

@ctivated

CHANGE YOUR LIFE. CHANGE YOUR WORLD.



THE LION, THE DRAGON, AND THE BEAST

What's ahead for our planet

DID GOD MAKE A MISTAKE?

An unconventional look
at our unconventional God

QUIET TIME

More power to you

For a wide range of books and audio and video productions to feed your soul, lift your spirit, strengthen your family, and provide fun learning times for your children, please contact one of our distributors below, or visit our Web site at www.activated.org

Activated Ministries

P.O. Box 462805
Escondido, CA 92046-2805
USA

info@activatedministries.org
(1-877) 862-3228 (toll-free)

Activated Europe

Bramingham Pk. Business Ctr.
Enterprise Way
Luton, Beds. LU3 4BU
England

activatedEurope@activated.org
(07801) 442-317

Activated Africa

P.O. Box 2150
Westville 3630
South Africa
activatedAfrica@activated.org
083 55 68 213

Activated India

P.O. Box 5215
G.P.O.
Bangalore - 560 001
India
activatedIndia@activated.org

EDITOR

Keith Phillips

DESIGN

Giselle LeFavre

ILLUSTRATIONS

Hugo Westphal, Max Belmont,
Jac Boyer, Anthony

PRODUCTION

Francisco Lopez

VOL 1, ISSUE 6

© 2002 Aurora Production AG

All Rights Reserved

Printed in Thailand

www.auroraproduction.com

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations in *Activated* are from the New King James Version of the Bible © 1982 Thomas Nelson, Inc.

personally speaking



Sometimes children just can't wait to find out. Is that bundle in Mommy's closet my Christmas present? What will it be like at the lake—and why is Daddy driving so slow? What will it feel like to be six?

But come to think of it, wouldn't we all sometimes like to peek into the future? Will the weather be nice for our outing this weekend? Will our favorite sports team win the big game? Can I believe this used car salesman's claims about this car?

Then there are more serious questions that weigh heavily on us. Will I get the promotion I'm hoping for, or will I even be able to keep my job through the economy's ups and downs? Will I be able to adequately provide for my family? In a world where godly morals seem to be in steep decline and humanity has the capability to annihilate itself through nuclear war, what kind of legacy are we leaving for our children? Will the depletion of the Earth's ozone layer through never-ending pollution trigger a global disaster? Or will the continued rapid increase in world population lead to global food shortages, as some experts warn?

In this issue of *Activated* we take a closer look at Bible prophecies that talk specifically about the times in which we live. These are not only fascinating to study, but we can take comfort in knowing that current developments are all part of God's great Endtime plan. As we see events that He has foretold come to pass, we can be sure that the future and our well-being are in His hands. The outlook may be bleak at times, but the uplook couldn't be brighter!

Keith Phillips

Keith Phillips
For your *Activated* family

2010 second chances

ONE MORNING, A MECHANIC who has worked on our van from time to time knocked on our door in Korat, Thailand. He was very sad and very mad at the same time. He said that his wife had left him for another man a few days earlier. Now she wanted the house and this and that. The man had been drinking heavily, and he didn't know what to do or who to talk

with. He had a gun in his car, and said he wanted to go and kill his wife and her boyfriend, then kill himself.

He didn't really understand what had brought him to our gate; he had just been driving around aimlessly, then suddenly he found himself at our house. The Lord had brought him to us, of course.

My wife and I tried to calm him down and help him see that killing anyone wasn't the answer. "As impossible as this must seem right now, it would be better to just let her go," we advised him. "Don't try to

take judgment into your own hands. Leave that to God. He knows what's best for everyone concerned."

It took a while, but the man finally calmed down. Before he left, he prayed with us to receive Jesus, and we prayed together for the Lord's solution to his problem.

Some days later he came to us again for advice. His wife had come back and had asked him to forgive her and give her another chance. All of his friends told him not to take her back. What should he do?

