

CHAPTER 23

This Is My God

Devotional Pieces from Christian Renewal

THIS IS MY GOD (1) **September 17, A.D. 1984**

The Bible gives answers to the most fundamental questions of life. It tells us where we came from, why we are here and where we are going. In Ephesians, God tells us that “He chose us in Christ before the creation of the world...” For His glory! God knew that the world would fall into sin, that there would be a flood and that wars would be waged on a world scale. God also knew that one day man would construct a babel of nuclear armaments that would tower to



heaven and challenge His sovereignty. Knowing all this, God created the world anyway. Only, He also put His great plan of salvation into effect. That plan reached its climax in the incarnation of Jesus Christ. Therefore Christians need not fear. Christ lives and reigns today! Thanks be to God.

THIS IS MY GOD (2) **October 8, A.D. 1984**

The Lord continues to rule and oversee creation. He will do so until the end of history and beyond. The Lord directs and monitors the course of human life. God's people know this for it has been revealed to them by His Word. This is why God's people still confess that God brings health and sickness, prosperity and adversity, war and peace. Educated by His Spirit, they confess with Job: Should we accept the good from God and not

the evil?” When hardship and pain enter our lives may we truly be able to say in His strength alone, “The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord.”

THIS IS MY GOD (3)
October 22, A.D. 1984

In the midst of life’s uncertainties God has given us one mainstay: His Word. “Until heaven and earth disappear,” Jesus assured us, “not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law. Jesus, the Word incarnate, is our surety. Among the great acts of faith is this: That by faith the walls of Jericho fell ...” (Heb. 11:30). God Himself tore down Jericho’s walls, the gateway to Canaan. And anyone rebuilding those walls would forfeit the life of his sons, the erasure of his name in the land of the living. Many years later God would tear down the veil in the temple and His grace would flow freely to all who call upon Christ’s name. A great deliverer is our God.

THIS IS MY GOD (4)
November 5, A.D. 1984

Does God really know you, on a personal basis that is? Almost five billion people today live on a planet which is little more than a speck in a vast universe. The most



distant known galaxy in the universe may be as many as 5000 million light years away. Yet God knows us personally. In spite of distance and great number, He knows each one of us by name. More than that. He has given names to each star and numbered the very hairs on our head. And Matthew assures us that the angels in heaven behold the face of God for a sign to come to the protection of the little ones who are called by His name. In the event of cosmic judgment by nuclear war, Christ will be with us.

THIS IS MY GOD (5)
November 19, A.D. 1984

When the sons of Noah became great peoples, many of them again turned away from the Lord. They desired riches and power. So they left the mountainous country of Ararat and migrated to the fertile plains of Shinar. Here they learned how to make mortar and bricks from clay. It wasn’t long before Satan inspired them to use their technology against their Creator. Their glory and not the glory of

God was the driving force behind their labors. But the God who takes a personal interest in the people He created, came down to see the city and the tower that the men were building. In one divine command God confused their language, destroyed their ecumenical movement and scattered them all over the earth. Satan's concentration of power had been broken. Soon a people would be chosen to become heirs of God's salvation. Through that people you and I also are blessed today.

THIS IS MY GOD (6)
December 17, A.D. 1984

Have you seen any angels this past year? Not likely. But they are there. Billions of them. How often have they come to earth during 1984 to execute God's will? Only God knows. There is an inseparable relationship between heaven and earth. As a matter of fact, there is nothing that transpires on earth that escapes the attention of heaven. Not a single hair. "We don't know where heaven is," exclaims the modernist theologian. Modern science has confounded them to the point where they don't even know whether heaven is up or down. But that is all right: God knows where the earth is. He had no trouble finding it almost 2000 years ago when He sent His angels to announce that His Son was coming.

Angels come to earth to execute the contents of the scroll which Christ has been empowered to open (see the book of Revelation). The Lamb opens the seals, angels blow the trumpets, the future of the church is secure.

THIS IS MY GOD (7)
January 7, A.D. 1985

"Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight," the writer to Hebrews reminds us. God didn't have to wait for twentieth century technology to see the unborn child in its mother's womb. God saw David's unformed body long before David saw the light of day. And God tells Jeremiah that. He appointed him as a prophet to the nations before he was even formed in his mother's womb.

God's knowledge of us is not limited to our actual existence. The life and



work of Christ for instance is discussed centuries before His birth. God is almighty. He is not confined by time or space.

God sees the children as they are formed in their mothers' wombs. This year 50,000,000 of those children across the world will die at the hand of man. God sees how great man's wickedness on the earth has become. He will not withhold His anger or judgment forever!

THIS IS MY GOD (8)

February 4, A.D. 1985

Mary, the mother of Jesus, openly acknowledged her son's miraculous powers. When wine at the wedding feast in Cana ran out she told Jesus. She realized full well that Jesus possessed the power to create wine at will. But one does not create vintage wine out of ordinary well water at a busy wedding feast without attracting attention. Especially not if it's your first miracle. Imagine someone doing something like that at one of our wedding parties today.

So you can imagine what happened. Jesus' miracle became the talk of the party and of the countryside. And Jesus didn't really invite the attention. The time to begin His ministry to reveal His glorious power had not yet come. There were those who would soon kill Him because of His miracles. Nevertheless.

He did as His mother requested.

Think of the day when God is going to put on His great banquet. Have you been invited yet? All who genuinely ask, may come. That is going to be some party.

THIS IS MY GOD (9)

February 18, A.D. 1985

Having miraculously fed five thousand people with only five loaves of bread and two fishes. Jesus told His disciples to take the boat and go on ahead of Him to the other side of the lake. Jesus went up in the hills alone to pray.

Later that night Jesus went to rejoin His disciples but they were a considerable distance from land. No problem. As the Son of God, all of creation heeded His command. Jesus went out to His disciples, walking on the water. The disciples were terrified, believing Him to be a ghost.

When Jesus returns on the last day on the clouds of the air, many will again be terrified. But not those who faithfully



watch and pray while expectantly looking forward to His coming.

THIS IS MY GOD (10)

March 4, A.D. 1985

The Bible presents us with numerous mysteries. What exactly happens upon death and how do we make our journey to the new heaven and the new earth? What will it be like on the day of final judgment when people of every tribe and every nation from the beginning of time, stand before the judgment seat of God? How was it possible for the Son of God to be born like a man?

These things have not been revealed to us. They are great mysteries about which we can say no more than what Scripture teaches.

Perhaps the greatest mystery of all is the creation of the entire universe at God's command. Let there be...! And behold, it was. Genesis 1.



But there is reason to believe that they may not have died that long ago. On Easter Sunday, after Jesus' resurrection, they went into Jerusalem and appeared to many people. Can you imagine the indescribable joy that many experienced as the living embraced those who had fallen asleep?

This resurrection was a small affirmation of the great redemptive work Jesus accomplished on the cross. On Easter Sunday those who had fallen asleep witnessed Christ's great redemptive power when He also rose from the dead.

THIS IS MY GOD (11)

March 18, A.D. 1985

At the moment of Jesus' death, a great resurrection scene took place. Matthew 27:50-53 informs us that tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had fallen asleep were raised to life.

The Bible does not answer any of our curiosities about these holy people.

THIS IS MY GOD (12)

April 8, A.D. 1985

Imagine yourself going to a cemetery to place flowers at the graveside of someone who was very dear to you. As you approach the tomb, you see someone whose appearance is as bright as lightning and whose clothes are as white as snow. And then to your great astonishment you hear this individual



say that the person you are seeking is not here. He has risen from the dead.

Impossible? For man, yes. But not for God. For this is what happened to the two Marys. As they approached Jesus' grave at dawn on the first day of the week, they were told that Jesus had already gone ahead of them into Galilee. Soon thereafter they met Jesus in person. Our God is a God of the living, not of the dead. What a glorious day it will be when Christ returns to give glorified bodies to all those who honour His name.

THIS IS MY GOD (13) **May 6, A.D 1985**

The meaning of human existence is summarized in one sentence: To God alone the glory. Not only human existence but all of creation is to bear witness to the glory of God. The heavens and all that God has created breathlessly declare His glory.

How proud the child whose creativeness has resulted in a work worthy of praise. But nothing that

man has made can compare to the creative genius of God witnessed in the formation of a drop of water or the delicate petals of a flower. All around us creation rejoices glorifying its Maker.

"Did I not tell you," Jesus said to Martha, "that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" Then Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man heard and came. And many beheld the glory of God who as a result of Golgotha has power even over death.

THIS IS MY GOD (14) **May 20, A.D. 1985**

It is no small feat to walk on water but Jesus did. Today some theologians try to dismiss this miracle by arguing that it was a visual illusion. Jesus was in fact walking along the shoreline they say. How then do we explain Jesus' bodily ascension into heaven which was as great a display of power as walking on water?

We cannot comprehend Jesus' ascension into heaven let alone explain it. It is a great Wonder in our eyes.

We of course don't know where heaven is but Jesus does. In what is known to us as the last book of the Bible, the apostle John reveals that the ascended Christ has taken the scroll with the seven seals containing the destiny of the world. The future of the church of Jesus Christ is secure because Jesus ascended

into heaven. From there He rules. Even the gates of hell cannot prevail against the church now. All power in heaven and on earth belong to Him. Rejoice! The ascended Christ reigns.

After David had committed adultery God asked him: "Why did you despise the Word of the Lord?" How often God must ask that question about each one of us. Yet we live. For Christ's sake.

THIS IS MY GOD (15)
June 3, A.D. 1985

One of the most remarkable revelations in Scripture is that of God's personal involvement in the life of each of His creatures. Not a hair from our head, not a sparrow from the sky falls without God's personal knowledge.

This is a difficult thing for man to comprehend. Our intellect is limited; our Creator is all-knowing.

What is even more difficult to comprehend is God's patience in the face of overwhelming human disobedience. Just think: God knows everything about everybody. He is present at the dining room table, knows all the goings on in our bedrooms and is the silent listener at all our consistory meetings. And yet we live.



THIS IS MY GOD (16)
June 24, A.D. 1985

Secularism is the belief that God has nothing to do with this world. Christians are not immune to the devastating influences of this pagan faith. They often forget that their God provides for all their needs.

"Give us this day our daily bread," Jesus taught His followers to pray. And as surely as manna fell out of heaven for 40 years, so surely God provides for all our needs.

God appoints presidents and prime ministers, premiers and monarchs to rule over us. He causes the crops in the fields to prosper, and it is God who sends the drought and hail.

But most remarkable of all: God answers prayer. When the sons and daughters of God petition their heavenly Father, He answers. For Christ Jesus' sake. God is intimately involved in the affairs of this world. He is a loving God.

THIS IS MY GOD (17)
Summer Issue, July A.D. 1985

One of the great manifestations of God's love for the world is the absence of a world-wide catastrophe.

The Lord God saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become during the time of Noah. Every inclination of the thoughts of man's heart was only evil. In His righteous anger God wiped the human race off the face of the earth with a cataclysmic flood.

The meaning of our existence is to live lives of obedience before the face of God. When mankind ceases to praise God in day to day existence, mankind forfeits its right to life.

Billions of people living today have forfeited that right to life. Yet God withholds final judgment. Millions regain life by the grace of Jesus Christ who is our ark.

