Wolves in Wool

Have you ever sensed that a church leader was compromising Bible truth in order to gain popularity and power? Pastor Doug tackles the rise of a dangerous church trend that could soon be attacking your congregation from within—like a wolf in sheep's clothing.

READ MORE

Where will we be during the millennium?

The 1,000-year time period in Revelation causes many seekers confusion and worry. Cut through the fog of mystery and get a solid Bible answer from Pastor Doug Batchelor!

READ MORE

Daughters of Inheritance

As controversy over women's ordination explodes in the church, afbookstore.com is offering a unique look at the issue from a completely original perspective. A beautiful cover and new insight make this a great resource at the right time.

READ MORE

Can You Defeat
Wolves in Wool: An Urgent Warning to the Flock!

An Amazing Fact: Grigori Rasputin, also known as the Mad Monk of Russia, was born a simple peasant, but when he entered Saint Petersburg on foot in 1903, this illiterate yet charismatic Orthodox monk soon persuaded many he was a prophet and healer. Working his way up the social ladder, the unkempt mystic manipulated his way into the palace of Tsar Nicholas II—who was mesmerized by his cult of personality. Once, when confronted regarding his immoral behavior and promiscuity, Rasputin proudly retorted, “I commit great sins that are worthy of great forgiveness.” Soon the false prophet began to give the Tsar disastrous political and military advice, contributing to the fall of Russia into communism.

Have you ever got the sense that a pastor was compromising truth for popularity and power?

The apostle Paul warned us that, in the last days, false teachers would arise from within our very own ranks. He called them wolves, people who would teach a popular but perverted gospel in an attempt to gather disciples to themselves (Acts 20:29, 30).

Also, speaking of the last days, Jesus warned, “Take heed that no one deceives you. … Many false prophets will rise up and deceive many” (Matthew 24:4, 11 NKJV).

How do you spot a false prophet—a wolf in sheep’s clothing? In Matthew 7:16, Jesus said you would ultimately know them by their fruits. There is also another specific sure-fire indicator …

… do they teach that Jesus saves us from our sins or in our sins?

Saved From Sin
In popular books and on TV, it seems everywhere I turn many Christian pastors and teachers are making light of sin. They seem only to talk about mercy and love—with scarcely any mention of repentance, confession, and victory. They preach “smooth things,” promising sinners a false security when Scripture teaches there is no peace for the wicked (Jeremiah 8:11; Isaiah 48:22).

Instead, the Bible teaches real peace comes through surrender and obedience. “Great peace have they which love thy law” (Psalm 119:165). After Jesus rescued the woman caught in adultery, He said, “Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more” (John 8:11). Jesus did not tell her to try to “sin a little less.”

Every week Amazing Facts gets letters from distressed viewers saying things like …

- “Our pastor never seems to say anything about obeying God and keeping His commandments …”
- “People are baptized into our church while still drinking, smoking, and living in sin. What should we do?”
- “Our Sunday School teacher tells us, ‘Once you’re saved, regardless of how much you sin, you cannot be lost.’ Is this true?”

So I thank God for the testimonies we get from people like Clifton, who writes, “The Bible for me through Amazing Facts has become what it’s intended to be: the life-transforming, victorious Living Word of God. Because Scripture now connects in my thinking, Bible studying is more enjoyable and I’m conquering sin in my life! Thank you, Jesus, for Amazing Facts!” Praise the Lord!
The Real Gospel

Friend, is there any sin you struggle with that God is not POWERFUL enough to give you the victory over? Seven times in Revelation chapters 2 and 3, Jesus promises salvation to “those who overcome.” Why would He say that unless it really is possible to overcome? No one questions the devil’s power to tempt us to sin; why would we doubt Jesus’ power to give us victory over it?

That’s why the Father sent His precious Son to die for us. Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 5:17, “If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come” (NASB).

You know, it really doesn’t matter where Doug Batchelor stands on law and grace or any other issue—it only matters where God stands. What does the Bible teach? We both know! Yet I keep witnessing wolves in wool destroying the flock with a counterfeit gospel!