We told him that the decision was his, of course, but that the Lord always forgives us for our mistakes and sins, and then He gives us another chance to do things right. Our mechanic, by now a dear friend, was very happy to hear that, as he really loved his wife and already knew in his heart that that was the right thing to do.

"Jesus and you have changed my life!" he exclaimed as he left.

Isn't it wonderful how He does that? •

second second second

THE THE AND THE LION DRAGON BEAST

By John Weaver

Dragons, beasts and creatures strange,
Are found within the pages
Of ancient script and holy writ,
From prophets, seers, and sages.

In shocking visions they beheld
The rise and fall of nations.
Yet few believe or can perceive
Their signs and revelations.

Though skeptics brush such words aside,
As myths and senseless stories,
Wise men attest the *future* rests
Within these allegories.

So hearken to the mystery
Of the Lion and His foes,
And you will see what soon shall be,
As time draws to its close.

A STARTLING PICTURE of our planet's future is presented in the Bible's *Book of Revelation* (also known as *The Apocalypse*), written 19 centuries ago. Even skeptics who have studied the ancient prophecies of Revelation admit that they are uncanny in their accurate depiction of a number of events and developments which have only become possible since the advent of the microprocessor.

What many people find unsettling is that Revelation warns that the fulfillment of its predictions will signify that the world as we now know it has entered its final era. This period is referred to in prophecy as the *Last Days* or the *Time of the End*.

A large number of prophecy scholars agree that the world stage is rapidly being set for the final showdown between the forces of good and evil, an awesome event known as *Armageddon*. The principal characters in this cosmic conflict are symbolically depicted by Saint John the Revelator as a Lion, a Dragon, and a Beast.



THE LION is introduced in Revelation as “the Lion of the tribe of Judah [who] has triumphed” (Revelation chapter five, verse five). This majestic heavenly figure is portrayed elsewhere in Revelation as the Lamb.

Although a lamb is usually considered one of the meekest and weakest of all creatures, this unique lionlike Lamb is the mighty Conqueror who ultimately vanquishes all evil. His power knows no limits. The mere mention of His name causes Hell and its minions to tremble. Though the Dragon and the Beast will array all of their forces against the Lamb and His followers, their efforts will prove futile and their defeat will be utter.

These [the armies of the Beast] will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them: for He [Jesus Christ] is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and those



who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful (Revelation 17:14).

THE DRAGON'S debut is described in Revelation. It reads as follows:

And there appeared another wonder in Heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. ... And there was war in Heaven: Michael [the archangel] and his angels fought against the dragon ... and the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, who deceives the whole world ... and the dragon was wroth and went to make war with [those] who keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ (Revelation 12:3,7-9,17).

The Dragon is the evil spiritual entity commonly



known as the Devil or Satan. Because he is a spirit, in order to effectively operate in Earth's material realm, he works primarily through human agents. Throughout the ages he has energized and possessed individuals who yielded to his evil influence and power. Most of the tyrants and demagogues of history were instruments through whom the Dragon carried out his program of oppressing, enslaving, and destroying mankind.

THE BEAST was symbolically envisioned by St. John as an unearthly creature rising from the depths, a monster that derives his power from the Dragon:

I saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. And the beast which

I saw was like a leopard, and his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his throne, and great authority (Revelation 13:1-2).

According to numerous prophecies, the Beast is personified in a powerful political figure who will soon appear on the world scene. He will become the leader of a New World Order that will govern the globe and demand the allegiance of all nations. He is also known in Scripture as the *Antichrist* or the Son of Perdition. He will be fully possessed by Satan. Once he has secured his position as the head of the One World government, the Beast will demand his subjects' worship.

And all the world marveled and followed the beast. So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?" ... All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb (Revelation 13:3,4,8).