THIS IS MY GOD (18)
September 9, A.D. 1985

Is there anyone we can compare to God? No! says the prophet Isaiah, there is no one who even remotely resembles our God. The gods of other nations are no-gods, made out of wood and stone. There is no life in their nostrils, no power in the silence of their voice.

The Creator of heaven and earth is like no one else, says Isaiah. He is so

powerful that He measures the waters of the oceans in the palms of His hands; He weighs the mountains on scales and the hills in a balance. He measures the heavens with the span of His hand (Isaiah 40).

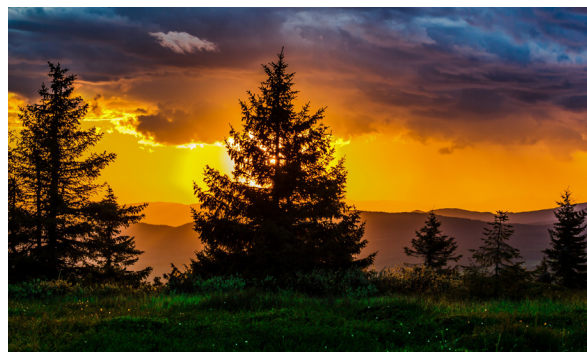
Since the time of Isaiah we, who live after Jesus Christ's ministry on earth, know the power of God through His great works and sacrifice. Even the graves must give up their dead at His command. O Lord our God how great is Your name in all the earth.

THIS IS MY GOD (19)
September 23, A.D. 1985

Have you ever been in a place where it was so bitterly dark that you could not see your own hand when held in front of your face? Prolonged presence in such total darkness is terrifying. Yet that is what our journey through life is like ever since our fatal descent into sin.

Into this impenetrable darkness God sent His Son with the admonition that we follow Him.

Those who attempt to liberate



themselves will descend deeper into the morass of utter darkness but those who turn to Jesus will find their way.

Christ is the light of the world. He is God's last word to man. Those who heed His call will one day be ushered into the presence of God. There will be no more night. They will not need the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light.

THIS IS MY GOD (20)
October 21, A.D. 1985

God knows everything. Jesus' ministry on earth underscored this great revelation. God knows everything.

When Jesus sat down for the last time with His disciples, He said, "I tell you the truth, one of you will betray Me." Jesus knew. Judas had listened often to the Word of life but had rejected it. "It would be better," Jesus said, "for that man if he had not been born." These are without question the most terrible words that can be spoken about anyone.

Jesus told Peter that Peter would disown Him three times before the night was over. Peter had been forewarned. "Never!" Peter said. "I will die first." But Satan is powerful and Peter denied his Lord three times.

Isn't the temple a magnificent structure, the disciples said to Jesus. "Not a stone will be left standing on top of each other," Jesus replied. Forty years



later the temple lay in ruins.

This Jesus is soon coming again. You can count on it. He knows our lives and His reward is with Him.

THIS IS MY GOD (21)
November 18, A.D. 1985

It is not an easy thing to get to see the president of the United States or the Queen of England. Unless you know someone close to them, it is almost impossible. And yet they are only human. It used to be almost impossible to approach God. Think of Moses and the burning bush, of Elijah and the still small voice, of Israel at the foot of Mount Horeb. Even the high priest could only enter the holy of holies once a year.

This separation is no longer the case. It is now easier to approach God than it is to meet the president of the U.S. or the Queen of England. To approach God you need to know His Son Jesus Christ. Because of Him, sinners may now enter into the presence of God. They may even call Him Father. Some day Christ will introduce us to the Creator of the

heavens and earth. What a glorious day that will be.

THIS IS MY GOD (22)
December 2, A.D. 1985

We celebrate Christmas once a year but the reality of Christmas is with us all year. God became a Man. He became One of us.



The justice of God required that the sins of this world be paid in full. The destructive influence of Satan had to be made of no effect. But there wasn't a man living or yet to be born who could accomplish that feat.

God knew this of course. That is why He promised long ago that He would send His Son. And in the fullness of time, He did. Since then nothing has been the same. Satan has been thrown out of heaven. And although he still wields terrifying power, his days on earth are numbered.

Christmas! The power of sin has been broken. It has been granted to

the sons of men to become the sons of God. Little wonder therefore that on the evening of that momentous event the angels sang, "Glory to God in the highest," Yes, indeed: Glory to God.

THIS IS MY GOD (23)
December 16, A.D. 1985

The year of our Lord 1985 is drawing to a close. The year's events are no longer a mystery to us. They have become part of history.

We stand on the threshold of 1986 and none of us can predict with any degree of certainty what the new year will bring. But God knows. Every event, every detail of life in 1986 is already known to Him. Unlike us human beings, God is not bound by time. He is the Creator of time and is not subject to it. Yesterday, today and tomorrow are all one to Him.

The year 1986 will again be the year of our Lord. It will be another year in which the Lord Jesus Christ will submit all of creation to His rule. Millions of people across the face of the earth will acknowledge His Lordship. These people will some day live on a new earth where the power of sin will have been completely vanquished and where, like God, we will no longer be subject to the ravages of time. Will 1986 be the year of Christ's return? Only God knows.

THIS IS MY GOD (24)
January 6, A.D. 1986

Christians today often wonder why it is taking the Lord Jesus so long to return. Christians were already wondering about that shortly after Jesus ascended into heaven. Read Paul's letter to the Thessalonians.

Almost two thousand years have passed since Jesus went back to heaven. Some Christians wonder whether He will ever return. Jesus was a great moral teacher, they say, but He does not possess the power to return to earth.

Why is it taking Jesus so long to return? Two thousand years is a very long time and it may be longer yet. The answer is simple. Jesus is filling His banquet table. If Jesus had returned in 1890 you and your family would not have been invited because you would not have been born. Jesus will return when all those elected from before the foundation of the earth have been born. And not a day sooner. For us that could be any day.



This prompted some of His followers to ask if He could not have kept Lazarus from dying if He had been present.

For the sake of His disciples and followers, Jesus was glad that He was not there when Lazarus fell asleep. For in Lazarus' "death" and awakening, God was going to be glorified.

Four days after Lazarus had fallen asleep, Jesus went to his tomb. In a loud voice the Son of God proclaimed: "Lazarus, come out!" To the surprise of many, Lazarus heard. And God was glorified.

Soon thereafter God awakened His own Son from His sleep (1 Cor. 15:20). Never to die¹ again. That is the eternal life God promises to all who believe.

THIS IS MY GOD (25)
January 20, A.D. 1986

Jesus had already healed many people when He was informed that Lazarus, one of His best friends, was sick. Yet Jesus did not go to Lazarus to heal him. On the contrary, He purposely stayed away.

THIS IS MY GOD (26)
February 3, A.D. 1986

God judges the nations. That is a fearsome thing. The extent and severity of God's judgment are highlighted in

1. In the N.T. believers are said to have "died" as well as "fallen asleep." See the final chapter of this book.

the biblical account of the judgment of Egypt. There is no hope and there is no future for those individuals and nations who oppose God. God's own people, Israel, repeatedly had to learn that lesson.

What about today? Is God's hand visible in the life of individuals, churches and nations today? The question is repeatedly asked: What is happening to the Christian Reformed Churches in The Netherlands? How is it possible that these churches have become so unfaithful in so short a time?

The answer is a deeply disturbing one. God's hand of judgment lies heavily upon those disobedient churches in The Netherlands. People have not only forsaken God, but God has forsaken many faithless people.

This also is the work of our God.



THIS IS MY GOD (27)
February 17, A.D. 1986

It simply can't be done. It's not human. It is not sane. That was the collective

judgment of the wise men who stood in the presence of the greatest ruler the world had ever seen. But Nebuchadnezzar was deadly serious. If the wise men did not tell him what it was that he had dreamt, they would be cut in pieces.

The wise men pleaded, "No one can reveal the dream to the king except the gods, and they do not live among men. The wise men of the twentieth century make the same fatal error. They also believe that God does not live among men. And that His will cannot be known.

But God does live among men. His will can be known. Six hundred years after this event God actually became a Man to accomplish the salvation of many people. Immanuel: God with us.

And today? Today God rules supreme over all. Down to the smallest detail of our dreams. Stand in awe all you people for there is no one like our God.

THIS IS MY GOD (28)
March 3, A.D. 1986

Imagine a Christian standing up at a meeting of the superpowers and saying: "God is the greatest power of all. Pay attention to His commands." Most would dismiss him as a crank. In this twentieth century of ours, God is not viewed as much of a power.

God wasn't viewed as much of a

power by many people twenty-five hundred years ago either. But that didn't make God any the less powerful. God's almighty power is not dependent upon the beliefs and disbeliefs of mankind.

Twenty-five hundred years ago God gave His faithful servant, Daniel, the power to reveal and interpret dreams; He sent the most powerful ruler the world had ever seen out to the pasture for seven years; He made the heat of the hottest furnace of no effect upon His children and He closed the mouths of hungry lions. There is no limit to God's power.

He speaks and the earth is created. He commands and His will is accomplished. There is no limit to God's ability to act. God most High, how majestic is Your name.

THIS IS MY GOD (29) **March 17, A.D. 1986**

The time-span from Friday to Sunday is not that distant. Many of us have done it a thousand times. But the time given from Good Friday to Easter Sunday was an unfathomable distance.

That journey began by taking the Christ to Golgotha, Place of the Skull. There God's Son, innocent of any crime, was nailed naked, like a common criminal, to a cursed cross. The greatest of all became the least. For your sake



and for mine.

To that cross He took the full measure of our sins. On that cross His Father renounced Him. Darkness covered the earth. God's terrifying wrath descended upon Him. Rather than on you and me. He descended into hell where Satan and death rule. God's Son in hell! In your place and in mine! He died.

But Satan could not hold Him. Christ broke death's chains and rose from the grave on Easter Sunday. Death's chains are now also broken for you and me. The N.T. teaches that believers "fall asleep." From Good Friday to Easter Sunday, from death to life. Our God, in Jesus Christ, accomplished that.

THIS IS MY GOD (30) **April 7, A.D. 1986**

Adam was disobedient unto death. God expelled him from the Garden. Man's wickedness on earth increased until the thoughts of his heart were only evil. God sent the flood. Man learned nothing. He built Babel. God confused their language and dispersed mankind across the face

of the earth.

Israel prayed for deliverance from Pharaoh. God led them to Canaan, land of promise. Goliath defied the living God. God slew him at the hand of David. God gave Daniel the power to recount dreams and to interpret them. God also gave Daniel visions to the end of times.

God personally came to earth in the Person of His Son, Jesus Christ. He healed the sick, liberated the possessed, raised the dead. Through His own death, He destroyed the power of Satan. God is our liberator. There is none other who can set us free. Prayer to God Almighty can accomplish more, much more than all the revolutionary agitation and war across the face of the globe. God has said.

THIS IS MY GOD (31)
May 5, A.D. 1986

Love is not what the leaders of many mainline churches think it is. To love God is to obey and serve Him. Love of neighbor is to acquaint that neighbor with the newness of life made possible in Jesus Christ.