Is it any wonder then that the majority of Christians recently surveyed are unsure if homosexual marriage is morally wrong? This is what happens when church members feed on a cultural gospel instead of a biblical one.

That’s why the ministry of Amazing Facts is so important today—when so many are preaching “a different gospel” (Galatians 1:6). I pray the true message of Jesus will always be the message of Amazing Facts.

We Can’t Ignore It

Talking about sin is not a popular topic, but ignoring it is deadly. Something is wrong!

The primary ministry of Amazing Facts is evangelism, but we have always felt that we also have a responsibility to call believers to revival, to “shepherd the flock of God” (1 Peter 5:2). Someone needs to “Cry aloud, spare not; Lift up your voice like a trumpet; Tell My people their transgression” (Isaiah 58:1).

So how can we save God’s lambs from the wolves in wool? How do we get the real message of salvation from sin out to the people? “Preach the Word”! (2 Timothy 4:2).

With this in mind, I recently shared a special message in my church—a message I believe is really for everyone. It’s titled, “How Perfect Should a Christian Be?” In a biblical and balanced way, I addressed the importance of a victorious life—and offered some keys to achieve that life in Christ.

I want every Amazing Facts supporter to have a copy of this message—and then to please share it with others. In fact, it’s so important to me that I want to send you this brand-new message in gratitude for your faithfulness in giving this month.

If you believe as I do that the gospel of Jesus is being watered down, please let me know by responding today with a gift of support. I know you support us because Amazing Facts is at the forefront of broadcasting the full and everlasting gospel to seekers—and leading Christians to true repentance and revival. Thank you for your commitment to the Word!

Standing on the Rock,

Pastor Doug Batchelor
Where will we be during the millennium?

Q. Will the millennial reign be on earth or in heaven? Revelation 20:6 seems to indicate that we’ll be priests with Christ, and we will reign with Him for a thousand years, and Isaiah 65:25 seems to say it will be on the earth.

A. The passages in Isaiah and Revelation do not go together sequentially. When I first read about the millennium, I understood it to mean a thousand years of peace here on earth. But a problem occurred when I realized the true sequence of events that happens when Jesus comes.

In 1 Thessalonians we see the description of Jesus descending from the clouds to take up His followers. “For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout … and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord” (4:16, 17). This is the “rapture” … being physically and literally caught up to meet a visible Jesus waiting in the sky.

In John 14:2, 3, Jesus says, “I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.” This tells us that He will take us to the mansions that He has prepared for us.

Then in Revelation 21, we read, “I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven” (v. 2, emphasis added). But Revelation 20 says that the righteous “lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years” (v. 4). So if New Jerusalem is where our mansions are, and it has not yet come down to earth by the time of Jesus’ second coming, where are we going to be during the 1,000 years? I believe this means we’re not going to be on the earth.

Another clue comes from Isaiah 24:1, where we get a picture of the conditions of the earth during this 1,000 years: “The LORD maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down.” And Jeremiah 4:23 explains, “I beheld the earth, and, lo, it was without form, and void; and the heavens … had no light.” Of course, this sounds like it’s right out of Genesis 1:2, but if you keep reading: “I beheld the mountains, and, lo, they trembled, and all the hills moved lightly. I beheld, and, lo, there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens were fled” (4:24, 25).

We can easily conclude that since the mountains are now gone, they must have been there before. But if there is any doubt, Jeremiah continues, “I beheld, and, lo, the fruitful place was a wilderness, and all the cities thereof were broken down” (V. 26). Now we have cities that are broken down, so this cannot be at the time of the garden of Eden or a pre-creation picture.

But what breaks it all down? The Bible says “the presence of the LORD, and by his fierce anger.” This chapter also says that there is no life on earth at this time, and moreover, the slain of the Lord covers one end of the earth to the other. Furthermore, “They shall not be lamented, neither gathered, nor buried; they shall be dung upon the ground” (Jeremiah 25:33).