The Beast will come to power with a seven-year agreement, a covenant (which could possibly be put into effect secretly). He will promise world peace and religious freedom, and will temporarily resolve the Middle East crisis,

working out a compromise between the Jews and the Arabs regarding Jerusalem and its holy sites. A focal point of this covenant will be Mount Moriah, Jerusalem, where the Jews' ancient temple stood before being destroyed by the Romans in 70 A.D., and where the Muslim Dome of the Rock and the Mosque of Omar stand today. Scripture indicates this covenant will enable the Jews to rebuild their temple on this hotly contested holy site. (See Daniel 8:23-25; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-4; Daniel 9:27.)

Initially, most of the world will hail the Beast as a political savior. But three and a half years after the enactment

He will promise world peace and religious freedom.

of the seven-year covenant, he will revoke it and forbid and abolish all traditional religious worship, declaring that he himself is God, and demanding that all the world worship *him!* (See Daniel 9:27; 8:9-12; 11:21-24, 28-31, 36; 2 Thessalonians 2:3, 4, 8, 9.)

At this time, an extraordinary idol, described in Revelation as the *image of the Beast*, will be erected, apparently in Jerusalem on the grounds of the rebuilt Jewish temple. Jesus referred to this image as the "Abomination of

Desolation" (Matthew 24:15). This image is likely to be an incredibly high-tech supercomputer, intrinsically linked to the New World Order's telecommunications network. Scripture says it will *speak* and somehow "cause those who refuse to worship it to be killed" (Revelation 13:14-15). Jesus said that when you see this image standing "in the holy place ... then shall be *Great Tribulation* such as the world has never known" (Matthew 24:15-21). It will be a time of ruthless repression and persecution of believers in God by the Beast and his regime. (See Daniel 11:31; Revelation 13:14-15.)

During this three-and-a-half-year Tribulation period, a universal credit system will be instituted, rendering paper money obsolete. Revelation says all those who submit to the Beast will receive a government credit number implanted in their right hand or forehead (probably in the form of a tiny microchip inserted under the skin, something quite feasible with today's technology). The number 666 will somehow be central to this system. Opponents of the Beast will be singled out, as no one will be allowed to legally buy or sell without this number, or mark of the Beast. But God's true children will refuse it, and will be supernaturally provided for by God Himself. (See Revelation 13:16-18; 12:6,14.)



EXACTLY 3-½ YEARS after the Beast breaks the covenant and begins his rampage against believers in God, the mighty “Lion of Judah,” Jesus Christ Himself, will suddenly “descend from Heaven with a shout,” returning “in the clouds, with power and great glory” to supernaturally rescue all of His people from the clutches of their bestial persecutors. Everyone who loves Jesus and has received Him in their hearts will instantly be transformed as they receive supernatural resurrection bodies, just like Jesus’ body after He was resurrected! They will sail up towards the sky in a climactic event commonly known as the Rapture, “to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord!” (Matthew 24:29–31; 1 Thessalonians 4:14–17). (See also 1 Corinthians 15:51–57; Philipians 3:21.)

Jesus will then whisk away His “Bride”—all those who love and follow Him—to the greatest, most thrilling



party that has ever been held, the Marriage Supper of the Lamb in Heaven. During this time God will pour out fierce judgments and wrath upon the Beast and his evil forces on earth. God delivers the

It will be a time of ruthless repression and persecution.

final blow to the Dragon’s minions when the Beast’s armies gather together in Israel, near the site of the ancient town of Megiddo, in a place known as the Height of Megiddo, for which the Hebrew word is Armageddon. Then Jesus, along with His followers, will return to earth on supernatural flying horses to utterly defeat and destroy the forces of evil in the catastrophic Battle of Armageddon. (See Revelation 9:13–21; 19:11–21; 17:14; 16:12–21.)

Jesus and His followers will then take over the world and organize and rule and



run it the way it should have been run all along. Only then will all wars finally cease and the world will at last be governed fairly, with true justice, liberty, peace, plenty, and happiness for all. This amazing period will last for one thousand years, and is therefore known as the Millennium. (See Revelation 20:1–4; Daniel 2:44; 7:18, 26, 27; Isaiah 2:2–4; Psalm 22:27, 28; 47:2, 3, 7, 8.)

