God has already supplied? This would seem to be the case as in this country, as well as in many others, the church continues to decline and continues to ensnare itself more deeply with secular society.

Israel is again a nation and Europe maneuvers into unity. The stage is set for Antichrist to rise up and attempt to destroy God's newly regathered people. Daily the end of the Dispensation of Grace draws closer, yet many in the church ignore God's prophetic Scriptures. The ending of the Church Age, however, will mean much in the way of spiritual failure.

The late John F. Walvoord sums up the scriptural facts well when he says:

"Major passages of Scripture deal with this subject and the expositor is embarrassed by the wealth of material which plainly teaches that the end of the age will be characterized by apostasy."

It is painfully obvious that rock music is not of God and does not produce the fruit of righteousness. This can be proved conclusively to any who are willing to impartially and objectively study this subject with the discernment of the Holy Spirit and in the light of Scripture. Therefore, the predominance of 'rock' music in Christian congregations is in itself clear evidence of rising apostasy, a prophesied sign of the end of the age.



## **THE TRUTH ABOUT ROCK MUSIC**

BY JEFF GODWIN

*(Published by Chick Publications, California, USA)*

Twenty years ago we published a review of the book *"The Devil's Disciples,"* by Jeff Godwin. As a supplement to what Pastor Aaron has written, we include here some extracts from that book review.

As a young man, Jeff had been into the Rock scene. After being delivered from Rock, he revealed the results of his extensive research into the progressive forms of Rock culture.

The book is horrific. It describes the sordid lives, the blatant perversions, and moral bankruptcy of Rock stars, as well as the demonic origins and satanic motivation

behind the style and lyrics of their “music.” Quotes from various Rock artists demonstrates their *total sellout to Lucifer* and his conspiracy of evil.

Jeff Godwin takes the reader through the whole gauntlet of Rock, “from a sneering, hip-wiggling hillbilly named Elvis Presley to a blood drinking, bat-biting maniac named Ozzy Osbourne.” He quotes *David Bowie*, one of the most influential Rock stars ever as saying, “*Rock has always been the devil’s music*. You can’t convince me that it isn’t.”

Godwin maintained today’s rock stars have *the full blessing of Satan* in the work they do. And Rock’s young addicts are actually being *hypnotized* and *brainwashed* by the music they adore so much. The message is one of evil, gloating despair dripping with sexual double meanings, or, in some cases, an outright glorification of death, satanic greed, and hate.

This book is full of facts, quotes, and descriptions that support the charge that *Rock music is Satan’s invention*, and that it had origins in “the Blues” — a style developed by the post Civil War American Negro sitting amidst destroyed plantations and burnt-out cities.

The Blues itself, with its churning 12-bar changes stopping and starting in the same *hypnotic sequence* time after time, evolved from *African voodoo beats and tribal music*. Black slaves carried it with them on ships heading for America.

Both ROLLING STONES and LED ZEPPELIN started out as Blues bands.

Godwin says: “Rock was created by Satan to be used by him over 30 years ago, and we’re just now seeing the deadly reality our parents and preachers were warning us about in 1954. How do we know? Because Rock was founded on the *principle of rebellion*. No one can deny that fact. Rebellion is the crime that caused Satan’s fall, yet we say that the rebelliousness of Rock has nothing to do with Satan. That just doesn’t make sense! Read 1 Samuel 15:23: ‘For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft’.”

By the mid-1980s, a union of *Punk and Heavy Metal* had produced a cauldron of undisguised debauchery, blasphemy, violence, sadism/masochism, anarchy and demonic carnage. It had hit *rock bottom!*

## **THE ROCK CONCERT**

Jeff described in detail the first Rock concert he attended as a youth.

The Rock concert, Jeff explains, was in actuality a subliminal, pagan religious ceremony. The *congregation* consists of thousands of Rock worshippers; the *sacrament* is marijuana or some other drug; the *high priests* are the Rock group that instruct their followers in the means of obtaining grace through the power of *the god of Rock* — Satan. “What these poor, drunk, drugged, and duped young people are actually worshipping, is *PURE EVIL*.”

The show began with a tremendous dynamite explosion which rocked the arena at precisely the same second the band’s banks of coloured floodlights split the dark.

At the end of the concert, the band broke their expensive equipment – guitars, drums, mics and amplifiers - into pieces, to the glee and screams of the audience. “All hell let loose.” The show ended with a not-so-old Buick car being dynamited on stage.

### **SATANIC BACKMASKING**

Jeff Godwin gives many examples of back-masking — that is, hidden satanic messages planted in recordings which can not be consciously heard unless the tape is played backwards. You need equipment that can play backwards at normal speed, to hear the messages. But nevertheless, the *hidden messages register on the subconscious mind* whenever the record or tape is played normally. The more it is played, the stronger will be the impression.

### **“ROCKING FOR JESUS”**

Under this chapter heading, Jeff Godwin reports on CHRISTIAN ROCK. He says “Christ-Rock” is a contradiction in terms. “How can Christ be unequally yoked with the perverse paganism of Rock?”

