

Prophecies of HOPE

Newsletter Date 12/17/2014

Volume 2, Number 4

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Prophecies of Hope, is an independent ministry feeling a responsibility to share Bible truth through the love of God and His only begotten Son Jesus Christ. Although not ecumenical in nature, we believe God has a remnant people in every denomination that want to serve Him, keep His Commandments, and have the faith of His Son Jesus. (Revelation 14:12)

Our focus is not on membership in any earthly organization, but on spreading Biblical truth found only in the Word of God. This is the only basis for every subject in the Prophecies of Hope seminars. Please feel free to contact us in regards to supporting this endeavor or with any questions you may have.

Scripture Reading

1 Corinthians 8:6

“Yet for us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and through whom we live.”

Prophecies of Hope presents, Bible Answers!



Listen to Mark and Rick broadcast a radio program each week called, “Prophecies of Hope, Bible Answers”.

Please join them as they study and discuss a different Bible topic every week! You can find the schedule at, www.newvisionsradio.com

Is Christmas a Christian Holiday?

There is no holiday more universally accepted as a religious occasion as is the observance of Christmas. Many Christians and non-Christians alike observe the Christmas holiday season. But did you know that thousands of years before Jesus came to this earth, before anyone was even called a Christian, people went out into the forest and cut down evergreen trees? They would trim the branches, bring the trees into their homes, would nail them down and decorate them with gold and silver ornaments. These same people would exchange gifts and send greeting letters or cards. They would play games, sing merry songs and would feast with a happy seasonal spirit. Although the celebration lasted for 12 days the chief day was December 25th. All of this took place annually, long before the birth of Jesus Christ into this world. Jesus was not the central focus of this festival. In fact, He wasn't in it at all!

The Encyclopedia Britannica, volume 2, 1973 under the heading "Christmas" says this,

"In the Roman world, the Saturnalia was a time of merrymaking & exchanging of gifts. December 25th was also regarded as the birthdate of the Iranian mystery god, Mithra, the Sun of Righteousness... On the Roman new year, houses were decorated with greenery and lights & gifts were given to children... To these observances were added the German and Celtic Yule rites - food and good fellowship, the Yule log and Yule cakes, greenery and fir trees, gifts and greetings, all commemorated different aspects of this festive season. Fires and lights, symbols of warmth and lasting life have always been associated with the winter festival, both Pagan and Christian."

If we consider ourselves to be Christian, perhaps we should be asking the following questions. Why do we find ourselves following such customs? Why do Christians observe a festival which pre-dates Jesus' coming to this earth? Why are these things part of modern Christianity today, and where did they really come from?



Notice what the book **"Readers Digest Strange Stories, Amazing Facts"** pages 283-285 has to say regarding the Christmas and Easter:

"Christmas and Easter, though the greatest festivals in the Christian calendar, are celebrated with customs that originated in superstition and heathen rites hundreds of years before Christ was born. Even the dates owe more to Pagan practices than to the birth and resurrection of Jesus. It was not until the fourth century that December 25th was fixed arbitrarily as the anniversary of the Nativity - because the Pagan festivals from which so many Christian customs spring were held around that time. Although Christianity has swept the world in a relatively short time, the missionaries faced an uphill task. The Pagans were reluctant to give up their false gods and ancient practices. So the missionaries, unable to convert them easily to an entirely new code of worship, did the next best thing. They took the Pagan festivals as they were and gradually grafted the observances of the new faith onto these festivals and the rites and customs surrounding them. December 25th was not called 'Christmas' until the ninth century. Until then it had been the mid-winter feast, a combination of the Norse Yule festival and the Roman Saturnalia, both of which took place in late December."





The truth is, very few of us ever reflect on why we believe what we do and why we follow the customs we do. We rarely examine the origins of those customs, and sometimes when we do we're surprised! We may think, it doesn't really matter because after all everyone else is doing it. But the Bible makes it painfully clear that

the majority have always been outside of doing the will of God.

In the case of Christmas observance, practically the whole world celebrates it. The fact is, you and I were born into a world filled with customs and traditions and likely grew up accepting them without any question. Christmas is one of them that most of us have just accepted without question. If we are Christian, it should matter to us because God has always rejected the religious customs of Paganism.