To be enslaved for hundreds of years is a fearful and oppressive thing. To have young children torn out of your arms and thrown into the Nile as food for crocodiles is unbelievably cruel. Yet that is what happened to Israel. Today

aborted children are being thrown into the garbage.

God delivered Israel by the power of His Hand. In front of them the threatening waters of the Red Sea, at their back Pharaoh at the head of a mighty army.

But God led His people through that life threatening water. That same water consumed Pharaoh and the strength of Egypt. Horse and rider God hurled into the sea. To protect Israel's children.

So great is God's love for us that He sent His own Son through hell to destroy the power of Satan and his army. Greater love has no one.

THIS IS MY GOD (32)
May 19, A.D. 1986

More and more Christian professors are claiming that the first eleven chapters of Genesis are not to be taken literally. And they are becoming very bold and public in their declarations. A recent book by a Calvin College professor bluntly states that Genesis 1-11 has no basis in fact. The



biblical Adam never existed.

But God's written revelation puts the lie to such pretentious unbelief. Was Adam created from the dust of the earth at the command of God? Christian professors say no! The Word of God says yes! Out of dust? Yes! The Bible says so and Jesus Himself did it.

Lazarus had been dead for four days. His heart had stopped, the flow of blood had ceased in his veins, his brain had been irreparably damaged. His body was in an advanced stage of decay; it was returning to dust. Jesus commanded, "Lazarus, come . . ." Lazarus came! From dust to life. A natural process? Evolution? Never! The powerful "let there be" of God. Creator!

THIS IS MY GOD (33)

June 9, A.D. 1986

The devastation was awesome. Sin blanketed the earth like a nuclear cloud. Nothing in creation escaped its contamination. All creatures great and small, living and yet to be born would die under its fallout. Until the end of time.

Satan laughed. "Gotcha," he said to God. "The sons of man are mine. They will now serve me in my kingdom."

God wept. Yes. The joy and goodness of His creation lay in ruins. The deadly radiation of sin had penetrated everywhere.

Then God did something that no mortal can comprehend. God decreed to ransom His creation from Satan's captivity. The price would be high. God's Son would have to come to this contaminated earth; He would have to suffer and die a sinner's death. To break the stranglehold of Satan.

Christ came. He conquered. He ascended. The ransom fully paid.

A new heaven and a new earth. Without contamination. To all those whom God has chosen. For He so loved the world.



THIS IS MY GOD (34)

July A.D. 1986

God loves His creation. Not only do we have God's Word on it, the evidence in creation itself surrounds us everywhere. God gives life and freedom to those who ask, and He gives it abundantly.

Men also promise life and freedom. But such promises made apart from God are a lie that leads to death. We witness the terror of the lie in the world



around us. Ten million farmers in the Ukraine died because the Marxists promised life and freedom. Thousands of South African blacks today are dying a gruesome death because their leaders are promising life and freedom.

Everywhere we witness the terror of the promise of life and freedom apart from God.

God ransomed His creation from the lie. He gives life and freedom to those who ask, and He gives it abundantly.

THIS IS MY GOD (35) **August A.D. 1986**

The discussion between Jesus and the leaders of Israel could hardly have become more pronounced. The Jews accused Jesus of being demon-possessed. Whereas they claimed they had Abraham as their father.

Not so, said Jesus. If you were Abraham's children you would not be determined to kill a Man who has told you the truth heard from God. Because you are unable to hear what I say, you

are unable to do what I ask. You belong to your father, the devil and you want to carry out your father's desire. He is a murderer from the beginning.

So, regrettably, it is with all of us. Liars and murderers from the beginning. Unless the truth has set us free.

Jesus—He is the Truth. He is God's answer to our hopeless human predicament.

THIS IS MY GOD (36) **September 8, A.D. 1986**

No one could do it. No one on earth had the resources or the power to destroy the effects of sin. Men dreamt of utopias: men constructed wild schemes to bring peace upon the earth. Every human scheme ended in failure. Sin continued to rule.

To destroy the power of Satan meant that the power of death had to be destroyed. Men lived and men died. And their schemes for the salvation of mankind died with them. For no man had power over the stranglehold of death, of sin. The human predicament was an insoluble tragedy.

Until God sent His Son. The Creator of heaven and earth gave His Son who had the power to destroy death and sin. Christ entered into Satan's stronghold. He died. But God raised Him from the dead. Satan's power was thereby broken.

All those who desire a new life may find it at the feet of Christ. Ask and it will be yours.

of macro-evolution beyond a reasonable doubt. God continues to manifest His glory.

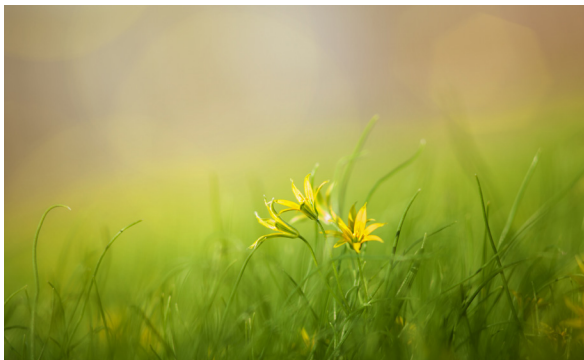
THIS IS MY GOD (37)
September 22, A.D. 1986

God manifests His glory and power at different times in history.

“Give us a sign from heaven that You are indeed the promised Messiah,” the leaders of the church said to Jesus. “Give us a sign!” The leaders of God’s people made this request shortly after Jesus had fed four thousand with only seven loaves of bread. Can you believe it? Give us a sign the leaders said. All the while Jesus miraculously feeds thousands of people with only a few loaves, heals the sick and gives sight to the blind.

Give us a sign the academic leaders of God’s people say to us today. Give us a sign that God created the world and that the world is not the end product of a process of evolution.

And God has given those leaders a sign. He has given them micro-biology which has established the impossibility



THIS IS MY GOD (38)
October 6, A.D. 1986

God’s people did evil in the eyes of the Lord so the Lord gave them into the hands of their enemies. Not a very popular concept in the twentieth century. Who today actually believes that God hands over His people to their enemies because of their disobedience and unbelief?

It wasn’t a very popular concept among the Israelites either during the time of the Judges. God’s abiding presence in the lives of His people wasn’t much of a reality. Until Gideon asked for a sign!

Give me a sign of Your presence, Lord, a Gideon who was scared to death asked. And one sign was not enough. Would God be good enough to reverse the process the next morning please.

God complied. The Creator of heaven and earth certified His presence among His people. Many years later God personally established His presence among His people in the person of our Lord Jesus Christ. Today the Holy Spirit testifies to God’s presence in our hearts.

THIS IS MY GOD (39)
October 20, A.D. 1986

With majestic simplicity Genesis informs the reader that God created the world in six days. And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.

In six days God created. This simple sentence has caused more confusion and debate than any other. “What is a day?” scientist and theologian alike have been asking ever since Darwin’s godless theory of origins.

Can any one stand in God’s presence as God creates? Every Divine Word is a flash of creating power. No man can enter upon this scene and hope to understand.

A day is a day. There are no days of a million or a billion years. Such monstrous days are the creation of those who need long periods of time to accommodate the theory of evolution.

The Bible knows only one kind of day. “And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.” Stand in awe and speculate not. For your God has said.



THIS IS MY GOD (40)
November 10, A.D. 1986

He did not desire to be a leader. He had no longing for either power or recognition. He wished to remain in the background. He employed every conceivable excuse to disqualify himself for service. His name was Moses—the man God used to liberate His chosen people. The man whose name mighty Pharaoh came to dread.

Scripture informs us that Moses became “like God to Pharaoh.” The wonders which God performed through Moses in the land of Egypt were truly divine. Even when the wise men and sorcerers of Egypt turned their staffs into snakes, it was Aaron’s staff that swallowed them up.

Time and again Moses confronted Pharaoh with the words, “Thus says the Lord!” Time and again the most powerful ruler of Egypt opposed his will to God’s. Until finally such devastation rained down upon Egypt land that Pharaoh groaned, “Go!”

A man became like God to Pharaoh. And the name of God was highly exalted. Majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders. The Lord reigns for ever and ever.

THIS IS MY GOD (41)
November 24, A.D. 1986

It boggles the mind. Any attempt to comprehend the greatness of God leaves us speechless. The glory of God is incomprehensible.

Isaiah tried it in the 40th chapter of the book by that name. You want to comprehend the power and greatness of your God he asked. Try imagining this.

God measures the waters of the earth in the palm of His hand. He holds the dust of the earth in a basket. He weighs the mountains on a scale and the hills in a balance. Yes, you can take that literally.

There is no god like unto the Lord.

When we look at the heavens and behold what God has created, when we remember that He calls each star by name, we receive a glimpse of the great wisdom, power and mighty strength of our God. Worship Him and Him alone.

THIS IS MY GOD (42)
December 8, A.D. 1986

Every attempt to deliver God's people out of Satan's hell was marked by failure. Isaac's blood could not wash away the sins of this world. Moses was forbidden to enter the land of promise. Aaron erected a golden calf and kindled God's fury. Judges and kings did what was right in their own eyes. David's house



was divided. Assyrian, Persian, and Babylonian kings led God's people of promise into captivity.

For four hundred years the people languished. Then God said, "The time is full. The moment of promise is here. I will deliver all My people. From their captivity. Go, angels, go! Announce to the shepherds that this night a Savior will be born." The gospel is going world-wide.

A new age has dawned. The age of God's personal deliverance. On earth peace to those on whom God's favor rests. Glory to God in the highest. For He has fulfilled the promise made in Eden.

THIS IS MY GOD (43)
December 29, A.D. 1986

God is going to do it again. He is going to let 1986 come to an end. (I am writing this on Dec. 11. Wouldn't it be something if I was wrong. We would have to scrap all our plans for 1987 and prepare to meet our God.)

One of these years it will not happen. One of these years the year will not end.



A trumpet will sound. We will see Jesus. Descending as He once ascended. To judge the earth.

But judgment will not come to those who know Jesus. Know Him as their Savior.

The end of the year in the middle of the year. Because God's time will once again be full. Then off to the banquet. The greatest banquet of all. Heaven and earth united. God has promised. And God always keeps His promises.

THIS IS MY GOD (44)

January 26, A.D. 1987

It's a miracle. Jesus turned water into wine. And He fed a crowd of five thousand people with only a few loaves of bread. He just broke the bread and broke it and broke it filling five thousand hungry mouths plus women and children.

When the people of God were condemned to wander through the desert for forty years it rained bread from heaven. Every morning. Except on the sabbath. Manna they called it. A miracle.

But how miraculous was that manna after forty years? Those born in the desert would hardly know any different. Their manna came from heaven. Every morning. Give us this day...

Our bread comes from fields of grain every harvest. And our wine comes from the vineyard every fall. A miracle? Yes. a miracle of God's providence and steadfastness and love.

THIS IS MY GOD (45)

February 9, A.D. 1987

The accusation is numbing. The implication blasphemous. It is being suggested, in the name of serious Christian scholarship no less, that God has been mucking about with the universe for millions of years.

Yes, mucking about. Trial and error. If you please. Orchestrating a life and

death struggle. For survival. By way of mutations. The survival of those who are fittest. The gradual evolution to perfection. Out of the primordial slime of the universe. A half-formed wing and a non-functioning eye. God: the great evolutionist, say some.

