

Spring 2022

THE DEAF MESSENGER



“Then there was a war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But the dragon was not strong enough, and he and his angels lost their place in heaven. The giant dragon was thrown down out of heaven”
(Revelation 12:7-9).

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The purpose of this magazine is to inform the deaf reader about such topics as practical Christian living; basic Bible truths; and what the past, present, and future historical events mean to each of us. This magazine attempts to cover spiritual, mental, and physical aspects in its articles and columns.

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Origin of Sin

By John Blake

So many people today are sensing that something is going terribly wrong with our world: The Covid pandemic, the continuing environmental crisis, the growth in crime and the major problems in politics around the world. There are even big changes happening in the religious world.

Where are we headed?

I believe that the Bible gives us some very important answers. Before Jesus returns, the world will be confused (Daniel 12:1)—only Jesus' Second Coming will lead to final peace. Today evil, political confusion, military buildup, and new bioweapons make us wonder if there is an evil power behind all this! There are "conspiracy theories" about details. Some things may be true in these theories, but their ideas may also be filled with errors as bad and troubling as the theories. The Covid lockdowns and continual Covid deaths are causing much fear in the hearts of the whole world.

Where is the world headed?



The Bible tells us about a battle between forces of good and evil. But, we can fully trust the information given in the prophecies and details in the Bible. The Bible helps us understand *why* the world is in a big mess today and how that mess will end!

As I study what is happening in the world, I believe that there is an evil power slowly trapping the world. What evil power is the reason for all of these evils? The Bible tells us. Many, many, many years ago before the creation of the earth Lucifer (the leading angel) was with God. He was the closest of all created beings to God. But, selfishness and pride control his life and he keeps

on making bad choices.

There are two chapters in the Bible—Isaiah 14 and Ezekiel 28 that tell us how sin started in heaven with Lucifer.

“How you are fallen from heaven,
O Lucifer, son of the morning!
How you are cut down to the ground,

You who weakened the nations!

For you have said in your heart:

‘I will ascend into heaven,
I will exalt my throne above the stars of God;
I will also sit on the mount of the congregation

On the farthest sides of the north;

I will ascend above the heights of the clouds,

I will be like the Most High’ ”
(Isaiah 14:12-14, NKJV).

“You *were* the anointed cherub [angel] who covers;

I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God;

You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones.

You *were* perfect in your ways from the day you were created,

Till iniquity was found in you.

By the abundance of your trading

You became filled with violence within,

And you sinned; Therefore I cast you as a profane thing

Out of the mountain of God;
And I destroyed you, O covering cherub,
From the midst of the fiery stones. Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty;
You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor; I cast you to the ground,”
(Ezekiel: 28:14-17, NKJV).

Gradually Lucifer (Satan) deceived one-third of the angels who chose to follow him (Revelation 12:3, 4, 7-9). It got so bad that God had to put Satan and the other rebellious angels out of heaven. Satan appears to be able to visit other created worlds and ours. But the other worlds did not fall like Adam and Eve fell.

Satan accused God of being “selfish” and called God a tyrant (mean ruler). But, God could not use the evil ways of Satan, because God is perfect in all things! But, there was a plan showing the Universe that God is not the “Evil One.” Satan is the one who is the “Evil One.” So, God has allowed Satan to show his way of doing things. And through Jesus’ life and death, God showed the Universe that Satan’s ways are evil and wrong. Jesus’ life on earth proved that God has been right and perfect in love. We could call it the “*Story of the Great Controversy between*

God and Satan.”

God will finally destroy sin and selfishness. Satan, his angels, and those who choose to rebel and follow Satan will be destroyed in the Lake of Fire at the end of the 1,000 years of judgment in Heaven (Revelation 20). The rebels will not suffer in the Lake of Fire forever as some people have believed, but their punishment will depend on their personal life choices. All the wicked will be destroyed entirely after suffering punishment.

There is another reason why God is allowing sin to go on for a long time. Satan hates God's laws and said that people cannot keep them, so he says God is not fair and cruel when God told us to keep them. Before Jesus returns to take His saints to heaven, God wants to show the Universe that the Holy Spirit can change sinful human hearts into hearts of love. God wants a group of people who can help demonstrate (show) not only the results of forgiving grace in their lives, but also the changing power of the Holy Spirit so their lives can be a beautiful demonstration of God's way of love.