Many of the customs associated with Christmas observance today come from the ancient Roman Saturnalia, a festival to honor the Pagan god Saturn. There is tremendous evidence to show that early in the third century AD, the worship of Sol Invictus the sun god supplanted the worship of Saturn during this time. The Saturnalia was directly connected to the winter solstice. This is a time in late December when days are getting shorter and shorter and many feared that the sun was dying. It was during this time that the sun seemed to be reborn when the days stopped getting shorter and began getting longer. It was a time of great celebration and indulgence. Saturn was worshiped as the god of seed and sowing and was honored December 17th - 23rd.

So where did we get December 25th? It was when the worship of Sol Invictus, the sun god was added. Sol Invictus, meaning unconquered sun, had a birthdate of December 25th. The date December 25th had long been associated with the worship of sun gods and goddesses. The earliest known was Tammuz of Babylon, the son of Semiramis. Both Tammuz of Babylon and Mithra of

Persia were worshiped on their December 25th birthdates long before Roman Sol Invictus was. If you do a simple Google image search of Sol Invictus, you will see many pictures portraying the rays of the sun emanating from his head. For thousands of years December 25th has been the chief day to worship the sun. So how did this ancient festival and its customs come to bear the name of Christ, and how did it make its way into the Christian Church?

The Encyclopedia Americana 1944 edition, says this under the heading of Christmas;

"Christmas, according to many authorities, was not celebrated in the first centuries of the Christian Church. In the Fifth century the Catholic Church ordered it to be celebrated forever on the Day of the old Roman feast of the birth of Sol Invictus, as no certain knowledge of the day of Christ's birth existed."

Notice this from the **Catholic encyclopedia 1911 edition**,

"Christmas was not among the earliest festivals of the Church...The first evidence of the feast is from Egypt. Pagan customs centering around the January calends gravitated to Christmas."

The fact is, Christmas observance is filled with customs that did not come from God, but from ancient Pagan traditions which God hates and called abominations. For example, the use of the evergreen tree in worship and celebration, did you know that this goes all the way back to Babylon when Semiramis gave birth to the sun god Tammuz? A sacred evergreen tree reportedly sprang up from a dead stump on December 25th, on the same day Tammuz was born. This tree was believed to possess the eternal life of Nimrod, the sworn enemy of the true God Jehovah. The Bible tells us that Nimrod was called the mighty one on the earth. Nimrod was in opposition to God. He even convinced the people to build a tower against God! (Genesis 10:8-9)





According to the Jewish historian Josephus, and others, Nimrod's goal was to build a tower into the heavens to get away from a flood should God flood the earth again. Some believe that Nimrod built the tower in order to reach and attack God. Whatever the case, God stopped the building of this tower by confusing the languages.

After Nimrod died his widow Semiramis, which was also his mother, became pregnant. She had a tree cut down as a symbol of Nimrod's life being cut short, and people honored the stump as the symbol of Nimrod. In time Semiramis became pregnant and gave birth to a son whom she named Tammuz. Tammuz was born on December 25th. That very day, an evergreen sprouted forth from a dead stump and as a result Semiramis declared that Tammuz was the re-birth of Nimrod and was now god of the unconquered sun. Since Tammuz was believed to be the rebirth of Nimrod which was supposedly confirmed by the sprouting of the evergreen, the evergreen tree became a symbol of Nimrod who had seemingly conquered death and it was taught that he was victorious over the true God. Nimrod was now the sun god, and was believed to be eternal. The evergreen tree represented Nimrod reborn as the sun god.

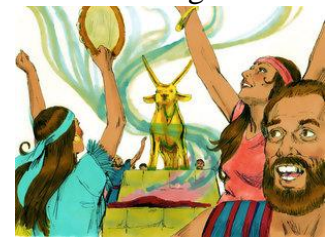
From ancient times the winter solstice has been associated with sun worship. December 25th was celebrated as the birthday of the sun god, and the evergreen tree was his symbol of eternal life. All of this was taking place long before the birth of Jesus Christ, and long before Christianity.

