

MASSIVE EXPLOSIVES

FOUND NEAR HOMES



Echoes of Grace

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MASSIVE EXPLOSIVES

FOUND NEAR HOMES

Since January 1, 2015, live bombs packed with explosives that could rip apart town centers have been discovered buried across Europe and Asia. The potential for death and destruction is disrupting whole communities, forcing evacuations, closing key transportation links and placing military, police and civilian expert bomb-disposal squads in risky situations.

In late January, a Danish fisherman working the Baltic Sea near Bornholm brought up a deadly load in his net. The explosive measured nearly three feet long and forced a call to the Danish Emergency Management Agency who took charge of its disposal. Experts now estimate that there may be millions of such hidden explosives stashed in that same area. Genuine fear stalks the minds of the fishermen who work the rich fishing waters.



Then in March, a massive 550-pound bomb was discovered buried in central London that placed thousands of local residents at “significant risk.” Army disposal teams sent warnings through the area sending people from around 1,000 households fleeing to safety. Flyers posted in the area warned that were the bomb to explode, nearby homes could be destroyed and homes across a wide area damaged. The Tower Bridge across the famous Thames was closed and a massive rail line threatened. A local resident stated, “Everyone’s worried; everyone’s a bit petrified. All the buses have stopped and the trains might have to stop too.” Schools were evacuated while gutsy Army disposal experts carefully examined and removed the 5-foot-long bomb.

In late May, a little over a month before the fabled Wimbledon tennis tournament, a 110-pound bomb was discovered in a parking garage close to the storied Wembley Stadium where the tournament is held. The device, “capable of reaching heights of 1,100 feet,” with its explosion posed a serious threat. Hundreds were evacuated and the area brought to a standstill for 24 hours while army experts successfully removed the device.

Then, just days later, Cologne, Germany, faced its own crisis. Tens of thousands of residents were forced to leave their homes. Streets were flooded with long lines of senior citizens in wheelchairs

pushed by social workers moving toward waiting buses sent to get them out. Schools and kindergartens, even the local zoo, were shut down. The culprit? A 1-ton bomb found buried 16 feet underground near a vital bridge that lay close to a 45-story apartment complex.


In June reports were heating up around the world. Sicily had a key airport, the sixth busiest in Italy, closed down, rippling flight delays across Europe. Gloucestershire police in southern England called in local army bomb experts to check out 10 devices discovered in a cluster near new homes.

Now, just last week, news has filtered in from Okinawa that Japanese authorities fear removal of bombs buried in their area may take up to 70 years. A nervous Tetsuo Shimanaka said, "I get nervous every time there's a disposal operation, whatever the size. ... It's scary to think I was sleeping above bombs."

ARE YOU SLEEPING ON BOMBS?

Who'd ever want to sleep on bombs? But that's the enduring legacy of World War II. A recent





estimate made by the Berlin government guessed that the city sat on top of around 3,000 unexploded bombs. But no one knows quite how many there are or where a backhoe will expose the next one. Multiple people have died this decade trying to successfully remove them. Unexploded ordnance from that massive conflict litters not only nations across Europe but island nations from Brunei to Japan.

All this begs the deeper question. Do you have your house parked on a bomb or two? Maybe you live far from the blast zones of World War II or outside the range of the RPGs littering the Middle East and Central Asia. But what about the 110-pound “white lie” or the 1,000-pound “nasty gossip”? They may not have caused any obvious problems when they escaped our lips a few years ago. Now they are buried and forgotten by us. But just as the seven decades since World War II haven’t rendered its explosive power inert and harmless, seven millennia could roll by and leave our sins as potent as the day they were dropped in a heated moment of anger or deceit. Burying them under lovely stadiums of good works or 45 stories of charitable giving doesn’t remove their sting. **“That which hath been is now; and that which is to be hath already been; and God requireth that which is past”** (Ecclesiastes 3:15).