“Sin appeared in a perfect universe . . . The reason of its inception [beginning] or development was never

explained and never can be, even at the last great day when the judgment shall sit and the books be opened. . . . At that day it will be evident [clear] to all that there is not, and never was, any cause [reason] for sin. At the final condemnation of Satan and his angels and of all men who have finally identified themselves with him as transgressors [law breakers] of God's law, every mouth will be stopped. When the hosts of rebellion, from the first great rebel to the last transgressor, are asked why they have broken the law of God, they will be speechless. There will be no answer to give” (*That I May Know Him*, p. 15).

“God has given us the power of choice: it is ours to exercise [use]. We cannot change our hearts, we cannot make ourselves pure, fit for God's service. But we can choose to serve God. We can give Him our will; then He will work in us to will and to do according to His good pleasure. Thus our whole nature will be brought under the control of Christ” (*The Ministry of Healing*, page 176).

I want to make the right and loving choice to serve God because I love and trust Him. I will not follow Satan or his ways! *What about you?*

John Blake is a retired pastor living in Clive, Alberta, Canada.

Jesus, Our Lord and King

By Amanda Colgan



have problems with sinful habits and I sin over and over again, my problem is: I still have the wrong master, the wrong king of my life. When I have a new king, Jesus, in my heart, He rules in my life.

We are born in sin and have the tendency to sin and that is why Satan easily controls our lives. Jesus came to get us to serve the right Master. It doesn't matter how hard I try not to sin, but the best way to overcome sin is to get a new Master. I need to have Jesus as Ruler in my life. Even when Jesus is ruling in my life, my carnal (sinful) nature and my

“Don't you realize that you become the slave of whatever you choose to obey? You can be a slave to sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God, which leads to righteous living” (Romans 6:16, NLT).

We become a slave of whatever we choose to obey. We either surrender to Satan or to Christ. Jesus talked about slavery to sin in John 8:34 which says, “Jesus replied, ‘I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave of sin.’” Sin is obedience to the wrong master, Satan. If I

sinful flesh will desire for attention every day. But that doesn't mean I have to follow my sinful ways.

How do I get a new Master? How does a slave get out of slavery? They have to be bought. When it was legal to have a slave, it was considered a property of a master just like owning a cow or a house. Slaves were considered property and legally be controlled and ruled by someone. The owner can do anything he wants with his property and it's his business. The devil plays his slaves like

a cat with a mouse because they are his property. We must be bought/purchased by the new Master. What does the Bible call this buying and selling? It is called redemption. Redemption is Jesus buying us from the terrible slavery to sin. Jesus paid the price of the penalty of sin for us. "... You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price" (1 Corinthians 6:20).

The Bible says we are redeemed (saved) and purchased by the precious blood of Jesus. He came to buy us because that is the only way to set us free. Jesus is our new Master. He is also the King and Ruler of our lives. Here is a problem. Sometimes we choose a different master to rule us. Sometimes we choose Christ, but sometimes we choose Satan or even ourselves to rule us. Jesus taught that no man can serve two masters; we will hate the one and love the other. Our love for Jesus must be total. "And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength" (Mark 12:30).

If you use the word lord and use it in our modern language, how would you translate the word lord? Back then in the old days when the husbands come home from work, it was said that the lord

has arrived. It was also said "Here is the master of the house." Does anyone say that today? No, not anymore. What do the words lord and master mean? In today's language, it means boss. It means someone who is in charge. Someone who tells others what to do and where to go and when to do it. When we make Jesus our Lord or Boss, it means He rules in my life. We need to call Him, "Jesus, be my Lord, Boss of my life. Rule me as I cannot. Don't let Satan rule in my life. I need a new King and a new Master."

In the book *Steps to Christ*, shows how we can surrender ourselves to Jesus. Let us read the quote from page 47, "Many are inquiring [asking], 'How am I to make the surrender of myself to God?' You desire to give yourself to Him, but you are weak in moral power, in slavery to doubt, and controlled by the habits of your life of sin. Your promises and resolutions are like ropes of sand. You cannot control your thoughts, your feelings, your affection. . . . You cannot change your heart, . . . but you can choose to serve Him. You can give Him your will; He will then work in you to will and to do according to His good pleasure."

The result of giving God our wills:

“Thus [Then] your whole nature will be brought under the control of the Spirit of Christ; your affections [love] will be centered upon Him, your thoughts will be in harmony with Him” (*Steps to Christ*, p. 47).

We cannot stop sinning because we cannot change our hearts. We have no power to change our hearts. We naturally choose what self desires. When we give our wills or our power of choice to Jesus, He will work in our hearts to whatever His will is.