Many times without even thinking about it, parents and even preachers will tell the story of Jesus' birth as if it happened on Christmas day, December 25th. While the Bible does not give us the date of Jesus' birth, we have more than enough information to know that He was not born in December. God has warned us not to add to or take away from what He has commanded. Jesus said our worship is in vain if we hold the traditions of men while neglecting the commandments of God! (Matthew 7:7) God has given us many examples in the Bible for us to learn from. The Apostle Paul

tells us in 1 Corinthians 10: 6-7 that the mistakes Israel made were recorded for our instruction so that we should not make the same mistakes.

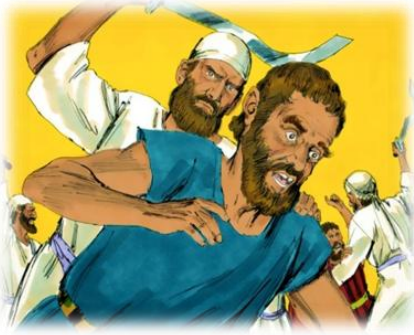
An example of this can be found in Exodus chapter 32. We find that the children of Israel had grown restless. Moses had been on Mount Sinai for 40 days and some even feared that he was dead. So people went to Aaron the High Priest of Israel who was also Moses' brother. The people asked Aaron to make a golden calf to represent the God of Israel. At this point Aaron instructed the people to give him their gold jewelry so he could melt it down to make an image of God. Then all of the people took off the gold earrings which were in their ears and they brought them to Aaron. He took the gold and made a golden calf and said in Exodus 32:4,

"This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt." Notice that they did not say this is another god, or this is one of Egypt's mighty gods. It's clear by the context that this beautiful golden calf was made to represent the only true God. These people were trying to honor Jehovah. They even gave their valuable gold jewelry to build this golden image in His honor. It appears that the people's hearts seemed right toward God. After all, even Aaron the High Priest of God had built it himself! He had also built an alter before it and proclaimed a feast to honor Jehovah the very next day.



If you take time to read Exodus 32:5-6 you will see that Aaron was not proclaiming a feast to a false god, but he was proclaiming it to the most high God Jehovah! These people gave material offerings. They observed a festival to honor the true God. They made sacrifices upon His alter. Even so, how did God respond? Notice Exodus 32:7-8; *"And Jehovah said to Moses, Go! Get down, for your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt, are corrupted. They have turned aside quickly from the way which I commanded them. They have made them a molten calf, and have bowed to it, and have sacrificed to it, and said, These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt."*

As a result of this sin, 3000 men died that day! (Exodus 32:28) What had they done that was so wrong? They had turned aside from the



way God had commanded them. God has a specific way He wants to be worshiped and Israel had acted as though they were not a people under God's authority! They had no authority to make an image to God and no authority to proclaim a festival which God had not proclaimed. God was angry because they were doing what was right in their own eyes, without inquiring of His will. They were following their own way, instead of His way. Proverbs 16:25 says, *"There is a way that seems right to a man, but the end of it is the ways of death."* What God is clearly saying to us in this verse is that man's way results in death. By contrast, God's way gives us eternal life!

Christmas observance today is not unlike the festival observance in Exodus chapter 32. The Israelites observed it to honor God and Christians today believe they're honoring God by celebrating Christmas. Israel was observing a holiday to honor God by using images and customs from Egypt. Today Christians observe Christmas to honor God by using similar Pagan customs and objects of worship. Both ideas came not from the mind and will of God but from the mind and traditions of men. These people were not following God's way, neither were they keeping His commandments.

It's quite possible that this information catches you off guard and is shocking to you. This message is not a personal interpretation but it is simply the recorded historical facts. Perhaps you are among the billions who have celebrated Christmas without the knowledge of its origins. With knowledge comes both responsibility and accountability. Now it's up to you as to what you will do with this truth. Our prayer is that you will give careful and prayerful consideration to the things that have been shared with you in this article. God wants you in His Kingdom but He will

never force you to serve Him. 2Thessalonians 2:10-12 says,

"And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness."

Mark Martin, POH

Questions from the POH Mailbox

Does the Bible teach that abortion is wrong?



