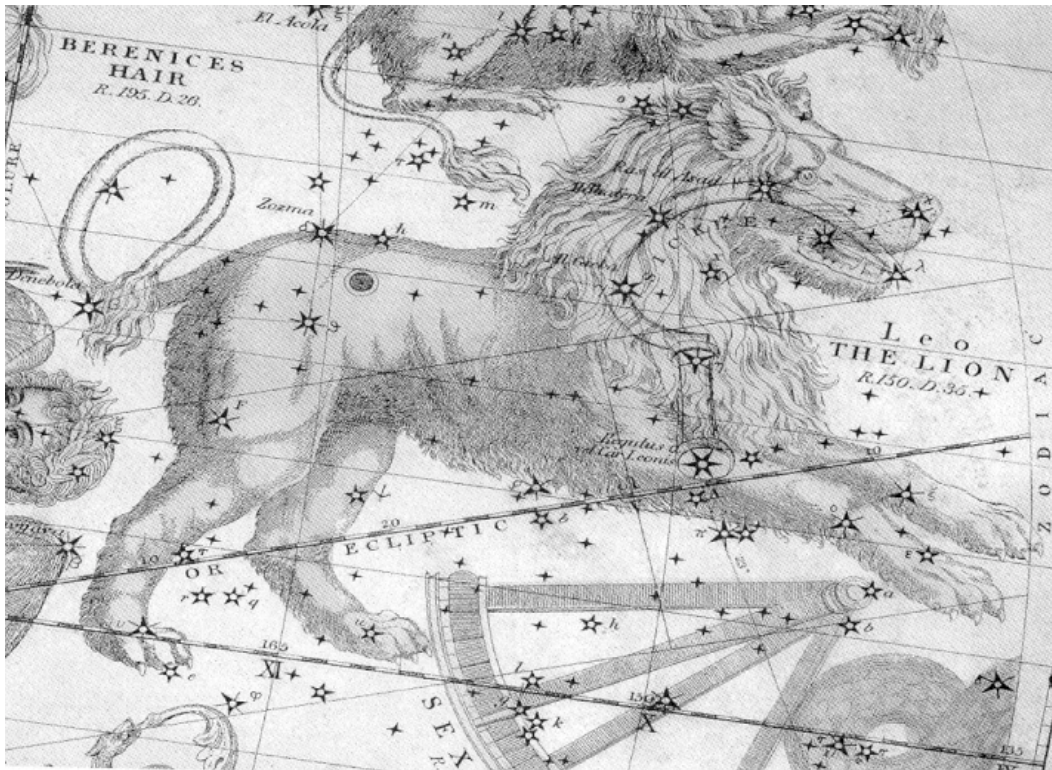


PROPHECY FLASH!

A magazine of insight and understanding of Biblical truth and prophecy for our time.

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Leo the Lion – the Constellation pictures the Messiah, the Lion of the Tribe of Judah! Note the sickle of Judgment in the Lion's mouth

**Astronomical SIGNS
of the Coming
Messiah!**

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Editor

William F. Dankenbring

A Voice in the Wilderness

God tells His servants in His Word, “Cry aloud, spare not. Lift up your voice like a trumpet and declare to My people their transgression and to the house of Jacob their sins!” (Isa.58:1, Parallel Amplified Bible).

God also declares: “Comfort, comfort My people, says your God. Speak tenderly to the heart of Jerusalem, and cry to her that her time of service and her warfare are ended, that [her punishment is accepted and] her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received [punishment] from the Lord’s hand double for all her sins.

We are living in a world gone berserk with anger and rage. “Why do the nations rage?” (Psalm 2:1). Answer – because they don’t know the true God, and are in rebellion against His laws and teachings and the way of true life!

Isaiah wrote: “A voice of one who cries: *Prepare in the wilderness the way of the Lord* [clear away the obstacles]; make straight and smooth a highway for our God. . . . And the glory (majesty and splendor) of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken it” (Isaiah 40:3-5).

The Messiah is coming very SOON! Its time to prepare to MEET Him! “Surely the Lord will do nothing without revealing His secret to His servants the prophets” (Amos 3:7). The purpose of this magazine is to warn the world of what lies ahead, and to help prepare people to get ready to meet the Messiah, when He returns to restore all things (Acts 3:19-21), put an end to wars, and reveal the Kingdom of God! The prophet Amos declared, “*Prepare to meet your God, O Israel*” (Amos 4:12). Time is of the essence.

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The Plan of God Revealed

What is God doing here below on earth? What is the true Plan of Salvation? Why do so FEW people believe in God and obey Christ today? Is the Devil more powerful than God? Who are the 144,000? What is the “Great White Throne Judgment”? Is this the “only” Day of Salvation? What must you do to be saved and inherit eternal life? Discover what it takes to be one of God’s “first-fruits” and what the real “bottom line” requirements are to be “saved” and inherit eternal life!

-- William F. Dankenbring

A New Look at

God's *True* Plan of Salvation!

What are the requirements for salvation? Why is there so much difference between various "Christian" groups and Churches on beliefs, doctrines, and teachings? How can we KNOW whether we truly belong to God? Who will receive a "BETTER resurrection"? Who are the "FIRST-FRUIT" and the 144,000 of Revelation? What is God's plan for the great number of "GOOD" people, who don't understand or know or follow the commandments of God? Is there more than one way of salvation? CONFUSION abounds on these subjects! Just what is the "bottom line"? What is the PLAN God is working out here below?

William F. Dankenbring

August 12, at 3:05 pm, my brother Bob died at a nursing home in Omak, Washington. Robert Evan Dankenbring, age 65, born January 8, 1942, was given military honors at his graveside funeral by the American Legion #97, with soldiers firing four volleys of rifle shots, and another soldier, across the field, playing taps -- a beautiful tribute to a wonderful, loving, caring husband and man of integrity, humor, and a gentle spirit.

Bob was always willing to help out or lend a hand, for no personal reward. He also had quite a sense of humor. But was he a true Christian? Just what is a "true" Christian, anyway?

Bob always had a good story, based on his life's experiences. He was a subscriber to Prophecy Flash, and on occasion we discussed prophecy and world events.

The minister who conducted Bob's funeral on Wednesday, this past week, said that if we "believe" on Christ, then we go to heaven when we die. He declared, "I asked Bob if he believed in Christ, and if he knew he was going to heaven." He said, "Bob told me, I think so." The minister intoned, "Bob, since you believe in Christ, I assure you that

you are going to heaven.” He then cast his eyes around the group at the graveside service and asked, “What about you? Do you believe? Are you saved? Will you go to heaven when you die?”

Is that all it takes to be “saved”? Just mere acceptance of Christ? Just what is all this about “salvation,” anyway?

What is the truth? If you merely “confess Christ,” are you “saved”? Must you understand and obey ALL the laws of God and believe all true doctrine to be “saved”? Are all who don’t understand or obey a certain point of truth, condemned and doomed?

Just what is the PLAN God is working out here below? What about people like Bob, who was not really religious in the common sense, but was a very good person, and did what he knew or thought was good, who fought many battles over the years, with alcohol, and overcame that problem, but had a terrible time overcoming the smoking habit, until his final cancer took him away?

Just What Is Required for Salvation?

In a similar way, a prisoner recently wrote and asked me how various Christians can be in such total disagreement on salvation issues. He wrote, “The Holy Spirit won’t teach us different things to different people. So how can Christians say ‘nobody is wrong’ when everybody believes differently and lives differently? Somebody has to be wrong! Everybody can’t believe differently and everybody be right!”

This man also asked just what the “salvation issues” really are. “What are the requirements that everyone must meet to be on the road to salvation?”

These are very good questions. What is the TRUTH? I have heard people say that unless you belong to THEIR CHURCH, you are doomed to hell! I have heard ministers say from the pulpit, “God only hears the prayers of OUR members – members of this church!” Others have exclaimed in sermons and articles, “unless you keep the weekly seventh day Sabbath, you cannot be saved – your are not converted – you are on the road to Hell!”

Interestingly, during World War II, Serbian Roman Catholics massacred Russian Orthodox church members, and tortured them, and piled up their eye balls in buckets. Why? Because of slight variations in teachings. In the Great Inquisition, Roman Catholics burned Protestants at the stake, drowned them in rivers, tied their arms and legs to horses, and then drove the horses apart in different directions, causing the victims to be pulled apart in agonizing death. Yet both sides claimed to follow “Christ” and justified their actions in the “name of Christ”!

All this – in the “name of religion”!

Is God's true religion a matter of technical knowledge? Is it a matter of which "church" congregation you belong to? Is it a matter of minute matters of belief? Or as some would say, is mere belief and confession of Christ, even a "death-bed repentance," enough to be "saved" and inherit the kingdom of God?

Let's get to the bottom of this mystery! What is the real "bottom line" of truth!

Christ and the Torah

God has one standard of spiritual truth and conduct. That is the Word of God. Jesus Christ, the Messiah, said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God'" (Luke 4:4).

The apostle Paul declared, "ALL Scripture is given by inspiration of GOD, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be COMPLETE" (II Tim.3:16-17).

The Word of God contains the teachings of the Law or Torah of God. In fact, the very word "Torah" in Hebrew simply means "teaching."

Contrary to what many have been erroneously taught, in their churches, the Torah (Law) of God has not been abolished. Jesus Christ, the true Messiah, did not come to do away with the Torah or Laws of God. He Himself declared in unequivocal language, "Do NOT think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill [fill up to the brim]. For assuredly, I say to you, TILL HEAVEN AND EARTH PASS AWAY, *one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the LAW till ALL is fulfilled.* Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them shall be called GREAT in the kingdom of heaven" (Mat.5:17-19).

God's Law is ETERNAL! David wrote, "All His precepts are sure. They stand fast forever and ever, and are done in truth and uprightness" (Psalm 111:7-8). He declared, "So shall I keep Your law continually, forever and ever" (Psalm 119:44). He further asserted, "And I will delight myself in Your commandments, which I love" (v.47).

God's Law is eternal and binding upon all mankind. As we look around us today, we see that the physical Temple of God no longer exists. Therefore, the Levitical priesthood is temporarily suspended because there is no Temple. This means the ritual aspects of the Torah are not in force today – the sacrifices, and all that pertained to the Temple rituals (see Heb.9:10). But even if it were in existence, the apostle Paul explained, "For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats should take away sin" (Heb.10:4). The physical Temple was merely a teaching device, patterned after the Temple of God in heaven (Heb.8:1-5).

So what really does matter? What are the true "salvation issues"?

What Does God Require?

When asked what one must do to inherit eternal life, Christ answered, “Keep the commandments” (Matt.19:17). He went on to list some of the commandments from the Torah, including “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (verse 19). Paul wrote definitively that all the commandments are “summed up in this saying, namely, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore *love is the fulfilling of the law*” (Rom.13:9-10).

Micah the prophet put it this way: “He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justly, to love mercy [lovingkindness], and to walk humbly with your God?” (Micah 6:8).

In a parable, Christ spoke about the coming judgment of His servants. He said, Let your waist be girded and your lamps burning; and you yourselves be like men who wait for their master, when he will return from the wedding, that when he returns and knocks they may open to him immediately. Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them to sit down to eat, and will come and serve them. . . Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect” (Luke 12:35-40).

Christ then went on to say, “Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his master will make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of food in due season? [Who are going to be the kings and priests in the World Tomorrow, God’s coming Kingdom?] Blessed is that servant whom his master will find *so doing when he comes*. Truly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all that he has.

“But if that servant says in his heart, ‘My master is delaying his coming,’ and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and be drunk, the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will *cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the unbelievers*.

“And that servant who knew his master’s will, and did not prepare himself or do according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. But he who did not know, yet committed things deserving of stripes, shall be beaten with few. *For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more*” (Luke 12:42-48).

What does God require of us? Micah the prophet put it this way: “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).

Solomon summarized it by saying, “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and *keep His commandments*, for this is man’s all” (Eccl.12:13).

There is going to be an accounting – by every human being. Those who really serve God during this life, who are given the understanding of God’s Word and purpose and knowledge of salvation, will be judged at the coming of the Messiah, Jesus Christ!

As Peter wrote, “For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begin with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? If the righteous one is scarcely saved, where will the ungodly and sinner appear?” (I Pet.4:17-18).

But what about those who don’t understand all God’s commandments? What about those who have been deceived, misled, and don’t understand the commandments of God? How will they be judged?

Let’s understand the answer to this serious question!

A Special, Unique Calling

Many preachers claim that this is the ONLY day of salvation – that if you don’t believe and accept Christ right now, before you die, you will burn in Hell forever! But is this true? If it is, then the Devil has WON the war to capture men’s souls, because many more people are NOT Christian, than there are Christians, on this planet!

Let’s understand this!

God is not calling everyone to His Truth at this time. As Christ put it, “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day . . . Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me” (John 6:44-45).

He repeated this truth in verse 65: “Therefore have I said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father.” After this, many disciples became offended at His words, and “went back and walked with Him no more” (v.66).

It is all a matter of calling. Some are called of God now, to be His servants, and to be among the “first fruits” of God’s Kingdom. They will receive their reward when Christ comes, on the day of His return to earth (I Cor.15:50-52; I Thess.4:14-17).

For those who are called NOW, during this Age, they, in order to be saved, must repent from the heart of sin, which is transgressing God’s law, disobedience to God, accept Christ as Savior, be baptized, and receive the Holy Spirit as a gift, and then continue faithful till the day they die (see Acts 2:38; 3:19; 4:12; 5:32; Matt.24:13; Luke 9:62).

The apostle John declared, of Christ’s second coming, “The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that

You should REWARD YOUR SERVANTS the prophets and the saints, and those who fear Your name, small and great” (Rev.11:18).

Paul wrote of those who are called now, who suffer and even die for Christ, giving their lives for Him, giving up everything for Him, “Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a BETTER resurrection” (Heb.11:35).

Two Tiers of Salvation

Those called to serve God during this Age, who understand and obey God, will receive “a BETTER resurrection”! Christ says of them, “And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him will I give POWER OVER THE NATIONS – He shall RULE them with a rod of iron; they shall be dashed to pieces like a potter’s vessels – as I also have received of My Father; and I will give him the morning star. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches” (Rev.2:26-29).

They are the ones who will say to Christ, “You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have REDEEMED US to God out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have MADE US KINGS AND PRIESTS to our God; and we shall REIGN ON THE EARTH” (Rev.5:9-10).

Those called and chosen and faithful NOW will reign over the nations, under Christ, as kings and priests in the World Tomorrow – the Olam HaBa!

Those in the first resurrection are truly blessed! John declares, “Blessed and holy is he who has part in the FIRST resurrection. Over such the second death has NO power. But they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall REIGN with Him a thousand years” (Rev.20:6).

These are the “first-fruits” of God’s harvest!

The First-fruits of the Harvest

Those who are called of God now are the FIRST-FRUITS of the Kingdom of God. *Those of us who receive God's Spirit during this present age are the “first-fruits” of God.* They are typified by the “wave sheaf offering” of the “first-fruits” of the spring harvest in ancient Israel.

God declared to ancient Israel, “When you come into the land which I give to you, and reap its harvest, then you shall bring a SHEAF OF THE FIRST-FRUITS of your harvest to the priest. He shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted on your behalf” (Lev..23:10-11).

This “sheaf” is composed of MANY grains of barley. It represents the CHURCH, which is God’s first-fruits of salvation.

As the apostle James wrote, “He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of FIRST-FRUITS of all he created” (James 1:18). Also, the apostle Paul wrote of true Christians, “but ourselves also, which have the FIRST-FRUITS of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves” (Rom.8:23).

Those of us in God’s spiritual Church, from the apostles till now, including the patriarchs and prophets of the Old Testament, are God’s “first-fruits.” All who have a part in the first resurrection when Christ returns, are “first-fruits.” We are compared in the Scriptures to the “wave sheaf offering” of the barley harvest in the spring. Its acceptance by God guaranteed the future acceptance of the WHOLE FUTURE HARVEST! Its acceptance is the KEY to the acceptance of the REST of the harvest!

True followers of Messiah are likened to the wave sheaf or “omer” which was offered every day at the Temple between Passover and Pentecost. Each day about 5.1 pints of barley grain was offered in the Temple, with three fourths of a pint of olive oil, and a handful of frankincense (Edersheim, *The Temple:Its Ministry and Services*, page 205). Our salvation paves the way for the salvation of the rest of mankind, in the future!

Those of us who receive God’s Spirit during this present age are the “first-fruits” of God. The rest of the salvation of all mankind depends on US! As Paul declared, “For if the first-fruit is holy, the lump is also holy; and if the root is holy, so are the branches” (Rom.11:16). This truth was foreshadowed by the wave sheaf offering of the first-fruits of barley.

The Jewish rabbis in the oral law tell us God said the reason for the sacrifice of the “omer” was “so that the grain in the fields will be blessed for you (Rosh Hashanah 16a)” (quoted in *The Three Festivals: Ideas and Insights of the Sfas Emes*, p.75). In other words, by lifting up the omer, the first produce of the new year, we demonstrate our belief that “all material abundance is really His gift” (p.77).

The waving of the omer teaches us that “our daily bread is a miraculous gift from Hashem” (p.78). It reveals to us that the HARVEST itself that follows is the gift of God! But if the first-fruits are not blessed and accepted by God, then the rest of the harvest will also not be accepted or received by God. Therefore, in a sense, ALL FUTURE SALVATION IS DEPENDANT UPON THE SALVATION, FIRST OF ALL, OF THE FIRST-FRUITS!

Without the “first-fruits,” the Messiah would have no qualified “kings and priests” to help Him RULE in the Kingdom of God! The “omer” or “wave sheaf” offering is speaking of the TRUE CHURCH OF GOD, down through the Ages, from Adam, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, the prophets, the apostles, and the saints of God, down to this END time generation!

144,000

John describes those of this present Age who will be saved and join Christ when

He returns in Revelation, chapter 14. Notice carefully!

“Then I looked, and there before me was the Lamb, standing on Mount Zion, and with him 144,000 who had his name and *his Father’s name written on their foreheads*. And I heard a sound from heaven like the roar of rushing waters and like a loud peal of thunder. The sound I heard was like that of harpists playing their harps. And they sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders. No one could learn the song except the 144,000 who had been *REDEEMED* from the earth. These are those who did not defile themselves with women [a symbol representing the false churches of the world, “Babylon” the great “whore” church and her “daughter” churches – see Revelation 17:3-5], for they kept themselves pure. They *follow the Lamb wherever he goes*. They were purchased from among men and offered as *FIRST-FRUIT*s to God and the Lamb. No lie was found in their mouths; they are blameless” (Rev.14:1-5).

Notice that these 144,000 will be with Christ at His coming. They will stand with Him on Mount Zion, at the southeastern tip of Jerusalem. They are called “first-fruits.”

There will be only 144,000 “first-fruits” in the FIRST resurrection! This means that only about 1,000 will be saved out of every generation (of about 40 years). Or, this means that out of 6,000 years of mankind on the earth, there will be saved and in the first resurrection *only about 24 for every single year!*

Truly, as Christ declared, “So the last shall be first, and the first last. For many are called, but *FEW are chosen*” (Matt.20:16). In fact, He said this TWICE – “For many are called, but FEW are chosen” (Matt.22:14).

Truly, as He also said, “Fear not, LITTLE flock” (Luke 12:32) – the church of true saints of God is very, very small – the Greek word for “little” here is *micros*, from which we get “microscope,” “microcosm,” “microbe.” It means “least, less, little, small”, “small (in size, quantity, number or (fig.) dignity)” (Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance, #3398).

Interestingly, there were six days in Creation week (Genesis 1), and there are 24 hours in a day, from evening to evening. If we multiply 6 days X 24 hours we get 144. A “day” also equals “1,000 years” (II Pet.3:8). Therefore, 144 hours X 1000 = 144,000 – the number “saved” during the 6000 years of mankind up until the second coming of the Messiah! To put it another way, the six days of Creation represent the 6,000 years, multiply that by 24 hours in a day, and voila – 144,000!

It is fascinating to observe that this group who constitute the “first-fruits” – that is, those who will be in the first resurrection – from the time of Adam to now – number precisely 144,000 men and women! That is, from Adam till now there have been 150 generations of mankind (40 years to a generation *divided* into 6,000 years = 150 generations). Thus when all is said and done, God has been saving roughly 1,000 individuals out of each generation since Adam – that is all – who will be in the first

resurrection! In some generations there have been far fewer than that! In the days of Noah, only his immediate family were spared drowning in the Flood (II Pet.2:5). In the first century, after the Church began, thousands were saved – and tens of thousands were converted, the apostle James tells us (Acts 21;20). But before the end of that century, most of them had apostatized, and fallen away – had become deceived by the false ministers of Satan the devil (compare II Cor.11:1-4, 13-15; Acts 20:28-31; Gal.1:6-9; II Thess.2:7; II Tim.4:3-4, 10-11; II Tim.1:15; II Pet.2:1-4; I John 4:3; II John 7; Jude 4).

How truly blessed it is to be one of the “first-fruits” to God, during this time – one of the truly called, and “chosen” few! The vast, overwhelming majority of “Christians” have been deceived and seduced and misled by the minions and ministers of Satan the devil, who disguise themselves as ministers of righteousness!

We ought to truly pray that we might be counted worthy to be among this special group who are the “first-fruits” to the Lamb, those who will reign with Him, from Mount Zion!

Most Blinded Now

However, the vast majority of mankind will not be saved until AFTER the Messiah returns. They are compared to the great “fall harvest” which is celebrated by the Feast of Tabernacles, also called the “Harvest Festival.” It represents the salvation of the whole world, during the Millennial Reign of Christ, and the Great White Throne Judgment – the salvation of everyone who has ever lived, billions upon billions and billions of people – from the time of Adam and Eve, who never understood the true gospel or plan of salvation!

The vast majority of people, however, even most “believers,” do not understand this fundamental truth! Many do not know much of the gospel, or the laws of God, many “profess” Christ, even in sincerity, but don’t live by His Laws and Commandments, as revealed in the Scriptures. They are not truly “called” or “chosen” to serve God during this Age – God has another Plan for them, and the vast majority of mankind!

Those of us who are called NOW have a special calling of God, in this life, to be His servants, to preach and proclaim His Word, the true Gospel of the Kingdom of God. For God’s own reasons, we have been chosen to know His truth and serve Him. The vast majority, however, have not yet been called or chosen. The multitudes who do not know Christ and died never having heard the gospel, and those who don’t really understand what it means to serve God and follow Christ, during this Age, will all be judged later, on a different scale of judgment. Notice!

His disciples asked Christ, one time, “Why do You speak to them [the multitudes] in parables?” (Matt.13:10). Christ explained to His disciples, “Because *it has been given to YOU to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has NOT BEEN GIVEN.* For whosoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whosoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. Therefore I

speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not understand. And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says: ‘Hearing you will hear and will not understand, and seeing you will see and not perceive; for the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, and their eyes they have closed, LEST they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, LEST *they should understand with their hearts and turn*, so that I should heal them’” (Matt.13:11-15).

Some have been or are being called of God to understand and to serve Him now. Others are in a sort of ‘holding pattern’ – they do not perceive the truth, they do not understand, their knowledge is limited, partial, incomplete. They will be judged later, in a different day of judgment, AFTER the thousand year reign of Christ and the saints who are called now and who serve Him during this present life.

The apostle Paul declared, “For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ ALL shall be made alive. But *each one in his own order*. Christ the first-fruits, afterward those who are Christ’s *at His coming*. Then comes the END, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and authority and power” (I Cor.15:22-24).

The Great White Throne Judgment

John writes of this final day of judgment, “Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the heavens and earth fled away. And there was found no place for them. *And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the BOOK OF LIFE*. And the dead were judged ACCORDING TO THEIR WORKS, by the things written in the books” (Rev.20:11-12).

At this time, God will review the lives of all these people, and search the records, and scrutinize their “life story,” and judge them based on THEIR WORKS IN THIS LIFE – WHAT THEY DID – whether they were basically “good” people, who did good and cared for their neighbors, or whether they were “bad” people who trod down their neighbors, mistreated their employees, beat their fellow men, or led lives of evil, wantonness, wickedness, and selfish cruelty. The judgment will be fair. “And they were judged, EACH ONE ACCORDING TO HIS WORKS . . . And anyone not found written in the BOOK OF LIFE was cast into the lake of fire” (Rev.20:13-15).

How God Will Judge Those Without the Law

Paul explains how God will judge all these people. In the book of Romans, he writes, “For there is no partiality with God. For as many as have sinned [committed evil] without law [knowledge of God’s law] will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law [Jews and those who know God’s law, who were taught it] will be judged BY THE LAW” (Rom.2:11-12). “For not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the DOERS of the law will be justified” (v.13).

Paul goes on explaining, “For when Gentiles, who do not have [or understand] the law, BY NATURE do the things in the law, these although not having the [knowledge of the] law, *who show the works of the law written in their hearts, their CONSCIENCE also bearing witness . . . in the day when God will JUDGE the secrets of men by Jesus Christ*” (Rom.2:14-16).