Not so, say the Scriptures! God commanded the entire universe into being. By the power of His Word. Heaven and earth. Men and angels. Let there be! And it was. At creation. In Egypt. At the resurrection. God speaks. It is accomplished!

THIS IS MY GOD (46)

February 23, A.D. 1987

The Lord God Almighty. That is what the Old Testament calls Him. El Shaddai! The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. The God who is really there. The God who has the power to deliver. The power to create. To heal. To sustain.

God openly demonstrated His power on Mount Carmel. In the presence of all Israel. In response to His servant Elijah's earnest prayer, He sent fire from heaven. At the request of a man. On a moment's notice. Fire consumed the altar-offering, the water, the stone, the soil. El Shaddai. The Lord God Almighty. The power of the Word.

The false prophets of Baal were dead. All eight hundred of them. Killed

at the brook Kishon. At God's command.

The rain after three and a half years would soon come. In fountains. A chariot would not be able to move because of the mud. Tell Ahab to go. Now! Elijah commanded. Ahab rode furiously. In a chariot. With swift horses. But God gifted Elijah His power. The power of El Shaddai. And Elijah ran ahead of Ahab's chariot. All the way to Jezreel. God's marathon runner. God's servant. Witness to El Shaddai's unlimited power.



THIS IS MY GOD (47)

March 23, A.D. 1987

The force of the hurricane was vicious. And deadly. It snapped palm trees like toothpicks. The gale force winds peeled off roofs like banana skins.

Life in cities and towns along the Atlantic coast was chaotic. An all-points bulletin resulted in mass evacuations. Hundreds of thousands of cars clogged the freeways. Millions of people lived in unrelenting fear.

Suddenly it happened. Only a few brave souls witnessed the event. A Man came out of nowhere. As He walked along the shore of the Atlantic, He raised His arms. It almost looked as if He were speaking to the storm. Instantly the winds died down. A perfect calm resulted.

Something like it had happened before. On the sea of Galilee. The power to command the storm and the sea. Put your hand in the hand of the Man who stilled the waters. He is your God. He will also “still” your heart.

THIS IS MY GOD (48)
April 23, A.D. 1987

God did it. He broke the back of Satan. Crippled Satan's power. Soon God will destroy Satan altogether. No Satan.

It happened on Easter. For thousands of years death reigned. Every living being fell victim to its power. Adam, Noah, Abraham, Joseph, Daniel, Amos. All of them.

The power of sin is death. Sin kills. Death is Satan's ultimate weapon. No human being can stand up to the power of death. Because no human being is without sin.

Christ came. True God and true Man. He entered Satan's stronghold. He experienced death. He destroyed the power of death by becoming alive

again. Satan could not hold Jesus in his stronghold. Satan could not keep Jesus imprisoned in his stronghold. Jesus was without sin. God raised Him.

That power over sin and death is our inheritance. We are rich beyond measure. God's greatest gift of all.

THIS IS MY GOD (49)
May 4, A.D. 1987

Good morning. Another beautiful Spring day.

God looks down from heaven and observes the activities of mankind. Some people still don't realize that God exists. The good news has not yet reached them. Others who know of God's existence could care less. And then there are the millions who worship God and struggle to keep His commands.

God's great plan of redemption, implemented in the Garden of Eden. The world will not end until all those chosen from before the world's beginning have been born.

But the world will end. In the not-too-distant future. We have God's Word on it. Then the heavens will rejoice. Jesus will appear. All those whom Jesus knows will inherit a kingdom of such splendor, words are inadequate to describe it. The Spring of a new creation.

THIS IS MY GOD (50)**May 25, A.D. 1987**

Would the power of God have impressed you if you had witnessed the ten plagues unleashed upon Egypt?

The power of God is an awesome thing. Especially when it manifests itself upon the earth in judgment. And God's judgment is again manifesting itself to those who have eyes to see.

Millions of people have chosen to turn their face away from God. They have joined the great sexual revolution of the sixties. They have despised God's commands as these relate to human sexuality.

Already tens of thousands of people around the world are dying. Victims of AIDS.

God's Word is a two edged sword. It cuts to life and to death. Many will die. Once again the earth will know that God is indeed the Lord.

The law of God confronts us everywhere. The physical law, the moral law. It is our inescapable human condition. God's will (law) for our lives sets perimeters to what we can do and what we cannot do. We cannot jump off the Empire State Building and hope to live.



Scripture informs us that God's will, God's law for our life, is good. Satan inspired mankind to reject God's will. But that rejection resulted in death.

God now comes to us and says, "Keep My commandments. And live." Only God's Word gives life. Today and forever.

THIS IS MY GOD (51)**June 8, A.D. 1987**

Can a person jump off the Empire State Building and hope to live? Can a person jump off an ocean liner in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean and swim back to shore? Can a person have sexual intercourse with whomever he pleases and not contract one of numerous social diseases?

THIS IS MY GOD (52)**June 29, A.D. 1987**

Programs appearing on television these days really stretch the imagination. Especially programs for young children. Heroes and heroines perform an endless array of impossible tasks. It's all fiction, of course.

The Bible is not fiction. It is historical fact. Yet it contains some remarkable revelations. People walking through a furnace, sleeping with lions. A floating axe head. Riding in a fiery chariot. A young child raised from the dead.

In the New Testament we read about water turning into wine, lame people walking, blind people seeing. Imagine having recorded Jesus walking on the water on a video tape. Wouldn't that be news.

A group of men were sitting in a house. The doors and windows locked. Suddenly Jesus came and stood among them. Just like that! Not fiction. Historical fact. Our God is greater than the laws of nature. He is Master of them all.

THIS IS MY GOD (53) **July 20, A.D. 1987**

At the command of His voice creation came into being.

The world blossomed and exulted before God's face. Its future—for better or worse—was in man's hands. What an honor, and what a responsibility! Man



had received rich gifts from God so that he would be able to rule the world in God's name. But because he was man, he was also capable of resisting the will of God. And that's what he did. When he fell, he dragged the world down with him. God's work of creation was ruined.

But it was not ruined for good. There came another Man, the Man Jesus Christ, who is also God. He restored the world from its fall and was obedient even unto death. The world's future now rests in His hands. In His hands it is safe. The day of rest has since become a sign of God's favor, a favor that will never end.

THIS IS MY GOD (54) **August 10, A.D. 1987**

The Lord God Almighty reigns. There can be no doubt about that. And yet millions of people not only doubt it, they deny the very existence of God.

Still, God reigns. In Proverbs 21 we read: "The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord; He directs it like a watercourse wherever He pleases." God is in complete control. Also over the lives of powerful people. Such as kings.

The twentieth century provides people with a great sense of independence. Man is master of his own fate we hear. Not so. Not really. Have you placed your finger on your pulse lately? We are all of us only one heartbeat away

from death. That should humble us. For it is God who gives life. And takes it. Each one of us is totally dependent upon God for our existence.

God reigns. Everywhere. Over absolutely everyone.

THIS IS MY GOD (55) **September 12, A.D. 1988**

One of the most remarkable revelations of Scripture is that God has willed our salvation. If it depended on us we would all most certainly perish.

In the first chapter of Paul's second letter to the Corinthians we read that, "It is God who makes us to stand firm in Christ. He set His anointed seal of Spirit of ownership on us, and put His Spirit in our hearts as a deposit of what is to come."

And in his letter to the Philippians Paul writes that it is God who works in us to will and to act according to His good purpose.

Our fall into sin resulted in our hearts and minds being enslaved to Satan. We no longer possess the power to will love for God. The remarkable thing is that in this state of captivity it is God who now wills and enables us to love Him.

THIS IS MY GOD (56) **September 26, A.D. 1988**

God told Moses to go back to Egypt. Tell Pharaoh, "Israel is My firstborn son. Let My son go."

Moses did not want to go. He had committed murder in Egypt while he was a prince. Don't worry, God told Moses. All the men who wanted to kill you are dead. How did God know?



I am slow of speech and tongue, Moses told God. "Who gave man his mouth? Who makes him deaf or mute? Who gives him sight or makes him blind? Is it not I, the Lord?"

Moses went to Egypt. He stood before the most powerful man on earth. "Thus says the Lord," Moses declared. "Who is the Lord that I should listen to Him?" Pharaoh replied. When the land of Egypt lay devastated and the firstborn sons of Egypt lay dead, Pharaoh came to know the Lord.



THIS IS MY GOD (57)
October 10, A.D. 1988

The earth is a battle ground. The forces of heaven are pitted against the forces of hell. All peoples of all times are caught up in this great controversy. The great controversy between the Lamb and the beast.

The seven seals and the seven trumpets; the seven plagues and the seven bowls of God's wrath strike the earth with terror. Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great! She will be consumed by fire, for mighty is the Lord God who judges her."

Mighty is the Lord God. For it is He who will destroy the power of Satan. Heading the army of God is the Warrior-Messiah-King. With justice He judges and makes war. He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. Until He comes to judge the living and the dead.

A new heaven. A new earth. Satan destroyed. Man at peace with God.

THIS IS MY GOD (58)
October 24, A.D. 1988

Blind. Born blind. A world of darkness.

Who sinned," the disciples asked Jesus. "This man or his parents?"

"Neither this man nor his parents sinned," Jesus answered. "This man was born blind so that the work of God might be displayed in his life." (It's just as well. Otherwise we would all be stumbling around in the dark.)

And what a work of God it was. A little mud on the eyes and a command. "Go wash in the pool of Siloam." The man could have laughed. And refused to go. After all, no blind man had ever gained sight by washing his eyes. The man went. For the first time in his life he could see. What joy.

The church leaders did not share in this joy. Their sabbath had been desecrated. Jesus was a sinner, they said. They threw the man out. These leaders were truly blind. They could not "see" the Light. That also was a work of God.

THIS IS MY GOD (59)
October 28, A.D. 1988

Passover. The angel of death passed over those houses with blood on the doorposts. The first-born in Israel lived. The first born in Egypt died. By God's sovereign decree.

Soon we celebrate the birth of the Lamb of God. Born to die. For the sin of the world.

His blood would stain the wood of His cross. The angel of death would not pass Him by. God's wrath would descend upon Him. Who knew no sin. Why? So that you and I who did know sin might live. Live.

Christmas. The birth of the Servant of the Lord. The One in whom God delights. Believe in Him. He is your salvation.

Christmas. Believe in Him. And God's angel of death will pass you by. Drink the cup. Of wine. In joyful remembrance of God's incomparable gift. Life. Now. Forever.

THIS IS MY GOD (60) **December 12, A.D. 1988**

Yes, God is going to do it. Send deliverance. God sends the angel Gabriel to Nazareth to inform Mary. God is going to perform a great work. God's Son will soon ascend the throne of David.

God's ways are a mystery in our eyes. For God does not approach the power brokers or the synodical leaders of this world. A young girl, a carpenter, a priest of humble station, and shepherds in the field. These God chooses to share in the birth and life of the King of kings and Lord of lords.

Bruised reeds and smoldering wicks. The humble and faithful children of Abraham. They shall see the glory of God.

Christmas! The foolishness of man. The wisdom of God.