I close with a story—there is a teenage boy, 13 years old. His mother had been nagging at him about his dirty clothes with holes that he likes to wear. His shirt is missing some buttons. He goes to school with his hair all messed up like he just got out of bed. His mother is frustrated. She asks her son, “When are you going to clean up and dress like a human being?” She tries to train him for years but he is still a slob (lazy person). He has better clothes but he won’t wear them. One day, he is in the bathroom getting ready for school. All of the family members are waiting for their turn to use the bathroom. He has been in there for 45 mins, the longest he has ever spent in there. Sister and brother are knocking at the door and shouting, “When are you going

to open up and let us get into the bathroom?” Finally, he comes out and his hair looks all nice and neat. He asks his mother for a better shirt as the shirt he’s wearing has a spot on it. Mother looks at him with jaws dropped open. “Whatever happened to you? I’ve tried for years to get you to look better! What’s wrong with you today?” said his mother.

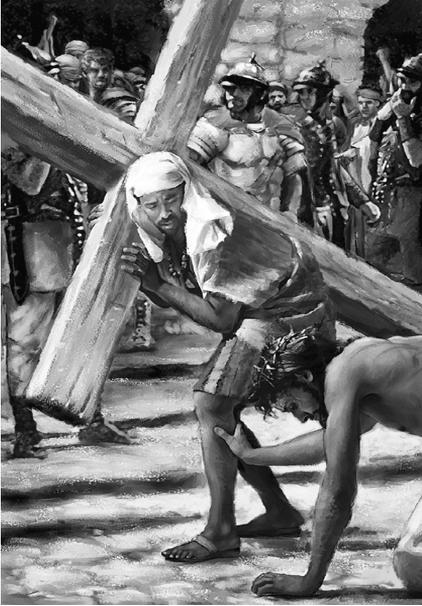
If you follow him to school, you will find that a young lady is now in the picture. The son has been preening himself like a peacock, showing his feathers. He is in love. The girl never nagged the boy to look better. All that took to change the teenage boy was for him to fall in love with the young girl.

When we love Jesus, our love for worldly things will fade away. I crown Jesus as Ruler of my heart. When He is in command, He leads me to the path of eternal life. Jesus bought you and me because we are so valuable to Him. It cost Him His life. It cost Him to be in a human body for eternity. We are valuable to Jesus. May the Lord forgive us for trusting in ourselves more than we trust in Him.

Amanda Colgan is a Deaf homemaker and she lives in Springfield, MO.

Simon of Cyrene and God's Plan for You

By Nohelani and Brennan Jarnes



Simon the Cyrenian is a Bible person you don't hear often. In fact, his story only appears briefly in the books of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. The Bible gives the story of Jesus in His final hours before His death. Mark 14:65 says, "Then some began to spit at him; they blindfolded him, struck him with their fists, and said, 'Prophecy!' And the guards took him and beat him" (NIV). Jesus was arrested, tried and then beaten. His friends left him. One of his disciples, Peter, denied it by saying that he didn't know Jesus! "Then he [Peter] went out to the gateway, where another girl

saw him and said to the people there, 'This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth.' He denied it again, with an oath: 'I don't know the man!' " (Matthew 26:71-72, NIV). The soldiers mocked Jesus by putting a scarlet robe on him and a crown of thorns (Matthew 27:27-31). The soldiers then led Jesus away to be crucified.

Jesus was very weak, and He could not bear his own cross. He was whipped badly before He carried the cross. He would have lost a lot of blood and muscle tissue. Roman floggings (whipping) alone were known to kill some people. This is in addition to him sweating blood in Gethsemane. A person can get so stressed that they sweat blood (which happened to Jesus), and the skin becomes very sensitive when this happens. This means the flogging and beating would have hurt him more than other people given the same punishment. The mental suffering he was going through would have only added to his agony. He could not continue carrying a heavy cross. The Romans did not like to see their victims die before executing them, so they

needed someone else to carry the cross. The Bible says in Matthew 27:32, "As they were going out, they met a man from Cyrene, named Simon, and they forced him to carry the cross" (NIV). They chose Simon. But who was Simon of Cyrene?