Every man is born with a conscience, an internal moral compass, if you will, of the basic difference between right and wrong. Every one knows by nature that it is wrong to steal, or to commit murder, or to commit adultery with another man’s wife, or to covet the belongings of another person. These concepts are written into our conscience as we grow up from birth, as children. We learn what is fair and not fair, what is good and not good. Even those without the teachings of God’s Law know the basic difference between good and evil, right and wrong, loving and caring for your neighbor, the suffering of others, and mercy and compassion on the weak and helpless.

Those who do GOOD in their lives, showing love and concern for their neighbors, will be judged accordingly. Those who selfishly take advantage of their neighbor, and cheat, steal, swindle, abuse, or mistreat them, will suffer the judgment and wrath of God for their actions, and be cast into the lake of fire!

Christ Himself put it this way: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first commandment. And the second is like it: *You shall love your neighbor as yourself.* On THESE TWO COMMANDMENTS HANG ALL THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS” (Matt.22:37-40).

Those who by nature listen to their conscience, and do what is right, and show love and compassion for their neighbor, are considered and accounted as obedient to the Law of God!

I can just hear some people say, “But wait a minute! You have to believe and accept Christ to be saved!” Yes, that is TRUE – for those who are in the FIRST resurrection. Indeed, Peter declared, “Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12). But what does that really mean?

Many have misinterpreted Peter’s words. Truly, no one can be saved apart from Christ and His power and authority. No one can be saved in the name of the Pope, or Buddha, or Allah, or Mohammed, or any other religious leader on earth or anywhere else!

What this Scripture SAYS is that Christ is the ultimate authority and dispenser of salvation – NO ONE ELSE. But it does NOT say exactly what ‘Christ’s criteria are going to be for His final “judging” of mankind, or individuals!

As we have already seen, everyone is going to be judged “according to THEIR WORKS” – THEIR DEEDS – how they lived their lives! This Scripture tells us WHO is

going to be making the final decisions concerning salvation – not HOW He is going to make those decisions!

Religious Deception

The devil has truly confused multitudes of people, including most “Christians.” He has his ministers who tell them that your WORKS have nothing to do with salvation – that all you have to do is “profess Christ,” or “accept Him as Saviour.” Once you do this, they claim, you are on a one-way train trip to Heaven!

But that is an out-and-out LIE – a diabolical deception! We will ALL be judged “BY OUR WORKS”! Solomon wrote, in the book of Ecclesiastes, “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter.” After all his wisdom and life’s great experiences, he summed up the meaning of life and its true purpose, saying, “Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man’s all. For God will bring EVERY WORK INTO JUDGMENT, including every secret thing, *whether good or evil*” (Eccl.12:13-14).

Truly, the devil is that old serpent who “deceives the WHOLE WORLD” (Rev.12:9).

Because of Satan’s lies and carefully crafted and calculated deceptions, the world – even most “Christians” – are deceived, and don’t really know or understand the truth of God.

As a result, we see so much gross disagreement, great controversy, and even lack of love, and fierceness and hatred among “Christian” professing people. We see in history, great religious persecutions, bloodbaths, torture and mayhem, often committed by those professing Christ against those who belong to a different church – such as the horrendous Roman Catholic inquisition of the Middle Ages.

I put the word “Christian” in quotes, because not everyone who says he is a Christian is a bona fide Christian. There are many impostors, pretenders, frauds and fakes – known as hypocrites. And false teachers and false prophets (Jude, II Peter 2). There are many who profess belief but who are truly “anti-Christ” (I John 4:1-3; II John 7). There are many who masquerade as ministers of God but who really serve the Devil

The apostle Paul explained this amazing anomaly, saying, “For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if HIS MINISTERS also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose END will be *according to their works*” (II Cor.11:13-15).

Christ said, “You will know them BY THEIR FRUITS” – unbiblical teachings and ungodly actions (Matt.7:20).

So much of the disagreement and controversy is due to the devil “stirring the pot” and infiltrating the church at large and slipping his agents into the ministry, who often take over whole churches (compare III John 9-10). We must always be wary of those who come teaching errors. Even those who are sincere are often sincerely wrong, in error, and did not properly check out their beliefs, but made false assumptions somewhere along the way.

In my article on “The 7 Churches of Revelation,” I point out that even true churches of God can be beset by sin, and have false doctrines, even observe pagan festivals, “sacrifice to idols,” etc. (Rev.2:14, 20). It is free of charge to all who would like to receive it.

The Definition of “SIN”

What is “sin” anyway? How do we know whether we are a “sinner” or not? The world today doesn’t think it matters. “Sin” to most is an archaic, antiquated concept with no real significance in the modern world.

But God’s Word declares, “Whoever commits sin commits lawlessness, and SIN IS LAWLESSNESS” – that is disobedience to GOD’s Law (I John 3:4). Or as the King James Version has it, “SIN IS [BY DEFINITION] THE *TRANSGRESSION OF THE LAW*” – *the Law of God!*

And, “the wages of SIN is DEATH” (Rom.6:23). And, “ALL have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Rom.3:23). “There is NONE righteous, no, not one” (Rom.3:10).

Therefore we must ALL, at some point, be forgiven of our sins, and have them washed in the blood of Christ, who died for our sins. As Paul wrote in Hebrews, “But with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption” (Heb.9:12). This includes the first-fruits, who will be resurrected at His coming, and all those who are blinded to the knowledge of Christ, who will be given their opportunity of salvation at the second resurrection!

The Real Salvation Issues

In the final analysis, we will all be judged according to what we DO with what we KNOW. The apostle James declared, “To him that knows to do good. But does it not, to him it is sin” (James 4:17). Also, the apostle Paul wrote, “whatsoever is not of faith is sin” (Rom.14:23).

The priests and Pharisees of Yeshua’s time kept God’s law minutely – but they missed the spirit of the law. Merely observing the letter of the law leads to death, but observing the spirit of the law leads to LIFE (II Cor.3:6).

Ultimately, what are the true “salvation issues”? Christ illustrated them this way. A lawyer asked Him what was necessary for eternal life. He answered that one must “love the Lord your God with all your heart . . . and your neighbor as yourself” (Luke 10:27). Then the lawyer asked him, “And who is my neighbor?”

He then spoke the parable of the good Samaritan, saying that a Samaritan, who did not worship the God of Israel, but was deceived much in doctrine, nevertheless showed love and compassion to a downtrodden victim of a thief and marauder (Luke 10:33-35), whereas a law-abiding, knowledge filled worshipper of the God of Israel, such as a priest and a Levite, did not do so (verses 30-32), but ignored the poor man’s injuries and calamity.

He told those listening to Him, “So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among thieves?” The answer? The SAMARITAN! He was justified, rather than the others!

So says your Bible! Notice! This man “fulfilled the Law.” Christ Himself, the One who will pass judgment on all mankind, says the Samaritan, despite his ignorance, is the one who fulfilled God’s Law and will receive salvation!

To whom much knowledge is given, of him much is required. To those to whom less is given, of them God requires less. The bottom line is everyone will be judged according to what he DOES with what he has been given (Luke 19:12-26).

What are the “salvation issues”? There is no strict, ironclad “list” of such issues. The matter depends on the person and what they have been GIVEN, whether or not God has truly OPENED THEIR MIND to understand, and how much He has opened their mind.

All Who Ever Lived

In the same vein, after Christ returns, at the end of the Millennium, all mankind will be gathered before Him to be judged (Rev.20:12-15). All who ever lived will be resurrected as flesh and blood human beings (see Ezek.37). At that time they will be judged according to their “works.”

Matthew continues the judgment scenario: “All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides His sheep from the goats” (Mat.25:31-32). Read the whole account (verses 31-46). What is the CRITERIA OF JUDGEMENT that Christ will use to determine who will be SAVED, and enter His Kingdom, and who will be CAST into GEHENNA?

The ones who fed the hungry, gave drink to the thirsty, clothed the naked, visited the sick, and those in prison, will be told: “COME, you blessed of My Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world” (verse 34). They will continue to live and be taught the full truth of God – the things they did NOT know or

understand in their previous life! They will learn the FULL TRUTH of God, and will accept it and obey it, and when God's time comes, they will become immortal spirit sons of God, like those of the first resurrection.

Among these will be the ancient citizens of Sodom and Gomorrah, who did not understand (Matt.10:15). Small children who died, never really having had a chance for salvation. Perhaps even children who had been aborted by their parents, who would have been viable human beings, if given a chance to live. All these who did not deliberately, presumptuously, willfully REBEL against God, knowingly, but who lived the best they could, overall, according to their conscience, will be given a true opportunity for salvation!

This would include the Thief on the Cross who said to Christ, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom" (Luke 23:42). Christ said to him, "I say to you, today [referring to the day He said it], you will be with Me in Paradise" (verse 43). In other words, he will come up in this Great White Throne Judgment, and be among the sheep, who will be resurrected back to mortal life, in the Kingdom of God, Paradise, and will be taught the truths of God and the way of salvation, and be allowed to live out their lives, at the end of which they will be translated into immortal, glorified sons of God.

Isaiah says of that time, at the end of the millennial reign of Christ, "For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem as a rejoicing, and her people a joy. I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in My people; the voice of weeping shall no longer be heard in her, nor the voice of crying.

"No more shall an infant from there live but a few days, nor an old man who has not fulfilled his days; for the child shall die one hundred years old, but the sinner being one hundred years old shall be accursed" (Isa.65:17-20). Isaiah continues of that halcyonic, tranquil, day of salvation – "They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for as the days of a tree, so shall be the days of My people, and My elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands" (verses 21-22).

But to those who did NOT DO these acts of compassion and mercy on their neighbor, those who deliberately lived lives of EVIL, wickedness, cruelty and brutality to their neighbor – who were guilty of deliberately, premeditatedly lying, stealing, rape, murder, and gross iniquity – He will say to them: "DEPART from Me, you CURSED, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels" (v.41). When they remonstrate, saying they were innocent, they never failed to do these things to HIM, He will answer them: "Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the *least* of these, you did not do it to Me" (v.45).

"And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the RIGHTEOUS into eternal life" (verse 46).

True Righteousness = True Love of Neighbor

What is the conclusion of the matter? “Righteousness,” in God’s sight, is, by definition keeping God’s commandments. David wrote, “All Your commandments are righteousness” (Psalm 119:172). Those who love God, and who love their neighbor, and show it by their deeds, are RIGHTEOUS in spirit, even if they are ignorant of technicalities or other legal aspects of the Law.

The apostle Paul declared this clearly. He wrote, “Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.

“Love suffers long, and is kind; does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not easily provoked, thinks no evil [keeps no accounts of evil]; does not rejoice in iniquity [lawlessness], but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, endures all things. Love never fails” (I Cor.13:1-8).

Or, as Paul told the Romans, “Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another HAS FULFILLED THE LAW. For the commandments, ‘You shall not commit adultery,’ ‘You shall not murder,’ ‘You shall not steal,’ ‘You shall not bear false witness,’ ‘You shall not covet,’ and if there is any other commandment, ALL ARE SUMMED UP IN THIS SAYING, namely, ‘*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*’ Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore LOVE IS THE FULFILLING OF THE LAW” (Romans 13:8-10).

The Day of Judgment

Loving your neighbor is the REAL “SALVATION ISSUE.” Those who know THE LAWS OF GOD, of course, should obey ALL of them – all that God has revealed to them. To fail to do so would be SIN and REBELLION against God! Those who know God’s commandments, and still disobey, and fail to keep them will be judged accordingly! As Christ said, “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the Kingdom of heaven, but he who does the WILL of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not PROPHESED [PREACHED] in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice LAWLESSNESS’” (Matt.7:21-23).

So in the end, a “salvation issue” would be continual and deliberate DISOBEDIENCE to God, or presumptuous REJECTION of truth, knowingly. It is the sin of being confronted with the truth,, understanding it, and then deliberately rejecting it

and refusing to repent and change and accept God's jurisdiction and authority over your life. It is also known as the "unpardonable sin" (write for our article on this subject).

This is not something to take lightly, but nor is it something in which we should attempt to judge others. Only God knows the hearts and minds and inner motives and thoughts of people (Heb.4:12). But as the apostle Paul wrote: "For it is impossible for those who were once ENLIGHTENED, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good Word of God and the powers of the age to come, IF THEY FALL AWAY, *to renew them to repentance*, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame . . . whose end is to be burned" (Heb.6:4-8).

Paul also wrote, "For if we sin WILFULLY after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. Anyone who has rejected Moses law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?" (Heb.10:26-29).

The Bottom Line

For all of those being called of God now, who understand His Word, who have been given the knowledge of God, the requirements of salvation are clear. As Peter put it, "REPENT, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38). "REPENT therefore and BE CONVERTED, that your sins may be blotted out" (Acts 3:19).

The keys to eternal life, therefore, are to believe on Christ as the Messiah, and to follow His steps in all ways (I Pet.2:21) – to obey His every Word (I John 2:3-6). To strive to live by and obey "every word of God" (Matt.4:4; Luke 4:4).

But the "bottom line" for ALL people, even those who are not called now, is to LOVE your neighbor – for if you don't do this, then all the rest is nothing but vanity and hypocrisy – empty air and foolishness!

You can keep ALL the commandments – the weekly Sabbath, the annual Holy Days, avoid unclean meats, abjure Christmas, Easter, Halloween, and all the other PAGAN holidays; you can wear fringes on your garments (Num.15:37-41; Deut.22:12), you even give your life as a martyr, but unless you have LOVE for your neighbor, it would ALL BE IN VAIN – just a VAIN SHOW – NOTHING BUT VANITY!

In truth, Yeshua summed it ALL up when He said, "Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, *do also to them, for THIS IS the Law and the Prophets*" (Matt.7:12). All the rest, you might say, is "commentary."

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Prophecy Briefs

More Proof of the Bible!

“LONDON – The sound of unbridled joy seldom breaks the quiet of the British Museum's great Arched Room, which holds its collection of 130,000 Assyrian cuneiform tablets, dating .back 5,000 years.

“But Michael Jursa, a visiting professor from Vienna, let out such a cry last Thursday. He had made what has been called the most important find in biblical archaeology for 100 years, a discovery that supports the view that the historical books of the Bible are based on fact. “Searching for Babylonian financial accounts among the tablets, Jursa suddenly came across a name that he half remembered – Nabusharrussu-ukin, described there in 2,500-year-old writing as ‘the chief eunuch’ of Nebuchadnezzar II, king of Babylon.

“Mr. Jursa, an Assyriologist, checked Chapter 39 of the Book of Jeremiah, and he found, spelled differently, the same name – Nebo-Sarsekim. Nebo- Sarsekim, according to Jeremiah, was Nebuchadnezzar II's ‘chief officer’ and was with him at the siege of Jerusalem in the year 587 before the common era, when the Babylonians overran the city.

“The small tablet, the size of ‘a packet of 10 cigarettes’ according to Irving Finkel, a British Museum expert, is a bill of receipt acknowledging Nabu-sharrussuukin's payment of 0.75 kg. of gold to a temple in Babylon.

“The tablet is dated to the 10th year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar II, 595 B.C.E., 12 years before the siege of Jerusalem.

“Evidence from non-biblical sources of people named in the Bible is not unknown, but Nabusharrussu-ukin would have been a relatively insignificant figure. ‘This is a fantastic discovery, a world-class find,’ Mr. Finkel said yesterday. ‘If Nebo-Sarsekim existed, which other lesser figures in the Old Testament existed?

A throwaway detail in the Old Testament turns out to be accurate and true. I think that it means that the whole of the narrative [of Jeremiah] takes on a new kind of power.” (Nigel Reynolds, *The Daily Telegraph*, July 11, 2007).

Death of a Nation

“This year of 2007 is the 400th anniversary of America. (1) The Jamestown colony was founded in 1607 as the first settlement in America, and it was named after the same King James of England that ordered the translation of the Authorized Version, also known as the King James Bible. In a previous publication, I mentioned that the number 400 is highly significant in the Scripture. Israel was in bondage in Egypt for 400 years, and there were 400 years of silence between the Old and New Testaments during which time there was no prophet. In both of these cases, when the 400 years were over, there was a great manifestation of the Almighty in a sovereign move of His Spirit that changed the world forever. Now, America has existed for 400 years! What will happen next?

“We know that Satan has been active in the United States of America since its inception, and he has walked to and fro, and up and down in it. The footprints of Satan are seen everywhere in this country although few people recognize them. The powers of occultism and witchcraft have now seized upon this apathetic country, and signs of the end are everywhere. Here let it be noted that in 1990 the elder President Bush, who was the first head of state to use the words New World Order since Adolph Hitler, admitted that he used a crystal ball to make decisions. In an article that appeared in the April 1997 issue of *Ladies' Home Journal*, we find the following words on page 126: ‘....Bush was charmed, he brought out this crystal ball, and said, “Look Nayib, this is how we make decisions at the White House”.....’

“For hundreds of years, this country has been

guided by a strange spirit that is not the Almighty God although the One True God has

always blessed and watched over His elect remnant that has the testimony of Jesus Christ. It is for the sake of the Gospel that this nation has survived thus far, not because we are good people.

“Satan works in patterns and with numbers shrouded in secrecy. The United States has had exactly thirteen Presidents that were Master Masons in the Blue Lodge and were thus sworn to secrecy. We also know that the clandestine temple room of the Blue Lodge is so named because the ceiling is blue with white stars, which is why our American flag has the exact same pattern in the upper left hand corner. This same blue ceiling with white stars was also in the palace of King Belshazzar of Babylon, which is where God wrote on the wall with the form of a hand and indicated that the kingdom was numbered and finished and weighed in the balances and found wanting and was given over to the Medes and Persians. We must also note that Persia is modern-day Iran!

“The footprints or patterns of Satan and his Masonic activities are throughout history, which is why it is said that history repeats itself. Many people have wondered and been amazed at the parallels of the assassinations of Presidents Kennedy and Lincoln and at how the details of the events were precise mirror images of each other. Although many people have heard them, I will present the details once again as carefully planned and manipulated activities of the masterminds of the Illuminati as directed by the force of the one they call the controlling unknown. Consider the following: Abraham Lincoln was elected to Congress in 1846, and John F. Kennedy was elected to Congress in 1946. Lincoln was elected President in 1860, and Kennedy was elected President in 1960. Both were heavily involved in civil rights. Both lost a child while living in the White House. Both Presidents were shot on a Friday, and both were shot in the head. Lincoln's secretary was named Kennedy, and Kennedy's secretary was named Lincoln. Both were assassinated by southerners, and both were succeeded by southerners named Johnson. Andrew Johnson, who succeeded Lincoln, was born in 1808. Lyndon Johnson, who succeeded Kennedy, was born in 1908. John Wilkes Booth, who assassinated Lincoln, was

born in 1839, and Lee Harvey Oswald, who was charged with the assassination of Kennedy, was born in 1939. Both alleged assassins were known by their three names, which in both cases were comprised of fifteen letters. Lincoln was shot at Ford's theater, and Kennedy was shot in a Lincoln car made by Ford. Lincoln was shot in a theater, and his assassin ran and hid in a warehouse. Kennedy's alleged assassin was said to have shot from a warehouse and then to have run to a theater. Booth and Oswald were both shot before their trials. One week before Lincoln was shot, he was in Monroe, Maryland; and one week before Kennedy was shot, he was with Marilyn Monroe. The list goes on and on.

“I must also note that John F. Kennedy's mistress, Marilyn Monroe, was a mind-controlled sex slave who was targeted for assassination herself. When she sang happy birthday to President Kennedy in New York City in a sultry and seductive voice, she was introduced by Peter Lawford as the late Marilyn Monroe. Shortly thereafter, she was dead!

“It is true that a crescendo of evil has been building in this country for some time, and lately we have been witnessing amazing signs from on high. On May 17th, 2007, a 72 mile-per-hour wind swept through Manhattan along with a deluge of rain. (In occult numerology, the number seventy-two is broken down to twelve sixes. In witchcraft, this indicates three sixes from the four night winds.) Then, in the darkness of that night storm in Manhattan, a massive bolt of blue-white lightning struck the Empire State Building. It was a shocking display of power, and it arrested the attention of all who saw it. Here let it also be noted that former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani, who is the cross-dressing candidate for President of the United States, was clearly warned by the Almighty while speaking at a debate in New Hampshire on June 8th, 2007.

“Giuliani was speaking in favor of abortion before a vast audience when lightning struck and knocked out his microphone six different times. It was as if God was telling Rudy Giuliani to shut up six times. The stunned speaker stopped his speech and said, ‘Having gone to a parochial school, this is a bit frightening.’ The audience then joined him as he joked and laughed it off!” (David Meyer, *The Last Trumpet*, July 2007).

Troubling Signs for America

“These are strange and confusing times for the people of the United States. On April 26th, 2007, the Dow Index of the stock market hit an all-time high of 13,000. The very next day, Bloomberg News Service reported: Dollar declines to all-time low against the Euro as the economy slows. Such extremes indicate extreme global economic instability. The people of America are now functioning on credit to the extent that they have almost nothing of true value. We are a bankrupt nation that is being forced into a hostile takeover by antichrist forces. People are being set up to receive a new, exclusively electronic, money system, which will be the only way to buy or sell. Leather wallets and purses are giving way to microchips and radio frequency identification devices. All of this is clearly foretold in Revelation, chapter 13. It is undeniable because it is happening before our very eyes.

“We also see the massive transportation systems of the United States challenged economically by fuel prices that are nothing short of obscene. We have now learned that OPEC, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, has scheduled its 144th meeting, which is to be held in Vienna, Austria. The date they have chosen for this fateful meeting is one of ominous foreboding. That date is September 11th, 2007. The number 144 is twelve twelves, and in the world of the occult, it indicates new government.

“When will the next major assault against America occur on American soil? Apparently, our government is expecting (or should I say planning) something. A major control center is being set up in northeast Pennsylvania that will take over for Wall Street if a terrorist attack or power outage occurs. Government officials and CEO's of industry have worked out a plan with Goldman Sachs, Merrill Lynch, Morgan Stanley, and others to build a forty-million dollar facility in the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania, and it will be ready to manage the entire nation's economy within thirty months. Will this control center, hidden in the eastern mountains of Pennsylvania, be the nerve center of the Antichrist, controlling all buying and selling? Strangely enough, the precise latitude of this new forth-coming facility is North 41-08.042666.

“Truly, the erstwhile great nation of the United States of America is being set up for the kill, and

the CFR, Council on Foreign Relations, is orchestrating the death of this nation. This foul outfit known as the CFR is the Illuminati in the United States, and its headquarters is located at the Harold Pratt Building, 58 East 68th Street, Manhattan in New York City. I can assure you that this place does exist, and that it is the Illuminati headquarters. I know because I was kicked out of that building three times. It is the CFR that is promoting the influx of illegal aliens and the demise of the American way of life in order to establish the triumvir power of the North American Union, comprised of Mexico, Canada, and the United States. The new currency that is to weld the societies together and manage them is to be called the Amero Dollar.

“One vital point that must be stressed is that when I refer to illegal aliens, I am not referring to a race of people, but rather a class of millions of law-breakers who have invaded our country. In fact, America is currently suffering the largest single invasion of a nation in the history of the world, and very few care about it. By every standard of measurement, we have lost our country! Consider the following shocking statistics: The number of illegal aliens in the United States is 20,807,645. The money wired to Mexico since January, 2006, totals \$22,213,001,672.00. The cost of Social Security Services for illegal aliens since 1996 totals \$397,450,739,563.00. (This is over one-third of a trillion dollars). The number of children of illegal aliens in public schools is 3,958,789. The cost of illegal aliens in grades K-12 since 1996 is \$13,965,063,431.00. The number of illegal aliens incarcerated is 332,594. The cost of incarcerations for illegal aliens since 2001 is \$1,398,127,429.00. The number of skilled jobs taken by illegal aliens is 9,872,838.

“Recently, the popular newspaper USA Today published a report entitled ‘Nation's minority numbers top 100 million.’ Included in the report were the following growth rate statistics by group: Hispanic 25.5%, Asian 24.4%, Native American 7.7%, Black 6.9%, and White 1.6%. It must be noted that the white people have a far greater propensity to abort their babies and are guilty of self-inflicted genocide.

“We are now hearing about the new NAFTA Superhighway, which is now ready to be built. It was during the Clinton Administration when the North American Free Trade Agreement,

NAFTA, was passed. This treaty was a satanic scheme to unify the economies of the United States, Canada, and Mexico. It has virtually destroyed the industrial base in America. The NAFTA plan also called for a superhighway to be built to connect the North American nations for ease of the flow of goods. As it turns out, most of those goods are made in Red China. Soon following the NAFTA agreement, there came a U.S. Supreme Court ruling which expanded the laws of Eminent Domain. These laws allow even private business interests to force land and property owners to give up their real estate in favor of what is esteemed to be in the "best interest" of the majority of society. Now we know why all of this was done. It was to accommodate the building of the invasive corridor that will divide our country and fragment it.