FIRE EXPOSES LIVE EXPLOSIVES

One family in Plymouth, England, kept a bomb given to them after a World War II raid as a door stop for years. It passed from one man to his brother and then on to his child. Then fire swept through a neighbor's house. "If that [were] to happen to us, the bomb would be a danger," they thought, so they called the Navy. Just this month the Royal Navy Bomb Disposal truck pulled into their driveway and then made off with the bomb that was proven to be live. What a mercy the fire hit next door instead of hitting their home.

Will you call the only available expert able to remove the hidden and exposed sin from your life? Leaving it to be tested by a future fire of judgment is not a good idea. Don't even dream of trying to dispose of it on your own. What a lousy idea to improve your life and pretend that will disarm the past. **"God requireth that which is past."** And God's Word says about Jesus, **"Now once in the end of the world hath He appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: so Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many"** (Hebrews 9:26-28). The Lord Jesus Christ is the only One that can ever remove the explosive power of sin from your life. Will you call on Him to be your Saviour?

Find out what else has long-lasting power in *An Old-Growth Forest and Eternity*. ◀

An **OLD-GROWTH** **FOREST** and **ETERNITY**

If you were to walk through a stand of old-growth forest in the Pacific Northwest, you would be walking through one of the most beautiful, majestic places on earth. You would find yourself marveling at the straightness and height of the trees, which are almost unbelievably huge. Douglas fir, spruce and red cedar can grow to heights of 300 feet, and sometimes these trees can be as much as 13 feet across. A tree trunk with a diameter of 13 feet would require eight or nine people holding hands to wrap their arms around its trunk.

Although these trees may look like they are growing straight up to heaven, they invariably have a lean to them. This lean may not be perceptible to the naked eye. It was important for old-time loggers to know which way these trees were leaning. The slightest lean in one of these

old-growth giants would greatly affect the direction the tree would fall when it was cut down. This is why lumberjacks would take a plumb line (a piece of string with a narrow lead weight attached to one end) and hold it against the trunk of the tree to determine which way it was leaning. Once they determined the lean, they could safely predict what direction the tree would fall when it was cut down.

Some of those old-growth trees are 600 or 700 years old. That is a long time indeed, but compared to eternity, it is less than a tiny sliver of wood compared to all the trees that have ever grown in the soil of the earth. These trees can live to a remarkably old age, but they don't live forever. However, human beings *will* live forever. Do you know that eternity may be just around the corner for any of us? Our physical bodies will one day return to the dust, and in the dust they will remain until they are resurrected, but each person will exist forever in heaven or hell. This is why it is so important to get right with God through repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. People who remain unrepentant sinners will be sent out of God's presence and into the darkness of a lost eternity forever.