At the end of the Millennium, God will completely renew the face of the earth, resulting in a paradisiacal Garden-of-Eden-like New Earth. God’s great heavenly city, New Jerusalem, will then descend from above to settle on the re-created planet. This magnificent Space City is an astounding 1,500 miles long, 1,500 miles wide, and 1,500 miles high! It will be inhabited only by the Lord’s saved children, who will enjoy unlimited heavenly happiness, pleasure, and paradise forever! (See Revelation chapters 21 and 22.) •



DANIEL TWO

A Picture of the
Past and Future

THE PROPHET DANIEL WAS A TEENAGER when Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, besieged Jerusalem for the first time in 605 B.C. Daniel and other Jews of royal blood were taken captive and brought to Babylon, where they were trained to become counselors of the king. "And in all matters of wisdom and understanding about which the king examined [Daniel and his three friends, whom the king renamed Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego], he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers who were in all his realm" (Daniel 1:20).

Daniel chapter 2 recounts a prophetic dream and its interpretation, and in so doing gives a concise overview of the history and future of the world, from the reign of Nebuchadnezzar to the Second Coming of Jesus and beyond.

The dream

Nebuchadnezzar had a mysterious dream that left him troubled. When his magicians, astrologers, and others were not able to tell him both what he had dreamed and the interpretation, Nebuchadnezzar sentenced all of his counselors to death. But when the king's guard came for Daniel and his companions, Daniel said that he could tell the king his dream and its meaning. Daniel and his friends prayed, and "the secret was revealed to Daniel in a night vision" (verses 1–19).

"There is a God in heaven who reveals secrets," Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar, "and He has made known to you what will be in the latter days" (verse 28). Daniel then told Nebuchadnezzar what the king had dreamed and what it meant.

"You, O king, were watching; and behold, a great image! This great image, whose splendor was excellent, stood before you; and its form was awesome. This image's head was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. ... And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth" (verses 31–35).

The interpretation

The head of gold: Babylon. "You, O king, are a king of kings. For the God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, strength, and glory. ... You are this head of gold"

(verses 37–38). Babylon was also known as the “golden city” of ancient times, and is referred to as such in another Bible passage, Isaiah 14:1–4.

The chest and arms of silver: Medo-Persia. “After you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours” (verse 39a). We know from history that Medo-Persia conquered Babylon in 538 B.C. It is appropriate that the kingdom of Persia is depicted here by two arms because the Medes were the first nation to be incorporated into the Persian Empire, and many Medes held important positions in the Persian Empire.

The belly of bronze: Greece. “A third kingdom of bronze ... shall rule over all the earth” (verse 39b). Again, we know from history that in 333 B.C., over 200 years after this prophecy was given, Alexander the Great and the Greek army conquered the Persian Empire. It is interesting that Greece is symbolized here as the belly and thighs of the image, because the Greeks were known for being uninhibited about sex and nudity.

The legs of iron: Rome. “And the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron, inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything; and like iron that crushes, that kingdom will break in pieces and crush all the others” (verse 40). Rome conquered Greece and held iron rule over the entire known (western) world for nearly 500 years. It is appropriate that it was represented as two legs because it was often administered as two regions and in its decline was divided into the Western Roman Empire, with its capital in Rome, and the Eastern Roman Empire (later called the Byzantine Empire), with its capital at Constantinople. The Romans were also great on marching and were the first world empire to build an extensive

network of highways—important for deploying armies to quell revolts.

The feet and toes of iron and clay: *strong and weak governments of the Endtime.* “Whereas you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter’s clay and partly of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; yet the strength of the iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay. And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile. ... They will mingle ... but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay” (verses 41–43). Since the fall of the Roman Empire, no single empire has ruled the entire known world. Instead, there has been a mix of smaller nations and empires with both strong and weak governments. However, the soon-to-arise empire of the Devil-possessed dictator known as the Antichrist will, for a very brief period, unite all nations and rule the world in some kind of One World Order. The nations represented by the 10 toes will be united under the Antichrist.