The Bible does not directly mention medically induced abortions. Although the term "abortion" is found in some Bible translations, it is used with reference to a miscarriage that might result from natural causes. However, the Bible does make it clear that God regards the unborn child, or fetus, as a human life. We can find this in Exodus 21:22-23. The King James Version of the Bible says;

"If men strive, and hurt a woman with child, so that her fruit depart from her, and yet no mischief follow: he shall be surely punished, according as the woman's husband will lay upon him; and he shall pay at the Judges determine."

23 And if any mischief follow, then thou shalt give life for life, 24 Eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, 25 Burning for burning, wound for wound, stripe for stripe."

For the sake of having a clearer understanding of the text, notice how these same verses read in the International Standard Version of the Bible;

"If two men are fighting and they strike a pregnant woman and her children are born prematurely but there is no harm, he is surely to be fined as the husband of the woman demands of him, and he will pay as the court decides 23 If there is harm, then you are to require life for life, 24 eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, 25 burn for burn, wound for wound, and bruise for bruise.

Now we'll examine the Literal Translation of the Bible;

"And when men fight, and they strike a pregnant woman, and her child goes forth, and there is no injury, being fined he shall be fined. As much as the husband of the woman shall put on him, even he shall give through the judges. 23 But if injury occurs, you shall give life for life, 24 eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, 25 branding for branding, wound for wound, stripe for stripe."

When we examine this text in the original language we find that it clearly states that if two men fight and cause a pregnant woman to give birth prematurely, then the men at fault will have to pay as the woman's husband demands according to the judges. In other words, if the unborn child comes out hurt, then it is eye for eye, wound for wound, etc. However, the verse also states that if the child dies as a result of the fight, then the penalty is death for the ones who caused the child's death because it says, "you shall give life for life."

It's obvious from this text that God regards the fetus as a life! This being the case, if we were to purposefully take the life of an unborn child or abort it, this would clearly be breaking the 6th Commandment which states in the literal language, "You shall not murder." (Exodus 20:13)

Psalm 139:13-16 makes it unmistakably clear that God considers the fetus as a valuable life. It says;

"It was you who formed my internal organs, fashioning me within my mother's womb. 14 I praise you, because you are fearful and wondrous! Your work is wonderful, and I am fully aware of it.

15 My frame was not hidden from you while I was being crafted in a hidden place, knit together in the depths of the earth. 16 Your eyes looked upon my embryo, and everything was recorded in your book. The days scheduled for my formation were inscribed, even though not one of them had come yet." (International Standard Version)

What a beautiful passage of Scripture! This is telling us that God knows every detail about us even while we are being formed in our mother's womb! When this passage uses the phrase,

"everything was recorded in your book", we must understand that God has "written down" so-to-speak, our genetic code and knows every minute detail of our being, even before we are born! Our Heavenly Father and His Son value every single life. This includes the life of the unborn child. This being the case, we must consider the life of an unborn child as sacred. Therefore, abortion would be considered Biblically wrong.

Mark Martin, POH



Is there a Bible question you would like to have answered but have hesitated to ask? Please feel free to mail or email your Bible questions to;



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Be It Unto Me

“Be it unto me according to Your word. I give myself to Thee, just a servant to You Lord. Though I don’t understand Your purpose or Your plan, still I say. Be it unto me.”

It’s a Thursday evening while attending choir practice, and I am standing in the midst of our combined choirs, listening to the soloist sing the above words. These words represent Mary, the mother of Jesus, and her response to Gabriel’s news that she was chosen of God to bear His son, Jesus. As I take these words into my mind, I become overwhelmed with the simplicity and humility of Mary’s response, *“Be it unto me according to Your word”*. This is such a quick response of deep faith to this message from God, spoken by the angel Gabriel. And I think to myself, what kind of response would I have given to a message like this from God?

But then I realize that God has given me a message through His word, the Bible. And I ask myself, well, what has my response been? Do I take time to read the message that He has given to me through the Bible? In simple faith, do I accept what this message is saying to me?

Some may say that you can’t understand the Bible, that it is too confusing. Just look at the number of different denominations, all which claim to take their beliefs from the same Bible. Yet, they don’t seem to agree on what the Bible says. So how can I hope to understand what it says?