"The NAFTA Superhighway is to run from Mexico to Canada, crossing through the United States from Laredo, Texas, to Duluth, Minnesota. The halfway point is Kansas City, Missouri, which is about one thousand miles from either border. The cost of the highway will be \$183 billion in new taxes and tolls. The highway is to be the width of four football fields, or nearly one-quarter mile wide. Tens of thousands of American homes, ranches, farms, businesses, and even entire communities will be razed and wiped off the map through Eminent Domain.

"Clearly, the massive highway will divide our country in half, and later, into fragments. We know that Satan works in patterns, and even though some prophecies are already fulfilled, we see what appear to be additional fulfillments or similitudes of prophecy. We were told it would be so in Hosea 12:10 as follows: 'I have also spoken by the prophets, and I have multiplied visions, and used similitudes, by the ministry of the prophets.' Thus, the prophecies have not only one fulfillment, but are rather multiplied. When I think of our nation being cut in half and subsequently fragmented, I am reminded of Daniel 11:39, which describes the activity of an antichrist ruler as follows: 'Thus shall he do in the most strong holds with a strange god, whom he shall acknowledge and increase with glory: and he shall cause them to rule over many, and shall divide the land for gain.'" (*ibid.*)

The Sanhedrin's peace initiative

"Jewish group devoted to rebuilding Temple in Jerusalem to send letters to all world leaders, including Arab ones, inviting them to take part in project, attend conference on Temple Mount in Israel.

"Iranian President Mahrnoud Ahrnadinejad, who has been gearing up for an Israeli offensive in recent months, is bound to be surprised by the peace feelers he is set to receive from Jerusalem soon.

"Without Saudi mediation or diplomatic procedures, the president will get a 'Letter of Love and Peace', accompanied by a historic invitation to visit Jerusalem, from The Supreme Judicial Court of the Jewish People, better known as the Sanhedrin.

"After having tried their luck with the High Court of Justice and the government, the members of the Jewish group have set out on a new track in their struggle for the Temple Mount, aimed at rebuilding the Temple in the Jewish capital.

"In recent days, the group members have drafted a letter that will be translated into 70 languages and sent to all government institutions in the world, including 'the sons of government standing in our way Esau and Ishmael' who do not hold diplomatic ties with Israel.

"In the letter, the rabbis of the self-proclaimed Sanhedrin warn that the world is nearing a catastrophe, and write that the only way to bring peace among nations, states, and religions is by building a house for God, where Jews will worship, pray and offer up sacrifice, according to the vision of the prophets.

"The rabbis also call on the non-Jews to help the people of Israel fulfill their destiny and build the Temple, in order to prevent bloodshed across the globe.

The letter will initially be translated into English, Spanish, Arabic, French and Farsi, and later also into Russian, Chinese and Japanese, and will include an invitation to world leaders to attend a conference dedicated to the Temple Mount in Jerusalem five months from now, during Succot.

“Prof Hillel Weiss of the Sanhedrin explained that the Torah and the prophets have tasked the Jewish people with the responsibility for world peace. He stressed that the group's project was to rebuild the Temple, not a ‘church for all nations,’ but added, ‘We have all descended from the same father, this is not another primitive and racist approach’” (Israel Jewish Scene, May 1, 2007, Kobi Nahshoni).

Massive Credit Crunch Stikes America and World

“A massive credit crunch is striking, and you sit at a critical juncture like none other in history.

“Never before have you seen so much *wealth* at stake. Never before have you seen such massive *threats* to that wealth. And, fortunately, never before have investors had such powerful tools to *protect* themselves from these threats!

“In just the last few days, the U.S. Federal Reserve has desperately tried to rescue the nation's gigantic \$10 trillion mortgage market ...

“*Flooding* the banking system with cold cash ...

“*Slashing* its discount rate by a half point, and, in a special meeting just this past Friday ...

“Literally *begging* America’s largest banks to borrow!

“But for the massive U.S. mortgage market — crumbling in 20,000 cities and towns all across America — it’s *too little, too late*.

“And for the U.S. dollar — already sinking for years under the weight of the largest trade deficits of all time — the sudden flood of *more* paper dollars is *too much, too soon*” (Money and Markets, Martin Weiss, August 20, 2007, email alert).

Israel Will Invade Syria If Syrian Missiles Fly

““The IDF under Defense Minister Ehud Barak is planning a ground assault deep into Syrian territory if Syria attacks Israel with missiles, according to a report by Channel 10's military affairs correspondent. The reporter said Syria

possesses thousands of missiles capable of hitting virtually any point within Israel. The only way to counter this threat, he said, would be to launch a swift strategic ground assault into Syria until the missile attack ceases” (Israel National News, August 12, 2007).

China and Russia “Threaten” America

“Moscow and Beijing have teamed up and appear determined to send a message to the White House, singly and together, which translated could mean, ‘Don’t mess with us’ and ‘Stay clear of our allies’ . . . This comes hard on the heels of a not subtle Chinese threat to the American economy. Last week, two Chinese officials made statements, which did nothing to settle market jitters.

“In essence, they warned the US to quit pressuring China to revalue its yuan or else it could decide to dump its dollar reserves, worth \$1,330 billion and cash in its US Treasury bonds, roughly valued at \$900 billion. In the unlikely event of China following through on the implied threat, the ensuing economic carnage could make the 1929 Wall Street Crash look like a picnic because other countries would be panicked into following suit. Incredibly, some 45 percent of America’s foreign debt is held by foreigners, which leaves the US in an extremely vulnerable position.” (Arab News, August 14, 2007).

COMMENT: Is this type of THREAT one of the real reasons President Bush has repeatedly huffed and puffed against Iran, threatening to blow their house down, only to silently retreat after the public rhetoric has run its course?

“Is this threat to the American economy the real reason the President of Iran recently said that America did not have the capability to attack his nation?

Read the next article for some sobering food for thought!

* * *

China threatens “nuclear option” of dollar sales

“The Chinese government has begun a concerted campaign of economic threats against the United States, hinting that it may liquidate its vast

holding of US treasuries if Washington imposes trade sanctions to force a yuan revaluation.

“Two officials at leading Communist Party bodies have given interviews in recent days warning - for the first time – that Beijing may use its \$1.33 trillion (£658bn) of foreign reserves as a political weapon to counter pressure from the US Congress.

“Shifts in Chinese policy are often announced through key think tanks and academies.

“Described as China’s ‘nuclear option’ in the state media, such action could trigger a dollar crash at a time when the US currency is already breaking down through historic support levels.

“It would also cause a spike in US bond yields, hammering the US housing market and perhaps tipping the economy into recession. It is estimated that China holds over \$900bn in a mix of US bonds.

“Xia Bin, finance chief at the Development Research Centre (which has cabinet rank), kicked off what now appears to be government policy with a comment last week that Beijing's foreign reserves should be used as a ‘bargaining chip’ in talks with the US.

“ ‘Of course, China doesn’t want any undesirable phenomenon in the global financial order,’ he added.

“He Fan, an official at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, went even further today, letting it be known that Beijing had the power to set off a dollar collapse if it chose to do so.

“ ‘China has accumulated a large sum of US dollars. Such a big sum, of which a considerable portion is in US treasury bonds, contributes a great deal to maintaining the position of the dollar as a reserve currency. Russia, Switzerland, and several other countries have reduced their dollar holdings.

“ ‘China is unlikely to follow suit as long as the yuan's exchange rate is stable against the dollar. The Chinese central bank will be forced to sell dollars once the yuan appreciated dramatically, which might lead to a mass depreciation of the dollar,’ he told China Daily.

“The threats play into the presidential electoral campaign of Hillary Clinton, who has called for restrictive legislation to prevent America being “held hostage to economic designs being made in Beijing, Shanghai, or Tokyo”.

She said foreign control over 44pc of the US national debt had left America acutely vulnerable.

Simon Derrick, a currency strategist at the Bank of New York Mellon, said the comments were a message to the US Senate as Capitol Hill prepares legislation for the Autumn session.

“ ‘The words are alarming and unambiguous. This carries a clear political threat and could have very serious consequences at a time when the credit markets are already afraid of contagion from the subprime troubles,’ he said” (Daily Telegraph, Ambrose Evans-Prichard, August 8, 2007).

Credit Crisis Spreads Worldwide

“Aug. 10 (Bloomberg) – Central banks in the U.S., Europe, Japan, Australia and Canada added about \$136 billion to the banking system in an attempt to avert a crisis of confidence in global credit markets.

“The Federal Reserve, in a second day of action in concert with the European Central Bank, provided \$38 billion of reserves and pledged more ‘as necessary,’ in a statement unprecedented since after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

“Money market rates rose worldwide the past two days on evidence the subprime crisis is spreading after global investors piled into U.S. securities backed by mortgages. By the end of the day, the central bank actions helped spark a turnaround in American stocks and drove the U.S. overnight bank lending rate below the Fed’s target.

“ ‘They accomplished their short-term mission to make sure the market stabilized ahead of the weekend,’ said David Resler, chief economist in New York at Nomura Securities International Inc. ‘It remains to be seen how much more they’ll have to do.’”

“The U.S. federal funds rate opened at 6 percent, a six-year high. It sank as low as 1 percent in late trading, according to ICAP Plc, after the New York Fed staged three repurchase operations, buying assets including mortgage-backed securities. The total of \$38 billion, following \$24 billion yesterday, was the highest amount of temporary funds since Sept. 12, 2001. . . .

“The European Central Bank loaned 61.05 billion euros (\$83.6 billion) after injecting a record 94.8 billion euros of funds yesterday that had to be paid back today. Overnight euro rates again rose as high as 4.27 percent today, compared with the ECB’s benchmark rate of 4 percent.

“The ECB is ‘giving the markets the appropriate liquidity,’ ECB President Jean-Claude Trichet told daily newspaper Ouest-France in an interview. The bank is paying ‘great attention to the markets,’ he said.

“Japan’s central bank added 1 trillion yen (\$8.5 billion) today and the Reserve Bank of Australia lent \$4.2 billion, the most in more than three years. Central banks in Norway and Switzerland also injected money into the financial system and countries including Denmark, Indonesia and South Korea said they’re ready to provide cash.

“The credit-market turmoil worsened this week after European banks acknowledged their vulnerability to rising delinquencies on American subprime mortgages. In the U.S., American Home Mortgage Investment Corp. this week became the country’s second-biggest home lender to file for bankruptcy.

“BNP Paribas SA, France’s biggest bank, was forced to halt withdrawals from three of its investment funds. Just last week, BNP Chief Executive Officer Baudouin Prot said the bank wasn’t at risk. Germany’s government had to organize a bailout of IKB Deutsche Industriebank AG as the Dusseldorf-based bank unveiled potential losses of as much as 3.5 billion euros.

“Countrywide Financial Corp., the biggest U.S. mortgage lender, today said it faces ‘unprecedented disruptions’ that may hurt profit. Countrywide won’t be able to sell as many of its loans as expected because investor demand has dried up, the Calabasas, California-based

company said” (Bloomberg.com, August 20, 2007.

Financial System in Jeopardy!

The Gigantic, Poorly-Known, Highly Inflammable Market For DERIVATIVES

“What are derivatives? Think of them as *bets* and *debts* by the super-rich and the world’s largest companies.

“What’s the market for derivatives like? Think of it as a giant international *casino*:

- In the main hall, they bet on the interest-rate roulette.
- In the side rooms, they bet on foreign-currency blackjack, commodity craps or stock-market poker.
- And in virtually every sector, the bets are financed with generous amounts of borrowed money.

“But unlike ordinary markets that you and I are familiar with, this giant casino is not just about betting on a price that goes up or down. It’s about betting on virtually every quirk and intricacy of nearly every investment under the sun.

“Some of the bets are high risk; some are not. Some are for hedging against losses; some, for outright speculation. But everywhere, the dangers are undeniable . . .

“In its latest survey, the Bank of International Settlements (BIS) calculates that the total ‘notional’ value of all derivatives outstanding in the world is a mind-boggling \$415 *trillion*.

That’s over eight times the GDP of the entire world economy – twenty times the total value of all U.S. stocks – and *fifty* times all the Treasury debts of the United States Government” (Money and Markets, August 13, 2007).

COMMENT: An economic “shock and awe” storm is about to strike the U.S. and the world economy! A financial hurricane is in the offing. The crisis is spreading, and the dollar is sinking. An economic catastrophe lies ahead.

Astounding new discovery! **THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA Is “EPHRAIM”!**

Shocking as it may seem, most peoples who understand the identity of the Anglo-Saxon peoples HAVE IT BACKWARDS! They are terribly CONFUSED as to who is really “Ephraim” and who is “Manasseh”! They could *lose their lives* because of this great ERROR in understanding prophecy and its true fulfillment!

The United States and Britain are *often* mentioned in END-TIME Bible prophecies! But most people don’t understand WHO IS WHO! The world has been in TOTAL ignorance of the amazing prophecies in the Bible about EPHRAIM! The whole book of Hosea the prophet seems to FOCUS on this people! But WHO ARE THEY? Ephraim now stands IDENTIFIED in the world today AS AMERICA! Great Britain stand identified as the people of “Manasseh”!

The evidence is in – and it is overwhelming. Ephraim was prophesied to be much greater than his older brother Manasseh! Moses wrote of the “thousands of Manasseh, and the TEN THOUSANDS of Ephraim” (Deut.33:17). One of the “identifying marks” of Manasseh is the “unicorn,” according to an ancient Jewish midrash. The “unicorn” is found on the Royal Seal of Great Britain, and is found everywhere through the British Isles, on pubs, public buildings!

Correlating evidence from history, the Talmud, Jewish commentaries, the ancient study of heraldic emblems and the Biblical record, William F. Dankenbring sets forth the amazing CASE FOR EPHRAIM being the United States!

But what does it all MEAN? What difference does it make? A true grasp of Bible prophecy depends on this knowledge! Make no mistake! Your FUTURE depends on this knowledge! In *America and Great Britain: Our Identity Revealed! Ephraim and Manasseh in the End of Days*, William Dankenbring also explains what is going to happen to these peoples in the onrushing future and Great Tribulation. Price: Now only \$20.00. Buy one, next one HALF PRICE (\$10.00)! 450 incredible pages. Sample chapters include:

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Yes, by all means, I don’t want to remain ignorant. Rush me *AMERICA AND GREAT BRITAIN – OUR IDENTITY REVEALED! EPHRAIM AND MANASSEH IN THE END OF DAYS!* Please send _____ volumes. Enclosed is _____ to cover cost.

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A New Look at Daniel's 70 Weeks – The Final Week Revealed!

There is a prophecy in Daniel 9 that is probably the greatest Messianic prophecy ever written—the 70 weeks prophecy. The greatest controversy involves the final “week” and the mysterious “covenant” or “treaty” which will be “made with many.” What is this talking about? What could it have to do with YOU?

William F. Dankenbring

Let us carefully review this entire prophecy, and see how powerful and awesome it is, deserving to be studied by ALL people – Christian, Jew, Muslim, and unbelievers as well!

First of all, let's read the passage in the King James Version:

“SEVENTY WEEKS are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish [margin, to restrain] the transgression, and to make an end [margin, to seal up] of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.

“Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and rebuild Jerusalem [margin, to build again Jerusalem] *unto Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks:* the street shall be built again, and the wall [margin, breach, or ditch], in troublous times.

“*And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be CUT OFF, but not for himself [margin, and shall have nothing]:* and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined [margin, it shall be cut off by desolations].

“*And he shall confirm the covenant with many for ONE WEEK:* and in the midst of the WEEK he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of *abominations* [margin, and upon

the battlements shall be the idols of the desolater], he shall make it *desolate, even until the consumation*, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate [margin, desolater]" (Dan.9:24-27).

What a strange prophecy! It outlines strange events to occur in and around Jerusalem, till the coming of the Messiah and the end of the age. What are these mysterious "seventy weeks"?

In Numbers 14:34 God told the Israelites, "After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, even forty days, *each day for a year*, shall ye bear your iniquities, even forty years . . ." Each day of the prophetic 70 weeks, then, is a year in being fulfilled!

Ezekiel confirms this same principle. God told Ezekiel concerning the punishment and siege of Israel, "This shall be a *sign* to the house of Israel. Lie thou also upon thy left side, and lay the iniquity of the house of Israel upon it: according to the number of the days that thou shalt lie upon it thou shalt bear their iniquity. For I have laid upon thee the *years* of their iniquity, *according to the number of the days*, three hundred and ninety days: so shalt thou bear the iniquity of the house of Israel. And when thou has accomplished them, lie on thy right side, and thou shalt bear the iniquity of the house of Judah forty days: I have appointed thee *each day for a year*" (Ezek.4:3-6).

To understand the 70 weeks prophecy, one must realize each *day* of the prophecy equals a *year* being fulfilled. Since there are seven days in a week -- or a total of 490 days in 70 weeks -- this prophecy involves 490 years. At the end of this time period, the "Most Holy" -- the Messiah -- will bring in everlasting righteousness -- He will become King of the whole earth and put a complete end to all man's rebellion. All nations will finally be reconciled to Him.

However, this prophecy does not say that this period of years is consecutive, from beginning to end. It is divided up into three distinct periods -- 7 weeks, 62 weeks, and a final week.

But how are these 490 years to be understood? *When* do they commence? And what do the three periods of time mean? And when do they end? Notice.

"Know therefore," Gabriel told Daniel, "and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince [the Messianic king] shall be seven weeks, *and* threescore and two weeks [a total of 69 weeks or 483 prophetic years]: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times" (Dan. 9:25).

Which Decree?

What commandment or decree was this? Daniel recorded this prophecy in 538-537 B.C. History records that Cyrus reigned from 538-537 until 530-529. Cambyses followed Cyrus on the throne and reigned for eight years, until 522-521. He was

followed by Darius I who reigned 36 years, until December 23, 486, when Xerxes took the throne. Xerxes was the Ahasuerus of the Bible (see Finegan, *Light From the Ancient Past*, p.238). Xerxes reigned from 486 to 465-464 when he was followed by his son Artaxerxes. Artaxerxes then reigned nearly 41 years, until 424 B.C.

The kings of Persia, for the record, were as follows:

Darius the Mede	539-538 B.C.
Cyrus the Great	537-529
Cambyses	528-525 (followed by brief civil war)
Darius I	521-486
Xerxes	485-464
Artaxerxes I	464-424
Artaxerxes II	424-359
Artaxerxes III	359-338

Which of these men made a decree to “restore and to build Jerusalem”? Cyrus made a decree in 536-535 regarding the rebuilding of the Temple in Jerusalem (see Ezra 1: 1-2). This particular decree was specifically to build the Temple -- the city is not mentioned. This decree, therefore, is not the one spoken of by Daniel in chapter 9:25. The Jews had opposition in building the Temple throughout the days of Cyrus, “even until the reign of Darius king of Persia” (Ezra 4:4-5). Local Samaritans frustrated their purpose and attempted to overthrow the project. Work on the Temple *ceased* until the second year of Darius (521-486 B.C.) (see Ezra 4:24).

Darius also made a decree and ordered the construction of the temple to continue (Ezra 6:11-12). But, again, this decree was to build the house of God -- not the city of Jerusalem. The Temple, except for the finishing touches, was completed by the sixth year of the reign of Darius (Ezra 6:14-15). Therefore, the evidence is that neither of these two decrees was the one spoken of by Daniel the prophet.

A third decree, however, was made by king Artaxerxes I (464-424 B.C.). Since the Temple was already built, Artaxerxes' decree concerned *another* matter. In the seventh year of Artaxerxes, the Jewish scribe Ezra came to Jerusalem, carrying a copy of a letter containing the decree of king Artaxerxes (Ezra 7:1, 6, 12). We read in the book of Ezra: “Artaxerxes, king of kings, unto Ezra the priest, a scribe of the law of the God of heaven, perfect peace, and at such a time. *I make a decree*, that all they of the people of Israel, and of his priests and Levites, in my realm, which are minded of their own freewill *to go up to Jerusalem . . .* Forasmuch as thou art sent of the king . . . to inquire concerning Judah and Jerusalem according to the law of thy God which is in thine hand: and to carry the silver and gold, which the king and his counsellors have freely offered unto the God of Israel, whose habitation is in Jerusalem, and all the silver and gold that thou canst find in all the province of Babylon . . .” (see Ezra 7:11-26).

After this epochal decree, Ezra prayed to God, saying: “Since the days of our

fathers have we been in a great trespass unto this day; and for our iniquities have we, our kings, and our priests, been delivered into the hand of the kings of the lands, to the sword, to captivity, and to a spoil, and to confusion of face, as it is this day. And now for a little space grace hath been shewed from the LORD our God, to leave us a remnant to escape . . . *to give us a reviving, to set up the house of our God, and to repair the desolations thereof, and to give us a wall in Judah and in Jerusalem*" (Ezra 9:7-9).

Mark carefully -- this decree gave Ezra authority not only to rebuild and beautify the house of God, but also to repopulate Jerusalem, to set government in operation, and to rebuild the city and the wall!

The re-settling and rebuilding of the city of Jerusalem made rapid strides from the 20th year to the 32nd year of Artaxerxes (Neh.5:14-16). The building program continued into the reign of Darius II who succeeded Artaxerxes. During his reign the wall around Jerusalem was finished (Neh.12:22, 27-30, 43). But even after the wall was complete, many buildings within the city had yet to be built (Neh.6:1-14). These were "troublesome times," as Daniel foretold and as Ezra 4:5 summarized. Persecution and hindrances slowed progress. But after the first seven of the prophetic weeks of the prophecy – a period of 49 years -- the city was rebuilt and the temple restored.

Then Daniel mentioned "sixty two weeks" were to follow – or 434 *more* years were to pass – until the appearance of the Messiah. Thus a total of sixty nine prophetic weeks – or 483 literal years – were to exist from the commandment of Artaxerxes in 457 B.C. till the appearance of the Messiah.

457 B.C.	-- year-date of the decree
<u>-483 years</u>	-- time to pass till Messiah would come
26 A.D.	
<u>+1</u>	-- since there is no year "zero"
27 A.D.	-- year the prophecy would be fulfilled!

Counting 483 years from 457 B.C., then, brings you to 27 A.D. This was the year the Messiah was prophesied to appear on the scene.

Was this prophecy fulfilled? What happened in 27 A.D.?

Jesus' Ministry and Death

The fact is that Jesus Christ was born in 4 B.C., shortly before the death of king Herod (Matt.2:1-16). Jesus began His ministry when He was 30 years old (Luke 3:21-23). Subtracting 30 from 4 B.C., we come to 26 A.D. But since there was no year "zero", we must add a year in going from B.C. to A.D.. Thus the year 27 A.D. was the very year Jesus Christ began his ministry, and commenced preaching the Gospel of the coming Kingdom of God (Matt. 3:13-17; 4:1-23; 9:35).

This represents the FULFILLMENT of the 69 "weeks" of years of Daniel's 70

weeks prophecy!

However, when He came, instead of taking His crown and ruling as a great King, He was persecuted, afflicted, abused, beaten, scourged, and CRUCIFIED by His enemies, the state, and the jealous religious leaders of His day. In this, too, He fulfilled the prophecy of Daniel 9! For we read: “*And AFTER threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be CUT OFF, but not for Himself. . .*” (Daniel 9:26).

Isaiah the prophet foretold of this awesome truth. He wrote, about 700 years before Christ, “Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for OUR transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: and the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with His stripes we are healed” (Isaiah 53:5).

Isaiah makes it plain that He was not only to suffer greatly, but also to be killed as a “sacrifice” for our sins – even as the nation of Israel in ancient times sacrificed sheep, bulls and goats at the Temple of God to “atone” for their sins. The Messiah became our “Passover lamb” (I Cor..5:7). He became a “sin offering” for us (II Cor.5:21).

Isaiah puts it this way: “He is brought as a LAMB to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not His mouth. He was taken from prison and from judgment [He was judged, condemned, and imprisoned]: and who shall declare His generation? For He was *cut off out of the land of the living*” – that means He, the Messiah being depicted here, was KILLED! “For the transgression of My people,” God says, “was He stricken” (Isaiah 53:7-8).

How would the Messiah be “cut off”? What does this mean? He would be killed, destroyed, put to death! But in so doing, He would “make a covenant” -- the New Covenant -- in His own blood, reconciling sinners to God! Thus He fulfilled the prophecy of making “reconciliation for iniquity” (Daniel 9:24).

Notice the Jewish Tanakh translation of this passage:

"Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city until the measure of transgression is filled and that of sin is complete, until iniquity is expiated and eternal righteousness ushered in; and prophetic vision ratified, and the Holy of Holies anointed. You must know and understand: From the issuance of the word to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the [time of the] *anointed leader* is seven weeks; and for sixty-two weeks it will be rebuilt, square and moat, but in a time of distress. And after those sixty-two weeks, the *anointed one* will *disappear and vanish*. The army of a leader who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary, but its end will come through a flood. Desolation is decreed until the end of war. During one week he will make a firm covenant with many. For half a week he will put a stop to the sacrifice and the meal offering. At the corner [of the altar] will be an appalling abomination until the decreed destruction will be poured down upon the appalling thing” (Dan.9:24-27).