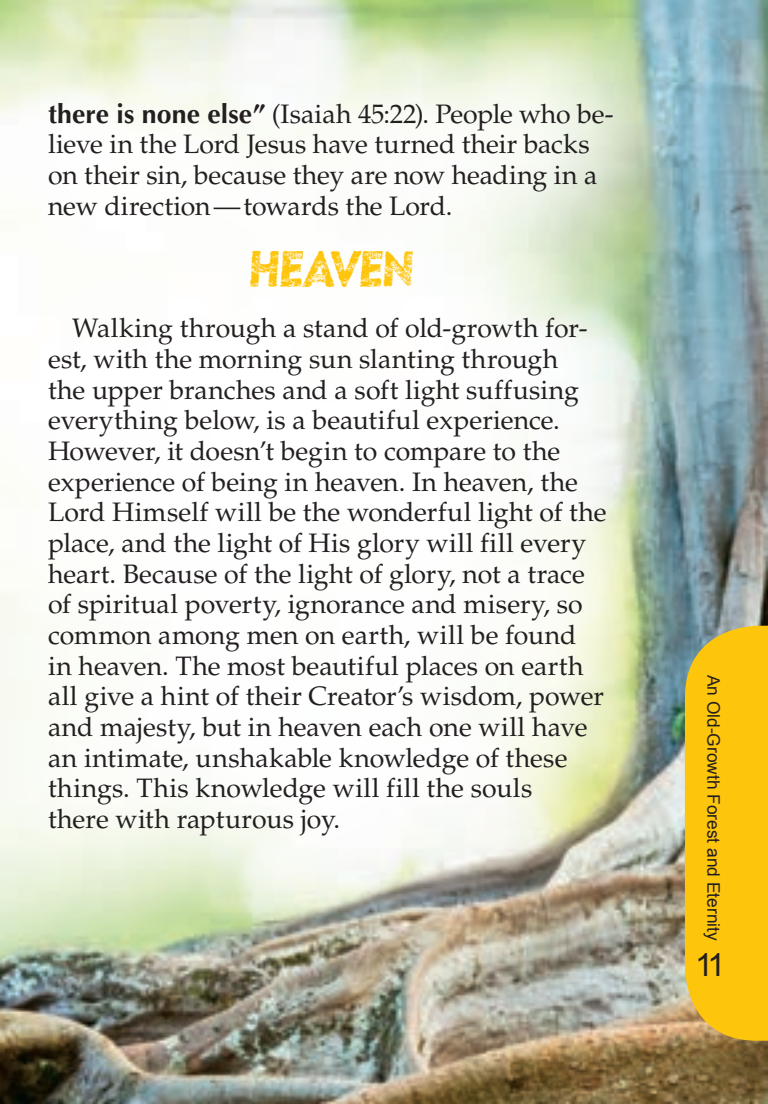
REPENTANCE

People need to repent, because they invariably have a "lean" to them. **"All have sinned, and come**

short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). God’s glory — His goodness, love, righteousness and holiness so pure, so wonderful, is the standard by which He will judge the world. It is the plumb line that every person’s life will be compared to. If you are comparing yourself to other human beings who are sinners, you might be deceived into thinking that everything is fine, just because you measure up favorably against the majority of other people. But it is only when you hold up God’s plumb line — His standard of righteousness — that you will see how far you have fallen short. Sins are thoughts, words or actions willfully committed that are at odds with God’s right ways. Repentance is when we have a change in the depth of our hearts and come to hate the sin we once loved, because God is at work in our heart.

The Lord Jesus died on Calvary’s cross so that sinners who repent might be forgiven. **“Through this Man [Jesus Christ] is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins”** (Acts 13:38). The blood He shed on the cross has the power to wash away the guilt of sin for all those who believe on Him.