Remember that God has promised that He will send the Spirit of Truth to guide us in our study of His word. (John 16:13) *“But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and with no reproach, and it shall be given to him. But let him ask in faith, doubting nothing. For he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, driven by the wind and tossed.”* (James 1:5-6) *“Study earnestly to present yourself approved to God, a workman that does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth.”* (2 Timothy 2:15) *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for*

correction, for instruction in righteousness...” (2 Timothy 3:16)

Well then, let me ask you a question. When you read God’s word and you find it confusing, is it because you don’t understand what the Bible is saying, or is it because it may be saying something different than what you have been taught that the Bible says, or different than what your pastor says from the pulpit, or maybe even different from what you yourself have taught or preached?



Now there are some very basic principles for studying the Bible. To consider the context in the surrounding verses that you are studying, that you use the Bible to interpret itself, and that the Bible agrees with itself, among others. And we can’t ignore these principles.

But, do you study the Bible to prove your particular beliefs, or do you study God’s word to discover what it actually says? When you read something in the Bible that is confusing to you, not because it is not clear, but because it says something different than what you thought it said, what will be your response? Is it, *“Be it unto me according to Your Word”*? The following statement is from a Christian book entitled, Steps to Christ;

“Disguise it as they may, the real cause of doubt and skepticism (of the Bible), in most cases, is the love of sin. The teachings and restrictions of God’s word are not welcome to the proud, sin loving heart.”

Is this the case in my life, in the study of the Bible? Is it the case in your life? I pray that this is not the case.

“When the road I take leads to places yet unknown, and the choices that I make leave me feeling so alone, I will keep my confidence in Him, with a trusting heart I’ll say, Lord I am Yours, be it unto me.”

Yet often times when we discover something in the Bible that is different then what we previously believed, it can be difficult to accept.

It may have an impact on our relationship with family, friends, and fellow church members. As well as have an impact on our lifestyle, job, and family life. But if God's word is clear, what will be your response?

Remember that the Bible is the story of the Gospel, the story of God sending His son Jesus to die in our place, to pay the penalty of our sins, so that we may have eternal life. That Jesus is coming again to destroy sin, and the misery that it brings to us, forever. And that we will live forever with the Father and His Son, in the joy and peace of their presence.



And it is through God's word the Bible that we learn the story of God's grace towards us, not restricted to the forgiveness of sins, but giving us the power of Christ living in us, working in us to will and to do His good pleasure. That He who began this good work in us will perform it until the day of Christ Jesus. (*Galatians 2:20, Philippians 2:13, Philippians 1:6*)

As you pray and study God's word, your life will be changed. As you discover His will for your life through the Bible and daily invite Christ into your heart, you will be amazed how the things in the Bible that once were confusing to you will become clear. And the more of these things that you learn in His word and incorporate them into your life, the more of His word he will reveal to you.

So what will be your response to the reading of God's word? Hopefully you will be able to say as did Mary, "*be it unto me according to Your word.*"

Ed Short, POH.

Prophecies of Hope Update

The Prophecies of Hope team has been working hard to keep our website current. All of the lectures from each Bible prophecy series, and all of our past radio broadcasts can be found on our website, www.prophecyhope.com. A new radio program is added each week as Mark and Rick discuss a new topic revealing Bible truth right from the word of God!

If you would like DVD copies of any of our lectures, or CD copies of any of our radio programs from the past, you may email us and request a free copy by emailing Cory Dale. You can reach Cory at, cory@prophecyhope.com. We will send them to you free of charge.

In addition to our seminar lectures and radio broadcasts, we will also be adding new sermons throughout the upcoming months, so please be sure to visit our website on a regular basis!

If you have any questions or comments regarding this ministry please feel free to contact our office.

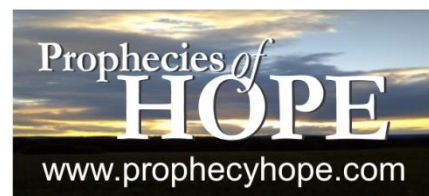
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Monday-Thursday 8:00AM-5:00PM

Friday 8:00AM - Noon



Healthy Living

In today's society many people are always on the go, having little time for the necessities of life including quality sleep. Our heavenly Father created us in such a way that we must have adequate sleep, in order to be able to function as we should. Experts say that on average, people require between 7 and 8 hours of sleep per night, although studies have also shown that individual needs may vary dramatically.