Notice! The prophecy in Daniel 9 in the Tanakh says in verse 26 that after the seven weeks, and sixty two weeks, “the *anointed one will disappear and vanish.*” That is a strange statement! The Jews expected that the Messiah would appear on a white horse, as a national champion against the Romans, and lead them to glory! Yet that is not *quite* what God inspired Daniel to write! God said that the Messiah would DISAPPEAR -- VANISH!

After a ministry lasting three years, Jesus Christ was crucified and buried. And then He arose from the grave, and taught His disciples for forty days, and then notice what happened.

After He gave them some final instructions, “He was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud HID him from their sight. They were looking intently into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ‘Men of Galilee,’ they said, ‘why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, WILL COME BACK in the same way you have seen him go into heaven’” (Acts 1:9-11).

Jesus literally VANISHED before their very eyes!

How amazingly, wonderfully and precisely this prophecy of Daniel was fulfilled! Jesus truly “disappeared and vanished,” just as Daniel the prophet FORETOLD over 580 years before!

Destruction of the Temple

Technically, only 69 weeks had gone by. One week of seven days – years – was left yet to be fulfilled.

Let’s read the rest of this amazing prophecy. Notice, Daniel had foretold that the Messiah would do several things – at the end of the prophecy of the seventy weeks, transgression would be “finished,” sins would be “ended,” reconciliation for iniquity would be accomplished. Jesus Christ accomplished this in many ways through His personal self-sacrifice in 30 A.D., dying for our sins and transgressions.

However, the prophecy also stated that at the end of the period of weeks, He would “bring in everlasting righteousness” and “seal up the vision and the prophecy” and “anoint the Most Holy” (verse 24). This means that one week remains to complete the prophecy, and to bring in the Kingdom of God, to complete the prophecy in the full sense, and to anoint the Messiah as KING!

What happened after Yeshua was crucified, and resurrected? After the first 69 “weeks” of years? Notice: “The army of a leader who is to come will DESTROY THE CITY AND THE SANCTUARY, but its end will come through a flood. Desolation is decreed until the end of war. During one week he will make a firm covenant with many. For half a week he will put a stop to the sacrifice and meal offering. At the corner [of the

altar] will be an appalling abomination until the decreed destruction will be poured down upon the appalling thing” (v.26-27, Tanakh).

“The people of the prince shall destroy the city of Jerusalem and the sanctuary.” That was done by Vespasian and his son Titus who finally stormed the walls and burned down the Temple after committing an abominable sacrilege inside the Temple by fornicating with a prostitute in the Holy of Holies. This would account for the 483 years (or 69 weeks) of this prophecy—the first coming of the Messiah.

In 70 A.D. Titus and Vespasian, Roman generals, led the Roman armies in a conquest of Jerusalem because of Jewish rebellion. Over a million Jews perished in the war, and the city was burned and the Temple was razed.

Mystery of the Final “Week”

Now we come to the final week!

What about the final week (or 7 days)? It says, as the 70 weeks end with seven years (or a week). They begin with seven weeks (or 7 times 7 = 49 years). As the seventieth week is separated from the rest of a period of revelation, so it may be like the seven weeks at the beginning of the prophecy.

The number seven is associated with revelation. Look at the book of Revelation and see how true that is—seven angels, seven trumpets, seven plagues, seven vials, seven thunders, for the seven spirits of God are the mediators of all of His revelations. Revelation 1:4, Revelation 3:1 and Revelation 4:5. So this final week of seven years pictured by the seven days, is the final week of this age that leads up to the revealing and second coming of Yeshua Ha Mashiach, the Messiah, Jesus Christ.

The prince (the Roman prince) of the people who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood until the end of the war desolations are determined. This leads up to verse 27. We have disposed now of the 69 weeks. There is only one week (or 7 days/years) left. “Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week.” It is talking about “he”. Who is he?

“Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for *one week*;
but in the MIDDLE of the week he shall bring an end to the
sacrifice and the offering” (v.27, NKJV).

What is this strange-sounding “covenant”? The Hebrew word *berith* literally means “a cutting,” or a “compact, league, confederacy, treaty.” The word “confirm” in this passage is Strong’s #1396, the Hebrew word *gabar*, a primitive root meaning “to be strong,” that is, “by implication, to prevail, act insolently: -- exceed, confirm, be great, be mighty, prevail, put to more (strength), strengthen, be stronger, be valiant.”

Many have thought it could refer to the beast power that is coming. The idea is that the beast is going to have a seven-year treaty with Israel or the nations (with many)

and that could have been the Oslo Accords that began in 1993 and ended in the year 2000 when it fell apart. That could well be one interpretation of the enigmatic passage. But is he MAIN one? The Oslo Treaty failed. The Messiah did not come at the failure or finish of it. Those who have been looking for such a “treaty” have been disappointed.

The New Covenant

Let’s take another scrutiny of this mysterious “week”! Could it be talking about Messiah? Verse 26 says, after 62 weeks shall Messiah be “cut off”. So the *subject* of this whole passage is the *Messiah* and his coming. Verse 27 then means the *Messiah* Himself shall confirm a covenant with many for one week—that is, during the final seven years of this age. This is FUTURE – not history. It does not refer to the first coming of Messiah in 27 A.D.

But soon, in the very near future, the Messiah is going to *restore His covenant* with His people through the preaching of the gospel during the FINAL seven years of this age of human degradation and predatory destruction! There will be mighty revelations and miracles performed by the Spirit of God – just as it was during the first seven years of the New Testament Church of God!

In Isaiah 42:6 God says to the Messiah, “I, the LORD, have called You in righteousness, and will hold Your hand; I will KEEP You and GIVE You AS A COVENANT to the people.”

The Covenant between Israel and God is mediated and expressed through the personage of Christ. Matthew records, “Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the NEW COVENANT, which is shed for MANY for the remission of sins” (Matt.26:27-28). In Luke 22:20, Christ said, “This cup is the NEW COVENANT in My blood, which is shed for you.”

God says of the coming Messiah, “And the Lord,, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple, even the Messenger of THE COVENANT, in whom you delight. Behold, He is coming, says the LORD of hosts” (Malachi 3:1).

God says in Jeremiah, “Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a NEW COVENANT with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah . . . I will put My laws in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people” (Jer.31:31-33).

First and Latter Rain

Christ is the Messenger of the New Covenant! It is HE who will establish a NEW COVENANT with “many” during the final “week” of years which will close this present age! During this time, the Spirit of God will be poured out on many people. This happened when the Church began, on Pentecost, and it will happen at the CLOSE of the

Church Age, during the final seven years or week of years of this generation, before the Messiah returns!

During this END time generation, Moffatt translates the words of Daniel, “For a *week of years the main body of the people shall cease to practice their religion*; for half of that time, offering and sacrifice shall cease, and instead of this there shall be an appalling abomination, until finally the appointed doom falls on the sacrilegious abomination” (Dan.9:27, Moffatt).

Daniel explains further, “The daily sacrifice shall be abolished, and an appalling abomination erected; by means of specious promises he shall PERVERT those who bring guilt upon the nation. *But those who KNOW their God shall be STEADFAST and TAKE ACTION*; these pious loyalists [true believers] shall be a LESSON to the masses; but for many a day they shall be cut down or burned or carried captive or plundered. As they are being overborne, they shall receive a little help and many join them under false pretenses. Some of the pious, however, shall remain pious [holy, godly, and so be refined, purified, and made white, till the *crisis at the close* (for the appointed hour is still to come)” (Daniel 11:31-35, Moffatt).

True believers during this time will carry out a mighty work of faith and spiritual power. The prophet Joel declared, “Then shall it be that I will pour out my Spirit on all; your sons and daughters shall be inspired, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions; even upon your slaves, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days. And I will display portents on earth and in the sky; the sun shall be turned into darkness, the moon into blood, before the coming of the Eternal’s day, that great and awful day. But every worshipper of the Eternal shall be saved” (Joel 2:28-32).

This was fulfilled once before, in type, during the beginning of the New Testament Church of God. “During the course of the day of Pentecost they were all together, when suddenly there came a sound from heaven like a violent blast of wind, which filled the whole house where they were seated. They saw tongues like flames distributing themselves, one resting on the head of each, and they were all FILLED with the holy Spirit – they began to speak in foreign tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to express themselves” (see Acts 2:1-4).

Many outstanding miracles were performed during the first few years of the Church (Acts 1-16). Wicked hypocrites were slain by the Spirit (Acts 5:1-11), causing great awe. “Many miracles and wonders were performed among the people by the apostles. In fact, invalids were actually carried into the streets and laid on beds and mattresses, so that, when Peter passed, his shadow at any rate might fall on one or other of them. Crowds gathered even from the towns near Jerusalem, bringing invalids and people troubled with unclean spirits, all of whom were HEALED” (Acts 5:12-16).

When the future disaster strikes the human race, and falls upon mankind, and God forsakes His people, delivering them up to judgment and punishment, the people will soon “feel their iniquity and seek my face, searching for me in their distress, crying, ‘Let

us return to the Eternal, for he has torn us, he will heal us. . . . Let us know the Eternal, let us make haste to know him, for he will come to us, as sure as the dawn, come to us like winter-rain, like spring-rain watering the land” (Hosea 5:15-Hosea 6:1-3). The out-pouring of God’s Spirit in the first century was the former (winter) rain; the soon-coming out-pouring of His Spirit in OUR generation will be the “latter (spring) rain”!

During this end-time generation, when the masses forsake the churches, and true religion, God will begin working mightily among His true servants. Many, indeed, will “forsake the holy covenant” (Dan.11:30). During this time “they shall defile the sanctuary fortress [the Temple]; then they shall take away the daily sacrifices, and place there the abomination of desolation. Those who do wickedly against the COVENANT he shall corrupt with flattery; but the people who KNOW their God shall be STRONG, AND CARRY OUT GREAT EXPLOITS” (Dan.11:31-32).

During this “final week,” the end time saints of God, who have the Holy Spirit of God, are going to do exploits – mighty works, and even miracles – of witnessing for the truth of God!

The prophecy here shows that before the Messiah returns, during the final seven years at the end of the age, He is going to confirm the New Holy Covenant “WITH MANY” PEOPLE! Who are these “many”?

In Revelation 7 we read that God will “have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads” (v.3). These will number 144,000 who will be confirmed, 1,000 from each of the tribes of Israel (Rev.7:4-8), plus a great multitude from all nations (Rev.7:9).

The LXX Clarifies

The New Testament often quotes from the Septuagint (LXX) version of the Old Testament. What does the Septuagint say in this passage? “Seventy weeks have been determined upon thy people, and upon the holy city, for sin to be ended, and to seal up transgressions, and to blot out the iniquities, and to make atonement for iniquities, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal the vision and the prophet, and to anoint the Most Holy.

“And thou shalt know and understand, that from the going forth of the command for the answer and for the building of Jerusalem *until Christ the Prince* there shall be seven weeks, and sixty-two weeks [a total of 69 weeks, from 457 B.C. to 27 A.D]: and then the time shall return, and the street shall be built, and the wall, and the times shall be exhausted.

“And after the sixty-two weeks, the anointed one shall be destroyed, and there is no judgment in him: and he shall destroy the city and the sanctuary WITH THE PRINCE that is coming [the Roman prince, Vespasian and Titus, his son]; they shall be cut off with a flood, and to the end of the war which is rapidly completed he shall appoint the city to desolations.”

This brings us up through the Roman wars against the Jews in 70 and 132-135 A.D.. The prophecy continues:

“AND ONE WEEK *shall establish the covenant with MANY*: and in the midst of the WEEK my sacrifice and drink offering shall be taken away: and on the temple shall be the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATIONS [compare Matt.24:15]; and at the END of the time and END shall be put to the desolation” – by the returning of Christ the Messiah (Dan.9:24-27, LXX).

Clearly, we see that during the FINAL WEEK of this age, which will COMPLETE the 70 weeks prophecy, He will “*establish the covenant with MANY*”!

The Septuagint Version makes it plain! It holds the revelatory KEY!

Time is now running out. Christ arose to be at the right hand of God in heaven after he was put to death by the Jews. He is patiently waiting for the time of His return to earth to put down human rebellion against the Word of God.

“And *ONE week* [the final week or seven years] shall establish the covenant with many. “What covenant? The New Covenant!”

During the final seven years of this age, the word and truth of God are going to go forth around this world with power and authority. In the “final week” of this age, *many* will come to the truth, repent of their sins, and enter the New Covenant with Christ!.

Thousands will come to conversion if not before, then during the Great Tribulation and the time of the two witnesses of Revelation 11.

“Prepare the Way of the LORD”!

Our job, our commission, our task, right now, is to PREPARE THE WAY FOR THE MESSIAH, by preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God and the coming of Yeshua the Messiah. “Behold, I send My messenger, and he will PREPARE THE WAY BEFORE ME” (Mal.3:1).

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill brought low; the crooked places [false teaching, doctrine] shall be made straight and rough places smooth; the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together” (Isaiah 40:3-5).

“Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him” (Rev.1:7).

“PREPARE to meet your God, O Israel!” (Amos 4:12).

“But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner’s fire and like launderers’ soap. He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purge the sons of Levi . . .” (Malachi 3:2-3).

He will purify the sons of Levi, and will purify the priesthood (also the ministers of God and the Church of God), and the Jews. He will purge them as gold and silver is purged that they may offer to the Lord YHVH an offering in righteousness (v.3).

In verse 6, God says, “For I AM the LORD [YHVH], I do not change; therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.” God thunders to His people, “Return to Me, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts. But you said, ‘In what way shall we return?’” God answers, “Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, ‘In what way have we robbed You?’ IN TITHES AND OFFERINGS. You are cursed with a curse, for you have robbed me, even this whole nation. Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this, says the LORD of hosts,. if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it” (Mal.3:7-10, NKJV).

What To Expect NOW!

We are now rapidly approaching this vital, tremulous time of trepidation and awesome events, prophetic fulfillment, and amazing miracles!

Christ is going to come and reap vengeance on His enemies and redeem the saints. Paul writes, “Since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulations those who trouble you, and to give you who are troubled [tested and tried] REST with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power when he comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe” (II Thess.1:6-9).

We are living in a great time at the end of this Age where there is an explosion of wickedness and savage inhumanity, but there is also going to be an explosion of God’s power within the heavens with signs and wonders, and among God’s people with visions, dreams and good works as God begins to intervene in this earth and His people before the Day of the Lord comes.

We don’t know exactly how much time we have left. But we KNOW God’s promise! We know His truth and His message!

“Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of this calling, AND FULFILL ALL THE GOOD PLEASURE OF HIS GOODNESS AND *THE WORK OF FAITH WITH POWER*, that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be

glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ” (II Thess.1:11-12).

We are the instruments in His hands that He called to prepare the way for the coming of the Messiah and His kingdom. Understand that we don’t know the day, hour, or year that Christ is coming, but it will be during our generation.

Let us humbly cry out to God in prayer, “Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your Kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation [sore trial], but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen” (Matt.6:9-13).

God has revealed to us His truth, and purged our iniquity. God says to us, as He said to Isaiah: “Behold . . . Your iniquity is taken away, and your sin is purged” (Isa.6:7). Isaiah goes on, “Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?’ Then I said, ‘*Here am I! Send me*’” (Isaiah 6:8).

Hinini! Shelacheni!

Let us go, tell it on the mountains! “Look! ‘tis the feet of a herald, hastening over the hills, with glad, good news, with tidings of relief, calling aloud to Sion, ‘Your God reigns!’ All your sentinels are shouting, in a triumph-song, for they see the Eternal face to face as he returns to Sion” (Isa.52:7-8, Moffatt).

Ring out the Word of God! Shout aloud His truth! Help prepare the way of the Lord!

The time has come! The Day of the Lord is at hand!

“The time has now come, God’s reign is near: repent and believe the gospel” (Mark 1:14).

“This is the word of the Lord for Zerubbabel: ‘Not by fighting, not by force, but *by my Spirit!*’ so the Lord of hosts declares.

Let us all pray earnestly, “Fill us with your Spirit, O Lord. Use us mightily. Fill us with your faith and power. Strengthen us, O Lord.

“Save your people, O Lord!”

God's Holy SABBATH – Saturday or Sunday?

Is God's Sabbath abolished with the "Old Covenant"?
Was the Sabbath merely part of the rituals and abolished
at the Cross? Or is the Sabbath Day an eternal command
to be observed by His true people, today?

Sunday observance is NOWHERE commanded in the Bible! So why do so many "Christians" observe Sunday, which was the *day of the ancient pagan Sun god*, of Mithraism and Baal? Yet millions observe this day as "if" it were God's holy Sabbath! Yet the Seventh Day Sabbath, the day the Jews observe, was also observed by the EARLY CHURCH, the apostles, and JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF! It is mentioned hundreds of times in the Bible and *COMMANDED TO BE OBSERVED BY GOD'S PEOPLE!*

Does it make any difference WHICH day we observe? "There is a way that seems right to a man, but the END thereof are the ways of DEATH"! (Prov.14:12). It makes a BIG DIFFERENCE *in the sight of Almighty GOD!*

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A Time for Self-Examination and Repentance

Tammuz 17-Tisha B'Av -- “Between the Straits”

The time between Tammuz 17 and Tish B'Av is a most amazing and remarkable time, known according to Jewish Rabbis as “the time between the straits.” It has awesome, mind-boggling significance for all mankind, and especially for the saints of God, true believers and worshipers of the Messiah! Are you now “between the straits”?

William F. Dankenbring

The middle of summer is a very interesting time of year to the Jews because during this time the three-week time period of national mourning between Tammuz 17 and the 9th of Av occurs – called “Time Between the Straits”.

Grant R. Jeffrey in July 1990, wrote a book entitled *Armageddon, Appointment with Destiny*. Even though the book is 17 years old, it has a very good summary of the events that happened during the time of Tammuz 17 and the 9th of Av.

It is interesting that there are *four* fast days mentioned in the Old Testament. In Zechariah 8:19 “fast of—(1) the 4th month (Tammuz), (2) the 5th month (AV), (3) of the 7th month (Gedaliah), (4) of the 10th month shall be joy and gladness and cheerful feasts to the house of Judah, therefore love truth and peace”. Today these days are of mourning and seeking repentance. In the world tomorrow, these days will be turned into joy and rejoicing. Why do the Jews fast on these days now in this generation?

The 17th of Tammuz Woes

The 17th of Tammuz in Jewish history was the day when Moses broke the tablets of the law when he saw the idolatry of the golden calf, when he descended from Mount Sinai. The flagrant idolatry and sexual excess became a day of mourning in Israel. If Moses had not interceded, God would have wiped out Israel for their profligacy.

Interestingly on this same date in 586-7 B.C., king Nebuchadnezzar of the Babylonian Empire attacked Jerusalem in the days of king Zedekiah of Judah, and the

Babylonian army broke through the walls of Jerusalem and caused the daily sacrifice to cease.

Again, on this date in 70 A.D., the Roman armies under Titus and Vespasian attacked Jerusalem and the Temple Mount and forced the priests to stop the daily sacrifice.

The 9th of Av Disasters

Similarly, on the 9th day of Av, known as Tish B'Av, when the twelve spies returned from scouting out the land of Canaan, and brought back a faithless, evil report, causing the children of Israel to lose heart and faith, and to curse Moses, God punished them for their disobedience and lack of faith, and declared that generation would perish in the wilderness – they would wander for 40 years, a year for each day the spies had scouted out the land (Numbers 14:34).

This date also became a day of national mourning for the Jews. It also is a day of infamy. On this date, in 586-7 B.C., king Nebuchadnezzar burned down the Temple of God in Jerusalem. Then again, on the very same day in 70 A.D., the Temple was again destroyed by Roman Emperor Titus son of Vespasian.

In fact, over the centuries and millennia, no less than eight of the greatest disasters witnessed in the history of Israel have occurred on the same anniversary date. This remarkable fact is unprecedented in the history of nations. Tish B'Av has seen more disasters than any other single date in history. Notice!

- 1) The twelve spies return with their report on the 9th day of Av. You can read about this in Numbers 14.
- 2) The destruction of Solomon's temple by the Babylonians in 587 B.C.
- 3) The destruction of the second temple by the Romans in A.D.70
- 4) The Roman army plowed Jerusalem with salt in A.D. 71
- 5) The destruction of Simeon Bar Kochba's army in 135 A.D.
- 6) England expelled all of the Jews in 1290 A.D.
- 7) Spain expelled all of the Jews in 1492. During the reign of Queen Isabella/King Ferdinand, the Roman Catholic Inquisition came to the shores of Spain. The Jews as a whole did not accept the Roman Catholic Christ, so 800,000 Jews had to leave penniless and find another home. From this point onward the Spanish empire's fortunes began to decrease. God said, "I will bless them that bless you, and curse those who curse you" to Israel (Gen. 12:3). The nations which cursed Israel have all likewise suffered calamities as a result.
- 8) World War I was declared on Av 9; in 1914. Russia mobilized for WWI and launched persecutions against the Jews in Eastern Russia.

Grant Jeffrey writes, "On the ninth of Av, August 1, 1914, as the Jews fasted and mourned, World War 1 was declared. This war involved the *greatest military struggle in history to this point as 'nation shall rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom'*

(Matthew 24:7). As Russia mobilized its army, this triggered persecution and attacks against the Jews in eastern Russia and forced many of them to emigrate to the Holy Land. These Russian and eastern European Jewish immigrants joined the native born 'Sabras' in building the agricultural settlements and infrastructure of the embryonic state. This immigration helped set the stage for the dramatic events of the creation of Israel in 1948."

Improbable Odds

All these traumatic occurred on the 9th day of Av. The odds that all eight events would occur by chance alone on the 9th of Av, rather than by God's design, is equal to one chance in 863 zillion!

Writes Grant Jeffrey, "The phenomenon of eight major historical disasters affecting one nation over thirty-five centuries happening on the same anniversary day is totally unprecedented in human history. As a student of history for the last twenty years I can assure you that I have looked, without success, for any such pattern of historical anniversaries or 'coincidences' in the history of any nation other than Israel, God's Chosen People." He continues:

"In fact, if any of my readers are mathematically inclined, I would suggest that they check the probability that these eight historical tragedies could have occurred by chance rather than by God's foreknowledge and sovereignty. (see figure 3.) Because there are 365 days in a year, the chance that even a second significant historical tragedy could occur by chance alone on the anniversary date of a previous tragedy on a given day, say, the ninth day of Av (August), is 1 chance in 365. The odds against a third similar event occurring on the exact same day, the ninth day of Av, is:

$$1 \text{ times } 365 \text{ times } 365 = 133,225$$

"In other words, the odds against only three of these disasters occurring by chance alone on the ninth day of Av is only:

$$1 \text{ Chance in } 133,225$$

"The odds that all eight events would occur by chance alone on the ninth day of Av, rather than by God's design, is equal to:

$$1 \times 365 \times 365 \times 365 \times 365 \times 365 \times 365 \times 365 \times 365 =$$

$$\text{one chance in } 863,078,009,300,000,000$$

or

$$1 \text{ Chance in } 863 \text{ Zillion}$$

"It is important to remember that the above probability analysis only considers eight of the anniversary events, those which occurred on the ninth day of the biblical

month Av. In all, there are more than forty anniversary events in Israel's history that we are examining in this chapter. If we were to add these additional dates to our probability figures, the numbers would be so astronomically high that no rational person could conclude that these events have happened on their respective dates by chance alone.

“The consideration of these facts will lead many to believe, with this author, that the only rational explanation for this phenomenon is that God has His hand upon the Jews and Israel and that the Bible, which reveals these staggering, historically verified events, is truly the inspired Word of God” (Jeffrey, *Armageddon: Appointment with Destiny*, p.80-81).

The Golden Calf Folly

In the Book of Our Heritage by Eliyahu Kitov, volume 3, “The Month of Tammuz” we discover a lot of insight into what happened – the tragedies and disasters – on these two months including our forefathers starting with Moses at Sinai. There are lessons that we need to learn from that time and those events. Says Kitov, “Tammuz is the fourth month counting from Nisan and is referred to as such in Scripture. On the third of Tammuz, Joshua caused the sun and the moon to stop and their light remained for 36 consecutive hours so that Israel could exact retribution from her enemies (Joshua 10:12-13).” God also fought for Israel as great meteorites fell from heaven at that time.

Because of the dire tragedies that occurred Biblically between 17 Tammuz and 9 Av, this is a time to reflect on sin and punishment, iniquity and retribution – not only on ancient Israel, or the Jews, but also concerning our own PERSONAL lives.

There are days when all Israel fasts because of the catastrophes and tribulations that occurred on those dates. The purpose of these days of remembrance is to bring our attention back to the consequences of sin, to further awaken us to our own lives and our own sins, and to stir our hearts toward repentance by recalling our own misdeeds as well as those of our ancestors.