The stone and the mountain: Jesus and the kingdom of God. The stone that was cut out of a mountain represents Jesus, and the great mountain that filled the whole earth is the soon-coming kingdom of God on earth. The rock striking the image on the feet, rather than on the head or elsewhere, signifies what time the kingdoms of man will be destroyed: the time in which we are now living, the “latter days” (verse 28), also known as the Endtime. “And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever” (verse 44). •

The toes were partly of iron and partly of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile.

Answers to your questions

Q: I have a terrible temper. What can I do to change?



People who
jump to
conclusions
often make
bad
landings.

Realizing that you have a problem with anger is the first step to overcoming it, and being able to admit that to others is the second. You're well on your way already!

The all-important third step is to ask the Lord to help you change. Without Him, you can do nothing good, but with His help you can do anything! (See John 15:5 and Philipians 4:13.)

Understanding anger is also important. Pent-up anger is like a time bomb. Learn how it works and you can deactivate it before it goes off. Here are a few pointers:

➤ Let's face it—anger is often the result of selfish concerns. We don't get our own way, our pride is wounded, or we somehow feel slighted or mistreated by others, so we become frustrated, upset, and angry.

➤ The ability to *control* your anger is a sign of maturity and an admirable quality. "He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city" (Proverbs 16:32).

➤ Think before you speak. If you can hold back long enough to think through what you're about to say, you can usually express your feelings in a healthy way. "A fool vents all his feelings, but a wise man holds them back [until afterwards]" (Proverbs 29:11).

➤ Consider the consequences. Letting your bad feelings spill out in uncontrolled actions or words can only cause mistakes, hurt those you love, and destroy friendships. "An angry man stirs up strife, and a furious man abounds in transgression. A man of great wrath will suffer punishment" (Proverbs 29:22; 19:19).

➤ Learn to recognize the danger signals. Whoever said that "anger is one letter short of danger" was probably speaking from experience—and they were quite right! Early warning signals vary from person to person, but you know how *you* feel when you begin to get angry. Stop it there. "He who is slow to wrath has great understanding, but he who is impulsive exalts folly" (Proverbs 14:29).





Prayer for the Day

Dear Jesus ...

I thank You that I'm able to travel the road of life with You as my constant Companion. I thank You for revealing to me our ultimate destination—Your heavenly Kingdom. Thank You for preparing such a place for Your children, a place of unimaginable beauty and happiness!

➤ Ask for help. Confess to those you're getting angry with (or in front of) that your feelings are getting out of control. That's humbling, but not as humbling as having to apologize after an ugly fit of anger.

➤ Pray and ask Jesus to help you. You can excuse yourself and pray privately elsewhere, if you must, but praying with others brings optimum results. Jesus promised, "Ask what you will, and it will be done unto you" (John 15:7).

➤ Redirect your anger. Channeling that pent-up energy to some constructive activity helps you get your mind off of what made you angry in the first place. Cut the grass. Mop the kitchen floor. Get your daily exercise. Or better yet, do some loving thing for whoever you were angry with.

➤ Go to the Word. "How can a young man [or any of us] cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your Word" (Psalm 119:9). •

For more from the Bible on the subject of anger, refer to *Keys to Happier Living*—a collection of Bible verses on a variety of topics relating to everyday life.

Feeding Reading

Our Best Protection



The Bible is full of amazing stories of how God protected

His children who looked to Him when things couldn't have

looked worse—stories that can

strengthen our faith that God will also protect us through the trying times that are almost upon us.

Here are a few that have encouraged and strengthened millions down through the centuries:

The parting of the Red Sea

Exodus 14

A giant challenge

1 Samuel 17

Delivered!

2 Samuel 22

Elisha's secret army

2 Kings 6

Fear not!

