

## **AFTER THE END**

**By: Randy Baker**

I can remember as a young boy overhearing some older gentlemen talking about the end of the earth. It was during the time of the cold war and their conclusion was that the earth would be destroyed in a nuclear war between the super powers. Jonathan Schell's book *The Fate Of The Earth*, also predicted the end would come from nuclear war. The *Day After*, a recreation of the end, was billed the TV event of the year. It too, predicted the end of the earth from nuclear holocaust.

In the late 1960's Paul Ehrlich authored *The Population Bomb*, in which he predicted the end would come by 1983, as a result of over population. Almost twenty-five years have passed since then. The population of the earth has now exceeded 6 billion and there are still vast areas of unsettled lands.

More recently, former Vice President Al Gore warned that if environmentalism does not become "our organizing principle, then the very survival of our civilization will be in doubt. It is interesting to me that many folks appear to be interested in **how** it will end, but give little or no consideration as to what will occur **after** the end.

Someday the end will come and we are not left to speculate as to how and what will occur. (2 Peter 3:10) All who have ever lived will be judged. (Matthew 25:31,32; Acts 17:31; 2 Corinthians 5:10) A separation will occur between the saved and the lost. (Matthew 25:32-41; 13:24-30)

The lost will take up permanent residence in hell, a place prepared for the devil and his angels. (Matthew 25:41) It is described as a place of flaming fire, (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9) a furnace of fire, (Matthew 13:42,50) a lake of fire, (Revelation 20:14) and a place where the worm dieth not and the fire is not quenched. (Mark 9:46) It is populated with the most deeply depraved of mankind. (Revelation 21:8; 22:15) It is a place where men will seek relief from misery but will never be able to receive it. (Luke 16:24) Hell is worse than anything that you or I can imagine. However, hell will be the residence of some for eternity.

Yet, others will enjoy the bliss of heaven. Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people. (John 14:3) You and I cannot begin to imagine the beauty of heaven. I do know that such things as tears, sorrow, dying and death will be no more. (Revelation 21:4) However, only those who have obeyed the Lord and lived faithful lives will be permitted to experience the wonders of heaven. (Mark 16:16; Hebrews 5:8,9; Revelation 2:10)

Have you given consideration to what will occur with you after the end? Heaven or hell, which will it be, where will you spend eternity? Think about it!