He cites the group STRYPER as being the forerunners of a new trend in Christian music — *Heavy Metal Christian Rock*. The music on STRYPER’s albums was no different to W.A.S.P. or AC-DC. Only the words were positive praise to the King, WHEN you could hear them, that is.

Godwin maintains that Satan is the King of Rock, and that he does not stop at the door of the Gospel Record store. Rather, *Satan is now mounting a strategic offensive against Christians, utilizing willing, zealous believers to propagate the beat, the style and the hidden messages amongst young Christians.*

Some Christian Rockers argue that Rock music doesn’t have to be satanic. If the lyrics are about the Lord and salvation, it can be a legitimate form by which young people in a world of predominate Rock, can be won for Christ. Jeff Godwin says NO!

Friend, we are not talking here about lively gospel music. We’re talking about ROCK! We are not talking about beat or even drums. We’re talking about ROCK beat and style.

While some Christian Rockers may be seeking to win souls IN the Rock world, [some Christian Rockers are actually introducing young people to Rock.](#)

Or if some young people are won to Christ through Rock, are they then to be nurtured through Rock? Jeff Godwin comments: “There’s one very simple test for Christians to use to determine what is and what is not Godly music: Could you play that music as part of the Sunday morning worship service without [offending God?](#) I don’t care if it’s Rock, Christian Rock, Country, or Contemporary; if the music can’t fit comfortably into Sunday morning worship, then it is not worth playing at all. If such music cannot be used to praise the King, then why are you listening to it?”

### **Christian Rock Albums Loaded with Demonic!**

A few Christian lyrics does not worry the devil — he joins the Christian artists in the recording studio to sing with them [in duet](#). This is not imagination! It is most alarming to discover that many “Christian Rock” albums are also back-masked with satanic messages.

## INVOKING THE DEVIL

How the satanic messages get onto the albums is a mystery, but the testimony of Elaine, a former Satanic High Priestess gives a good clue — at least as far as the usual Rock albums are concerned. But what about “Christian Rock” albums?

It is very possible that the Rock rhythm and style is itself an invocation to demonic powers to participate. Rocker David Bowie says, [“Rock has always been the devil’s music.”](#)

If demons are invoked through Rock, then it is understandable that they will sing in duo with the artists. And as fans around the world listen and join in the songs, they form [a planetary choir of satanic praise](#).

Is Christian Rock more dangerous than secular Rock & Roll? Jeff Godwin says yes! “It’s more deadly because it’s disguised, and pulling blindfolds over Christian eyes is something in which Satan delights.”

Jeff Godwin includes a [testimony of Elaine](#), who, for 17 years was a servant of Satan. She became a high priestess, and also attained a high position of national leadership in the US. Elaine eventually rejected Satan and was saved through faith in the Lord Jesus. Part of her testimony, as relating to Rock, follows:

## DEMONS ON RECORDS

“Because of the high position I held for so many years, I was involved in the planning of many of the destructive influences Satan has brought into the U.S. and other countries. Satan is REAL! Demons are REAL! I can tell you from my own personal experience, but you don’t have to take my words for this. Simply read God’s Word.

“Like so many other things, [the whole movement of Rock music was carefully planned and carried out by Satan and his servants from its very beginning](#). Rock music didn’t ‘just happen’, it was a carefully masterminded plan by none other than Satan himself.

“I have personally met a great number of the Rock Stars. They have [ALL agreed to serve Satan](#) in return for money and fame. They have received all they wanted, but also so much more that they didn’t expect. Their very lives and souls, in many cases, have been destroyed. [These Rock stars know exactly what they are doing](#). They are, step by step, teaching untold millions of young people to worship and serve Satan.

“I attended special ceremonies at various recording studios throughout the U.S. for the specific purpose of placing [satanic blessings on the Rock music recorded](#). We did incantations which placed demons on [EVERY record and tape of rock music](#)

that was sold. At times we also called up special demons who spoke on the recordings — the various back-masked messages.

ALSO, in many recordings, we were ourselves recorded in the background (masked by the over-all noise of the music) doing chants and incantations to summon up more demons every time one of the records or tapes is played. As the music is played, **these demons are summoned into the room to afflict the person playing the music**, and anyone else who is listening. The purpose of all this? MIND CONTROL!

Mind control not only to give the listeners understanding of the messages about Satan conveyed to them by the music, but also to prevent them from recognising their need of Jesus. (See 2 Corinthians 4:4.)

“Many of the song lyrics are themselves **actual incantations** calling up demons when the song is sung.”

The purpose of this is two-fold; to exert control over the listener, and to provide the listener with actual incantations he or she can use to send demons upon another person to gain revenge by afflicting them with illness, accidents, etc., and also to help influence another person into the bondage of Rock music itself.

**“Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary,  
the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”**

**(1 Peter 5:8)**