So according to both Jeremiah and Isaiah, the earth is in a condition where nobody’s alive, it’s dark, and the cities are broken down. When could this be? Well, it’s very simple. When Jesus comes down with power, the righteous, both the living and the dead, who are resurrected, are caught up with Him, and the sinful living are destroyed by the brightness of His coming. And as Revelation 20 says, “The rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished” (v. 5).

Jesus also speaks of the second resurrection, a time when the wicked come forth from their graves at the end of the 1,000 years for their judgment — meaning there are two distinct resurrections. When I first heard that I thought, “What?!” But I kept studying, and it became very clear. It all really means that there won’t be anybody alive on earth during the 1,000 years. The earth is desolate and dark, and Satan is bound, having no one to tempt or manipulate. Thus the saved will be in heaven with Christ, until we descend with Him when New Jerusalem comes to the earth.
Where will we be during the millennium?

Q. Will the millennial reign be on earth or in heaven? Revelation 20:6 seems to indicate that we'll be priests with Christ, and we will reign with Him for a thousand years, and Isaiah 65:25 seems to say it will be on the earth.

A. The passages in Isaiah and Revelation do not go together sequentially. When I first read about the millennium, I understood it to mean a thousand years of peace here on earth. But a problem occurred when I realized the true sequence of events that happens when Jesus comes.

In 1 Thessalonians we see the description of Jesus descending from the clouds to take up His followers. “For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout … and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord” (4:16, 17). This is the “rapture” … being physically and literally caught up to meet a visible Jesus waiting in the sky.

In John 14:2, 3, Jesus says, “I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.” This tells us that He will take us to the mansions that He has prepared for us.

Then in Revelation 21, we read, “I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven” (v. 2, emphasis added). But Revelation 20 says that the righteous “lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years” (v. 4). So if New Jerusalem is where our mansions are, and it has not yet come down to earth by the time of Jesus’ second coming, where are we going to be during the 1,000 years? I believe this means we’re not going to be on the earth.

Another clue comes from Isaiah 24:1, where we get a picture of the conditions of the earth during this 1,000 years: “The LORD maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down.” And Jeremiah 4:23 explains, “I beheld the earth, and, lo, it was without form, and void: and the heavens … had no light.” Of course, this sounds like it’s right out of Genesis 1:2, but if you keep reading: “I beheld the mountains, and, lo, they trembled, and all the hills moved lightly. I beheld, and, lo, there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens were fled” (4:24, 25).

We can easily conclude that since the mountains are now gone, they must have been there before. But if there is any doubt, Jeremiah continues, “I beheld, and, lo, the fruitful place was a wilderness, and all the cities thereof were broken down” (V. 26). Now we have cities that are broken down, so this cannot be at the time of the garden of Eden or a pre-creation picture.

But what breaks it all down? The Bible says “the presence of the LORD, and by his fierce anger.” This chapter also says that there is no life on earth at this time, and moreover, the slain of the Lord covers one end of the earth to the other. Furthermore, “They shall not be lamented, neither gathered, nor buried; they shall be dung upon the ground” (Jeremiah 25:33).

So according to both Jeremiah and Isaiah, the earth is in a condition where nobody’s alive, it’s dark, and the cities are broken down. When could this be? Well, it’s very simple. When Jesus comes down with power, the righteous, both the living and the dead, who are resurrected, are caught up with Him, and the sinful living are destroyed by the brightness of His coming. And as Revelation 20 says, “The rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished” (v. 5).

Jesus also speaks of the second resurrection, a time when the wicked come forth from their graves at the end of the 1,000 years for their judgment — meaning there are two distinct resurrections. When I first heard that I thought, “What?!” But I kept studying, and it became very clear. It all really means that there won’t be anybody alive on earth during the 1,000 years. The earth is desolate and dark, and Satan is bound, having no one to tempt or manipulate. Thus the saved will be in heaven with Christ, until we descend with Him when New Jerusalem comes to the earth.
Defeating Deceit

An Amazing Fact: Among Americans polled about honesty, 52 percent said lying is never justified; yet 65 percent said it was sometimes okay to lie to keep from hurting someone’s feelings. Twelve percent of adults admit that they lie sometimes or occasionally. However, when asked, “Are you a liar?” 97 percent said “No.” The three percent who admitted to lying were tested to evaluate their actual honesty and were found to be 28 times more honest than the people who denied lying.