First, what we know about Simon, he was from Cyrene, a region in present-day Libya. He was probably a Jew that came to Judea for the Passover. Cyrene (capital of the province of Cyrenaica, present-day Libya) had many Jewish people at that time. Of course, he could have been just a traveler passing through the area. We do not know. But it seems likely that he was a Jew. Even if he was a Jew, it is unclear if his ethnicity was Jewish or African. Cyrene had Greeks, Romans, Africans, and Jews (ethnicity), so he could have been from any one of these ethnicities. Some people think the Romans chose him because he was Black. But the Bible does not tell us. The only thing the Bible says about Simon is that he was forced to carry the cross of Jesus. Do you think this was a mistake? Was it a chance that Simon was chosen to carry the cross? I do not think so.

God told the Israelites through the Prophet Jeremiah that He had a plan for them:

" 'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future' " (Jeremiah 29:11, NIV). God had a plan for Simon too. He gave Simon a hope and a future too. God used Simon for a special purpose; he carried Jesus' cross! Proverbs 16:9 says, "In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps." God guided Simon's footsteps to that place where He used Simon for a special purpose.

Friend, God guides your footsteps too, if you will let Him. In Revelation 3:20, it says, "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with me and he with me." Do you see Jesus knocking on the door of your heart? Let Him come in and live in your heart! God has a special plan for your life. He loved you so much that He sent His Son to die for you (John 3:16). All He wants is your heart and He will change you forever. All you have to do is open the door of your heart to Him!

Nohelani Jarnes is a Deaf Ministry Coordinator of Washington State and is an Interpreter. Brennan Jarnes is a son of Nohelani and is a college student and a writer.

How Do We Get a Healthy Body?

By Francisca Trexler



Mongkolchon Akesin/istockphoto

God himself wants us to have a good healthy body and mind. Let us see the Bible, 3 John 1:2, “Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, even as your soul is well” (MEV). With a healthy body and mind, we will be able to handle anything in our life. If we have a problem with our health, how can we take it? It would be too much to take when we have health problems. It would put too much burden on our bodies and minds. That was why God wanted us to have a healthy body and mind. Satan wants us to have poor health and sick minds. God prays that we go well and enjoy a good healthy body and mind.

Three meals a day

We know that we should eat three meals a day. But many of us tend to eat between meals like eat candy, cookies, pastry, drink soda pop, juice, or popcorn. We need to wait until lunchtime or dinner time. If we are hungry, drink water and let our stomachs rest well before the next meal. Let us think about our stomach. Eating between meals puts too much burden on our stomach, so we should let the stomach rest and drink plenty of water. Our minds will be sharp and clear. The stomach is excellent at collecting the food we eat and sending digested food to our bodies. The stomach is very sensitive, and it can be abused easily through the wrong diet and meal plan.

Many people are having stomach problems. Drinking water is the best way to keep the stomach young and healthy. We are to drink at least eight glasses of water during the day because our body is 97% of water. It is amazing! Also, drinking water is helpful to lose weight, reduce sickness, and help the bones of the body.

Some of you might remember my Uncle Tom, who passed away over 80 years old from prostate cancer. The doctors asked my aunt's permission for the autopsy on his body. About two weeks later, one of them called my aunt and said he would like to visit her. They asked her what her husband (my Uncle Tom) ate when they met her. She said that my Uncle Tom ate a very simple diet and never ate anything before the meals. He drank plenty of water. Also, he never ate hot, spicy food and never drank hot. Mainly, he never drank water while eating the food. He usually drank water one hour before breakfast or waited one hour after the meal. He hardly had a stomach problem. So, my aunt wondered why they talked about my uncle's eating habits. They explained that they discovered that my uncle's stomach was as good as a young man's even though he was over 80 years old. My

uncle was careful about eating, which helped his stomach stay young without any signs of abuse.

When I was a little girl, I watched him. I had not seen him drinking water while he was eating. I keep my practice that I don't drink anything when eating the meal. He was my role model.

Some people enjoy having two meals a day. I prefer two meals a day on Sundays. It is nice to let the stomach rest more and be healthy. Also, it is nice to have two meals a day; the night, we go to bed with an empty stomach which will help us sleep well. If we are not physically active, it would be good to have two meals a day, but it may be wise to have three meals a day for a very physically active person.

Exercise 30 minutes daily

Exercise for 30 minutes daily helps our mind and body. Our muscles will be toned up and firm and help us balance better with better control of our body. Exercising is excellent for the bones to be strong and healthy. For example, usually, our muscles become weak to pull or push as we get older. Exercising prevents weak muscles and bones. My good friend could not get up after falling because her muscles were so soft and weak due to sitting all

day. But I learned that she never exercised. What a pity sight she was in. We need to keep exercising daily to be able to do anything like push, pull, and pick. If a person hates exercise, he could walk for at least 30 minutes to benefit his health.