THIS IS MY GOD (61) **December 26, A.D. 1988**

Have you seen any angels this past year? Not likely. But they are there. Billions of them. How often have they come to earth during 1988 to execute God's will? Only God knows. There is an inseparable relationship between heaven and earth. As a matter of fact, there is nothing that transpires on earth that escapes the attention of heaven. Not a single hair.

"We don't know where heaven is," exclaims the modernist theologian. Modern science has confounded the educated to the point where they don't even know whether heaven is up or down. But that is all right: God knows where the earth is. He had no trouble finding it almost 2,000 years ago when He sent His angels to announce that His Son was coming.

Angels come to earth to execute the contents of the scroll which Christ has been empowered to open (see Revelation). The Lamb opens the seals, angels blow the trumpets, the future of the church is secure.

THIS IS MY GOD (62)
January 16, A.D. 1989

At the time of Jesus' birth angels sang: "On earth peace to men on whom God's favor rests."

During His ministry Jesus made it clear that God's favor does not rest on all men. The great controversy between God and Satan became the focal point of Jesus' ministry. Jesus came to bring light in a world filled with darkness; water to a people thirsting in the desert of unbelief.

But the great controversy between God and Satan, between God and the children of unbelief grew in intensity. "Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth," Jesus said. "I did not come to bring peace, but a sword... Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake will find it."

THIS IS MY GOD (63)
February 6, A.D. 1989

Science teaches us that the creation functions in an orderly fashion. The laws



to which nature is subject cannot be broken with impunity.

God is the Creator of nature in all its manifestations. But God is not subject to the laws He has created.

The Bible teaches us that God is greater than the laws He has created. In much the same way that the craftsman is greater than the clay he shapes.

The recurring theme in scripture is inescapable. God stands above the laws of nature. Axeheads float at His command, waters part, manna falls from heaven, Jericho's walls collapse, water turns into wine, bread and fishes multiply, the dead walk out of their graves.

Lord our Lord how excellent is Thy name in all the earth.

THIS IS MY GOD (64)
February 20, A.D. 1989

"Mother, I am so thirsty!"

Hagar, lost in her thoughts, passed the jug to Ishmael again.

"Mother, the water is gone."

Yes, the water was gone. But the God of Abraham and Moses and the Father of Jesus Christ was not gone. God provided. Hagar and Ishmael lived. Ishmael became the mighty people of the Arabs. God does not forget His promises.

Our God is the God who really is there. The God who provides and

protects. God knows our sitting down and our rising up. He understands our thoughts afar off. There is not a word on our tongue, but God knows it. God has laid His knowing hand upon us.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for us to fully comprehend. Rejoice. God is with us. And for us.



THIS IS MY GOD (66)

April 10, A.D. 1989

Heaven is where it is at. Because that is where the ascended Christ is. He rules over heaven and earth. Yes, Christ rules over the earth. Bringing history to its conclusion. On the day of His return.

Scripture teaches: “The Lord works out everything for his own ends—even the wicked for a day of disaster... In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps... The king’s heart is in the hand of the Lord, he directs it like a watercourse wherever he pleases” (Prov. 16, 21).

These are not empty poetic exaggerations ascribing power to God which He does not actually possess. The Romans did not break Jesus’ legs while on the cross because God had forbidden it. God’s Word does not return to Him empty. By that Word the heavens and earth were created. On command. Instantly.

THIS IS MY GOD (65)

March 20, A.D. 1989

Thomas was not going to take anyone’s word for it. Jesus raised from the dead? Not likely. The idea was preposterous. People don’t just rise from the dead.

Thomas was adamant in his refusal to believe. “Unless I see the nail marks in His hands and put my fingers where the nails were, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.” A week later Thomas got the opportunity to do just that. To his great embarrassment.

“Because you have seen me, Jesus told Thomas, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” Millions of Christians have done just that these past two thousand years. Not seen and yet believed. They will see Jesus. On that glorious day when He returns again. Life in perfect union with God.



THIS IS MY GOD (67)
April 24, A.D. 1989

God views history from beginning to end. Nothing is hidden from God. Not the past; not the present; not the future. God's understanding is not limited by time and space. God is omniscient.

And sometimes it pleases God to reveal the future to those whom He loves. Joseph was told in a dream that his father and his brothers would bow down before him. Daniel was given the insight to foretell the future. Long before He was born, God disclosed the coming of the Messiah.

The book of Revelation opened heaven and the future to the apostle John as he languished on the island of Patmos. Only God knows how history will end. And when. But one thing we know for certain: It will be a great victory over Satan for His Son.

THIS IS MY GOD (68)
May 15, A.D. 1989

God created the physical laws of nature. But God Himself is not subject to those laws. Cast iron chains fall away like brittle crackers. Prison doors swing open of their own accord. Axe heads float. Fire descends from heaven and consumes the water-logged altar. The waters of Galilee support the Messiah. Bread and fishes multiply. Water turns into wine. Dead people live.

When it pleased God, He placed a fiery chariot at Elijah's disposal. If Elijah had lived in the twentieth century, it would have required no greater effort on God's part to provide a self-propelled Concord jet.

God created the world EX NIHILO. Out of nothing. Whatever that means. Great is our God. Almighty.

THIS IS MY GOD (69)
May 29, A.D. 1989

Joseph's brothers threw him in a pit to die. On second thought they decided to sell him into slavery in Egypt. God made Joseph a powerful ruler over a powerful nation. From slave to the second most powerful man in the land.

Man's responsibility and God's sovereignty.... Joseph's brothers were responsible for their evil deed. They contemplated murder. Sold their brother

Joseph into slavery. Because they hated him.

But God is sovereign. God sent Joseph to Egypt to save Israel from death by starvation. Years later evil men executed an innocent Christ. In His death, Christ redeemed millions from slavery to Satan. God's sovereign will.



THIS IS MY GOD (70)

June 20, A.D. 1989

We witness the creative power of the Word of God in the awakening of Lazarus.

Decomposed flesh restored to life. A deteriorated heart restored to beating. Stinking, coagulated blood sent coursing through recreated veins. Ten thousand million nerve cells in the brain restored to life along with a complete memory of all that was lost at death. As he walked out of the grave, Lazarus recognized Jesus and his friends. Amazing.

How did this happen?

At the *command* of the Word of the Creator of heaven and earth: "Lazarus, come out!"

Lazarus came. His recreation manifesting the glory and the power of God.

THIS IS MY GOD (71)

July 18, A.D. 1989

Our God is a God of the living, not of the dead.

The power of God is beyond human understanding. On the mount of transfiguration, Elijah and Moses appeared to Peter, James and John. Elijah and Moses. By the power of God, Moses and Elijah made an appearance on earth. Glorified! And they talked to Jesus. The Way, the Truth, and the Life.

In response to the centurion's faith Jesus said, "Many will sit down with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of God."

Our God is different from all other gods which people worship. Our God is a God of the living. He did not suffer Jesus to see corruption. When our bodies are resurrected we will receive an inheritance beyond description. A new earth. And a new heaven. And we will meet Jesus and Abraham and Elijah. Our God is a God of the living.

THIS IS MY GOD (72)

August 22, A.D. 1989

Imagine a desert. A barren wilderness. No green hills and waving fields of golden grain. No flowers and herds of cattle. No shade from cool, tall trees along the banks of flowing streams. A desert. A barren wilderness.

Now imagine placing two million people—men, women and children—in that desert. How long could such a multitude survive? A day? A week? Perhaps two for the really strong?

God's people, Israel, survived in a burning desert for forty years. For forty years God gave His people manna to eat and water to drink. And on occasion meat.

Unto whom shall we compare God? Creator of heaven and earth? There is none like Him. He alone is God!

THIS IS MY GOD (73)

September 11, A.D. 1989

Balaam would like to curse Israel. It is worth a lot of money to him. And Balaam



is in love with money. Very much in love.

Balaam, was persistent. Determined in his quest for more gold. Not until he saw what his donkey had seen long before him; not until Balaam saw the angel with the drawn sword who would surely have killed him, did he lose his thirst for wealth. Balaam was ready to go home. But it was too late. God did not want Balaam to turn back. Now he would go as God's servant. Whether he liked it or not.

Balaam tried to curse Israel. But the words stuck in his throat. Instead he blessed that nation. The power of God is able to control the speech of man.

THIS IS MY GOD (74)

September 25, A.D. 1989

Heaven is for real. Even if you have seldom read about it in the pages of *The Banner* these past 10 years.

The Israelites had their noses firmly planted in the desert sand. And so do Christians in the 20th century. Nevertheless, heaven is for real. There is a reality beyond earth and beyond man. That reality is God and Christ and the angels. As well as Satan and his demons.

Christ reigns. All power in heaven and on earth is His. When Israel entered Canaan, the land of promise, the army of the Lord fought for them. God destroyed the stronghold of Jericho. Knocked

down its walls personally. Today, Christ fights for His people. Just read the book of Revelation. And just think of the power of His Spirit.

THIS IS MY GOD (75)

October 9, A.D. 1989

Very few people will risk their lives for a good man. No one will risk it for a scoundrel. Christ sacrificed His life for scoundrels. That's what God has done. He became a man. And sacrificed His life for scoundrels.

Jeremiah 17:9 teaches that the heart of man is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Deceitful above all things. In his heart man is constantly making deals with Satan. Against God and His Anointed. And there is no cure for this deceit.

Except the power of God. God transforms the human heart through the power of His Spirit. "Come unto me all you who are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Union with God.

THIS IS MY GOD (76)

October 23, A.D. 1989

He felt an enormous power stirring in his body. The new ropes around Samson's wrists snapped like aged rubber bands. Seizing the jawbone of a donkey, Samson slew a thousand Philistines.

An incredible feat. Unheard of. And Samson knew it. Standing on the blood-drenched battlefield he cried out, "With the jawbone of a donkey, I have made donkeys of them. With a donkey's jawbone I killed a thousand men." A proud song of victory.



But whose victory was it? Samson's or God's? The thought never occurred to Samson. It was his victory. Of course.

Before the day had drawn to a close, mighty Samson lay exhausted in the sand. Like a little child. He begged God for water. God gave Samson water. And taught him how weak he was without God. God gives His people strength.

THIS IS MY GOD (77)

November 6, A.D. 1989

Hundreds of millions of people witnessed the devastation the earthquake recently caused in California. The collapse of a highway and bridge. Possibly several hundred people dead. We witnessed it on television. The despair, the suffering,

the pain.

Imagine the televised version of the collapse of the temple of Dagon when Samson, by the power of God, demolished its supporting pillars. All the rulers of the Philistines were there. Three thousand men and women on the roof alone. Buried in a rubble of concrete. Not by an earthquake but by the power of God. Because they bowed the knee to Dagon.



THIS IS MY GOD (78)
November 28, A.D. 1989

God lives in heaven. Heaven and angels were also created "in the beginning." God was not created. God is the "I am that I am." From eternity. Don't try to figure it out. You can't. Believe it.

Are God's acts supernatural? Yes. All God's acts are supernatural. Creation is an act of God. Nature did not create nature. God created out of nothing that which is now known as the realm of nature, the universe. By an on-going supernatural act of God the laws of the

universe are upheld.