The apostle Paul wrote, concerning the “Wilderness Generation,” “But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness” (I Cor.10:5). “Now these things became our EXAMPLES, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted. And do not become idolaters as were some of them . . . nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did . . . nor let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted . . . nor complain as some of them also complained” (verses 6-10).

Paul went on, “Now all these things happened to them as EXAMPLES, and they were written for OUR admonition, upon whom the ends of the world have come. Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall” (I Cor.10:11-12).

These things were recorded for OUR learning (Rom.15:4).

By remembering these misdeeds, which we continue to repeat and which bring on similar calamities from generation to generation, we are motivated to return to the proper path of life. Numbers 26:40 says, “They shall confess their sins and the *sins of their ancestors*.” Each person should use these days to engage in self-examination, to examine HISTORY, and to learn the lessons of the past, and to repent.

We read in Jonah 3:10 of Nineveh, “God **saw their actions (deeds)**”— they stopped going the wrong direction and humbled selves before God and obeyed his commands (the purpose of fasting is to bring one to repent).

The Mishnah actually records five calamitous events occurring on the Tammuz 17th.

- 1) Moses smashes the 1st two tablets of God’s commands when he saw the golden calf and the idolatrous actions of Israel
- 2) The offering of the daily sacrifice was suspended
- 3) The (wall of the) city was breached
- 4) Apustamus the wicked burned the Torah
- 5) An idol was placed inside the Sanctuary

Says Eliyahu Kitov, Moses told the people “after 40 days have passed, in the beginning of the sixth hour, I shall return and bring you the Torah”. According to Eliyahu Kitov, the faith which the people had in Moses and in his every word was greater than that man would normally place even in something which he sees or knows himself. They assumed the day on which Moses ascended the mountain was the first of the 40 days to be counted. Rather, the day he ascended was to be counted as a “partial” day, so he was to return on the 17th of Tammuz.

Satan Creates Doubt

So when it appeared that Moses had told them something that had failed to come true, and by their reckoning he did not return at the appointed time, they became confused. They lost their faith and suddenly were plagued with doubts and fears, losing control of their senses.

Says Kitov, “On the sixteenth of Tammuz Satan came and brought with him darkness and confusion. . . . He told them [on Tammuz 16], ‘The sixth [hour] has come [i.e., he should have already returned],’ but they paid no attention to him. ‘He is dead!’ [Satan said],’ but they paid no attention to him. He showed them the image of his [Moses’] deathbed (*Shabbos* 89a)” (vol.3, p.899). At this point, “they became like people who witness the collapse of Heaven and earth and lose control of their senses” (*ibid.*). So they said to Aaron, “make us gods to go before us” (Exo.32:1).

How was it possible for a nation who had witnessed a vision of God, who heard Him speak, could turn to idolatry so quickly? Says Kitov, “How was it possible that almost the entire nation should be ensnared by a common transgression without becoming divided into different groups with differing point of views and how did it happen that not one member of the tribe of Levi was drawn to worship the false god? . . .

“The matter may be understood as follows: In the preparation for receiving the Torah God purified their souls and they accepted the Torah as if they were a ‘single man with a single heart.’ But when they built the golden calf, God forbid that we should think that they were all united in doing so; they were in fact divided into many different groups.”

“When they approached Aaron and told him: *Make us a god*, almost all of them meant it for the sake of Heaven. They wanted to fully participate so that through their actions, a power equivalent to Moshe—who would *go before them*—would emerge.

“When the calf emerged as a result of the sorcery of those among them who had been steeped in idolatry, their differences of opinion came to the fore. The few among them who had been fervent practitioners of idolatry instantly fell back into their pagan habits. They were warned but paid no attention.

“Others, more numerous than the first group, maintained a vestige of their previous inclination to worship idols, for the desire to worship pagan cults had not been totally erased from within them. But the awesome effect of the revelation at Mount Sinai and the wonders that they had witnessed previous to that event, and temporarily sublimated that inclination. Their old inclination was now reawakened and they watched as others worshiped the idol, while they stood on the side and rejoiced.

“Still others were stunned by the awful scene they witnessed and ridiculed those who worshiped the calf as well as those who were steadfast in their faith. They saw that both factions were cursing each other and they said: ‘Both groups are *equally* wrong,’ and they denigrated both.

“And the righteous among Israel, when they saw the terrible state of their brethren, became despondent and lost hope that their brothers might repent. And even if they were to repent, they could not believe that their repentance would be accepted and that a nation of *kohanim* and a holy people could be formed from them. So they addressed their brethren and said: ‘You are not our brothers. You shall not be accounted among the congregation of God.’”

Even the Righteous

The factions were divided in their attitude toward the golden calf; nevertheless, God described their actions to Moshe as if they were all guilty of idolatry.

Why were they all guilty? “Why then were the righteous so indignant? Why did they say there was no hope for those who had worshipped the idol? It could only be *they too ascribed a measure of substance to the idol!*” (page 901). Even the righteous were wrong, and sinned, in that they did not understand that no matter how grievous and great the mistake, their brethren could be forgiven.

Moshe descended from the mountain the next day, and called to the people: Whoever is for God, come to me, the tribe of Levi alone came forward. Levi differed from the righteous of the other tribes only in that they were completely obedient to Moshe like a disciplined army awaiting command of their leader. Moses restored order by judging all who had sinned intentionally and punished them.

Kitov says, “The number of people who actually worshiped the calf was a small minority of the nation. When they left Egypt, the verse states that they numbered 600,000 (Numbers 11:21) men on foot. When the shekels which they donated to the Tabernacle were counted, three months after the episode of the golden calf, their numbers had grown to 603,350. Thus, the number of people killed during the episode of the golden calf was less than the number of men who reached the age of twenty between Nisan (when they left Egypt) and Tishrei (when the census using the *shekalim* was taken)” (page 903).

Kitov asks, “Why, then, did He, Who sees into the future and foresaw all the generations, bring it about that this generation of knowledge be culpable of these serious transgressions?”

The Way of Repentance

“The answer is that it was done to *teach the way of repentance* to the multitudes. Israel had only now become a nation. From the beginning, the Shechinah (presence of God) dwelled in their midst, the people ate bread provided by Heaven and drank water from a spring [Christ] which flowed miraculously” (p.904).

A long, perilous road filled with tests of poverty and wealth, of servitude and freedom lay before them which could stretch for thousands of years before they would reach the end of time. Numerous pitfalls on the road down through the centuries could cause Israel to stumble and sin resulting in rebellion and wrong acts. God gave us this example, of His forgiving the ancient Israelites, to demonstrate His love and mercy.

No matter what we have done, or what sin we have committed, there is still forgiveness possible. God wants no one to ever say: “We have become immersed in sin and the road to repentance is therefore blocked before us and we are destined to be lost forever.” Says Kitov, “God taught them—and all subsequent generations—the path of return to Him. . . No generation could commit a more serious sin than the generation that dwelled in the desert, yet even they were returned by God and transformed into His inheritance” (p.905).

Israel was led astray by Satan who deceived them. As Kitov says, “They were not deserving of having their Evil Inclination vanquish them and it would not have been conceivable were it not an edict from the King—issued so as to provide an opening for those who seek to repent. If a sinner says: ‘I will not repent for He will not accept me’—he is told: ‘Go and learn from the episode of the calf where they denied God but were accepted by Him when they repented.’”

Indeed, God always holds out His hand to Israel, His people, pleading for them to repent – there is room for repentance and mercy. God declares, “Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD, Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool” (Isaiah 1:18).

The major lessons of the 17 of Tammuz transgression and resulting calamity, by our forefathers, is that **THERE IS STILL ROOM FOR REPENTANCE!** There is still time for our wicked, evil and iniquitous modern generation to repent and find the way open to return to God!

As James wrote, “Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. . . . Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up” (James 4:7-10).

Seeing troubles mounting around the world, and economic disaster, and growing terrorism, many are worried, anxious, and discouraged. You must stop Satan from getting a hold of your mind and convincing you to lose hope and give up. Fear God and keep His commandments. Discouragement is one of the devil’s frequent and foremost wiles. As long as we have breath we can praise and glorify God with a repentant attitude and spirit. God does not tolerate rebellion.

As long as we repent, nothing is too great for God to forgive or conquer. God works all things together for good to them that love Him, to them that are called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28-39). Even our sins can work together for our good when we repent of them, because they teach us lessons of what not to follow or do, in the future. A man that was deceived and admits he has been deceived has thereby learned something. He knows **NOW** what not to believe!

The Month of Av

The month of Av concludes this period of mourning and fasting which commemorates the destruction of the first and second Temples. Bar Kochba’s rebellion in 135 A.D. ended in disaster and on the ninth of Av, Jerusalem was plowed under with salt like a field.

The Jews were also expelled from Spain in 1492 by Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand under the Roman Catholic Inquisition. No Jew would be allowed to set foot on Spanish soil after that. On the 9th of Av all the Spanish Jews were left defenseless and in a state of captivity and annihilation with only a pitiful remnant surviving.

“Go Up!”

The calamities and woes of the ninth of Av trace back to the generation in the wilderness, again, who lost faith and refused to go in to conquer the Promised Land, after a negative report by ten of the twelve spies sent in to spy out the land.

God told Israel to GO UP AND INHABIT the Promised Land which He gave to them, but they did not believe Him (Deut.1:21-32). God described it as abundant and flowing with milk and honey (Exo.3:17). Israel sent 12 of their mighty leaders (no ordinary men) from each of the tribes to spy out the land. But the land was only hospitable to those who are strong and great in faith. Ten of the spies brought back a very negative report.

“And they gave the children of Israel a BAD report of the land which they had spied out, saying, ‘The land through which we have gone as spies is a land that DEVOURS its inhabitants, and all the men we saw in it are men of great stature. There we saw the GIANTS [Nephilim] . . . and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so were we in their sight’ (Num.13:31-33).

They slandered the land. They denied God’s words. They lost faith, even though these were the same men who stood before God at Mount Sinai, who experienced the deliverance from Egypt and the miracle at the Red Sea, and had been fed manna from heaven! The people wept when they heard the report, which *slandered* the land, and the people *slandered* God. Because the people believed the negative reports, they doubted God’s promise and wept all night. Because of their disbelief and statement that they would be better off dying in the wilderness, God told Moses to tell them, “How long shall I bear with this evil congregation who complain against Me? . . .

“Say to them, ‘As I live,’ says the LORD, ‘just as you have spoken in My hearing, so will I do to you: The carcasses of you who have complained against Me shall fall in the wilderness,, all of you who were numbered, according to your entire number, from twenty years old and above’” (Num.14:27-29).

God told them that they *wept for no reason*—“your own mouth has condemned you and your generation will die in the wilderness.” This was on “Tish B’Av” that God set upon them as a time (date) of weeping throughout all their generations. So it has been throughout history that calamities have befallen them on this specific day.

How Could It Happen?

That generation that came up to the Holy Land was filled with knowledge having seen with their own eyes the great wonders, signs and miracles performed by God in Egypt and at the Red Sea. They had perceived God and heard His voice speaking to them. Israel received daily sustenance from Divine bread from the heavens, and water from the Divine Rock. Israel had been led and protected a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night—a generation to whom God was near. He dwelt among them and destroyed their enemies. He forgave their sins multiple times. They were a nation whose every desire had been met and fulfilled, yet they lost their faith and abandoned hope saying “God hates us!” Without faith no one will inherit the kingdom of God. We have to walk by faith, not by sight. Those who walk in faith, walk in certainty.

How a wise nation can speak so foolishly is puzzling. How could this happen? First look at human nature. Not all men merit that this nearness to God is beneficial. Not everyone achieves a sense of goodness from being constantly near to God. Some get anxious and afraid to be too close to God and do not seek to cleave to God's nearness due to fear they will not measure up to His standard. They know that God is a holy God, just, righteous, and will not requite the wicked. Israel spent 210 years in Egypt in servitude. The last 86 of these years Israel endured brutal oppression before being redeemed. They did not enjoy presence under God's divine wings until they departed from Egypt. When ready to leave Egypt, Israel received the command to keep Passover, and then circumcision. God required that they (a) strengthen their faith and trust in Him leading to obedience and (b) to refrain from rebelling against Him by giving them several tests. They had to trust Him DAY BY DAY looking to Him, asking for their needs.

Efes – “Only”

When Israel spied out the land they knew the Amorites were powerful. They knew the descendents of the giants were famous for their power. The spies added a single word when they returned to report to Israel which did them all in. The Hebrew word was *efes*, which means “Only,” or “But.” Israel got a case of the “Buts.” They needed to “get off their butts”!

Eliyahu Kitov declares, “One who walks with faith, walks with certainty.” But he goes on, “When the spies returned and reported to Moshe and the entire people, they spoke truthfully and supplied no new information. . . . But the spies, in their report, added a superfluous word: *Efes* – ‘only,’ and said: *Efes – the nation that inhabits the land is powerful*” – Numbers 13:28. “They were held culpable because they added the word, which brought those listening to conclude that there was no alternative but to fail in any confrontation. . . . But when the spies added the restrictive *efes* they revealed the FEAR that was in their own hearts” (Kitov, p.945).

They should have had FAITH IN GOD! All creation is the handiwork of God – the stars in the galaxies, the teeming life on planet Earth, the clouds in the sky, the dry land, mountains and prairies, the magnificent oceans, rivers and lakes – ALL was made by God, is kept functioning smoothly by God and upheld by His mighty power. Even the fragile wild flowers, the tiny hummingbird, the Monarch butterfly, all are the works of Almighty God.

He who created it all, and created mankind – how can He not also deliver His people when they are in danger?

The spies said, “*efes (ONLY/BUT)*” the nations that inhabit the land are powerful” (Numbers 13:28). The spies were blamable and culpable BECAUSE they added that word. If they had just said the truth that the nations that inhabit the land are powerful, the listeners would have said, “We are even more powerful.” If they had reported that the Amalekites dwelt there, then those listening would have said, “Well we will destroy them just as we destroyed them when we came out of Egypt.” With reports

of giants living in the land, the people should have responded, “They will fall before us just like the great nations who dwelt in the land of Moab, Seir and Ammon.”

However, adding the restrictive word *efes* (but/except) the spies revealed the fear that was in their own hearts. They believed God was capable of doing miracles, and deliver the powerful into the hands of the weak and the few, but *they did not believe they were worthy of these miracles and that they would occur for them.*

They had to rely, not on the natural order of things, but on miracles. Natural order only appears to be a natural order. God sustains everything. There is nothing natural about what we call natural and take for granted. All creation is unnatural. What is natural is “nothingness.”

It took the creative acts and power of God to bring into existence Creation and it is all sustained by His almighty power, love, and law. In that sense, everything around us is a miracle of God. All life is surrounded with miracles.

The spies who went into the Promised Land did not reveal the full extent of their fears, they only alluded to them. CALEB then raised his voice of FAITH affirming that Israel was God’s chosen nation and that they were capable of destroying the greatest and most powerful nations despite the size.

“The Miraculous Is Natural”

Says Eliyahu Kitov, “For Israel, the miraculous is natural, for God desires them even when they sin. A father never becomes disgusted with his son nor does he hate him even when he is angry” (p.945-6).

Caleb declared, “Let us ascend and take possession of it” (Numbers 14:30). Caleb had *faith* in his heart. Israel responded by fully revealing the *fear* that tormented their souls saying, “we cannot ascend against them for they are stronger than we are.”

In truth and reality, their words were directed against God. God desires Israel even when she has sinned. A father does not hate his son even when he is angry with the son for some action or choice, but the father yearns for the son to repent. The spies knew that when bringing them out of Egypt God had used his mighty hand, the attributes of divine judgment. But by saying “but” they indicated or claimed that they were not or did not feel worthy of His miracles. A small step of faith separated the Israelites from the Egyptians, on Passover night. The same held true at the Red Sea.

But at the entrance of Canaan, Israel thought to themselves, “Do we have the right to still expect that God will continue to use His mighty hand to save us whose lives are filled with transgressions, forever? How can we expect more miracles in our behalf and maintain this kind of faith?” Rather than look at the Word of God and His promises, they looked upon their own “worth,” or lack thereof – and felt unworthy of God’s continuing

miracles, and lost their faith. God did not wipe them out, but He did punish them for 40 years of wandering in the wilderness until that generation died.

Faith and the Kingdom of God

The kingdom of God is like the Promised Land (Num. 14:7-8). The Israelites were not worthy to be supreme among all nations or enter and inherit the Promised Land. They avoided the yoke of freedom by not accepting responsibility. Sin is part and parcel the lives of those who refuse to overcome.

Do we have the faith to endure to the end? Do we have the FAITH to enter the Kingdom? The Moffatt translation says, “From the days of John the Baptist until now, they are *pressing into the Realm of heaven – these eager souls are taking it by force*” (Matt.11:12).

The apostle Paul declared, “For the love of money is the root of all evil. . . . Shun that, O man of God, aim at integrity, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, modesty; *fight in the good fight of the faith, secure that life eternal to which you were called*” (I Tim.6:10-12, Moffatt).

Jesus Christ, Yeshua, declared, “The *conqueror* will obtain this, and I will be his God, and he shall be my son; but as for the craven, the faithless, the abominable, as for murderers, the immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and liars of all kinds – their lot is the lake that blazes with fire and brimstone” (Revelation 21:7-8).

Says Kitov of that generation, “Indeed, they were unworthy of ascending into the Land. Moshe had told the spies when they set out: *Be strong and take from the fruit of the Land (Bemidbar 13:20)*. One who desires to taste the fruits and sate himself from the goodness of the Land [or the KINGDOM of God] must first gird himself with strength and might. When the spies returned weak and fearful, they were truly unworthy of being seen as inheritors of the Land and would instead die in the wilderness” (p.947).

What about you? Is your faith in God and His Word real, solid, tangible, palpable, forceful, dynamic, strong?

The Israelites, having lost faith, wept for no real reason. So for this God ordained that the ninth of Av would be a remembrance of the calamity resulting from lack of faith and forceful conviction. Says Kitov, “ ‘You wept for no reason, and I shall set [this day] for you as a time of weeping throughout the generations (*Ta’anis 29b*)” (p.948).

If we are to enter God’s Kingdom, we must also “Be strong; take hold” (Numbers 13:20). The apostle Paul explains: “To conclude. Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might; put on God’s armour, so as to be able to stand against the stratagems of the devil. for we have to struggle, not with blood and flesh but with the angelic Rulers, the angelic Authorities, the potentates of the dark present, the spirit-forces of evil in the heavenly sphere. So take God’s armour so that you may be able to make a

stand upon the evil day and hold your ground by overcoming all the foe” (Eph.6:10-13, Moffatt).

The 40 Years of Divine Punishment

During the entire period of 40 years of wandering, not a single Israelite – not one – died of natural causes, nor were they weakened by old age. The only deaths that occurred in the wilderness were the result of transgressions.

Says Kitov, “Commencing from the first Tish B’Av when the decree was issued, the date was fixed as a time of mourning and eulogies throughout their stay in the wilderness, for all those who reached the age of sixty died on Tish B’Av” (p.950).

The nation was made up of a large number of elderly men and women, widows of the 600,000 men of military age who had been affected by the divine decree. Even those who did die in the wilderness as a result of the decree of God died only when they reached the age of 60. God foresaw that Israel was destined to commit that sin of the spies and knew they would die in the wilderness as a result. So he distributed the frequency of their births while they were still in Egypt.

An equal number of males were born each year. There were 603,550 men who left Egypt. About 15,000 were born every year, and every year an equal number died of 15,000. When this decree was issued forth commencing on the 9th day of Av that time was fixed as a time of mourning and eulogies throughout the stay in the Wilderness every year. For all those males who reached the age of 60 died on Tish B’Av each year. Females were not affected. Each year on the eve of Tish B’Av the proclamation was read calling on all people to go out and dig graves and lie down in them. In the morning a second proclamation was read, saying that the living should separate themselves from the dead. The living were to arise, and they would count the people. There would be approximately 15,000 that were missing (dead).

Thus they would do each year for 40 years on every Tish B’Av. All who had not reached the age of 60 would remain alive. Those who had passed the age of 60 would die during the night and be covered in the morning. Those who were still alive would get up, and fill in the empty grave. None were to be left open during the year. The people would say, maybe God would have mercy on the remnant and rescind His decree before the coming year.

This is the Midrash account of the decree that was issued in the second year and applicable for 37 years. God had said that corresponding to the number of days that they spied out the land, 40 days, a year for a day, they would bear their sins for 40 years (Numbers 13:34). The two years that passed before the decree were counted as part of the 40 years and the men began to die only on the 3rd year of Tish B’Av.

On the last year no men died, for God remitted the final payment. This left some 45,000 men who were subject to the decree that were not affected by it. On the last year

of Tish B'Av of Israel's stay in the wilderness, God remanded the penalty of 15,000 that should have died that year. The remaining 30 thousand that is 14,700 died in the plague, and 250 died with Korah in the aftermath of Korah's rebellion against Moses leadership. Then another 15,000 died when Israel went out to fight the Amalekites, and Nemerites in defiance of Moses' decree not to go out because God wasn't with them (they went out to fight any way). This is all a test of faith and trust in God.

God's Warning to Us

As believers in and followers of the Messiah, Yeshua, we are today traversing a formidable wilderness – a spiritual wilderness. We are in the wilderness today, struggling, striving, and enduring until we get to the Kingdom (The Promised Land) of God.

In order to enter God's Kingdom, it is required of us that we hold fast the faith in confidence and rejoicing in joy in the hope of the kingdom always until the end comes.

The apostle Paul wrote, "Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, in the day of trial in the wilderness, where your fathers tested Me, tried Me, and saw My works forty years. Therefore I was angry with that generation, and said, 'They always go astray in their heart, and they have not known My ways.' So I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest'" (Heb.3:7-11).

Paul continued, "BEWARE, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another DAILY, which it is called 'Today,' lest any of you be *hardened by the deceitfulness of sin*. For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end" (Heb.3:12-14).

We need to learn to commit everything to God and place our faith in Him. Beware, lest there be an evil heart of unbelief in any of you. Doubt causes departure from the living God. Exhort, encourage one another daily lest any of you become hardened and calloused to the **deceitfulness** of sin.

The devil, a liar and the father of liars, will tell you that God will not forgive you, because your sin is too great and He doesn't really love you. Trust and have faith in God. Tell the devil, "Get you hence, Satan, be-gone! God is greater than my sin and weakness! I can conquer THROUGH CHRIST, who died for me, and who is now at the right hand of God!"

As Paul declared: "I CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH CHRIST WHO STRENGTHENS ME" (Phil.4:13). Or, as the Amplified Bible says, "Yet amid all these things WE ARE MORE THAN CONQUERORS through Him Who loved us" (Rom.8:37).

Paul goes on: “Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us FEAR LEST any of you seem to come short of it. For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it” (Heb.4:1-2).

Paul continues, “Let us therefore be DILIGENT to enter that rest, lest anyone FALL according to the same example of DISOBEDIENCE. For the Word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart” (Heb.4:11-12).

We have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our faith steadfast to the end. For 40 years God was angry with those that sinned, lost their faith, and rebelled which is as the sin of witchcraft and idolatry. Those who did not obey did not enter His rest. God told them to go in and conquer the land. They said “No, it is too hard, we can’t do it.” They could not enter in because of unbelief. Unbelief led to disobedience. Disobedience is sin. The wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23).

What about Us, Brethren?

To receive the promise of entering God’s Kingdom, we need to learn the lessons of Tammuz 17 and Tish B’Av – the “time between the straits.” We must EXAMINE ourselves, and REPENT of our sins.

This is a good time to do so, leading up to the Fall Festival of Tabernacles. From this time through the month of Elul, until Yom Kippur, is a time for self-reflection, self-examination, and putting away all sin.

