

WHO WILL YOU FOLLOW?

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Would you follow Jesus if it meant hardship, perhaps even death?

Let me give you some of the MAJOR HEADLINES in our world today. Reason is to show you how close we are to prophecy of the last days.

FEBRUARY 02,2005

### **Jesse Helms biggest fear? Bill Clinton running the United Nations**

Bill Clinton in charge of the United Nations? That's the image former U.S. Sen. Jesse Helms is dangling in front of his ardent supporters in a letter aimed at raising money for his senatorial library.

### **Job Description for the Next Pope**

To ensure the vitality of the Catholic Church, the successor to John Paul II must embrace science, reject globalization, reach out to the Islamic world—and brush up on economics.

### **Reintroduced Fetal Pain Bill Garners Unlikely Supporter**

Kansas Senator Sam Brownback reintroduced a bill on Wednesday that requires abortionists to notify women who want abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy that their unborn baby can likely experience extreme pain.

### **Annan Selects Clinton for Tsunami Effort**

Secretary-General Kofi Annan has selected former President Clinton to be the U.N. point man for tsunami reconstruction and ensure that the world doesn't forget the needs of those devastated by the Dec. 26 disaster, a U.N. diplomat said Tuesday.

### **German jobless hits Nazi-era highs**

Despite some signs of improving sentiment, big German companies including industrial giant Siemens AG and Deutsche Bank have continued to shed jobs.

### **Pope Hospitalization Raises Talk of Succession**

The sudden hospitalization of Pope John Paul was another reminder, if any were needed, that one of the longest and most event-studded pontificates in history may be coming to a close.

### **Abbas Agrees to Meet Sharon in Egypt - Official**

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has accepted an invitation to a summit with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon in Egypt next week, senior Palestinian officials said on Wednesday.

### **Source: Slayings resembled Islamist executions**

Fatal wounds of New Jersey family suggest religious motive

### **PBS stations to air lesbian-promoting cartoon**

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Despite criticism from education secretary, own network's cancellation

### **U.N. Chooses Bill Clinton as Tsunami Envoy**

Former U.S. President Bill Clinton has been chosen as a special U.N. envoy to ensure the reconstruction effort for the Asian tsunami victims remains a high-profile operation, the United Nations said on Tuesday.

FEBRUARY 03,2005

### **Univ. of Colo. Faculty Backs 9/11 Slur Prof**

As pressure mounts on a University of Colorado professor who ignited a furor by comparing the World Trade Center victims to Nazis, colleagues have come to his defense — on free speech grounds.

### **UN Demands Speedy Prosecutions over Darfur 'Genocide'**

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan demanded speedy prosecution of Sudanese officials and militiamen guilty of crimes against humanity in Darfur, as members of the Security Council came under renewed pressure to tackle the issue at last.

### **Antarctic ice sheet is an 'awakened giant'**

The massive west Antarctic ice sheet, previously assumed to be stable, is starting to collapse, scientists warned on Tuesday.

### **Russia, China to Hold Security Talks**

"This is the first time ever that China is establishing a mechanism of national security consultations with another country," said Tang, who said he had discussed details of the initiative with Russian Security Council secretary Igor Ivanov earlier in the day.

### **Rare Sexually Transmitted Disease Strikes 2 in N.Y.**

Two New Yorkers have been diagnosed with a rare sexually transmitted disease that is spreading among gay and bisexual men in Europe, the city health commissioner said on Wednesday. The disease, known as LGV or Lymphogranuloma venereum, is caused by specific strains of chlamydia and is often marked by painful, bloody rectal infection and genital ulcers.

"LGV is a serious condition and its emergence in New York City reflects continuing high levels of unsafe sexual activity among men who have sex with men," Health Commissioner Thomas Frieden told a news conference. "Unprotected anal intercourse, in particular, is extremely risky in terms of the spread of LGV as well as HIV," he added.

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The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta has confirmed six recent cases in the United States, including three cases in San Francisco and one in Atlanta. Among the cases identified thus far, most have also had HIV/AIDS infection, Frieden said. The Netherlands has reported 92 cases of LGV dating back to 2003 and Belgium, France, Sweden and Britain have also reported infections. Most people infected report having multiple sex partners and engaging in unprotected anal intercourse and other high-risk practices, officials said.

LGV can be cured by a three-week course of antibiotics if identified early. Untreated, it can cause swelling and scarring of the genitals and permanent damage to the bowels.

### **Israel, Palestinians Seek Summit Call to End Violence**

Israel and the Palestinians said on Thursday they hoped to declare a formal halt to violence at an Egyptian-hosted summit next week that will mark a dramatic return to peacemaking after more than four years of bloodshed.

### **The truth is out there: declassified reports of UFO sightings reveal 88 sightings last year**

Details of Britain's most recent UFO sightings are revealed in previously secret - Details of Britain's most recent UFO sightings are revealed in previously secret documents disclosed to The Independent .

The files, released under the Freedom of Information Act, show that, last year, the Ministry of Defence's UFO unit received 88 reports from military staff and members of the public worried about unexplained objects in our skies.