Psalms 37

The safest place in the world

Psalms 91

Four in the fire

Daniel 3

A night in the lions' den

Daniel 6

A warning just in time

Matthew 2

The question

Did God make a mistake by putting Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, where they wound up making their own choice—the wrong one? (See Genesis 3:6.) Did God have to confess failure by the Flood, in that He had to wipe out all mankind for its wickedness? (See Genesis 6:5–7.) Was the Tower of Babel a total disaster, and was the confusion of tongues a catastrophe? Or was it necessary to accomplish God’s purpose to humble and scatter man over the face of the Earth? (See Genesis 11:1–9.)

Was it a mistake when Moses killed an Egyptian and had to flee for his life, and ended up living for forty years in the wilderness learning to be a humble shepherd tending sheep? (See Exodus 2.) Wasn’t that a terrible setback to the cause and the deliverance of his people? Or was it necessary for Moses to go into exile to learn the lessons God had to teach him to make him the man he needed to be to deliver his people?—Totally dependent on God, not himself.

Born in a barn and hated of men

Wouldn’t it have been much more respectable and acceptable for the King of kings, Jesus, to have been born in a palace, with illustrious members of the court in attend-

Did God Make a Mistake?

By David Brandt Berg

ance, and with all the honor and praise of society? Instead, He was born on the dirty floor of a barn next to cows and asses, wrapped in rags and laid to sleep in a feed trough, with a motley crew of poor little shepherd boys kneeling on the floor beside Him.

Was it a mistake when Moses killed an Egyptian and had to flee for his life?





**He was
born on
the dirty
floor of a
barn ...
wrapped
in rags
and laid to
sleep in a
feed
trough.**

Wouldn't it have been better for His earthly father to have been a prominent potentate instead of a humble hewer of wood? Wouldn't that have made it easier on Jesus and His followers, and advanced His work a little more rapidly, to have the approval of the established order? And wasn't that rather humiliating for His humble parents to become fugitives from injustice, and have to flee the country like common criminals for having given birth to the leader of a rival revolutionary government—the Kingdom of God? (See Matthew chapters 1 and 2.)

And wouldn't it have been better for Him to have lived a little more decently and acceptably, instead of scrounging His food in other men's fields, sleeping in other people's houses—including in the house of a couple of lovely young single sisters, Mary and Martha—and being buried in another man's grave? (See Luke 10:38–42; John 19:38–42.)

Did He have to always be challenging the religious establishment, defying convention, destroying traditions, and threatening the status quo, so that He had to be executed with common criminals and leave

behind the evil reputation of having been a companion of sinners, a glutton and a winebibber? And why deliberately offend the established order? Why deliberately pick a bunch of lowly fishermen and a hated tax collector for His disciples? Couldn't the King of kings have gotten off to a better start, instead of being hated from the beginning? Lord, there must have been a better way!

Surely there was a better way?

Jesus, certainly You could have had better living conditions! The idea of You camping out on the grass under the trees! You knew that was bound to raise eyebrows and questions about Your character and morality and that of Your disciples, who were a rather questionable group of characters to begin with! Surely You must have been mistaken, Lord, about some of these things, and could have done some of them some better way!

Wouldn't You have made easier progress, Jesus, if You'd done it man's way, and chosen Your disciples from the learned Sanhedrin (the high council of the ancient Jewish nation) with the approval of the synagogues and the permission of the high priests and a license from Rome? Wouldn't You have gotten off to a better start, Jesus? Don't You think You could have improved Your tactics, Lord? Don't You think that was really making it a little too rough from the beginning, and suffering undue and unnecessary hardship and persecution due to Your own foolhardy

methods and lack of wisdom, Jesus? There must have been a better way!