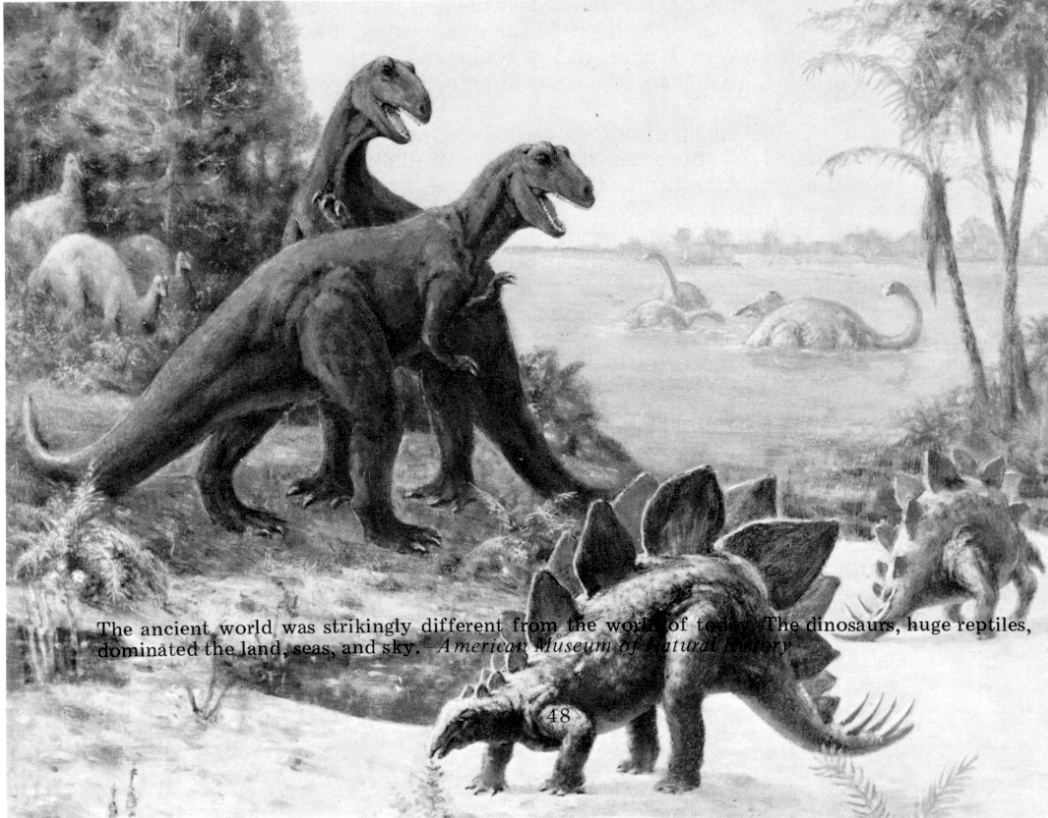
The apostle Paul declares,, “EXAMINE YOURSELVES as to whether you are IN THE FAITH. TEST YOURSELVES. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? – unless you are reprobates” (II Cor.13:5).

As Moffatt puts it, Paul says to us, “*Put yourselves to the proof*, not me; test yourselves, to see if you are in the faith. Do you not understand that Christ Jesus is within you? Otherwise you must be failures.”

Or as the Amplified Parallel Bible says: “Examine and test and evaluate your own selves to see whether you are holding to your faith and showing the proper fruits of it. Test and prove yourselves [not Christ]. Do you not yourselves realize and know [thoroughly by an ever-increasing experience] that Jesus Christ is in you – unless you are [counterfeits] disapproved on trial and rejected?”

What about it?

Will you enter His rest? Do you combine faith in God with obedience to His Word? Are you learning the lessons of the “times between the straits”?



The ancient world was strikingly different from the world of today. The dinosaurs, huge reptiles, dominated the land, seas, and sky. - *American Museum of Natural History*

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Did Dinosaurs Exist *in the Time of Man?*

Incredible as it may seem, records of dinosaurs appear throughout the history of mankind. Only in ancient records, they are generally referred to as “monsters,” “serpents,” or various other terms. Here are amazing accounts from early British history, Danish history, and similar stories, based on fact – not myth. These historical accounts disprove the evolutionary hypothesis that dinosaurs lived a hundred million years ago. Dinosaurs have existed in HUMAN history! What caused the demise of the dinosaurs?

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Saturn and Regulus – Signs of the Messiah

How close are we to the END of this age, when the Messiah will come and set things straight and deliver mankind from its self-imposed doom and annihilation of all life on earth? Do signs in the heavens speak to this issue? What do the “stars” have to say on this tantalizing topic? What lessons can we learn from the stars?

William F. Dankenbring

God Himself said that the stars are arranged in such a manner as to provide "signs" to mankind. We read in Genesis, chapter 1; "Then God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for SIGNS and seasons, and for days and years" (Gen.1:14). The word for "sign" here, in the Hebrew, is *owth*, and means "a signal, as a flag, beacon, monument, omen, prodigy, evidence," etc.

Does God often send mysterious "signs" in the heavens before He performs mighty works in the earth? What do the Scriptures say about this?

"A Star Out of Jacob"

In the book of Numbers we read of the coming Messiah of Israel, the Redeemer and Saviour of the world, this mysterious prophecy:

“I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him, but not nigh: there shall come a *star out of Jacob*, and a *sceptre* shall rise out of Israel, and shall smite the corners of Moab, and destroy all the children of Sheth” (Num.24:17).

All commentators see this as a prophecy of the coming Messiah figure of Israel. But few have noted that it seems to be speaking of a Messiah who comes *twice* -- the first time, as a "star" out of Jacob, and a second time as a “scepter” – that is, as a ruling king, who will subdue His enemies, smiting the Moabites, and destroying all who oppose Him.

Dr. Alfred Edersheim, a famous Bible scholar of the nineteenth century, points out that there is one illustrative Jewish statement which, “though not astrological, is of the greatest importance, although it seems to have been overlooked.” In his book *The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah*, Edersheim mentions the well known Jewish

commentator Abarbanel, who writes of the *importance of the conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn* in the constellation of Pisces, in his Commentary on the book of Daniel. Says Edersheim:

“In his Commentary on Daniel, that Rabbi laid it down, that the conjunction of *Jupiter and Saturn in the constellation of Pisces* betokened not only the most important events, but referred especially to Israel (for which he gives five mystic reasons). He further argues that, as that conjunction had taken place *three years before the birth of Moses*, which heralded the first deliverance of Israel, *so it would also precede the birth of the Messiah*, and the final deliverance of Israel” (p.211).

Edersheim points out that one of the smaller *Midrashim*, called the ‘Messiah Haggadah’ (*Aggadoth Mashiach*) begins as follows:

“A star shall come out of Jacob. There is a Boraita in the name of the Rabbis: The heptad in which the Son of David cometh -- in the *first year* there shall not be sufficient nourishment; in the *second year* the arrows of famine are launched; in the *third*, a great famine; in the *fourth*, neither famine nor plenty; in the *fifth*, great abundance, and *the Star shall rise forth from the East, and this is the Star of the Messiah*. And it will shine from the East for fifteen days, and if it be prolonged, it will be for the good of Israel; in the *sixth*, sayings (voices), and announcements (hearings); in the *seventh* wars, and at the close of the seventh Messiah is to be expected” (quoted by Edersheim, p.211-212).

This “heptad,” or period of “seven,” undoubtedly refers to the final “WEEK” of Daniel 9:24-27 – the final seven years leading up to the coming of the Messiah – the final seven years of this present age of misrule and misconduct. Notice that at the end of this “week” of seven years, the Messiah is to be “expected.”

Notice ALSO that the “star” of the Messiah is predicted to rise in the East, in the fifth year – that is, two or three years before His final coming!

Jacob's Prophecy

On his deathbed, Jacob gave an amazing prophecy about the coming Messiah. He declared:

“Judah is a lion's whelp [Leo, the lion!]; from the prey, my son, you are gone up. He bows down, he lies down as a LION; and as a LION who shall arouse him? The SCEPTER [royal symbol of kingship -- margin] shall not depart from JUDAH, nor a lawgiver from *BETWEEN HIS FEET, until Shiloh [Christ] comes*; and to Him shall be the obedience of the people. . . .” (Gen.49:9-10, NKJV).

Notice this remarkable passage! It refers to the tribe of JUDAH, from which Christ sprang (Hebrews 7:14). The sceptre, kingship, belongs to Judah. The kingship is fulfilled in Jesus Christ (Luke 1:32).

Now notice, further: Christ is also the great Lawgiver, “between his feet,” that is,

the feet of Leo – Judah. The star Regulus (which means regal, royal, or kingship) lies between the feet of Leo, the lion, of the constellation Leo! The Hebrew expression “between his feet” is literally *reglaiv* – רגליו – which is very similar to the Latin word, "Regulus."

Regulus is known as the "king star."

The Revelation from the Zodiac

E. W. Bullinger, in his amazing book *Witness of the Stars*, tells us that the original Zodiac, mentioned in the book of Job, perhaps the oldest book of the Bible, was the great sign given by God to preach the gospel in the heavens. God asked Job, “Can you bind the cluster of the Pleiades [or, the Seven Stars], or loose the belt of Orion? Can you bring out Mazzaroth [the Zodiac, or Constellations] in its season? Or can you guide the Great Bear [or, Arcturus] with its cubs?” (Job 38:31-32).

Psalm 19 tells us more about this mystery: “The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament shows His handiwork. Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge. *There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard*” (vs.1-3). The first part of this Psalm clearly speaks of the witness of the stars in the heavens and their testimony of the plan of God (verses 1-6). This was the sole witness to countless generations of God's great Plan, before God prepared His written Word to also bear testimony! The second part of this Psalm speaks of the *written Word of God – His law* (verses 7-14).

E. W. Bullinger relates that the 12 signs or constellations of the Zodiac are divided up into three parts, with four signs in each. The first part deals with the first coming of the Messiah -- Virgo (the Virgin), Libra (Judgment), Scorpio (the Serpent), and Sagittarius (the Archer). Christ was born of the virgin Mary, lived a perfect life, and gave His life on the stake, thus judging Satan the serpent, and replacing Him as future ruler of this world. Satan (Scorpio) opposed Him at every turn, but Christ emerged victorious (Sagittarius).

The second grouping of constellations deals with the age of the Church, from Christ to the present – these Zodiacal signs are Capricorn, Aquarius, Pisces, and Aries. It begins with Capricorn, the atoning sacrifice (a sacrificial goat – chosen by the Lord – see Lev.16:8-9 – representing Christ), beginning the Church age. Aquarius, the Water-bearer, pictures a Man – the Church – with a bountiful supply of water (God's Holy Spirit), being poured out. The sign of Pisces, again, is the sign of God's people, associated with “Israel.” It pictures a teeming multitude of fish – a bountiful number – again, picturing the Church, which is “the Israel of God” (Galatians 6:16). The Hebrew name is *dagim*, “the fishes,” which is closely connected to “multitudes” (Gen.48:16), in the sense that fishes grow into a multitude.

The constellation Andromeda, in Aries, shows a chained woman – a picture of the Church itself in prison, in bondage at the end of this age. In Hebrew, her name is *Sirra*,

“the chained,” and *Persea*, “the stretched out” (Bullinger, p.101). This section of the Zodiac finishes with Aries, the Ram, or Lamb). This Ram is vigorous and full of life – not pictured as being slain. In this sign we also see Cassiopeia, the woman, only this time she is enthroned – delivered – and preparing for her Husband, the Redeemer. This constellation, which also pictures the Church, was called by the ancients, “the daughter of splendor.”

Psalm 45 speaks of this Heavenly Groom and His Bride, or Queen. We read:

“You are fairer than the sons of men; grace is poured upon Your lips; therefore God has blessed You forever. Gird Your sword upon Your thigh, O Mighty One, with Your glory and Your majesty

“At Your right hand stands the queen in gold from Ophir. Listen, O daughter, consider and incline your ear; forget your own people also, and your father's house; so the King will greatly desire your beauty; because He is your Lord, worship Him. . . . The royal daughter is all glorious within the palace; her clothing is woven with gold. She shall be brought to the King in robes of many colors; the virgins, her companions who follow her, shall be brought to You. . . .” (Psa.45:2-14).

The Messiah is coming soon, and it behooves the Church to “make herself ready” (Rev.19:7-9). Perseus, the “Breaker,” our Redeemer, in this sign of the Zodiac, defeats Cetus, the sea monster (Satan).

Now we come to the third and last division of the Zodiac. Bullinger tells us:

“In this Third and Last Book we come to the concluding portion of the Heavenly Revelation. Its subject is Redemption completed, and consummated in triumph. No more sorrow, suffering, or conflict; no more bruising the head of the Redeemer. We have now done with the prophecies of ‘the sufferings of Christ,’ and have come to those that relate to ‘the glory that should follow’” (Bullinger, p.119).

The Third Book consists of the signs of Taurus, the Bull, Gemini (the Twins), Cancer (the Crab) – but actually the Hebrew meaning of this sign is “to hold or bind together” – see Gen.49:11, the word “binding” – and the final and most powerful sign, Leo, the Lion.

Let’s notice the meaning of Taurus. Taurus pictures a bull, rushing forth with mighty energy and fury, his horns set so as to push his enemies and pierce them through, and destroy them. This symbolizes Christ who is coming as a mighty warrior, to crush His enemies and to judge the earth (Rev.19:11-15). God spoke of Joseph, a type of Christ: “His glory is like a firstborn bull, and his horns like the horns of a wild ox; together with them he shall *push the peoples to the ends of the earth*” (Deu.33:16-17).

Jeremiah describes the scene in these similar terms:

“A noise will come to the ends of the earth -- for the LORD has a controversy with all nations; He will plead His case with all flesh. He will give those who are wicked to the sword, says the LORD. Thus says the LORD of hosts: “Behold, disaster will go forth from nation to nation, and a great whirlwind shall be raised up from the farthest parts of the earth. *And at that day the slain of the LORD shall be from one end of the earth even to the other end of the earth.* They shall not be lamented, or gathered, or buried; they shall become refuse on the ground” (Jeremiah 25:31-33, NKJV).

In the neck of the bull are the seven sisters, the stars known as Pleiades. This word means “the congregation of the judge” or “ruler.” The brightest of them is in Arabic, *Al Cyone*, and means “the center.” It has caused some astronomers to think of it as lying at the center of the Universe. Perhaps it pictures the Philadelphia Church, which is the outstanding church of love and obedience (Rev.3:8-10), which will rule with Christ from the Temple, as “pillars” (Rev.3:11-12). They will indeed be “at the center.”

Says Bullinger, “The Syriac name for the Pleiades is *Succoth*, which means *booths*” (p.121). booths are “sukkot” in Hebrew, a reference to the “booths” or “tabernacles” the Israelites dwelt in when they left Egypt and crossed the wilderness. God’s people celebrate the Feast of “Tabernacles” every year, as God commands (Lev.23:33-43). See our articles on the “The Deep Meaning of the Festival of Tabernacles!” and “Secrets of the Sukkah.”

In the constellation Taurus lies the constellation of Orion, “The Coming Prince.” Orion is the most brilliant of all the constellations. His name, in the Denderah Zodiac, is *Ha-ga-t*, meaning “*this is he who triumphs.*” Says Bullinger, “Orion was anciently spelt *Oarion*, from the Hebrew root, which means *light*. So that Orion means *coming forth as light*” (p.125). The constellation of Orion is mentioned in Job 9:9, 38:31, and Amos 5:8. The Hebrew word for this constellation is *Chesil*, which means “*a strong one, a hero, or giant.*”

Issuing forth from the feet of Orion – picturing Christ the Messiah returning in power – is “Eridanus” – meaning “the river of the Judge.” This sign is an immense constellation, consisting of 84 stars, running in a serpentine (river-like) course, bending, and twisting down till it is out of sight. It speaks of judgment and of fire. It is a fiery river. It is interesting that when Christ returns, and fights against the armies that oppose Him outside the city of Jerusalem, He will trample them like grapes in a winepress, “outside the city, and blood came out of the winepress, up to the horses’ bridles, for one thousand six hundred furlongs” (Rev.14:20). That is, a distance of 184 miles – a river of blood flowing from the Kidreon valley, or Valley of Jehoshaphat (“Valley of Judgment” – see Joel 3:12-14), down to the Dead Sea, and thence to the Gulf of Aqaba.

Gemini -- the "Twins"

Gemini, the next sign in the Zodiac, pictures “the Twins.” But who are these twins, so depicted in the night sky? The old Coptic name was *Pi-Mahi*, meaning *the united*, as in brotherhood. Not necessarily being born at the same time, but united as

brothers in brotherhood. The Hebrew name is *Thaumim*, which literally means “united.” The root is used in Exodus 26:24, “They shall be coupled [literally, “doubled”] together at the bottom and they shall be coupled [“doubled”] together at the top by one ring.”

Who, then, does Gemini picture? Why none other than the Bridegroom AND THE BRIDE – Jesus Christ and the Church, wed in holy matrimony at His Coming! They twain shall become “ONE” in perfect unity and harmony (Gen.2:24). As Paul wrote, “But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him” (I Cor.6:17). “For we, though many, are ONE BREAD and ONE BODY; for we all partake of that one bread [Christ – John 6:48]” (I Cor.10:17).

Gemini, the Twins, then pictures Christ and the Church! As God’s true people, we are come to “the general assembly of the *church of the firstborn [first-fruits!]* who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect” (Heb.12:22-23).

Interestingly, it appears that at one time, aeons ago, Lucifer was created about the same time as the Logos, who became Christ, and at one time they were both “bright morning stars” (Isaiah 14:12; Rev.22:16). In other words, Lucifer, the “anointed cherub that covered” the throne of God (Ezek.28:14), was also “the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty” (Ezek.28:12). He was like a “twin” of the Logos, (not an “identical” twin but more of a “fraternal” twin), and had the *potential*, at least, to become a “son of God,” even as the Logos was, and perhaps to become the “third” member of a divine “Trinity.” But he disqualified – he became filled with pride, anger, rebellion, lust and violence (Ezek.28:15-18). His fate is to be destroyed forever (Ezek.28:18-19; Isa.14:12-15; Heb.2:14; Rev.20:10). See our article on “Satan’s Fate – Will He Be Tormented Forever?”

It will instead be the CHURCH of God, the “Firstfruits,” who will have this wonderful opportunity, and who will join God the Father, and Christ, as spiritual Israel – the Bride of Christ – and become in effect the *third member* of the divine ruling “Trinity” of God! For more insight on this matter, read our articles, “Lucifer and the Logos – Their Origin,” “Who Created Lucifer and the Logos?,” “Who Or What Was Jesus Christ Before His Human Birth?,” “Who Is the Only True God?,” and “Was Christ Created?”

“The Encircling Arms”

The next constellation in the sign of Leo is Cancer, the “Crab,” but this sign is not really a crab at all. The Arabic name is *Al Sartan*, or “who binds” or “holds,” and may derive from the Hebrew “to bind together” (Gen.49:11). The Hebrew word for “binding” in this verse is *awsar*, a primitive root meaning “to yoke, or hitch; by analogy, to fasten in any sense; bind, fast, harness, gird, hold, keep, make ready, prepare, prison, put in bonds, set in array, tie.” It signifies “binding” or “holding together.” The Syriac *Sartano* means the same thing. The Greek name *Karkinos*, meaning *holding* or *encircling*. The Latin “Cancer” has the same meaning. (The crab, with its claws, seems to “encircle” its prey.)

In the ancient Denderah Zodiac, this constellation is represented as a “scarab” or

“sacred beetle,” used by the ancients as an identifying sign or seal of its owner. It was also a symbol of the resurrection, to the ancient Egyptians. The Denderah name is *Klaria*, or “the cattle-folds.”

This sign is connected to the tribe of Issachar. Two stars in this constellation are *Asellus Boreas*, meaning “the northern Ass,” and *Asellus Australis*, meaning “the southern Ass.” The tribal standard of Issachar was two asses. Jacob said of his son Issachar, “Issachar is a strong ass, couching down among the sheep-folds” (Gen.49:14).

Thus this sign pictures Christ as encircling and protecting His Flock, and holding them safe and secure from the predatory actions of Satan and his coterie of agents. Moses wrote of God’s love for His people, His flock: “He found him in a desert land and in the wasteland, a howling wilderness; He *encircled* him, He instructed him, He kept him as the apple of His eye. As an eagle stirs up its nest, hovers over its young, spreading out its wings, taking them up, carrying them on its wings, so the LORD alone led him” (Deut.32:10-12).

Moses continued the same theme in Psalm 91: “He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. . . . He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall take refuge” (Psa.91:1-4). During the “Day of the Lord,” Christ will protect and securely safeguard His beloved servants, His flock (Rev.12:14-17; 3:10; Luke 21:36), those who sincerely obey Him and trust in Him!

The Sign of Leo

The sign of Leo, the final sign of the Zodiac, pictures Christ the Redeemer as a great lion, who will destroy all His enemies and put them under His feet. Christ is, in Scripture, the “Lion of the tribe of Judah” (Rev.5:5-6). The Hebrew name for “Leo” is *Arieh*, which means “the Lion.” There are six Hebrew words for “lion,” and *Arieh* is used of the Lion *hunting down its prey*. The Syriac name is *Aryo*, “the rending lion,” and the Arabic is *Al Asad*, and both mean a lion coming vehemently, leaping forth as a flame!

The brightest star, on the ecliptic, marks the heart of the Lion. It is the star *Regulus*, which means “treading under foot.” It is the word from which we get “regal,” “royal,” “regulate,” or “rule.” Another star in the lion's mane is *Denebola*, “the Judge” or “Lord who cometh.” On the back of the lion is *Al Giebha*, “the exaltation,” and another is *Minchir al Asad*, “*the punishing or tearing of the lion.*” Another is *Deneb Aleced*, “*the judge cometh who seizes.*” Still another is *Al Dafera*, “*the enemy put down.*”

Clearly, this Lion is Christ the rampant Lion, the returning Conqueror, the King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev.17:14; 19:16). In a prophecy of Christ, Jacob declared, “Judah is a lion’s whelp: from the tender plant, my son, thou art gone up, having couched thou liest as a lion, and as a whelp; who shall stir him up?” (Gen.49:9, Septuagint). Balaam also prophesied of this rampant lion: “There shall come a man out of his [Jacob’s] seed, and he shall rule over many nations. . . God led him out of Egypt; he has as it were the glory of a unicorn: he shall consume the nations of his enemies, and he shall drain their marrow, and with his darts he shall shoot through the enemy. He lay

down, he rested as a LION, and as a young lion; who shall stir him up? they that bless thee are blessed and they that curse thee are cursed” (Numbers 24:7-9, LXX).

Solomon wrote of the “lion’s whelp, stronger than all other beasts, which turns not away, nor fears any beast” (Proverbs 30:31, LXX).

In the sign of Leo, are other constellations. Hydra, the Serpent, represents the old serpent – Satan the devil – destroyed. Hydra is pictured as the female serpent, the mother and author of all evil (mother “Babylon,” “Queen of heaven,” Lucifer – compare Ezek.28:17). Hydra has the significance also of “he that is abhorred.” It is a long, serpentine constellation, extending over 100 degrees from east to west, under the Virgin, the Lion, and the Crab. The brightest star in the heart of the serpent is called *Al Phard*, “the separated,” or “put away.” Another is called *Al Dreian*, “the abhorred.” Still another is *Minchar al Sugia*, “the piercing of the deceiver.”

Another constellation in Leo is “Crater,” or “The Cup.” What does it refer to? “For in the hand of the LORD there is a cup, and the wine is red; it is fully mixed, and He pours it out; surely its dregs shall all the wicked of the earth drain and drink down” (Psa.75:8, NKJV).

John tells us in the book of Revelation about this “cup” of the Lord which the nations shall drink. It is the cup of “the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation” (Rev.14:9-10). “And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the *cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath*” (Rev.16:19). “Render to her just as she rendered to you, and repay her double according to her works; in the cup which she has mixed, mix double for her” (Rev.18:6).

Finally, there is constellation of Corvus, “The Raven,” a type of all the birds of prey which will feast on the bodies and corpses of the wicked, sprawled over the face of the earth, after the furious battles of the “Day of the Lord,” or “Armageddon.” This constellation is *Her-na*, in the Denderah Zodiac, meaning *Her*, “the enemy,” and *na*, “breaking up” or “failing.” The scene pictures the breaking up of the enemy, the final defeat and judgment of Satan and all those who resist and fight against the returning Christ. A star in the right wing is *Al Goreb*, “The Raven,” in Arabic, from the Hebrew *Oreb*, “The Raven.” Another star is *Minchar al Gorab*, meaning “the Raven tearing to pieces.”

We read of this prophetic scene in Revelation 19: “Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and he cried out with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, ‘Come and gather together for the supper of the great God, that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, both small and great’” (Rev.19:17-18). “And all the birds were filled with their flesh” (verse 21).

Isn't it fascinating how these ancient “signs” of the Zodiac, and their constellations, all depict significant events in Biblical prophecy – especially prophecy for

these "latter days"?

Regulus and Saturn

Saturn, in ancient mythology, was known as the Reaper. He carried a sickle with him, and harvested the earth. He was also known as the "Grim Reaper."

When Christ returns, He will carry a sickle, with which He will harvest the grapes of the earth -- the blood of the wicked. John writes: "Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and on the cloud sat One like the Son of Man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle. And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, Thrust in Your sickle, and reap: for the time has come for You to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe. So he who sat on the cloud thrust in His sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped" (Rev.14:14-16).

John goes on: "Then another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. And another angel came out from the altar, who had power over fire, and he cried with a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in your sharp sickle and gather the cluster of the vine of the earth, for her grapes are fully ripe.' So the angel thrust his sickle into the earth and gathered the vine of the earth, and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God" (Rev.14:17-19).

The One with the sickle, who will harvest the earth, is Jesus Christ – Leo the Lion, the "Lion of the tribe of Judah"!

The Jewish people call "Saturn" by the name of *Shabbatai*, relating to the seventh day Sabbath, or Day of Rest. Saturn is the Messianic planet. It pictures Christ the Messiah. Christ is our true "Sabbath Rest." He came to give us "rest" (Matt.11:28-29). Saturn therefore pictures Christ, and it also pictures the Sabbath Day, or the Great Sabbath – the Millennial Sabbath of Rest of 1,000 years (Heb.4:4-9; Rev.20:4-6).