The classified files help to complete a picture of the scale of UFO sightings first revealed by this paper last month. These updated "X-files" show the most recent observations were made on 15 January this year following two separate reports from Chatteris, Cambridgeshire, and Whitstable, Kent. The reports refer to "strange lights seen in the sky".

Other sightings give more detail. A report from Devizes in Wiltshire on 24 September last year records an object that: "Looked liked a big ball of fire coming down from the sky with a tail and sparks coming off the end of it." Another, from Somerset the week before, states: "The object looked like a great bright light and was really intense, like a ball of fire coming down from the sky, rapidly moving towards the ground." documents disclosed to The Independent .

### **Ho Chi Minh City Kills Ducks in Bird Flu Fight**

Vietnam's biggest city, home to 10 million people, began slaughtering its ducks on Wednesday in an increasingly desperate fight to halt the spread of the deadly bird flu virus that has killed 13 people in the last month.

### **Iran and China linked to Ukraine missiles**

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An investigation by the Ukrainian secret police has found that Iran and China bought long-range missiles designed to carry nuclear warheads from Ukraine, one of the country's politicians said on Wednesday.

### **Egypt to host Middle East summit**

Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon have accepted an invitation to attend a summit in Egypt next Tuesday.

### **Pope in hospital for second night**

Pope John Paul II has spent a second night in hospital after being taken ill with an acute respiratory infection.

### **European Economies: German Jobless Rise to Record**

German unemployment jumped to the highest since World War II as new rules added welfare recipients to the jobless register, clouding the outlook for Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder in elections this month.

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### **Vatican's No. 2 Man in Spotlight**

The Vatican's No. 2, Cardinal Angelo Sodano, spent more than two decades as a key behind-the-scenes churchman before the pontiff's poor health drew him increasingly into the public spotlight.

### **Palestinian ceasefire ends four-year intifada**

The Palestinians will officially declare an end to four years of armed confrontation with Israel when they announce a ceasefire at a summit in Egypt next week, Mahmoud Abbas, the president of the Palestinian Authority, said yesterday.

### **Scientists locate universe's missing matter**

Some of the universe's missing "normal" matter has been found hiding in clouds of hot gas between galaxies, according to research published on Thursday in the British scientific journal Nature.

### **Local clergy unite for ban on same-sex marriages**

Testing their political muscle, more than 50 clergy from an interracial mix of denominations gathered Thursday to demand legislators' support for a state constitutional amendment that would forbid same-sex marriage.

### **Church needs better evolution education, says bishops' official**

Catholic educators need better teaching programs about evolution "to correct the

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anti-evolution biases that Catholics pick up" from the general society, according to a U.S. bishops' official involved in dialogue with scientists for 20 years.

### **Russia Might Send Peacekeepers to Sudan**

President Vladimir Putin has signed a resolution that would have Russian troops join a proposed U.N. peacekeeping operation in Sudan, the Kremlin said Thursday.

### **As Pope ails, questions of succession abound**

Should he die, there would be no clear favorites in sight - making the question of papal succession as unpredictable as any in recent history.

### **Iranian TV sermon threatens U.S.**

'We will punch you in the mouth' followed by 'Death to America'

### **Judge rules against Christians who preached to homosexuals**

'Philly 5' lose round in federal court, prosecutors get away with calling defendants' words 'hateful'

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### **Four U.S. Soldiers Killed in Iraq**

Insurgents launched fresh attacks, killing four U.S. soldiers and four Iraqi security troops in roadside bombings, as partial returns from the historic national elections showed a Shiite alliance with ties to Iran rolling up a strong lead over pro-U.S. interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi.

### **Frail Pope's health 'improving'**

Pope John Paul II's health is improving and he is eating normally, a Vatican spokesman has told reporters. Joaquin Navarro-Valls said the pontiff hoped to give his regular live address on Sunday from hospital but a decision would not be taken until the day.

### **Rice urges 'united front' on Iran**

New US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has called on Europe to show "unity of purpose" with Washington in opposing Iran's nuclear programme.

### **Greek church rocked by scandals**

The Greek Orthodox Church has suspended a senior bishop over a scandal that has engulfed the clergy and the judiciary.

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### **Sick Pope makes public appearance**

Pope John Paul II waved to pilgrims after appearing at the window of his hospital room where he is recovering from flu and breathing difficulties.

### **Relics of biblical history debated**

Experts dispute archaeological finds' authenticity

### **Unmarried families are more likely to fall apart**

The findings indicate that family breakdown is no longer driven by divorce, but by the collapse of unmarried partnerships.

### **Closest Flyby of Large Asteroid to be Naked-Eye Visible**

An asteroid expected to fly past Earth in 2029 will be visible to the naked eye, scientists projected Thursday.

### **North Korea threatens: U.S. bases 'sea of fire'**

South: 690,000 American troops, 2,000 planes to be dispatched to peninsula  
U.S. military bases will become a "sea of fire" if war breaks out on the Korean peninsula. That's the latest threat from North Korea, while South Korea says close to 700,000 American troops would be sent to the region.

