

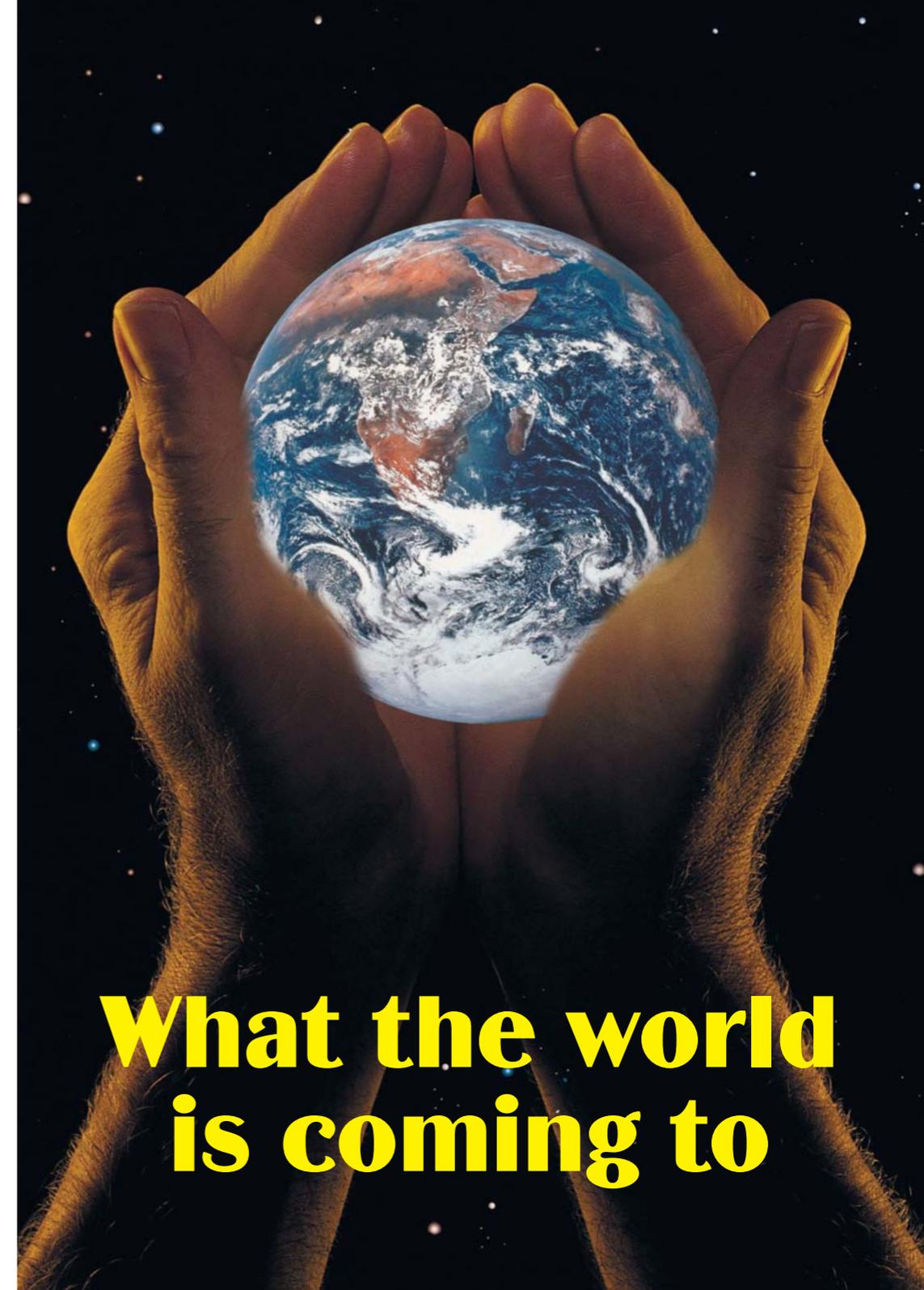
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**What the world
is coming to**

not heeded my voice, they certainly shall not see the land of which I swore to their fathers, nor shall any of those who rejected me see it" (Numbers 14:21-23).

For the children of Israel there was to be a new beginning; but for those who did not believe God, there was a total end. The ten faithless spies died in the wilderness. Nobody even knows where they were buried. They are gone forever.

Lasting Lessons

Their *unbelief* serves as a continual reminder to us that if we want to be part of God's purpose, and if we really want to glorify His name by trying to be like Him, we have to learn from their mistakes (see 1 Corinthians 10:1-6). They didn't believe God – we must **believe** His promises!

The spies reckoned without God, and that was a fatal mistake. God had invited them to possess a kingdom which He would enable them to enter; to occupy a land in which He would give them rest. That promise still stands and we can enter into God's promised inheritance, by **faith** and through **baptism**.

New Beginning

Baptism – immersion in water following our *Belief* in God's promises – is the one and only way that God has appointed for each of us to show our desire to:

- start again;*
- become new creatures;*
- live as God's people.*

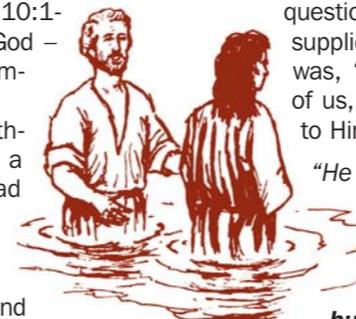
It was the apostle Paul who summed up the change that has to occur, and who described the way that God views us when we have been baptised, when he said:

"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, **all things have become new**" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

"What Must I Do?"

The apostle was describing the way that God has been working to reconcile the world to Himself, through the redeeming work of Jesus on the cross. When we are baptised "*into Christ*" and then seek to live "*in Christ*" every day of our lives, we begin a new life – life with God. That new life will take us in an entirely different direction from the one we would have taken had we been left to ourselves.

Long ago, the prophet Micah asked a question to which he immediately supplied the answer. The question was, "What does God really require of us, if our lives are to be pleasing to Him?" His answer?



"He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but **to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?**" (Micah 6:8).

- ✿ **Reading God's Word** and checking out all these things is the first thing.
- ✿ **Understanding and Believing** them is the next.
- ✿ **Baptism** into the saving name of Jesus is the way – the only way – that God has appointed

That's the way to end the past and start your new life. It's both an end and a beginning – the end of a fruitless, hopeless and godless life and the start of a fruitful, hopeful and godly one.

It is the start of the journey to God's kingdom, the most important journey any of us will ever take. Don't miss out!

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