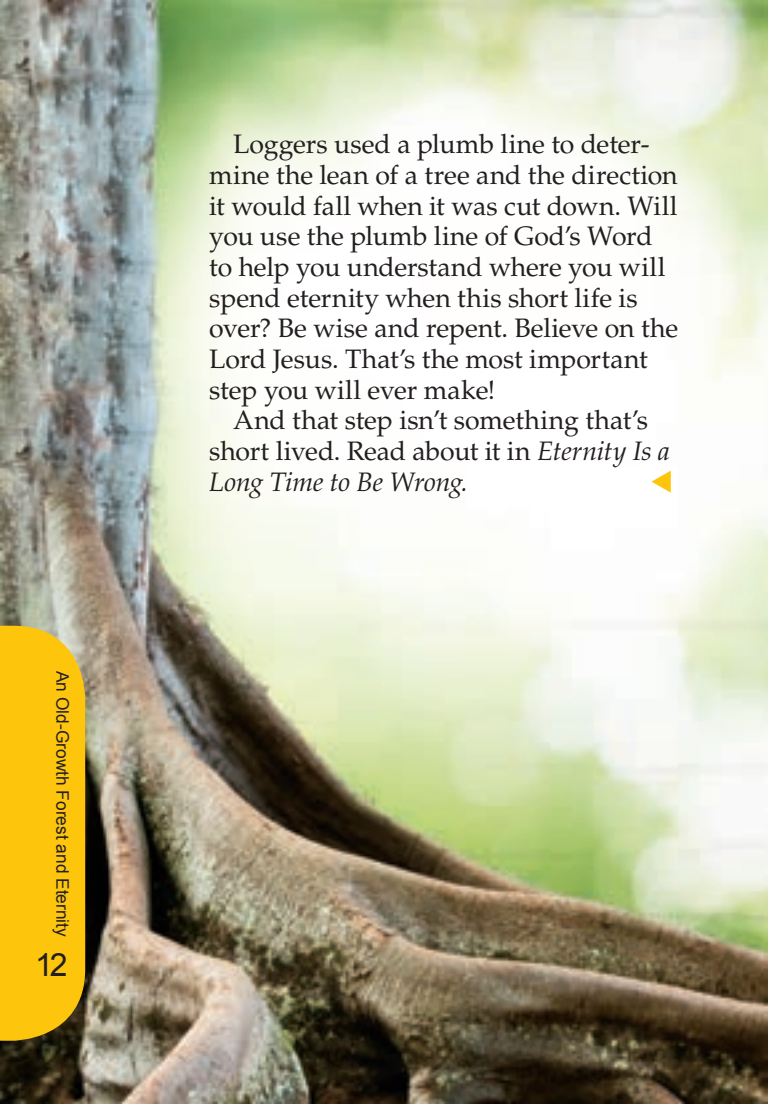
Repentance and faith are bound together: You can’t have one without the other. People who repent will always be led of God to look to the Saviour for the forgiveness of sins. **“Look unto Me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and**

A photograph of an old-growth forest. In the foreground, there are large, gnarled tree roots covered in moss. A blue bird is perched on a branch in the upper right. The background is a soft-focus green forest.

there is none else” (Isaiah 45:22). People who believe in the Lord Jesus have turned their backs on their sin, because they are now heading in a new direction — towards the Lord.

HEAVEN

Walking through a stand of old-growth forest, with the morning sun slanting through the upper branches and a soft light suffusing everything below, is a beautiful experience. However, it doesn't begin to compare to the experience of being in heaven. In heaven, the Lord Himself will be the wonderful light of the place, and the light of His glory will fill every heart. Because of the light of glory, not a trace of spiritual poverty, ignorance and misery, so common among men on earth, will be found in heaven. The most beautiful places on earth all give a hint of their Creator's wisdom, power and majesty, but in heaven each one will have an intimate, unshakable knowledge of these things. This knowledge will fill the souls there with rapturous joy.



Loggers used a plumb line to determine the lean of a tree and the direction it would fall when it was cut down. Will you use the plumb line of God's Word to help you understand where you will spend eternity when this short life is over? Be wise and repent. Believe on the Lord Jesus. That's the most important step you will ever make!

And that step isn't something that's short lived. Read about it in *Eternity Is a Long Time to Be Wrong*. ◀



Messages

Edit

ETERNITY

IS A LONG TIME TO
BE WRONG

@Live4Today

I've looked into it and heaven and hell are old and outdated myths from a pre-scientific world.

@JesusSaves

Are you sure?

@Live4Today

Absolutely! Now is all that we have.

@JesusSaves

Eternity is a long time to be wrong.

@Live4Today

When we die, that's it. We become worm food.

@JesusSaves



Text Message

Send



Messages

Edit

@JesusSaves

You're closer to right than you know. As for "That's it:" Abraham said to the rich man in hell...

@JesusSaves

"Between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot" (Luke 16:26).

@JesusSaves

As for *worm food*, speaking of hell, Jesus said: "Where their worm [conscience] dieth not, and the fire is not quenched" (Mark 9:36).

Text Message

Send



**“God
require[s]
that
which
is past.”**

Ecclesiastes 3:15

ECHOES OF GRACE

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*“Whoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved”
(Romans 10:13).*