The laws of nature known to us today do not apply to heaven. Angels are spiritual beings. Yet when they come to earth they often appear in bodily form. They travel great distances faster than the speed of light. Our God is the great enabler. The creation is His servant.

THIS IS MY GOD (79)
December 11, A.D. 1989

God did it. He really did it. He paid off a debt greater than the combined debt of the United States and all Third World countries. He paid the debt of humanity's sin all the way back to the Garden of Eden.

How did God accomplish this? He sent His Son from heaven to earth. The Son of God confronted the devil face to face. And He did this in human flesh. Christ was tempted as Adam was tempted. Christ prevailed.

Christ did more than that. He went on trial for the sins of humanity. He was condemned by God for those sins. The sentence was death. Naked on a cursed cross. But there is more. He descended to hell. In my place and in yours. So that we will not have to go. If we confess His name.

Thank You God. Thank You for sending Your Son to pay a ransom we could never pay. Thank You for that

great event in Bethlehem.

THIS IS MY GOD (80)
December 25, A.D. 1989

The year 1990 is upon us. It is the year of our Lord. He is our God. The Sovereign Lord comes with power, and His arm rules for Him.

To whom will we compare God? Who is His equal?

Lift your eyes and look to the heavens. God created all these. He brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name. Because of His great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing.

He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Those who hope in the Lord in 1990 will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint (Isaiah 40). In 1990. The year of our Lord.

THIS IS MY GOD (81)
January 22, A.D. 1990

The king of Assyria sent his supreme commander, his chief officer and his field commander with a large army to King Hezekiah at Jerusalem. Before the siege is over, they said, the people of Jerusalem will have to eat their own filth and drink their own urine. Do not trust

in God. Trust in the king of Assyria. "Has the god of any nation ever delivered his land from the hand of the king of Assyria?" they asked.

The representatives of the king of Assyria blasphemed God. That was a mistake. That night the angel of the LORD went out and put to death a hundred and eighty-five thousand men in the Assyrian camp. The Assyrians did not enter Jerusalem, the city of David. The God of heaven and earth single handedly delivered Jerusalem from the hand of the mighty Assyrians. God reclaimed the breath of one-hundred and eighty-five-thousand men and they died.



THIS IS MY GOD (82)
February 5, A.D. 1990

Jesus admonished His disciples not to work for food that spoils.

The disciples responded by asking Him: "What must we do to do the works God requires?"

Jesus gave a most remarkable answer. He replied, "The work of God is this: to

believe in the one He has sent.”

The leaders of Israel were of the opinion that their painstaking observations of many laws would ingratiate them with God.

Jesus placed the emphasis on belief—belief in the One God has sent. All power in heaven and on earth has been given to Him. Power to feed the hungry, heal the sick, raise the dead. He who has come down from heaven gives life to the world.

The work of God is to believe in the redemptive power of Jesus.

THIS IS MY GOD (83) **February 19, A.D. 1990**

Nineveh sinned wickedly. God appointed Jonah to preach judgment. Instead, Jonah fled to Tarshish. He found a ship bound for that port. Away from God.

God sent a great wind on the sea. The storm became so violent that the ship threatened to break up. Jonah was thrown overboard at God’s will; swallowed by a great whale. Then the sea became calm.

After three days and three nights God commanded the fish to vomit Jonah onto dry land. How can it be?

Jonah preached and Nineveh repented. God had compassion. Nineveh was spared. That compassion is also

freely available to you. Just ask for it. In Jesus’ name.

Jonah did not appreciate God’s compassion. As Jonah sat east of the city waiting to see what would happen to Nineveh and its inhabitants, a vine grew and provided comfort and shade for his head. The vine died filling Jonah with anger. And so God was merciful to 120,000 people who could not tell their right hand from their left.

THIS IS MY GOD (84) **March 5, A.D. 1990**

Pharaoh’s army was in full pursuit. Even after the land of Egypt had been devastated and the first born of man and beast had died, Pharaoh still refused to let God’s people go.

Pharaoh’s army pursued the people of Israel to the banks of the Red Sea. Trapped. The Israelites had nowhere to go. Pharaoh laughed.

God also laughed. At Pharaoh’s pretensions. The king of Egypt set himself up against the God of heaven. Pharaoh took counsel against God and against His anointed.

The power of God is awesome to witness. The waters of the Red Sea parted. At God’s command. Israel crossed over safely to the other side.

But Pharaoh and his minions were broken with a rod of iron. God dashed

the army of Egypt to pieces in the flood waters of the Red Sea.

Be warned, contemporary rulers of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear, lest you perish.

THIS IS MY GOD (85)

March 19, A.D. 1990

An old man waited on a lonely road. He was wearing a beautiful new robe and a simple garment underneath.

A young man approached from the south. When the two men were close together, something very strange happened. The old man took off the new robe he was wearing and tore it into twelve pieces. He handed ten of these pieces to the young man.

The reign of Solomon had ended. God had decided to divide the kingdom of Israel into two kingdoms.

God parcels out the kingdoms of this world to whom He pleases. God is at work on a large scale in Europe and Asia today. The apostle Paul reminds us in the book of Romans, "that the authorities that exist have been established by God."

THIS IS MY GOD (86)

April 23, A.D. 1990

Ahab, the king of Israel, wants to extend the boundaries of his summer residence. He wants to add a vegetable garden and

perhaps a pool.

So he visits his neighbor, Naboth. "Sell me your land," Ahab says. "I'll give you a much finer vineyard." "I can't," says Naboth. "That is against God's command."

"Don't pay any attention to those commands," says Ahab. "They are time-bound and culturally conditioned. We moderns do as we please."

Naboth refuses to sell. So the king of Israel has Naboth and his entire family stoned. God sees what is going on. God's anger is kindled. God sends Elijah. This is God's judgment on Ahab: "The dogs that licked the blood of Naboth will also lick your blood."

God's Word does not return empty.

THIS IS MY GOD (87)

May 7, A.D. 1990

The twentieth century has witnessed great achievements in science. Man has discovered the structure of the DNA molecule. We have the beginning of an understanding how hereditary features are passed on from generation to



generation.

The vast expanses of space are being explored. Man has walked on the moon. These are great achievements.

But human accomplishments do not compare to what God can achieve. God is not bound by the laws He has established for the universe. When Elijah's life on earth is complete God sends him a fiery chariot for transportation to heaven. Bodily. When Jesus' ministry on earth is finished He bodily ascends into heaven. The power of God is truly awesome.

THIS IS MY GOD (88)
May 28, A.D. 1990

God will not indefinitely tolerate those who willfully lead His children astray. Whether that be in the court of Ahab or on the campuses of our Christian colleges.

Jezebel was the daughter of a king of Israel. She worshipped Baal, not God. She engineered the death of Naboth and his entire family. She showed public contempt for God and His Word.

God's anger was kindled by Jezebel's contempt. God's Word came to Jezebel: "The dogs that licked the blood of Naboth... will devour the flesh of Jezebel."

A few years later, Jehu became the instrument fulfilling Elijah's prophecy. The woman who scorned the God of

heaven and earth was devoured by dogs.

THIS IS MY GOD (89)
July 16, A.D. 1990

One of the great manifestations of God's love for the world is the absence of a world-wide catastrophe.

The Lord God saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become during the time of Noah. Every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil. In His righteous anger God wiped the human race off the face of the earth with a cataclysmic flood.

The meaning of our existence is to live lives of obedience before the face of God. When mankind ceases to praise God in day-to-day existence, mankind forfeits its right to life.

Billions of people living today have forfeited their right to life. Yet God withholds final judgment. Millions regain life by the grace of Jesus Christ who is our ark.

THIS IS MY GOD (90)
August 20, A.D. 1990

God judges the nations. That is a fearsome thing. The extent and severity of God's judgment are highlighted in the biblical account of the judgment of Egypt. There is no hope and there is no future for those individuals and nations

who oppose God.

What about today? Is God's hand visible in the life of individuals, churches and nations today? The question is repeatedly asked: "What is happening to the Christian Reformed Churches in The Netherlands? How is it possible that these churches have become so unfaithful in so short a time?"

The answer is a deeply disturbing one. God's hand of judgment lies heavily upon these disobedient churches in The Netherlands. People have not only forsaken God, in response God has forsaken many faithless people.

This also is our God.



THIS IS MY GOD (91) **September 2, A.D. 1991**

Imagine a Christian standing up at a meeting of the superpowers and declaring: "God is the single greatest power of all. Pay attention to His commands." Most would dismiss him as a crank. In this 20th century, God is not viewed as much of a reality or power.

God wasn't viewed as much of a power by many people twenty-five hundred years ago either. But that didn't make God any less powerful. God's almighty power is not dependent upon the beliefs and unbeliefs of mankind.

Twenty-five hundred years ago God gave His faithful servant, Daniel, the power to reveal and interpret dreams. He sent the most powerful ruler the world had ever seen out to pasture for seven years. He made the heat of the hottest furnace of no effect upon His children and He closed the mouths of lions. There is no limit to God's power.

He spoke and the earth was created. He commands and it is accomplished. God most High. how majestic is Your name.

THIS IS MY GOD (92) **September 23, A.D. 1991**

Love is not what the leaders of many mainline churches think it is. Love of God is to obey and serve Him. Love of neighbor is to acquaint that neighbor with the newness of life made possible by Jesus Christ.

To be enslaved for hundreds of years is an oppressive thing. To have young children torn out of your arms and thrown into the Nile to crocodiles is unbelievably cruel. Yet that is what happened to Israel. Today children are

being aborted.

God delivered Israel by the power of His hand. Before them the threatening waters of the Red Sea, at their backs Pharaoh at the head of a mighty army.

But God led His people through that life-threatening water. That water consumed Pharaoh and the strength of Egypt. Horse and rider God hurled into the sea.

So great was God's love for us that He sent His own Son through hell to destroy the power of Satan and his army:



Sin.

Greater love has no one.

THIS IS MY GOD (93)
October 14, A.D. 1991

Inspired by God, Jude wrote: "Enoch, seventh from Adam prophesied: 'See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of His holy ones to judge everyone, and to convict the ungodly of all the ungodly acts they have done in the ungodly way, and of all the harsh

words ungodly sinners have spoken against Him'" (Jude 1:14).

Enoch prophesied! This truth was revealed to Jude by God. The very words of Enoch's prophecy were revealed to Jude.

This is a great comfort to those who are told that Enoch, recorded in the first eleven chapters of Genesis, was a mythical figure who did not live and prophesy.

Let no man call God a liar. For God will convict all those who have spoken against Him.

THIS IS MY GOD (94)
October 28, A.D. 1991

One of the most remarkable revelations of Scripture is that God has willed our salvation. If it depended on us we would, every one of us, most certainly perish.

In the first chapter of Paul's second letter to the Corinthians we read that, "It is God who makes us to stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come."

And in his letter to the Philippians Paul writes that it is God who works in us to will and to act according to His good purpose.

Our fall into sin resulted in our hearts and minds being bound to Satan. We

no longer possess the power to express our love for God. The remarkable thing is that in this state of captivity it is God who now wills and enables us to love Him.