Defeating Deceit
Very few people—if any—are honest 100 percent of the time. Even Christians and other people who are committed to being honest sometimes are caught off guard and speak something that is less than the truth in the confusion of the moment—sometimes to keep from hurting another person’s feelings. Other times, perhaps, they are not completely honest with themselves.

We deal with dishonest people all the time. And all of us, at some time in our lives, have been dishonest. Many times dishonesty hurts other people; sometimes it only hurts the dishonest person.

But dishonesty always hurts God because one of His characteristics is truth. The Bible says, “Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but those who deal truthfully are His delight” (Proverbs 12:22).
Lying comes naturally to humans. “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?” (Jeremiah 17:9). The only way to conquer a deceitful heart is to allow God to replace it with the pure heart of our Savior. He is willing to transform us today.

Key Bible Text
“In my distress I cried to the Lord, and He heard me. Deliver my soul, O Lord, from lying lips and from a deceitful tongue” (Psalm 120:1, 2).

Posted on June 25, 2012 08:03 by Amazing Facts Editor
Have We Reached the Planet's Tipping Point?

How long will our planet last?

How long can our environment sustain the abuse and misuse of resources before the Earth falls apart? You aren't alone if you have wondered about these questions. Scientists have been sounding the alarm that environmental destruction is moving to a tipping point of irreversible calamity.

In a recent edition of the journal *Nature*, 22 researchers expressed concern that we are permanently altering the delicate biosphere of Earth.

“Humans are now forcing another such transition, with the potential to transform Earth rapidly and irreversibly into a state unknown in human experience,” wrote the authors, who are from the U.S., Europe, Canada and South America. If current trends continue—exploding global population, rapidly rising temperatures and the clearance of more than 40% of Earth’s surface for urban development or agriculture—the planet could reach a tipping point, they say.

“The net effects of what we're causing could actually be equivalent to an asteroid striking the Earth in a worst-case scenario,” the paper’s lead author, Anthony Barnosky, a professor of integrative biology at UC Berkeley, said in an interview. “I don't want to sound like Armageddon. I think the point to be made is that if we just ignore all the warning signs of how we're changing the Earth, the scenario of losses of biodiversity — 75% or more — is not an outlandish scenario at all.”

“Global population just passed 7 billion and is expected to reach 9.3 billion or more by 2050. ‘By the year 2070, we'll live in a hotter world...’ Barnosky said. Increased carbon dioxide in the atmosphere ... is making the ocean more acidic, and less hospitable to sea life. By midcentury, humans could have altered more than half the world's land surface. ... All this could produce a biologically impoverished Earth that would rob humans of vital ecological services such as insects that pollinate crops, forests that provide clean water, and tropical species that are the source of new drugs.” [1]

The Bible gives us warning signs of the end of life on this planet. In apocalyptic language, we read about the Earth in the Scriptures: “Lift up your eyes to the heavens, And look on the earth beneath. For the heavens will vanish away like smoke, The earth will grow old like a garment, And those who dwell in it will die in like manner” (Isaiah 51:6 NKJV).

While it is true that we should be responsible citizens in caring for our planet (see Revelation 11:18), there will come a day when “the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up” (2 Peter 3:10). What is the tipping point that will usher in the end of time? Will it be global warming or global iniquity? In speaking of an end time power of evil called Babylon, the Bible says, “For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities” (Revelation 18:5).
The global tipping point has less to do with a biologically impoverished Earth and more to do with the wickedness of mankind. The atmosphere of sin has polluted our planet far more than fossil fuels. A day is coming when God will stop the downward spiral of Earth into self-destruction. The Lord will destroy all evil and save a people who call Him Lord. Are you a part of God’s final remnant group? Are you ready for the day when Jesus will come and cleanse this planet from sin and make it new?

Consider learning the deeper things of the book of Revelation on this extremely important topic of preparing for the last days of history by visiting one of our upcoming seminars listed on this website. Be ready for Earth’s final global change.