Sleep at least 8 hours

It is important to have regular seven to eight hours of sleep each night to help the body repair cells and let the whole body rest for the next day of activities. Enough hours of sleep will allow us to work better and handle the stress in our daily activities. Good regular sleep improves our health. Normal good sleep in eight hours and daily exercise will guard us against flu, diseases, and colds. Of course, enough sleep and exercise will help us have positive health and a positive mind. Poor sleep usually increases the risk of high blood pressure, high cholesterol, cardiovascular disease, weight-related issues, metabolic syndrome, diabetes, and colorectal cancer. Men with sleep disturbances are at increased risk of early death from all causes. Also, healthy sleep would help us lose weight and keep us happier in good health and mind.

Here are the simple things

we can do: keep eating healthy vegetarian foods, regular exercise, stay active such as riding the bike, play sports like volleyball and basketball, swim, get enough sleep, reduce stress, and drink plenty of water.

Have faith in God

We need to have a healthy body and mind so that we can worship God and be able to study the Bible with the help of the wonderful Holy Spirit. With a healthy body and mind, we can have a positive view of life. Let us give glory to God, because He created us. Our body is God's temple. See 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20—"Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God, and that you are not your own? You were bought with a price. Therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's" (MEV).

Finally, it would be easier for us to follow the simple rule of NEWSTART if we wish to have a healthy mind and body for the rest of our life.

NEWSTART stands for: Nutrition, Exercise, Water, Sunshine, Temperance (Self-Control), Air, Rest, and Trust in God

Francisca Trexler is the Bible School director and she lives in Lanham, MD.

We Will Drink No Wine

By C. L. Paddock



“But they said, ‘We will drink no wine. For Jonadab the son of Rekab our father commanded us, saying, ‘You shall not drink wine, neither you nor your sons forever’ ” (Jeremiah 35:6).

About a hundred years ago, many families were going West to establish new homes, find gold, and seek adventure. One of these pioneer families was traveling by covered wagon. This family was driving through a small Midwestern town. The father stopped his team to ask one of the residents, “Hey, friend, any saloons in this town?”

“Yes, four,” was the answer.

“Giddap,” said the man in the wagon, and the team moved on. “I cannot live here. I have four boys in this wagon.”

“Wait a minute,” shouted the stranger. “What’s your business?”

Stopping the team for a moment, the driver replied,

“My business is to save these boys, and I don’t think these four saloons will help me.” And he drove on in search of a better place to raise his family.

He was a wise father. Fortunately, he could get stay away from the saloon and its influences. He would find it a bit more difficult today. You say, “We don’t have any saloons now.” No, but we have taverns, roadhouses, nightclubs, liquor stores, and cocktail bars. Liquor is sold in many drugstores and grocery stores, and supermarkets.

We doubt that any person who makes the liquor, the one who sells it, or the person who drinks it, would say that any of these places that sell liquor can provide money to help in raising our children, in solving our juvenile problems, in making for better homes.

Also, we doubt that any person would support having a liquor store or tavern be located next door to their home or that we put a liquor store right across the street from our schools or churches.

A patriotic young man who felt his country needed him joined the Army as a soldier. When he got to a certain location, he was asked to work in a canteen (restaurant on a military base) where he was required to give beer to his buddies. He refused to do it, and his superior officer was angry at his disobedience. He

sent him to the commander of the base.

“Is it true,” the officer asked, “that you have refused to obey orders?” You know that is serious disobedience in the Army.”

Politely but firmly, the young man replied, “Yes, sir, the report is correct. I enlisted to be a soldier and not a bartender. My conscience won’t let me do it.”

The officer moved his hand to shake him and said, “Shake hands, Johnson. We need more men like you. You can do plenty of important jobs, work you can do with a clear conscience.”

True, the world does need more men like Johnson today—people who have convictions and dare to be true to those convictions, even at the risk of punishment. If more people resolved to drink no more wine forever, this would be a better land in which to live.

Paddock, C. L., *God’s Minutes*, page 83, with adaptation.

Led by a Child

By Denton Rebok



Victorwellow/istockphoto

Sometimes children show more faith than adults. This story will give you an example.

The weather was very, very dry in Africa for several months. The whole countryside was brown, dusty, and hopeless. The drought was drying up crops and killing cattle. Finally, some Christians announced a meeting for the people to come together to pray for rain. The church folks thought it was necessary to pray to God to have mercy on the poor, starving people.