THIS IS MY GOD (95)

November 11, A.D. 1991

She was an angel of goodness. Every poor person in the church in Joppa knew her. Every widow had received clothes from her. Her name was Tabitha.

Tabitha became sick and died. Her death was a great loss to the church in Joppa.

But not for long. The church in Joppa was about to witness the almighty power of God. Peter, who was only three hours away, was sent for to bring the church comfort. Peter did more than that. When he was alone with her, Peter knelt and prayed. Then he turned to the dead body and said, "Tabitha arise!" In amazement the woman opened her eyes and looked at Peter.

When God commands, death is transformed into life; the non-existing becomes the existing. "Let there be" and it is.

THIS IS MY GOD (96)

November 25, A.D. 1991

God is God. There is nothing that God

can not do. Although Scripture gives us glimpses here and there, we have no idea of God's power. There is just no limit to it.

Think of something impossible—anything. God can do it, and God places that power at the disposal of His servants to His greater glory.

Peter is in prison. Chained. Shackled. Powerless. God sends an angel. He has millions. The shackles fall from Peter's wrists like wet spaghetti. The doors of the prison open. Peter walks past heavily armed guards but they do not see him. An iron gate that led to the city swings open "by itself." Peter has just been snatched from Herod's hand. God has work for him to do.

THIS IS MY GOD (97)

December 16, A.D. 1991

The time had come. God's time. In its fullness. To reveal the glory of God. A revelation to the Gentiles. The shepherd of God's people Israel.

What a revelation! God in the flesh. Immanuel. God with man. On earth. To ransom His people.

Miracle of miracles. After sending Moses and Joshua and Gideon and Elijah, God sends His own Son. To save His people from their sins.

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” Christmas. God’s gift.

THIS IS MY GOD (98)
January 20, A.D. 1992

The opening words of the book of Genesis resonate with power: “In the beginning God. . .” And God said! And behold it was. The Word created.

The opening words of the gospel of John resonate with power: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

The gospel of John then confirms what the book of Genesis taught thousands of years ago. “Through the Word all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made.”

The WORD! The Word created the heavens and the earth. The Word raised Lazarus from the dead. The Word walked on water and stilled the raging storm.

Evolution? A messy process of imperfection leading to imperfection? A myth emanating from the minds of silly men. The One enthroned in heaven laughs. The Creator of heaven and earth scoffs at evolutionists.

THIS IS MY GOD (99)
February 10, A.D. 1992

“A sower went out to sow” (Matt. 13:3). Many people who heard this story missed its meaning. They had not understood John the Baptist either. He had said that the Reaper was coming: “He will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

God sent His Sower. A greater Sower the earth has never seen. He spoke with power and authority—the power and authority of the Word. There is no greater authority. And God has seen to it that that Word is in our midst today.

THIS IS MY GOD (100)
February 24, A.D. 1992

Praise the Lord! Praise God in everything you say and do for He is a great God worthy of our praise.

Revelation is a wonderful thing. In Psalm 103 we hear David saying: “The Lord has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all.” How did David know this? He had never





been to heaven. How did he know that heaven even existed let alone that God's kingdom rules over all? Because God revealed this to David. And reveals it to us as well.

And when David realizes this his heart explodes with praise. Praise the Lord all you men and angels. Praise the Lord, all His works everywhere in His dominion. God's kingdom rules over all. Great is our God and greatly to be praised.

THIS IS MY GOD (101)

March 9, A.D. 1992

Christ is King. The God of heaven has set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed. It will crush all competing kingdoms and bring them to an end, but will itself endure forever.

Christ reigns, seated on the right hand of God. Because He was slain and purchased men for God with His blood, all power and authority has been given unto Him.

He has chosen people from every tribe and language and nation—

a kingdom to serve our God.

To the Lamb that was slain God has given honor and glory and power for ever and ever. Our Saviour.

THIS IS MY GOD (102)

March 23, A.D. 1992

The Bible is God's revelation. And what a revelation it is. In it God reveals who He is and who man is. The entire history of God's dealings with mankind from the creation of the world to the birth of Christ is recorded in the Old Testament.

The New Testament reveals that the Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us. God became one of us in Jesus Christ. Christ's powers were truly divine. He healed the sick and raised the dead. No human can do that unless empowered by God.

The Bible is God's revelation, not man's. No man can or may pass judgment on God's revelation. One of the great miracles of Christendom is that God who is in heaven has provided man on earth with such a wonderful revelation.

THIS IS MY GOD (103)

April 13, A.D. 1992

Christmas! God's great gift of the second Adam! God with us. God and man.

Good Friday! The Lamb of God pays the full ransom for the deliverance

of the chosen children of the first Adam.

Easter! Christ lives. Death no longer holds dominion. Satan's power is crushed.

Ascension! Christ reigns. Seated at God's right hand. He holds the scroll and opens the seven seals. Satan is thrown out of heaven. Woe to the earth.

Pentecost! The Son gives His children the Spirit of truth. They are now equipped to battle Satan who will seek to devour them. But the Spirit is Almighty.

Christ's return! Yes! He is coming. Satan is bound. A new heaven and a new earth. What a Savior!

THIS IS MY GOD (104) **April 27, A.D. 1992**

"Will you give Me a drink?" Jesus said to the Samaritan woman who had come to draw water. The woman was greatly surprised for she saw that He was a Jew.

"Everyone who drinks this water," Jesus said, "will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him, will



never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

A spring of water welling up to eternal life—the gift of the Holy Spirit. God's gift at Pentecost. God's gift to us today. If a man is thirsty, let him come to Christ and drink. Streams of living water.

Also for the Samaritans for salvation is from the Jews.

THIS IS MY GOD (105) **May 11, A.D. 1992**

Israel witnessed the mighty works of God first-hand. They experienced the glory of God in their own lives. In spite of all their experiences, they worshiped dumb idols.

We have witnessed the greatest of God's mighty deeds—the incarnation of Jesus Christ. God has given us a spring of living water. In spite of this many turn to the foul streams of evolutionism and feminism—the idolatrous god and goddess of our age. Our paganism rivals the paganism of Israel. We also crave the visible and tangible idols of our age.

There is nothing more tangible than God's great gift of the Holy Spirit. God has made us heirs of a new covenant. A covenant made with the second Adam.

THIS IS MY GOD (106)**June 1, A.D. 1992**

Christians today have a difficult time believing that God has anything to do with the affairs of men. Is God really sovereign? And is He relevant?

Gideon witnessed the sovereignty of God first hand. He asked for a sign and God gave it to him. Gideon squeezed a bowlful of dew out of the fleece, yet the ground all around the fleece was dry. The following day the fleece was dry and the ground was covered with dew.

In the power of the Lord, Gideon and a mere 300 men slew the Midianites.

Today the sovereignty of God is manifested in Jesus Christ. He rules the nations with a rod of iron. His sovereignty is manifested everywhere.

THIS IS MY GOD (107)**June 22, A.D. 1992**

It is a remarkable thing. Some people spend their entire lives studying God's activity and the Bible. When these theologians come to the end of their lives they sometimes know less than nothing.

These so-called theologians ask: "Can God make a stone so big that He can't lift it?" Well, that may not be exactly how they phrase the question. In the twentieth century they may phrase the question like this: "Can God be Almighty



and also be love?" The answer they give us is, "No, God can't be both."

God's revelation of Himself witnesses otherwise. "I believe in God the Father, Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And I believe in Jesus Christ who, on behalf of the Father, so loved the world that He gave His life as a ransom for many.

THIS IS MY GOD (108)**July 20, A.D. 1992**

God's hand is mighty as revealed in history. Proverbs 21 teaches that, "The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord; he directs it like a watercourse wherever he pleases."

As members of the CRC observe in astonishment the way in which its 1992 Synod manipulates and politicks its way through the proceedings, the question arises whether God is in charge of such an affair.

He is! In spite of man's manipulation. Joseph is elevated from lowly slave to vicegerent of Egypt. All the politicking

and manipulating on the part of the brothers could not stay God's will. God's hand is mighty in history. Also in 1992. The proud and arrogant who think they run the show will be overthrown.

THIS IS MY GOD (109)
August 17, A.D. 1992

Having miraculously fed five thousand men plus women and children with only five loaves of bread and two fish, Jesus told His disciples to take the boat and go on ahead of Him to the other side of the lake. Jesus went up in the hills alone to pray.

Later that night Jesus went to rejoin His disciples but they were a considerable distance from land. No problem. As the Son of God, all of creation heeded His command. Jesus went out to His disciples, walking on the water. The disciples were terrified, believing Him to be a ghost.



When Jesus returns in the clouds of the air, many will again be terrified. But not those who faithfully watch and pray

while expectantly looking forward to His coming.

THIS IS MY GOD (110)
September 14, A.D. 1992

When the sons of Noah became great nations, many of them again turned away from the Lord. They desired riches and power. So they left the mountainous country of Ararat and migrated to the fertile plains of Shinar. Here they learned how to make mortar and bricks from clay. It wasn't long before Satan inspired them to use their technology against their Creator. Their glory and not the glory of God was the driving force behind their labors. But the God who takes a personal interest in the people He created, came down to see the tower. In one divine command, God destroyed their ecumenical movement and scattered them all over the earth. Satan's concentration of power had been broken. Soon a people would be chosen to become heirs of God's salvation. Through that people, the Jews, you and I are also blessed today.

Salvation comes from the Jews.

THIS IS MY GOD (111)
September 28, A.D. 1992

Miracles are God's way of reminding people that seeing is not necessarily

believing.

We can learn much about the observable world. But there is much more to created reality than what we can observe. And the two—what we can and what we cannot observe—are always related to each other.

One of the greatest mysteries of the Christian religion is that our flesh and blood ascended to heaven. We may confess it, we can't comprehend it.

The Scriptures reveal a great deal about angels. But we cannot observe or study them. And so it is with a great many things revealed in Scripture—including the origin of the world.

THIS IS MY GOD (112) **October 26, A.D. 1992**

Christians often wonder why it is taking the Lord so long to return. Christians were already wondering about that shortly after Jesus ascended into heaven. Read Paul's letter to the Thessalonians.

Almost 2000 years have passed since Jesus went back to heaven. Some Christians doubt whether He will ever return. Jesus was a great moral teacher, they say, but He does not possess the power to return to earth.

Why is it taking so long for Jesus to return? Two thousand years is a very long time and it may be longer. The answer is simple. Jesus is filling his banquet table. If



Jesus had returned in 1892 for instance, you and your family would not have been born. Jesus will return when all those elected from before the foundation of the world have been born. And not a day sooner. But that could be any day.

THIS IS MY GOD (113) **November 9, A.D. 1992**

It is coming, you know: the world's last night.

The greatest and most commercialized celebration of the year is coming again—Christmas. A great deal of the celebration will not be directed at the source of man's greatest joy—Immanuel.

Christ is coming again. And when He does it will be the world's last night. The biblical revelation of the Second Coming of Christ is deeply alien to the whole evolutionary character of modern thought. Eat, drink and be merry for the world will end with a whimper, not a bang, billions of years from now.

Not so! The world's last night will come in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye

when Christ comes for a second time to judge the living and the dead. And to establish His kingdom. What a joy that will be.