Giving an honest self-analysis can help to determine if you are already in a healthful pattern of sleep or are experiencing a sleep deficit. Experts generally agree that if you are experiencing the following, then you are likely experiencing healthy sleep:

- 1) Sleep comes easily without resorting to drugs or fighting restlessness or anxiety.
- 2) You are rarely aware of waking up in the middle of the night, but if you do wake up, you can go back to sleep quickly.
- 3) Waking up occurs naturally at approximately the same time each morning and usually without the aid of an alarm clock.
- 4) Once you are up and moving, you feel awake and fairly alert all during the day.

For a good night's sleep it's best to make sure your bedroom is quiet, dark and relatively cool. While a short midday nap can be beneficial, (typically 15 to 30 minutes) napping within four hours of your bedtime may be detrimental to healthy nighttime sleep.

Those who drink stimulants such as coffee or tea in the evenings will likely have more difficulty falling asleep at night. One authority notes that smokers may also have greater difficulty falling asleep, because smoking cigarettes raises the blood

pressure and speeds up the heart rate. Smokers also tend to wake up more in the middle of the night, possibly because their body is experiencing withdrawal symptoms.



Insomnia can also be brought on by stress. One key to healthy sleep is making the time just before going to bed a quiet, pleasant time. It may be helpful to set aside the cares of the day by praying and asking our heavenly Father to help us get a good night's sleep. Also, we can do something enjoyable, such as reading from God's word, the Bible. There is an obvious and powerful advantage to doing these things. Philippians 4:6-7 says,

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God which passes all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

Mark Martin, POH.



POH Evangelism



God is not a mystery! This was the message that Prophecies of Hope speaker Mark Martin preached the first night of the October 2014 Bible prophecy series held at Preston Yancey Station in Fishersville Virginia. “The Dangers of Comfortable Christianity” was the working title for the first presentation in this series of six lectures. Mark started the series by asking some simple but thought provoking questions about the belief structures in which we put our faith and trust. The churches and the religious leaders we listen to and follow can have a tremendous influence, not only on our theology, but more importantly on our relationship with God. Mark quoted Jesus’ words in Matthew 24:4, “*Take heed that no man deceive you.*”

This first lecture hit home for many who attended. Mark clearly revealed from the Bible that God is not only our God and Heavenly Father, but He is also Jesus’ God and Father! (John 20:17) He showed that Jesus is the literal, only-begotten Son of God whose origin is from His God and Father, and that Jesus was begotten not created! (*Psalms 110:1, Proverbs 8:22-31, Micah 5:2, John 3:16, 1 Corinthians 15:24-28, Hebrews 1:5*) Mark clarified that God is not just an invisible, impersonal spirit but that He has a form. We could see from the Bible how we are created in the image of God. (*John 4:24, Genesis 1:26-27 & 2:21-24*)

We also saw from the Bible that God’s Son Jesus Christ is truly a Divine Son and He’s not just “roleplaying” as some churches teach. God is not a mystery as most religious leaders would have us

believe! When God is characterized as a mystery, it is a product of a lazy and comfortable Christianity. Mark continued by encouraging all attendees to study the word of God for themselves, not letting our preachers and churches decide for us what to believe. We were reminded that we should not allow a sense of comfortable Christianity to creep into our lives, but we must keep on guard against an easygoing and “prosperity” gospel.

The Second night of the series Mark presented the nine identifying characteristics the bible reveals regarding the antichrist power. We learned that the word antichrist does not appear in either Daniel or Revelation but is only found in the books of first and second John. Mark made it clear that this power referred to in first and second John was revealed by the prophet Daniel centuries before and showed that John himself continued to expound upon these things in the book of Revelation. Mark showed clearly that the Roman power is revealed in scripture as the power that intends to take the place of Christ and His work. Also this “mother” of all false Christianity has spoken “great words against the Most High” and has tried to “wear out the saints of the Most High” (*Revelation 17:5, Daniel 7:25*). This is the power that Received the “deadly wound and was healed” (*Revelation 13:3, 12*).