### **NYC to Appeal Same-Sex Marriage Ruling**

The city will appeal a judge's ruling against the state ban on same-sex marriages, the mayor said Saturday. Mayor Michael Bloomberg said he wanted the issue to be settled in the state's highest court or in the Legislature.

### **Most Hezbollah sites hosted in U.S.**

Companies provide domains, space for Lebanese terror group. A recently disclosed list of companies providing service to Hezbollah websites exposed something shocking – 22 out of 25 primary sites for the Lebanese terror group are hosted by U.S. companies.

### **Embryo in clinic ruled a 'human'**

Judge: Mistaken disposal of fertilized egg meets law's criteria for 'wrongful death'

(Mat 24:23 KJV) Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not.

(Mat 24:26 KJV) Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not.

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...nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places... Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. -Christ, in the Gospel of St. Matthew 24:7, 23-24, KJV

Let me bring you up to date where our world is right now:

I. The Importance of Leadership.

- A. Look to leaders to solve problems.
- B. Look to leaders to make us feel powerful, significant.
  - 1) Roosevelt, Churchill, Reagan
  - 2) Hitler, Lenin

II. Bible recognizes importance of leadership.

- A. Leaders are needed in every level of society
  - 1) Church.
  - 2) Society.
  - 3) Home.
- B. Human leadership always bears seeds of destruction.
  - 1) Dictators like MANUEL NORIEGA, **Saddam** Hussein, Pentagon bribery probe.
  - 2) Ultimately, the Antichrist.

III. The Antichrist is a fascinating topic.

- A. Not just curiosity -
  - 1) Bible says he is real.
  - 2) May be alive today.
- B. Appears in both Old and New Testaments.

IV. Jesus' teaching.

- A. Many false Christs exist. Matt 24:5
- B. Antichrist is a person who desecrates the Temple. Matt 24:15
- C. Signal that Tribulation is beginning. Matt 24:21

V. Daniel - Old Testament background

- A. Ruler will make a 7 year Covenant with Jews. Dan 9:27
- B. Half-way through, halts sacrifices.
- C. Puts an abomination (pig) in Temple.  
(Jesus says it is antichrist himself who is abomination, stands in temple.)
- D. Magnifies himself above God. Dan 11:36
- E. Invades Israel. Dan 11:40

VI. Paul - 2 Thessalonians 2

- A. "Man of sin" 2 Th 2:3
  - 1) Still future.

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2) Doomed to destruction.

- B. Opposes God: 2 Th 2:4
  - 1) Sets self up in Temple.
  - 2) Proclaims himself to be God.
- C. His power exists right now. 2 Th 2:7
  - 1) He is being restrained. (2 Th 2:6)
  - 2) When he comes, he will have power of Satan. 2 Th 2:9
- D. Wicked (who actually choose it) will be deceived. 2 Th 2:10

VII. 1 John 2

- A. Many Antichrists have come already. 1 Jn 2:18; 4:3
  - 1) They deny humanity of Jesus. 2 Jn :7
  - 2) They deny messiah-ship of Jesus. 1 Jn 2:22
- B. In Last Days an individual will come.
  - 1) Will come out of Christian Church?

VIII. Book of Revelation

- A. Comprehensive:
  - 1) Many details.
  - 2) But complicated - strange symbols.
  - 3) Overlapping of concepts. (read Rev 13:1-3)
- B. Summary:
  - 1) Multiple significance -
    - a) A combination of past world empires. Rev 13:1 / Dan
    - b) A future empire of 10 nations. Rev 13:1 / 17:9
    - c) A dynasty of rulers, 5 already dead. Rev 17:9
    - d) One specific leader out of 10.
      - 1. Individual appears to be slain. Rev 13:3
      - 2. Individual has statue erected. Rev 13:14
  - 2) Reverse image of Jesus -
    - a) Appears to be slain Rev 13:3
    - b) Authority over whole world Rev 13:5
    - c) Demands worship Rev 13:5,12
    - d) Gives credit to Satan (=Dragon) Rev 13:12
  - 3) Appeals to worldliness -
    - a) Revives after assassination attempt Rev 13:3
    - b) Does miracles Rev 13:13
    - c) Militarily powerful and successful Rev 13:4
  - 4) Demands obedience -
    - a) Enforces worship Rev 13:12
    - b) Economic controls Rev 13:16

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- 1> Mark of Beast
- 2 666 Rev 13:18
- 5) Opposes Christians -
  - a) Makes war on them Rev 13:7
  - b) Kills many
- 6) Is defeated by Jesus -
  - a) At Armageddon Rev 19:20
  - b) With word from Jesus' mouth 2 Th 2:8  
and splendor of his coming
  - c) Thrown in Lake of Fire. Rev 19:20  
Punished forever. Rev 20:10

### IX. Application.

A. Whom do you follow and why?

- 1) Power
- 2) Something in it for you.

B. Would you choose Jesus or Antichrist?

C. Would you follow Jesus if it meant hardship, perhaps even death?

Look at your life now, and tell me if there is enough evidence to convict you of being a Christian.