One can understand Your making a *few* mistakes, but going so consistently and stubbornly contrary to all acceptable reason and logic and custom, wasn't that a little foolish, Lord? If You had beaten up the money changers in the Temple *once* they might have overlooked it, but to whip them out, bust

the furniture, and spill all the money *three times*, You know that was too much! Somebody was bound to get mad and get You in the end! (See John

2:13–16;

Matthew 21:12,13; Mark 11:15.)

Surely some of this was a mistake! Weren't You at all concerned about the opinions of men? Didn't You care what people thought about You and Your followers? Isn't there some better way?

The reply

Forget the “proper way”! The unexpected and the improper, the unconventional and untraditional, the unorthodox and unceremonious, contrary to man's natural expectation, this is the way God usually works! “My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,” says the Lord. “For as the heavens are higher than the earth,

so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts” (Isaiah 55:8–9). Who can know the mind of the Lord, and who can show Him anything? (See 1 Corinthians 2:16.)

God knows what He's doing, and it's none of *our* business how He does it! Just trust God that He knows what He's doing! “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not



on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths” (Proverbs 3:5–6).

God loves to do things contrary to the way we think He ought to do them! God doesn't make mistakes, and even the “foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men” (1 Corinthians 1:25). Are you willing to enter that straight gate that leads to life, even if you are considered a fool and of no reputation in the eyes of the world? •

(Excerpted from David Brandt Berg's original article by the same title, available in *Dare to Be Different*.)

God loves
to do
things
contrary
to the
way we
think He
ought to
do them!

Your new life of love

Quiet Time



GOD TELLS US, “BE STILL, and know that I am God,” and “In quietness and confidence shall be your strength” (Psalm 46:10; Isaiah 30:15). And Jesus *practiced* what the Bible preaches. Several times in the Gospels it says that Jesus rose before the break of day, before His disciples were awake, in order to get alone with His Father and get His instructions for the day. At other times He left the multitudes and His disciples and went off to a secluded place to pray. If even Jesus had to do it, how much more *we* need to do it!

We all need quiet times with the Lord—when we step out of our busy routines to rest our minds and spirits, commit our problems and cares to Him in prayer, get strengthened by His Word, and be refreshed by a few moments of sweet fellowship with Him. In fact, many of His promises are contingent on our doing just that. “*Come to Me ... and I will give you rest*” (Matthew 11:28); “*Call to Me, and I will ... show you great and mighty things*” (Jeremiah 33:3); “*Abide in Me ... and [what you ask] shall be done for you*” (John 15:7).

If you will set aside 10 or 15 minutes each day—more would be even better—for “quiet time” with the Lord, you will find that your days will go a lot smoother. It doesn’t have to be at a set place or time, or follow any particular ritual. Just stop what you’re doing and think about the Lord. Share your heart with Him, and listen to His still small voice in your heart give you the answers, encouragement, and strength you need to face your day. “Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint” (Isaiah 40:31). •

Coming soon ...

Who do you trust?

Who would you rather trust to fix your car?—Some amateur mechanic, or the person who designed your car and understands everything about it? So then, who do you trust to “fix” you when you’re sick? Wouldn’t you feel safer going to the One who is not merely a student of your body, but its Creator? Nobody knows a car like the manufacturer, and nobody knows you like your Maker!

Be sure to read the next issue of *Activated* to find out how you can get healing when you need it from the One whose qualifications and powers outstrip all others—the One who designed and brought you into being, God Himself. •

Always and forever...

I pour forth My love constantly, without end. The flow is always rich and free and abundant, but how much you see and feel this love in your life depends on your faith—how much you look for it and recognize it in the innumerable ways that I manifest My love each day. Whether or not you see it or feel it or recognize it does not change the fact that My love is constant and abundant and unconditional.

You cannot deserve it or work for it or be worthy of it in yourself, for My love is a free gift. I love you because I love you.—It's as simple as that! I love you, I will never stop loving you, and I will never love you any less than I do today. I will always love you with a perfect, unending, and abundant love.

I long for you to partake of this love of Mine in all its richness, beauty, power, and glory. My love for you is forever love.

From Jesus with Love