Saturn is always shown with a sickle. Leo also has a sickle extending from his mouth. In fact, Regulus, the king star, is located at the beginning of the handle of a *sickle which starts at the mouth of Leo*, the point of the sickle protruding from the Lion's mouth. Actually, John mentions TWO sickles in Revelation 14 – just as there are TWO sickles pictured in the heavens – one connected with Saturn, and one with Leo the Lion – both picturing Christ with the sickle of reaping!

Does this picture, then, Christ, who will reap the harvest of the earth? And is the sickle His very own sickle, which He uses to cut down the wicked?

The Time of the End

What does the testimony of the stars tell us? This is NOT "astrology," but Bible-based study of the "signs" of the heavens (Gen.1:14).

In May 2000, the planet Saturn entered the constellation of Taurus, the Bull, the

sign of Ephraim and Manasseh (the United States and Great Britain, primarily – see our book *America and Great Britain – Our Identity Revealed*). It then went through Cancer and Gemini.

Around August 29, 2007, the planet Saturn was proceeding toward a conjunction with Regulus, the king star, between the feet and at the heart of Leo, the Lion. It came close to its conjunction with Regulus as the Jewish new year began with Rosh Hashanah on September 14, 2007 (according to the Biblical New Moon calendar).

The conjunction of the Messianic planet with the Messianic king star, in the Messianic sign of Leo, is very significant!

Does this conjunction signify that the FINAL COUNTDOWN TO THE MESSIAH HAS BEGUN? Could this year – 2007 – be the beginning of Daniel’s 70th week – the final seven years which will herald the coming of the Messiah? Could the year 2007 picture the beginning of the final countdown to the approaching footsteps of the coming Messiah? Could the final week of “woes” – the final seven years – Daniel’s 70th week – the final “seven times” of Leviticus 26 – begin with Tishri 1, of the Jewish year 5768 – September 14, 2007?

Or could it signify the beginning of the TEN DAYS OF AWE – symbolized by the ten days from Rosh Hashana to Yom Kippur ? These “ten days” picture the final TEN YEARS of this age! (A “day” equals a “year” in prophetic fulfillment – Numbers 14:34; Ezek.4:4-6).

If the “7 years” scenario is correct, then Christ would return sometime in 2014 A.D.! If the “10 days of awe” scenario is correct, then He would return sometime in 2017 A.D.! Either way, time is drawing very, very short! As the apostle John was inspired to write in the book of Revelation:

“The angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised up his hand to heaven and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and the things that are in it, the earth and the things that are in it, *that there should be delay no longer.*”

“But in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, *the mystery of God would be finished*, as he declared to His servants the prophets” (Revelation 10:5-7, NKJV).

Halleluyah! Even so, Come, Lord Yeshua, our Moshiach! Christ declared:

“*Now when these things BEGIN to happen, LOOK UP and LIFT UP your heads, because your REDEMPTION draws near*” (Luke 21:28).

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Are Your Ministers Causing You to “SIN”?

Are You *Missing the Point* of the Feast of Trumpets?

What is the REAL MEANING of the Feast of Trumpets? What is its purpose? What does it represent? Why have the various churches of God totally MISSED THE POINT of this holy day and celebrate it for the WRONG REASONS, and improperly? This could cause many to MISS OUT ON SALVATION!



It is called God’s Day of Trumpets” – a plural word meaning many trumpets, but many church ministers of breakaway churches really celebrate a “Feast of One Trumpet” instead! They teach that this Feast represents the “LAST trumpet” which is blown at the second coming of the Messiah!

Yet Scripture plainly says it is the “FEAST OF TRUMPETS” – plural form – NOT “TRUMPET” – singular form! Why has this been overlooked and ignored by so many ministers and lay members alike?

Technically, the word “trumpet” is not found in Leviticus 23:24 at all. In the Hebrew, it simply says, “you shall observe complete rest, a sacred occasion commemorated by LOUD BLASTS” (Jewish Tanakh). In the Hebrew the word is *yom teruah*, which means “clamor, i.e. acclamation of joy or battle cry, esp. clangor of trumpets, AS AN ALARUM – alarm, blow, joy, jubilee, loud noise.” Says Gesenius Hebrew-English Lexicon, “(1) prop. *tumult, loud noise*, specially (a) joyful noise, rejoicing . . . (b) a war-like cry, cry for battle, to raise a war cry, (2) the *SOUND* of a trumpet.”

“In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall have a Sabbath-rest, a memorial of blowing of TRUMPETS, a holy convocation” (Leviticus 23:24).

Are your ministers causing you to be MISSING THE MARK of the observance of this sacred, holy day? This Holy Day commemorates the LOUD BLASTS of ringing

ALARMS of trumpet calls – BATTLE CRIES, CALLS OF WARNING, OF SEVERE URGENCY, TUMULT, LOUD NOISE!

The prophet Amos declared: “If a TRUMPET [ram’s horn, Heb. shofar] IS BLOWN in a city, will not the people BE AFRAID?” (Amos 3:6). The prophet Joel thundered, “BLOW the trumpet in Zion, and SOUND THE ALARM in My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land TREMBLE, for the day of the Lord is coming” (Joel 2:1).

**Are Your Ministers Causing You to Celebrate
a Feast of 1 “happy” Trumpet, their way
causing you Misunderstand the Feast of
“TRUMPETS” and therefore “NOT” to be
prepared for the Awesome Days ahead?**

Your Ministers have Misled you “Again”!

When church ministers celebrate the Feast of 1 “happy” Trumpet, instead of teaching the TRUE MEANING of the “Feast of Trumpets,” they miss the **whole point**, and you might as well as not celebrate it at all! This Feast does NOT represent the single trumpet blown at the coming of Christ – it does NOT announce the coming of Christ! That is the “LAST trumpet” (I Cor.15:52; I Thess.4:16).

The Bible interprets the Bible. In Scripture, the sounding of trumpets (plural) is a sounding of WARNING – announcing DANGER – and calling people to REPENTANCE!

***Your ministers have you all feeling joyous on “their” Feast of 1 Trumpet
when you ought to be feeling consternation, concern, fear, awe, leading
you to REPENTANCE!***

The annual Holy Days picture the Plan of God. The spring holy days picture the sacrifice of Christ, our putting away sin [days of unleavened bread], our journey through the wilderness of this world, developing godly character, and is completed by the Feast of Pentecost, the First-fruits – which pictures the HARVEST of the FIRSTFRUITS at Christ’s coming, and the great Wedding of the Bride and the Lamb! (See our articles on “The Amazing Saga of Pentecost,” and “Pentecost and the Great Wedding Feast”).

The FALL festival season is altogether new – it pictures the salvation of the WHOLE WORLD!

The Feast of Trumpets pictures God's WARNING CRY to all the world to GET READY for JUDGMENT, with the trumpets – many trumpets – calling the world and ALL people to REPENT OF THEIR SINS *before DISASTER STRIKES everywhere!*

In the Jewish calendar, among Orthodox Jews, the trumpet (shofar) is blown every day through the month of Elul (the sixth month), calling people to repentance, and then on the Feast of Trumpets, the shofar is blown ONE HUNDRED TIMES, throughout the day – a warning blast of preparing for JUDGMENT! Its purpose is to wake people up everywhere to FEAR GOD and expect His divine JUDGMENT DAY which comes at the LAST trumpet blast!

This period of time BEFORE AND LEADING UP TO His coming is to be used to reflect on our lives, to analyze our short-comings, and to examine our faults and to come to deeper and more fulfilling REPENTANCE before the judgment of God! Paul declares, "EXAMINE YOURSELVES, whether you be in the faith" (II Cor.13:5). This is a time of sober self-reflection and analysis – a time of REPENTANCE preparatory to JUDGMENT!

TRUMPETS in the Book of Revelation

The Feast of "TrumpetS" is pictured in the book of Revelation, the book which announces the "revelation of Jesus Christ" and His second coming (Rev.1:1).

Many trumpets are blown throughout the prophecies of this book, which is a book of WARNING, a book which announces the FEARSOME EVENTS leading up to the coming of the Messiah!

During the trumpet BLASTS, fearful and awesome plagues will strike the world, causing BILLIONS to die horrible, awful deaths, because of their refusal to come to terms with their sins, and to repent before God!

Because of their ignorance AND FALSE TEACHING, your Ministers are causing you to plunge right into JUDGMENT without being prepared and properly examining yourselves!

THE REAL TRUMPETS Revealed!

You need to understand God's TRUTH about the holy meaning of this annual Holy Day of God!

During the soon-coming Day of the Lord which Joel warned about, massive destruction will occur in cities around the world – probably including YOUR own city! God Himself will DEVASTATE cities everywhere during the coming TrumpetS of the Day of the Lord!

The pathos and sadness soon coming on this planet will shock the world!

Billions upon billions will be dying of starvation, famine, disease, pandemics, war, poison gases, nuclear explosions, chemical biological warfare, and fearful global havoc and hatred! It was prophesied – and is rapidly approaching! The hoof beats of the fiery horses of the Apocalypse are fretfully stamping their feet, getting ready to race from the starting line!

The apostle John wrote:

“And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given SEVEN TRUMPETS” (Rev.8:2).

When these angels blow their trumpets of warning, *millions and billions will DIE! The earth will go through ‘BIRTHPANGS’ as it hurtles toward its rendezvous with DESTINY – the day of Judgment!*

The message of the Feast of Trumpets is “PREPARE TO MEET YOUR GOD, O ISRAEL”! (Amos 4:12).

Read the eighth chapter of Revelation, for starters. Here the trumpet plagues of the “Feast of Trumpets” are laid out end to end, beginning with hail and fire burning up one third of the trees on earth (verse 7). Probably one month later the second angel sounds his trumpet, and a great mountain is cast into the sea. A third of the living creatures in the sea die, and a third of ships are destroyed (v.8). Then the third angel blows his trumpet and a great star or comet falls from the sky, burning like a torch, and poisoning the atmosphere and waters, causing “many men” to DIE horrible, gruesome deaths (verses 10-11). The fourth angel, in the fourth month, sounds his trumpet of warning, followed by the SUN being struck one third, and the moon, and the stars also being darkened one third (v.12).

These horrendous plagues are followed by three more, called the “THREE WOES” (v.13). These are catalogued in chapter nine. The first woe torments mankind for five months (9:5). “In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them” (v.6). Awesome war will follow (verses 7-12). “Locusts” will devour the earth – a type of the armies of the world’s “New World Order” (compare Nahum 3:15-17 where it is represented as “Nineveh”, the capital of the ancient Assyrian world empire!).

This woe will be followed by the “SECOND woe” – a vast army from the East, or Orient, will swarm westward, toward the Middle East and Europe, with 200 million men under arms – the final “war to end all wars.”

ONE THIRD OF MANKIND WILL DIE in this plague of warfare! (verse 15) – that is to say, over TWO BILLION people will die from this one plague alone!

**2 “BILLION” PEOPLE will be blown away
when this sixth trumpet sounds!**

The “Feast of Trumpets” is a Feast –a convocation or assembly – to bring the people to REPENTANCE, so that they do not have to go through these terrible trumpet-plagues of the Day of the Lord, the time when God’s final JUDGMENT begins on the planet earth!

The “Feast of Trumpets, therefore, It is “NOT to celebrate ONE Trumpet as in a “Happy” Idyllic brainless observance, but should be a SOBER, SINCERE, EARNEST TIME OF PRAYER, INTROSPECTION, AND REPENTANCE!

Your worship service must instead focus during the Trumpet Worship Day on “7” “Horrific” Trumpets. It is “NOT” a worship day to be a time of glad handing, and smiling.

Why does this day introduce the Fall Festivals of God? TO WARN you and the churches of God, and the world, to **FEAR** God and repent, “BEFORE” CHRIST RETURNS. The celebration of this day is designed to *TO PUT THE FEAR OF GOD INTO You and your ministers so that you ALL start obeying the Bible and keep God’s Holy Days HOLY!*

It is Trumpets with an “S” to teach you to FEAR God.

In essence, the “Feast of Trumpets” represents a one “year” long event, called “The Day of the Lord.” The “day” stands for ONE YEAR in prophetic fulfillment (Num.14:34; Ezek.4:6). It is “NOT” just a 1 24-hour “day” event picturing fuzzy happiness, and joy, of just idyllically seeing Christ arriving. The seven trumpets are blown throughout the FINAL YEAR of this earth’s extreme SUFFERING and DURESS during the woes and affliction caused by the seven trumpets blasts which are blown consecutively throughout the final YEAR of this age, leading up to Christ’s return!

Blindness and Outrageous Disobedience

To fail to understand the plain TRUTH about Trumpets causes you to “not” understand the Bible, and so that you are “not” motivated to “FEAR GOD” via the “warning messages” of the Day of Trumpet “S”. The ministers of the various COGs lead you astray *by just giving you the single impression that Christ will be just be returning on the “Feast” of Trumpets*, and causing you to celebrate the Feast of Trumpets as a joyous event/day.

THEY MISS THE WHOLE POINT! Their blindness is outrageous! But that is only HALF THE PROBLEM!

The other great SIN your ministers are causing you to commit with hardly an afterthought is this – they kept the Feast of Trumpets in 2007 on the WRONG DAY, thus

causing you to WORK on God’s TRUE holy Day, and worshiping Him on a REGULAR day of the week instead! This year the Feast of Trumpets fell on a Friday, but they all observed it a day EARLY, on Thursday! Since they got the FIRST day of the month wrong, this means they also celebrated EVERY HOLY DAY OF THE FALL FESTIVALS ON THE WRONG DAY!!!

How was this possible? Simple: Rather than follow the TRUE Bible calendar, which we can PROVE, they used the perverted, distorted, altered *Jewish* “FIXED” calendar which was adopted in 357-58 A.D. by Rabbi Hillel II and his cohorts, which only “approximated” the true new moons and therefore Holy Days, and which also added unbiblical “POSTPONEMENTS” to the Calendar, which were NEVER observed or even thought of during the time from Moses to Christ and the apostles!!!

Therefore, this year their observances were off one day this year for every fall Feast Day and Holy Day! (see our booklet on “God’s True Calendar” for the proof behind that statement).

Coming “close” only counts when you’re playing horseshoes or throwing hand-grenades! This year the Jewish calendar is off on the Feast of Trumpets, the first day of the month and year, so this means they are off one day for ALL the Feast days of the month of Tishri – Trumpets, Day of Atonement, the seven days of the Feast of Tabernacles, and Shemini Atzeret!

That would be like lining up 10 archery targets, taking a bow and arrow, and having a contest – and shooting at the bull’s eye on each target, *and missing EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THEM! That would be a score of ZERO!*

Such a score would constitute utter FAILURE! God in heaven is not pleased by such shenanigans and hoodwinks!

The Terrifying Truth

Your Ministers do not teach the real meaning of the Feast of Trumpets, which could well be called “The Feast of WARNING Blasts!” It could also be called the “Feast of Crying Out” to God, or the “Feast of Repentance”! By not realizing the whole meaning of this Feast Day, you are forced to miss out on this URGENT CALL to final REPENTANCE before the “Day of the Lord”! Do you realize how terrifying, and terrible, this is, for your own salvation?

Lack of FEAR of God and URGENCY regarding REPENTANCE causes you not to be following “every” jot and tittle of the Bible, which you would do, if, and “when” you SEE what the Feast of Trumpets represents, and its thundering CALL upon you to repent of your sins, to examine yourself, and to cry out to God for forgiveness!

These “7” Trumpets (if properly portrayed by ministers) would cause you to properly obey, and “FEAR” GOD, so you would not dare change one iota of God’s teaching. The true message or purpose of the Feast of Trumpets – PLURAL – is to FEAR God, and do “EXACTLY” WHAT GOD STATES in His Bible, without changing one single item! Even changing one “jot” or “tittle” of God’s Word, or His true Calendar, causes you to disobey God, to transgress His commandments!!!

“This” RE-DISCOVERED TRUTH is a far cry from the idyllic picture that your ministers have glibly painted for you on the Feast of Trumpet “S” for the past 70+ years!

Many of you have been celebrating the (Feast) Day of Trumpets (even from 1934 to 2007 for some) as a joyous day, which **causes you to forget to “FEAR” God before, on, and after this Feast Day.** “Once” you get it through your head that God is not a God to be toyed with by misrepresenting His Feast Days, or by changing His Calendar, based on His Word and not Jewish “tradition,” “THEN” you are properly understanding the Day of Trumpets. The Day of Trumpets portrays that God is “not” a God who can be taken lightly, by our moving His Holy Days 1 day early and therefore “not” following every jot and tittle of His word! “The wages of sin is DEATH”! (Rom.6:23).

THAT “IS” the Purpose of the Feast of Trumpets = **to get your attention to “FEAR” God;** and indeed the World’s attention also. We all MUST FOLLOW “EVERY” WORD OF the BIBLE, or we will be JUDGED by God, and found deficient and wanting.

Because of your ministers deceived theology, you ***do not learn to understand and “FEAR” and respect GOD*** (Eccl.12:13). Christ declared that not one jot or tittle shall pass from the Law (Matt.5:17-18). Anyone who changes 1 word of the Bible is *accursed* (Gal 1:6-9). How much more so is anyone who changes the very Calendar, the basis of the Holy Days, and moves **all the Holy Days around a day or two early or late many years?!**

It is time to seriously examine these issues, with fear of God and an attitude of sincere desire to OBEY God, no matter who else approves or disapproves. You ministers will have to answer to Christ for their disobedience, ignorance, and lack of understanding! Unless they repent of their sins, one day (and probably very SOON at that!) they will hear Him say, “YOU ARE FIRED!”

If your minister can talk you into believing that Hillel II, (or any other man), is allowed to change God’s Sacred Calendar Days into a different Calendar, then you too may hear the Messiah say to you: “Who are you? Why didn’t you observe My true holy days? Get out of My sight, you worker of iniquity and lawlessness!” (Matt.7:21-23).

Those who do not obey God are not promised His protection during the awesome plagues that are soon coming. That means **“YOU” could be 1 of the Billions of people being killed by God** in soon coming years, **for your following a changed, altered, corrupted calendar and replacing God’s calendar with the Hillel II abomination,**

that your minister claims is the right calendar, regardless of the evidence! Make no mistake about it, *anyone who changes God's calendar is an enemy of God.* And **“the Lord is a man of war”** (Exo.15:3). He will by no means justify or clear the GUILTY, those who do NOT repent (Exo.34:7).

The Year 2007 Holy Days

This year in 2007 those congregations who follow the Hillel II calendar MOVED God's Day of Trumpets ONE DAY AHEAD =1 day early = causing you to work on God's REAL sacred day. Some years it is even worse because of the “postponements” Hillel II and his cohorts added to the calendar!

If you do not “fear God”, and so you change and move God's Holy Days 1 to 2 days early or late, then you have indeed become just like all the other denominations that do not fear God, and observe OTHER UNBIBLICAL holidays like Christmas and Easter. BECAUSE they, like some of “you”, DO NOT “FEAR” GOD, they think they can change God's “APPOINTED” TIMES and seasons like the Man of Sin” (Daniel 7:25).

Now if “you” were to go directly to God and stand before His throne and tell him that you decided to move His (God's) Holy Days 1, or 2 or 30 days ahead “which “IS“ what all the ministers of all the COGS’ “have” done in 2007 (except TPMCOG www.triumphpro.com), what do you think God would say?

Do you think for 1 second that God would say: “That's OK clay, even though I, God, am the Potter, I will let you, the clay, move around my “appointed” Holy Days 1 day early in 2007.” From all this writer's readings of what God did to the Israelites for their disobedience in the O.T., this writer can guarantee you that is “not” what God would say. The clay does “not” tell the Potter on which days to worship!” (Isaiah 29:13). It's time we REPENT of messing around with God's Law, His Calendar, and His Holy Days! The apostle Jude exhorts us all, “*Contend earnestly for the faith which was ONCE for all delivered to the saints*” (Jude 3-4, NKJV).

I am truly concerned about these issues. Please send me your articles and literature checked off below, free of charge!

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- A New Look at Yom Kippur
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- The Mystery of Hoshana Rabbah
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- Prophecy Flash magazine

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Letters from Our Readers

“Greetings and my best to you, Cappy, and the rest of your family. Once again, I appreciate your toils and the good stuff that you provide for all of us who have come to appreciate your work.

“I’m writing my last letter from prison. That’s because in about thirteen days, I’ll be released after serving my entire six year sentence. It’s such a blessed yet humbling feeling because I am leaving a situation that I know a lot of men and women in prison – every man and woman in prison – want to leave. So I’m humbled and grateful that, at twenty-six years young, I get the chance again to be free, and that’s something that I hope to make good of this time.

“For five of the six years I have relied on ‘Prophecy Flash’ and Triumph Prophetic Ministries for my spiritual truth and I am just so grateful for you and for all contributors to TPM. You all have been a big help.

“I hope to continue getting information and good knowledge from TPM as I go back out into the world I left at twenty years young. So quite naturally, life as an adult out there – I don’t have much experience. But I hope to trust in God to be my guidance through life.

“I want to say ‘what’s up’ to everybody incarcerated or ‘on lock’ as we like to say in my generation and culture. I’m going out, but I won’t forget everybody who still sleep behind locked doors and bars. Too many times during this six year journey, I have lost my way, but the Great God Yahveh has been faithful to have his eye on me and ease me back into things. If I make it to stand before the Son of man, I won’t know how except for His saving grace, because I’ve been foolish for far too long and far too stubborn to give up my own life for the sake of Mashiach. But somehow, you know, here I am. So to everybody ‘on lock,’ I know that many of you have much more than a six year bid, so I don’t pretend to walk in your shoes. However, by the experience, I can identify. May we all find Yahveh’s hand in every day of our lives and realize that we are alive today for a purpose. I pray God’s best for all of you.

“I have seen TPM become such a great prison ministry, and ‘big ups’ to all of the financial supporters and contributors who have helped make TPM such an enriching blessing to all of us in prison. Its huge.

“Lastly, I want to say that I am proud that TPM is a part of a flourishing congregation in Kenya. I have been reading the letters from the brothers over there, and I just love to see it because, as an African-American, I remain very concerned at the situation in Africa, and I remain very sad for my distant brothers and sisters and cousins. I believe for the day when Yashua Ha Mashiach will embrace the African with the blessings of YHVH, after all they have been through. We as a people here are wounded and we don’t quite know how to heal it. Some have run to militant religions who want a revenge for the atrocities committed against our ancestors, others have run into the self-indulging lifestyle that seems to dominate our popular culture, and many others have gone this way or that way, trying to find peace but unable to find it. I hope that we all can find it in Mashiach.

“My only request is that the congregations of God move away from being so politically oriented and back to the truth of love. We don’t need legislation to help spread God’s truth and teach His laws. I still believe that our best bet is to proclaim the truth in love, and with good works.

“Thank you, Mr. Dankenbring, and all of TPM, for helping me through my prison time. I look forward to being out, and a part of the family and congregation of YHVH and His firstborn Son, our Messiah. My best to you all.”

-- California

“I heard the new U.S. Embassy in Bagdad, Iraq, is to open this year so it looks like the U.S. government plans to stay there a long time. I heard the U.S. government is building 14 new military bases in Iraq and closing bases here in the U.S.

"I heard Congress passed the bill about vitamins in the U.S. and it will probably drive the small companies out of business. With all the regulations (about 800 pages), a company producing vitamins with less than 500 employees will be forced out of business.

"Nancy Pelosi must have received a nice gift from Big Pharma to force the bill through the House. I heard over 60% of all vitamin C in this country comes from China and is mostly artificial. China with slave labor forces all competition out of business with the help of big government and big business.

"I can see things really speeding up because the CFR is getting bold about what all they are going to accomplish by 2010. I heard the Vice President of CFR talk about 10 minutes of all that needed to be accomplished by 2010.

"The President of CFR said the North American Union has to be completed by 2010. He also stated that the United States can never be energy independent. With both the CFR President and V.P. telling about all that they are going to accomplish by 2010 – it makes me think more about 2012.

"Jerome Corsi said that many people know what is going on and are supporting it because they think they will be in the have group. He said they will get a big surprise when they learn they are expendable. . . ."

-- Charles Rearick, Ohio

"I want to thank you from my heart for the help that TPM has given me. All the material that is sent to me, is and has been read not just by me but by over 45 men so far. I am trying to keep a good study time going. It is rather difficult at times. This prison that I'm in is a High Security Level 6.

"The men that I started with are in different parts of the prison, we get together at 'chow' time and rec yard time. But somehow the lord makes a path. So please tell all of the brothers and sisters that their work is not in vain. I sincerely thank you all again. I, we, will send our tithes as soon as we have the means to do so. Now I am the only one that has stamps to write you. We (this is most of the ones that study) have no means of support. Most of us are waiting for the 'job list' to open up for us. Anyway – Bless all of you – please send the following items for study"

-- Maine

"A friend of mine turned me on to the PF a little over a year ago and I've been blessed ever since. I appreciate your straightforward approach to help others understand. At times its hard to swallow the pill of truth, but I've found it helpful not to judge hastily but be open-minded enough to consider another point of view. I believe that's what's wrong with the country today is when something different comes along that has not been taught, because of it being suppressed by people that don't want the truth to be told, immediately we reject it. We attempt to justify our actions with statements like, 'I've never been taught that before.' Let's step out of a robotic enslavement of mind and search for ourselves for the truth of God's Word.