THIS IS MY GOD (114)
November 30, A.D. 1992

The kingdom of God is on the move. It is being established in every corner of the globe. It is a kingdom that will never be destroyed. It is a kingdom that spans the ages from the ascension of Christ to His return.



This kingdom has no earthly theme, no parliament, no boundaries. This kingdom is established in the hearts of men everywhere. Its King is Jesus Christ seated on the right hand of God. From heaven He rules the nations with an iron sceptre.

The one overwhelming, awesome, dazzling characteristic of this kingdom which extends to every corner of the globe is that it is not established by human hands. God Himself is establishing this

world-wide kingdom. And it began on Golgotha with the death of death.

THIS IS MY GOD (115)
December 21, A.D. 1992

Christmas! The great battle has commenced between God and Satan. The birth of Jesus is God's opening declaration of all out warfare against Satan and his minions.

Christmas has absolutely nothing in common with the world's idea of a sweet and tender babe in a manger. The great company of angels understood God's intent when they jubilantly sang, "Glory to God in the highest."

Satan also understood. A murderer from the beginning, he sent Herod's executioners to Ramah to slaughter the children hoping Jesus was among them.

Jesus crushed Satan's head on Golgotha. Victory. Upon His ascension into heaven, Satan and his angels were thrown out (Rev. 12).

Christmas—God has come in person to redeem His people and to establish His kingdom.

THIS IS MY GOD (116)
January 18, A.D. 1993

There is a remarkable passage in the fifth chapter of the book of Acts. We read, in the 15th verse, that sick people were

healed when the shadow of the apostle Peter fell upon them as he walked past.

God's power is indeed awesome. God authenticated the work of His Apostles. After Jesus ascended into heaven, He gave His Spirit to His apostles. They were given the power to perform miracles and wonders as a testimony to the early Christian church.

The power of the Spirit is still available to the church today. All power in heaven and on earth has been given to Jesus Christ. It is His to bestow upon whomever He pleases. May it please God to manifest His power in 1993.

THIS IS MY GOD (117) **February 1, A.D. 1993**

God is in heaven. Man is on earth. Heaven and earth are inseparably related. They are both God's creations.

The great tragedy of twentieth century Christianity is that it has largely lost sight of this relationship. The hand of God in history is not always a dynamic confession. But it is always present.

Abram and Lot separated because quarreling arose between their herdsmen. Lot chose the plain of Jordan because it was like a watered garden. Yet Lot lost everything: his wife, his sons-in-law, his land, his possessions.

Abram's inheritance multiplied beyond calculation. The omnipotent

hand of God reached down from heaven to direct man's affairs on earth in accordance with His blessing.

THIS IS MY GOD (118) **February 15, A.D. 1993**

God views history from beginning to end. Nothing is hidden from God. Not the past; not the present; not the future. God's understanding is not limited by time and space. God is omniscient.



And sometimes it pleases God to reveal the future to those whom He loves. Joseph was told in a dream that his father and his brothers would bow down before him. Daniel was given the insight to foretell the future. Long before He was born, God disclosed the coming of the Messiah.

The book of Revelation opened heaven and the future to the Apostle John as he languished on the island of Patmos. Only God knows how history will end. And when. But one thing *we* know with certainty. It will be a great

victory over Satan for His Son.

those who honour His name.

THIS IS MY GOD (119)

March 8, A.D. 1993

The unbelievers were making a spectacle of God's people. Morning and evening Goliath terrified the armies of Israel. Morning and evening his curses ascended to heaven. No one in the entire army of King Saul dared to challenge him. But God had heard enough. He chose a young boy with a brave heart, a true shepherd of God's sheep. David had defended his sheep against the attack of powerful predators. With his bare hands he had killed both lion and bear. David realized that God had given him this strength.



In the strength of the Lord this young shepherd boy went up against the towering giant dressed in iron from head to toe. In the strength of the Lord David slew him with a mere sling and a stone.

God is our strength. Those who rely on Him will not fear the curse of godless men. God gives courage and honour to

THIS IS MY GOD (120)

March 29, A.D. 1993

“Mother, I am so thirsty!”

Hagar, lost in her thoughts, passed the jug to Ishmael again.

“Mother, the water is gone.”

Yes, the water was gone. But the God of Abraham, Moses and the Father of Jesus Christ was not gone. God provided. Hagar and Ishmael lived. Ishmael became the mighty people of the Arabs. God does not forget His promises. God knows what He is doing.

Our God is the God who is *really* there. The God who provides and protects. God knows our sitting down and our rising up. He understands our thoughts afar off. There is not a word on our tongue, but God knows it. God has laid His protective hand upon us.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for us to fully comprehend. Rejoice. God is truly with us.

THIS IS MY GOD (121)

April 26, A.D. 1993

When is death not really death? When it is confronted by the power of God.

One of the most difficult passages in scripture is found in John 11:25 where Jesus says to Martha: “He who believes

in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever believes in Me will never die.” Never die? Christians are dying all the time. But then the power and glory of God are not subject to human logic. There is both an immanent and a transcendent reality. Jesus commanded Lazarus to come out of the grave. How? Because Christ is his life.

The daughter of Jairus had died. Hearing this, Jesus said to Jairus, “Don’t be afraid; just believe, and she will be healed.” Healed? From death? But death is fatal. Permanent. Don’t you know that, Jesus? “She is not dead but asleep,” said Jesus. “Why? Because I am her life” (Col. 3:4). The people laughed. But Jesus took the little girl by the hand and told her to get up. She did. Because Jesus is her life. The power and glory of the living God.

It means that God can do anything. Through the power of His Word. God commands. Then it happens. Scripture is filled with examples of this power. Think of Mary. You shall conceive. Think of Jesus. He commanded the storm. After His resurrection Jesus walked through closed doors. Filled the fishing net. Ascended bodily into heaven.

In the gospel of John we read, “In the beginning was the Word...and the Word was God...Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made.” Things happen, instantaneously, at God’s command. In Genesis we read, “God said!” And it happened. At God’s command. God almighty is Creator. He alone calls into being that which did not exist. By His all-powerful Word.

THIS IS MY GOD (122)

May 17, A.D. 1993

Scripture is very clear on who God is. It triumphantly declares: “I am the Lord God Almighty.” Wow! Almighty!

Almighty? What does that mean?



THIS IS MY GOD (123)

May 31, A.D. 1993

A five-star general, a young girl, and God. What a drama!

Naaman, five-star general, right-hand man to the king of Damascus, had contracted leprosy. A dreaded, fatal disease. A death sentence. A young girl from Israel, taken captive in a raid on her village and transported to Damascus, informed Naaman’s wife that there was a prophet in Israel who could cure leprosy. Naaman listened. He went. The

prophet's servant told Naaman to go wash himself seven times in the Jordan River. Naaman was indignant. That stink hole? Were there not cleaner rivers in Damascus?

Perhaps. But Damascus did not share in the glory of the God of Israel. Naaman's servants prevailed. Do what the prophet says. Naaman went. And washed. His flesh became like that of a young boy.

And the glory of the Creator of heaven and earth was made known to Naaman and throughout the land of Israel.

THIS IS MY GOD (124) **June 14, A.D. 1993**

"Destroy the world. Destroy the people." This is Satan's grand ambition.

God said, "I will not permit that to happen." God chose a people. Abraham and his descendants. God chose them from among the peoples of the earth. To these people God revealed the truth. He revealed the meaning and purpose of life. He gave them laws that gave them life.

They became slaves in Egypt. For four hundred years they languished. Then God set them free. Gave them manna in the desert. Later God sent His Son. To a people languishing in captivity. As well as to a people in bondage to Satan in North America, Europe, Africa,

Asia. God sent His Son. Manna from heaven. He gave His people bread to eat. He gives life to the world. He who comes to Jesus, God's Manna, will never go hungry.

THIS IS MY GOD (125) **June 28, A.D. 1993**

The man was unreal. No one had ever seen anyone like Him. He looked like any other man. Yet He had the power of God.

What does it mean to be created in the image of God? Look at Christ Jesus. He was the man Adam would have been if he had not fallen from his high state of grace. Perfect man. Imaging God in all he said and did. What a creation.

Yes, the Man was unreal. Unreal in the world of men and women who had become shadows of what God intended them to be.

I will make you a new creation, Jesus said. I will transform you from imaging Satan to imaging God. That transformation necessitated the death of death. On a wooden cross.

I will transform the world, Jesus said. A new heaven and a new earth. Be ready. It is happening.

THIS IS MY GOD (126) **July, A.D. 1993**

I watched as the Lamb opened the first of the seven seals.

Our God is a gracious God. He reveals things hidden from the wise and powerful and discloses them to His children.

The apostle John is a man of little influence. He is imprisoned on the island of Patmos. He is there for a reason. On that island God is going to give the apostle John a Revelation that will comfort the children of God for thousands of years to come.

In that book God revealed the power of the Lamb. Seated at God's right hand. Breaking the seals of history. In God's great controversy with Satan. And the children of darkness. The Lamb will dash them to pieces. Then He will usher in the peaceable kingdom. What a glorious day. What a glorious future.

THIS IS MY GOD (127) **August, A.D. 1993**

Sick unto death. That was the diagnosis. "Set your house in order and say goodbye to your family," Isaiah told Hezekiah, "for you shall surely die.

Hezekiah didn't want to die. Not because he was afraid, but because his work wasn't done. He had hoped to reform Judah meaningfully.

Hezekiah pleaded with God. Fer-
vently. God answered his prayer. Fifteen
more years. What a gift.

"Give me a sign that this will surely
be," he begged Isaiah. A sign he got. The
shadow on the sundial moved back ten
paces. What a God.

The behavior of the sun and shad-
ows is under the sovereign control of
the Governor of the Universe. Not only
in the days of Hezekiah but also today.
God is indeed Sovereign. Learn to lean
on His Sovereignty.

THIS IS MY GOD (128) **December, A.D. 1993**

Christmas! Immanuel! God with us! In
the beginning was the Word, and the
Word was with God, and the Word was
God. He was with God in the beginning.
Through him all things were made; with-
out him nothing was made that has been
made.

And the Word through whom all
things were made became flesh. The cre-
ator of heaven and earth became One of
us. The second Adam. And in Him there
was no sin.

The power of the Word was mani-
fested in the life of the second Adam. He
forgave sin, overcame the temptations
of Satan, destroyed the power of death
and brought restoration to those who
had been crippled by sin's power. In Him

was life and that life was the light of men.
Christmas. God in our midst.

THIS IS MY GOD (129)

December 27, A.D. 1993

By the power of His Word God created the heavens and the earth.

By the power of His Word God delivered Israel out of Egypt. In his parting address to Israel, Moses reminded God's people that the Word was their life.

Ahab, king of Israel, despised the Word. He built an altar to Baal and made an Asherah pole. In Ahab's time, Hiel rebuilt Jericho. And Ahab killed God's prophets.

God removed His Word from Israel. There was no life-giving rain for three and a half years. Elijah went into hiding. Israel languished. Drought consumed the land. And the people and the animals. Famine was severe.

Then the Word presented itself to Israel in the person of Elijah. And a cloud formed about the size of a man's hand. Soon the sky grew black with clouds. And rain covered the earth. In spite of our sin, God's gift of life.