On Thursday, the third presentation of the series revealed how this power (the Christian church of the dark ages) sought to change God’s immutable law by changing the day of rest and worship from the true Bible Sabbath which is the seventh day or Saturday, to the first day of the week known as Sunday. We also saw that this same power tries to explain God away as a mystery. This antichrist beast power has fulfilled this prophecy to the letter in “Changing Times and Laws” (*Daniel 7:25*)

On Friday night the lecture revealed what the Bible says about the mark of the beast by making a clear distinction between the seal of God and the mark of the beast/antichrist power. We learned that God places His seal on all who “keep the Commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.” (*Isaiah 8:16, Exodus 20:8, Revelation 14:12*) However, those who would rather follow the commandments of men will receive the mark of the beast. This

“mark” is a spiritual mark that has everything to do with forced worship as Revelation 13:17 reveals. (Also see Daniel chapter 3)

On Saturday (Sabbath) morning, the attendees were blessed by our special guest speaker Jason Hovey. Jason is involved in a full time ministry with a main focus of preaching the true Christian Gospel to Muslims. He has had the opportunity to speak in mosques in New York City which is the main geographical area of his ministry. Jason showed how God has used “the children of the east” not only in Biblical times past, but may be using Islam today to bring false Christianity back to the one true God who is revealed in the Bible. (See Judges chapters 6, 7 & 8, and 1 Kings chapter 4. Also see John 17:3, 1 Corinthians 8:6, Revelation chapter 9 & Daniel Chapter 11)



Jason reminded us that believers in Islam, who are the traditional descendants of Ishmael, believe in the God of Abraham. They do not however have faith that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, as did Abraham. (Galatians 3:14) This is the struggle we have with our Muslim brothers and sisters who need to hear of the love of God through His Son Jesus!

For the last program of the week the Prophecies of Hope team decided to change the format just a little. As most of you are aware, Mark Martin and Prophecies of Hope co-founder Rick Tyler record a weekly radio program called, “Prophecies of Hope, Bible Answers.” It can be heard on the internet radio network New Visions Radio at www.newvisionsradio.com.



Mark and Rick recorded a program entitled, “The USA in Bible Prophecy”. This was recorded live for the audience in attendance Saturday evening. While some people may find it hard to believe that the United States has a part to play in the end time Bible prophecies revealed in Daniel chapter 7 and Revelation chapter 13, this program continued to build upon the previous presentations given earlier in the week. Rick and Mark held a riveting discussion about how God will use the religious and political strength of the United States to bring about final events in this world’s history.



The Prophecies of Hope team feels truly blessed to have had so many attend and show interest in these Bible truths. We are also grateful to those of you who traveled from other areas and ministries to support us in our efforts. Each lecture is available at www.prophecyhope.com

We also want to thank the folks at the Yancey Station Fire Department in Fishersville Virginia for letting us use their facility!

Rick Tyler, POH.

www.prophecyhope.com

The Prophecies of Hope Team



Mark is an evangelist who has a tremendous passion for studying the Bible and sharing with others. Over the past 18 years Mark has spoken to thousands of people and conducted hundreds of Bible studies individually and in homes. He presents in depth, powerful and inspiring messages from God's Word the Bible and uses illustrations that make it easy for anyone to understand. People from many denominations and backgrounds have enjoyed Mark's presentations. We are sure you will too!



Growing up in a large family with a strong Protestant background, Rick makes his relationship with God his first priority. His time in personal and group bible study are very important to him. Growing in relation to God, through His only begotten Son Jesus, and making everlasting friendships with other believers is his primary focus. Rick is always ready to share and discuss a new concept from God's Word and feels energized to present exciting, life changing topics in the Prophecies of Hope seminars.



While you might see Ed cruising on his motorcycle enjoying nature, his first love is studying God's Word the Bible. He enjoys teaching and participating in small group Bible studies. He loves studying and discovering what the Bible has to say to him personally. Ed's passion for the gems found in God's Word is apparent in the depth of his dedication to sharing those truths. Please join us at the Prophecies Of Hope seminar as Ed shares what the Bible has to say about current events an

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