"Thank you again for your work and I know your ministry will be blessed and highly favored. The doors that God opens cannot and will not be shut by man."

-- Colorado

"Hi William. My name is Fred. I heard you on Daniel Ott's 'The Edge Radio Archive Broadcast.' Great interview with some amazing information by the way. Thank you for working so hard to find the truth. Not everyone has time to sift through the dirt to get the nuggets of truth you have found. Very good work William! Thank you!

"I have enclosed a check for your book: *America and Great Britain – Our Identity Revealed!*"

-- Texas

"I received my first issue of PF and I wanted to let you know that I'm deeply thankful for this great love and work that you do to bring closer people who have slipped out of Christ's ways and who don't know the real God and Jesus Christ.

"Also you sure got me and some fellows over here in awe by the way you present Biblical proof Scripture with modern proof. If one doesn't believe it's because he or she is blind or don't want to accept God to keep sinning. Well, I say this because I was born in a Christian home. Tried to avoid God by believing in evolution, the da Vinci code book and other endless types of materials that denies God's powerful hand.

"But the truth is I know and I've been knowing God exists. It's just that I didn't want nothing to do with Him because I didn't want to follow

God's rule because I wanted to have a free conscience to do what I wanted to do. And of course, those type of books that I mentioned only tell us what we want and wish it's the truth, conforming to our sinful ways. . . .

"Well, dear pastor, may GOD be with you, keep up with this amazing Work that is being a blessing for so many of us who have been without hopes. But thank God, we receive more opportunities to know more about Him. Again, thanks for your most dear time and support, for my Christian life."

-- Texas

"Pastor, I want to thank you once again for the Prophecy Flash and the articles you send to me. I have learned so much and grown so much, since I first started receiving the Prophecy Flash, over two years ago. And I thank and praise God for leading me to you.

"As I stated once before, I was raised under Baptist teachings since I was a little boy. Many of the teachings I learned were simply the doctrines of men. Another thing I learned is error is hard to unlearn. But when you have a heart for God's truth, He will reveal it to you. The Word Jesus said, 'And ye shall know the truth, and the truth will make you free' (John 8:32). Praise God, I am free! Halleluyah! Thank you Lord Jesus!

"Pastor, I started becoming free the first time I started reading the Prophecy Flash. At first I didn't agree with you completely because as I stated, error is hard to unlearn. But I am a diligent student of God's holy Word and I seek and study for the truth. Pastor, I cannot fault you. Time and again I have found you to be absolutely correct in your teachings. And I thank you from the bottom of my heart for opening my eyes to so many wonderful truths of God's holy Word.

"Just wanted you and Cappy to know that you are both loved in Christ, and very much appreciated. . . ."

-- Texas

"First I want to thank you for all the studies I have received upon request. They have helped me a lot to understand God's Word more. And also for the subscription to Prophecy Flash. That, too, has helped me as well. I finished your book on *America and Great Britain – Our Identity Revealed*. It is a very interesting book

showing us where we stand. It has also allowed me to understand where and what was going on when Jacob blessed Ephraim with his right hand and then Manasseh with his left, even though his eyesight was dim due to his old age. Yet God showed him who should be blessed first.

"I am understanding God's Word and slowly putting the puzzle together. I am somewhat sure on what the picture is going to look like. I am a slow learner but continue to read the studies over and over to better understand them. I wrote before on how I was alone here on what I believe according to the Word of God. But God has opened some more eyes and ears to His true message. At one morning before chow I was talking to a friend about salvation and he said that as long as you believe in Christ you could not lose your salvation and for just believing he thought that he was saved for all time, but I told him different and he would not believe me. I tried to explain it to him but his mind was made up. Then when he came back from chow I gave him your study on 'Once Saved Always Saved?' and later he came back and said he was wrong and he was not aware that he was the key in losing his salvation. Now, just like me, he can't get enough of those studies of yours. It allows us to better understand our Father's Word. And to see how the Devil has truly deceived the whole world.

"There are two others now in this dorm who not only do your studies but also believe that God cannot contradict Himself and that God's laws are still in effect. They all did your study on clean and unclean meat and have changed for God to be obedient to God's law and at least trying and trying to imitate Paul, just as he imitated Christ. They have been asking me questions on how and what is the way to keep the Sabbath.

"When does one know when he is qualified or allowed to teach or called to help others to understand? I always remember that if I mislead someone else I will be punished more. I ask this question because I see ministers, pastors, priests, chaplains and many others who believe they qualify to teach and spread His Word and in doing so mislead others just as I have been mislead (but no longer).

"Mr. Dankenbring, how did you know when you qualified to teach, to help others, because every time the subject comes up on God's Word everyone in prison seems to be a Bible scholar,

since they have been here only a couple of years, or because they read someone's book on understanding the Bible and their study never allows them to actually open the Bible, but after they finish the book they believe that they must be right because they have a Sunday TV show on Sunday, and they have a church as big as a football stadium and that all their seats are filled, or they have a private jet, or have been preaching the Word for over some 30 years and they can't be wrong – yet they worship God on the first day of the week and not the 7th and don't keep God's Holy Days but celebrate Christmas, Easter, Halloween. Cause the majority of the people can't be wrong.

“I guess that is how they felt when Noah told them about the Flood and no one believed cause he was the only one and everyone else said he was wrong and everyone agreed with the rest of the world. I used to feel alone, but God opened the hearts of three others in here, and maybe more in the future, thanks to God and His blessings to you with the gift of understanding and helping us to do whatever God has in store for me. I hope I am as confident in myself as God is in me to do His works. Well, I hope God will continue to have mercy on me because I am that ‘wretched man’ also that Paul was speaking of and I hope God will soften my heart and not harden it to His ways so that I may qualify for His reward.

“Well, this is all, and thanks for allowing me to share my thoughts with you. . . . Thanks again for all your help and may God continue to bless you all and have mercy on us all.”

-- Texas

“Thank you for the Pentecost Holy Day Bible study tape and the subsequent weekly Sabbath tapes about Pentecost. They were thorough in teaching the when and the meaning of the Day, very inspiring. Will listen to them on the Day of Pentecost next year for added meaning and inspiration on the Day. Your annual Holy Day bible study tapes do a double service, the original ‘listen’ and then on the corresponding Day the following year. Thank you, again.

“It seems that the ‘Millennium Day Songs.’ album is something we would like very much to obtain. Wondering if it would be possible to do so.

“We continue to pray for Mrs. Dankenbring and you as you faithfully strive to restore true

knowledge of God's Plan of Salvation to His people and send out the end-time warning message before Jesus Christ's return.”

-- Florida

“I just finished my latest PF; the 2nd time through and it was the 3rd time I had read the very beautifully written article about The Flood. So beautifully written. . . .

“It is the greatest thing to have been led to you, to truly learn and grow in Him, by GOD through my asking and seeking since 2002!”

-- Michigan

“To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Omak, Washington. I give thanks to God our Father and the Lord Yashua. I believe the lord Yahweh is working a great end times work. I feel He has blessed and anointed Bill and Cappy.

“I find myself in awe at the teaching and at the accuracy of the teaching and prophecies. I do wish you would have dated many of your articles, so we could see the prophecies being fulfilled.

“I have recently been blessed in many ways. A friend of mine sees me studying every morning at the table in the day-room. (start at 3:00 am till life awakes in this profane atmosphere). So he blessed me with a study Bible. I do legal work also, but I do not charge for my services. I tell them that I do take donations if they wish. Several have done so and have provided many of my basic human needs.

“Another blessing is that I have procured for my library a couple of Capt. Books for my personal viewing. ‘Jacob's Pillar,’ as the mystery unravels the identity of the Stone of Destiny. And the other ‘The Glory of the Stars’, an astounding book that connects Yahweh's awesome plan as He, the great I Am, has set in motion the stars to speak to us in the universal language that all can read. ‘Bravo, Capt!’

“As does an Aquarius, I try to pour out ‘water’ or a better term would be ‘the gospel.’ While I am not a preacher, but more a teacher. I pour over what I have and strive to comprehend and demonstrate what I have learned. I denounce false teachings and pray and search for the truth. Ezekiel 22:25-31. I search very diligently and with fear and trembling.

"I have also (thanks to Mr. Dankenbring's suggestion) started reading the Word humbly, on my knees always praying for His knowledge, not mine or man's.

"I sincerely 'thank you!' For the purity of your teachings. Not some watered down version. Keep up the good work. If I did not believe that you were legitimate I would not send so many people your way. . . .

"I will pray for you and all the sheep that belong to the flock. I will keep you in remembrance. May the Lord work a mighty work in you. I feel that He has and will continue to. May God protect and guide you!"

-- Oklahoma

"On opening my Bible this morning, I turned to Isaiah 30. While I was reading it, I remembered that Miss Rice had just been to Egypt to seek their help. As I read on it seemed to hit me that God's hand was in this collapse of the bridge as a chastisement. I read it in the King James but NIV makes it plainer. From verse 1-5, then from v.12 to end of v.15.

" 'Woe to the obstinate children, declares the Lord. To those who carry out plans that are not mine, forming an alliance, but not by my Spirit, heaping sin upon sin. Who go down to Egypt without consulting me; who look to help to Pharaoh's protection, to Egypt's shade for refuge. But Pharaoh's protection shall be to your shame. Egypt's shade will bring you disgrace, when the Lord stretches out his hand. He who helps will stumble, he who is helped will fall, both will perish together.'

"Very sobering food for thought."

-- England

"God is good. Our area was hit by a tornado that swept cars and roofs off the tops on homes, trees came up from the root of the soil. People were left homeless. Some screaming all over the place, and here I was in the middle of it all, with the rain and thunder, heavy lightning and guess what? It never came near me. My husband was at work at 6:30 am. It went to my left and to my right and here I was in the middle but untouched. The hand of God was watching over me. The winds 165 miles per hour. Cappy, it skipped right over my house and I was untouched! Praise God! 58-59 Streets – upside down cars. 65th Street – Carmen [the writer] lives here. 68th-69th Street – trees and roofs.

"I love my God. Amen."

-- Brooklyn, New York

"I would like to thank you so much for kindly sending me my study materials as was requested. Kindly received and what a blessing. Without you I wouldn't be able to move forward in my faith in study and searching for the truth of our Great God. As I normally do on Sabbaths, study at home, and it's hard to find those of the same mind. Your articles have enlightened my paths of study and give me courage though I may be alone.

"I have debated with a few who sit in Moses' seat which God gives me courage to do, also from all those I have learned from you. I know it's hard to understand the Bible though I am reading every day. So it's important to consult other godly resources where God directed me to your ministry for your spiritual gifts and understanding of the truth. I do wonder if you have time for yourself.

"I would like to thank you for the PF March-April 2007 for our putting Fiji Islands in your world map. . . . We are slowly recovering from a coup. Its just the political people, and we innocent people are caught in the middle. . . .

"Thank you for your time and I pray for the labor that you have. Wish you well."

-- Fiji Islands

"I wanted to write to say thank you for the articles that you sent to me. I am an eager learner of God's truth and the way you write makes understanding that truth very easy. Your article 'A New Look at God's Calendar' is literally changing my life with each turn of the page and I am grateful for the help you have provided me, for the knowledge you share.

"God bless you always and thank you again, I will share it with all who'll listen."

-- Tennessee

"It sure looks like things are speeding up for a big climax. I hear Russia and China are having some joint military maneuvers. I hear China says they will use what they called a 'nuclear option' on the dollar if the U.S. uses trade sanctions against China or make them revalue their currency. The rising of the old Weimar Republic [Germany after World War I] is at hand here in the good old USA.

“Russia said they are going to increase production of their new Balava-M missile for submarine use. The Balava-M is about 37 feet long and the Topol ground launch missile is about 74 feet long.

“I heard the president of the CFR say crude oil should be \$100 per barrel. What has happened to the so-called free market?

“It looks like the US has long term plans for Iraq with the new \$592 million US embassy.

“The new CFR religious round table has Kissinger as chairman and is supposed to unite the religions of the world.

“I see Bear and Stevens say that there are 24 million undocumented people in the USA.

“I see baby Bush went up to visit Papa Bush to get his orders before going to Canada for the North America Union meeting.

“I see the new North Carolina driver’s license already has the North American Union symbol on it.

“I was told the Department of Defense is trying to set up a computer program to give more insight into how the real world will react to different things. . .

“A think tank in Washington chaired by former Sen. Sam Nunn and guided by trustees including Richard Armitage, Zbigniew Brzezinski, Harold Brown, William Cohen, and good old Henry Kissinger is in the final stages of preparing a report to the White House and U.S. Congress on the benefits of integrating the US, Mexico and Canada into one political, economic and security block. I think they are a little late because Baby Bush has already signed the agreement for such.”

-- Charles Rearick, Ohio

“Pastor Dankenbring, if you will have it of me . . . age 8 years old I was in foster care for 1 year for that was the start of my mother’s addiction. My grandparents were granted my custody and I lived with them in Camden, New Jersey. Camden is predominantly black/Hispanic and I am white. The only white kid in my schooling growing up. I was made fun of and beaten up. But I always had my Pop and dog “Lucky” to cheer me up. . . . I have a brother David that I have not seen since his age of 3 because his father wanted him not to be around my mother’s

addiction. He will be 19 years old, Sept.28, also my release date – coincidental? I, as of today, still have not found him or know my father. We are of different fathers.

“My mother was an addict and prostitute. She used heroin, cocaine, crack, etc. She passed away at age 36 in 2001. Purposely overdosing on heroin. She suffered in more ways than addiction – medical, liver scleroses, hepatitis C, kidney dialysis and lung cancer.. I smile now knowing that she suffers no more with God.

“My Grandpop was everything to me. We would do everything like best friends. He was stricken throughout his body with cancer and passed on in 1993. After his passing, my grandmother moved out with a man and left me at age 13 to my addicted mother and uncle on welfare. We had \$320 in cash and \$200 in food stamps every month. . . . When both my mom and uncle began to steal what I had and my mom tried to bring guys to prostitute with,, I kicked them out. Especially after they sold my 4 year old well trained dog Lucky to dealers to fight, for drugs.

“I never passed 8th grade but achieved my GED recently. For 3 years I wasted playing with friends that I considered family, with no supervision. Psalm 6:6 – ‘I am weary with my groaning; every night I flood my bed with tears; I drench my couch with weeping.’ This Scripture defined me then. Around friends I would have my mask of happiness on, but at home I’d be at sorrow.

At age 17, I thought there was an end. My mother came to my door claiming my father was outside. I was the spitting image of him. I moved in with him, his wife and 4 kids, two boys and two girls. Nice house, white neighborhood and a family to call my own. Started school back up and was happy, everything I ever wanted. 6 months later the DNA test revealed that I was not his son even though I looked more like him than his own. One month later I was told to move, and it seemed to spiral down.

“Thank you for lending your ear to my story. Proverbs 1:8 says ‘Hear, my son, your father’s instruction, and reject not your mother’s teaching.’ My Father’s instructions are simple, read and abide in the Bible. I do not reject my mother’s teaching, she never taught what mothers usually each children, but she showed me what not to do, in drugs.

“Pastor, even though I am in prison, I feel as though I have persevered through great trouble. Sometimes, it takes not only words but actually seeing and going through it, to understand and let it sink in. When you never have or you lose something, it makes you appreciate it that much more. For the Lord looks greatly upon those who suffer through trials and tribulations. While young I thought I was alone, not knowing that Jesus and my God were looking over me. Honestly, Pastor, I am but 26 years of age and I believe in my heart that I am a Christian, a believer, and have the utmost love for my God. My eyes are open now, as His always was. All it took was a great man, Mr. William Dankenbring, to show me the way and lead me to what I now know. I am intelligent in my love for God. You are shining bright in the Lord’s eyes.

“Thank you in Jesus’ matchless name..

“A poem I’ve written and share with you:”

-- New Jersey

“BLIND”

“Lost in a deep thought,
Enslaving souls to be bought,
In darkness, search through the night,
Through the tears I’ve seen a light,
Watching all the followers follow,
Many minds growing empty and hollow,
Forever falling eclipsing one’s vision,
Unaware of locking myself in my own prison,
Preparing somewhat for the world’s demise,
If it only could be seen through my eyes,
Wishing to be where you are,
Somewhere out far,
For even though I’m able to see,
I’m still as blind as can be . . .
But now I have the Lord Jesus within me!”

-- Edward Ferrell

“Thank you for the article ‘Dinosaurs in the Time of Man?’ I have long held that today’s ‘dinosaurs’ were the ‘dragons’ of old. Your article was wonderful. It should be required reading for all high school freshmen!”

-- E-mail

“Please forgive me for not mailing the payment sooner. I have no excuse for my actions. *US & Britain in Prophecy!* Enclosed is payment plus, please don’t give up speaking the truth!

P.S. May the Great Eternal bless you! THE BOOK IS *OUTSTANDING!!!!*”

-- New Jersey

“Greetings in the Love of Yeshua, I got my first issue of Prophecy Flash. I must tell you, I believe that you will be getting many more request for this wonderful blessing of insight and teaching. Everyone wants to read it.

“I belong to a Messianic Community here at Fremont Correctional Facility. For a long time we have maybe 8 to 10 regular members. But in the last few months we have grown to around 40 regular members with another 30 or so who have signed up and come every now and then. It is amazing. From our beginning in 1996 when there was only 6 of us.

“Thank you for your love and service in the Name of Yeshua. Believe me, you are blessed, and we pray that the One and Only will Bless you even greater.”

-- Colorado

“I started receiving your Prophecy Flash magazine recently due to the fact that another inmate here saw that I enjoyed reading a copy I found in our day-room. So far I have found your articles to be intelligent, honest and unafraid to attack the falseness many people teach as being the Word of God.

“I was raised as a Southern Baptist, a Pentecostal and then went to a plethora of churches. During all that time I grew more and more confused, not only by the teaching that each individual denomination was the only one to have the truth, but also by all of the variances in what a particular verse meant. I became so frustrated that I stopped going to church, and for over 25 years (I am 54 now), I refused to discuss the Bible with anyone at any level.

“Then in 1998, when I arrived at McNeil Island Prison, I worked in the chapel my first year there. As a chapel worker I had the access to all sorts of services, ‘Christian,’ Catholic, Muslim, Buddhist, Wicca, etc.

“I began to study the Bible from the point of view not often approached. I read the Bible. Without denominational guidance, and with an open mind, eager to accept what the book, not the man, said.

“All of a sudden I realized that much of what I had been taught was lies, or at least highly misguided. I now call my creator Father,

Yahweh or use YHWH, and my savior Yeshua. I learned on my own that the Sabbath never changed but is still Friday sunset to Saturday sunset, and the 10 commandments actually have 10 commands.

“What I am getting at is this; I am no longer a follower of any denomination, member of any cult or ‘organization,’ and only obey what the Bible itself says. If I am to be referred to as anything it is to be a follower of ‘The Way.’

“Having said that, I am very interested in receiving the Prophecy Flash for as long as you wish to continue sending it. . . .

“I am eager to learn as much as I can, as I have a lot of lost time. I will, once released, August '08, continue to research and will then be able to help you and your efforts.

“Thank you for whatever you are able to do. May Yahweh bless you richly, today, and all of our days.”

-- Washington

I'm actually excited over the latest issue of PF. Just when I thought there couldn't possibly be much more of this very enlightening material, here is more! I praise God for this ministry and the people He's using. . . . I'm currently a prisoner in the Louisiana State Penitentiary. I pray that you-all will add me to your prayer list. I really want to have an intimate relationship with my Lord. I'm imprisoned for no crime of man's law 'that I could commit, nor committed.' I'm here because I turned my back, and tried to walk away from my God!! A lot of this material is quite correct; this I know from my youth. 'I am out-done.' It's very hard to regain what you once were given! Much was required of me because of the knowledge that was bestowed upon me.

“I'm afraid that He has all but forsaken me; for as you can see, 'I had receded.' I sorta feel like Jonah, but my situation is quite a bit different. I appreciate this wonderful material that you-all distribute, and I pray that you are continually blessed to carry on!”

-- Louisiana

“I want to start by thanking you again for the love that you have given to me. It means more than I even have words to describe; just, that you

believe in truth above all else is what brought me to you in the first place, because I knew that something was missing from my life and screaming at me at the same time. . . that will probably make very little sense; but for me it was your writings that for the first time in my life gave me something that made sense. All my life I was lost, and finally there is black and white print was a road map 'home' . . . and my words will never do justice to how my heart sang for joy in the knowledge of that! or how in the same instant my stomach felt sick at the realization of the sinful life I'd been leading, and how truly lost I'd been. . . . all I can say is thank you. I am a sinner. . . . but for the first time I know hope, and for the first time in my existence I am 'breathing' . . . and with my new life I strive with all my efforts to learn the Word of truth, so that I might glorify that Word of truth, and be a witness to that truth for others to see.

“If it is possible I would like to learn more about what you have to teach. . . .”

-- Tennessee

“I have enjoyed PF for some years now. I am not of WCG background but have been a student and searcher of truth for many years.

“I have seen some of the discrepancies of how Pentecost has been counted but have not had access to sufficient information to study the issue for myself.

“Thank you for the information in PF vol.21, #3 concerning Pentecost that makes things clearer for me. . . .

“I appreciate your willingness to 'stand alone' and express the truth no matter who may or may not agree with you. That willingness is one of the prerequisites necessary for receiving more truth. Keep up the good work.”

-- Oklahoma

“I want to thank you for providing me with the tapes teaching me about the Word of God. I really do appreciate receiving such a wonderful blessing and it has opened my eyes to a new outlook on my life. . . .”

-- New Jersey

“Received all the literature on the Pentecost! Truly amazing!

I am sure that I have stated it before, but I am locked up in Texas so actually observing things correctly is a little hard because this prison system is about 40 years behind the rest of the country! For example legislation was just passed that has mandated that pay phones be put in our prisons! This is the last state to do that?!

“Though for the Feast of Unleavened Bread & Pentecost I simply eat food without leavened bread, the best option to eat as far as bread goes is tortillas that I can buy from the commissary! This year it wasn’t possible because the commissary truck that came didn’t have enough tortillas to be bought when our turn to go to commissary came? ! So I just ate food without bread! Anyway, I know the Feast of Tabernacles is upon us, obviously can’t be there at Omak, but I treat this place as one big booth, I refuse to think of it as home! Just another temporary

residence inside a temporary residence that is our life here right now! That part of our pilgrimage & such! I asked for the Pentecost literature more so to become familiarized with it, to get a better understanding & now I do have one! Thanks!”

-- Texas

“Your full page ad in the June-July 2007 issue of *The Journal* on ‘The Apostle Paul Takes On Breakaway Churches’ was terrific. The facts and arguments of the Christ and Paul’s Bible teaching can not be discounted easily. . . .

“On the opposite page to TPM’s article, page 14, is a good article titled ‘The Box!’ which describes quite accurately the condition of this world’s majority. I’ve noticed that people have different sizes of personal boxes. ‘Churches of God’ present Laodicean era think outside an original box, but create a bigger box, just big enough to feel good about themselves [or to vainly feel superior to others]. They are still in The Box! . . .”

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over 5 or 10 cities. First thing, ‘cities’ will need is recovery from the holocaust.”

-- Texas

“The last PF of July-August is truly a powerful message to all these Breakaway Churches to wake up! I think a lot of these people look at you as one disfellowshipped and marked. I know this for a fact from one member here that belongs to the United Church of God. He said they were having problems with you in Pasadena. Well of course, because the truth is hard to swallow. We were all basically deceived by a false ‘Apostle.’ Just be encouraged, Bill, that there are a faithful few that are with you and not deceived. I personally have grown so much in truth since being called into TPM. Truth is so precious and worth more than gold and silver. “

-- Kansas

“I left Worldwide Church of God in 1992, on my own, by not attending the Passover service. A few weeks later I received a letter from Charles Calahan, stating that they had up-graded my status to non-member. Well, I was on my own for three years just drifting around, not knowing where to go. I did know that God had said He would never leave nor forsake His Church. I never did go hop-scotching around to any of these breakaway churches. I kept my eyes and ears open for God to show me where to go or what to do. After 3 years on my own (there’s that number ‘3’) God opened the door for me when I came into contact with TPM through Allen and Barbara Graber. Believe it or not, it was over the question about Passover. I took listening to just one tape and I was hooked. It was like switching a light switch from off to on – that quickly. I know, Bill, with all my heart, that the Eternal God, El Shaddai, has raised you up to complete this end of days Work and to give all these breakaway churches a warning cry to wake up and repent.”

-- Myron Wells, Kansas