The day arrived, and the members gathered at the church for the prayer meeting. The members were surprised

when they saw a little girl bringing along her umbrella. Many of the older church members smiled. Some even laughed at her. They thought that her umbrella was a joke. But the little girl thought that bringing her umbrella was not a funny thing. She said, "Didn't we come to pray for rain? And don't you expect God to hear our prayers and send rain? I came prepared to go home in the rain!"

Adapted from *These Times*, March 1955.

How to Fix a Fatty Liver

By Dr. Sue Radd

A fatty liver can arrive like a stealth bomber—without warning, pains or nausea to alert you. If you don't make a big lifestyle change, it can lead to a more serious chronic (happen again and again for a long time) liver disease such as cirrhosis.

Causes

Fatty liver disease is widespread in Western countries. It affects about one in every ten people. Fatty liver disease is a build-up of fats in the liver. It is the most common reason for abnormal liver-function tests that your doctor can check through a blood test.

Heavy alcohol use is a well-known risk factor for liver disease. But, being very overweight and insulin resistance are the major modern causes of a fatty liver.

Consequences

Fatty liver increases inflammation in the body, doubles the risk of cardiovascular disease (of the heart and blood vessels) and diabetes, and multiplies by four the possibility of metabolic syndrome—a combination of medical risk factors that increase the chances of developing cardiovascular disease and diabetes.

Treatment

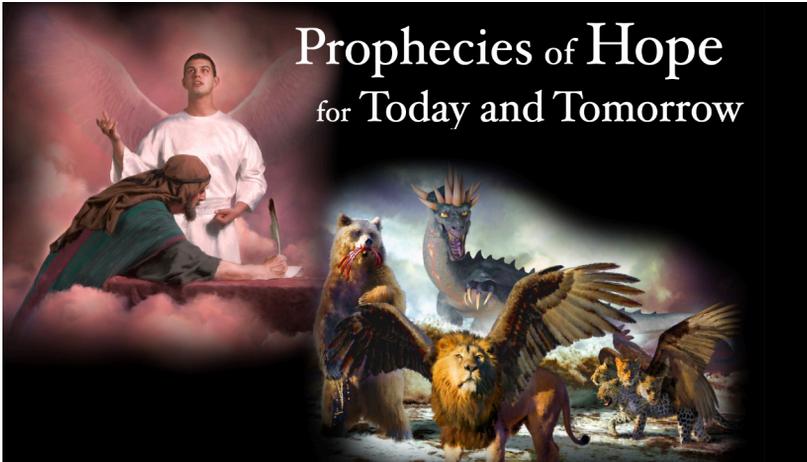
No medication can cure a fatty liver, but it does respond well to lifestyle improvements. The following suggestions will help you to avoid or perhaps even reverse a fatty liver problem:

If you are overweight, lose weight until you reach a healthy weight range. As little as a 5 to 10 percent loss of your current weight can improve a fatty liver. Very low-calorie diets taken for 12 weeks have been shown to shrink the fatty liver in very overweight people by one-third!

Walk for one hour each day. This can help your body burn fat, protect your liver against oxidative damage, and improve your overall liver health, according to a study from the Cleveland Clinic's Lerner Research Institute.

Eat a plant-based diet that is rich in fiber and antioxidants. This will make it easier to lose fat and keep it off for a long time. Scientists have found that an olive oil-rich Mediterranean-style diet can also help shrink a fatty liver.

Sue Radd, PhD, Clinical Senior Lecturer in the Discipline of Exercise and Sport Science, Sydney School of Health Sciences, Faculty of Medicine and Health, The University of Sydney



Are you worried about what is happening around the world? Pandemics, earthquakes, riots, wars, government corruptions, crazy weathers, wild fires, droughts, dying animals and fishes, rising crimes, poverty, racial problems, roller coaster economy, broken-down family values, rising suicides, depression and many other human problems. Is there any hope for you and all of us? Yes, there is! An ASL Bible series—Prophecies of Hope for Today and Tomorrow is available. May God give you hope and peace in your heart when you watch the series. Watch the 22 presentations in: https://deafbibleschool.com/evangelism_video.php

Visit our booth at Deaf events!



We offer free DVDs and Bible pamphlets to learn more about our wonderful God and the Bible prophecies. We are in the last days of the earth's history so come and get those free materials and visit with our staff for any questions you have about the Bible.

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DeafNation Expo—Rochester, NY—October 1, 2022
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