

# CREATION VERSUS EVOLUTION, FACT VERSUS FALLACY

When the Creation Science movement made its appearance in the U.S.A. some three decades ago, it was a purely scientific endeavor, a backlash against the evolutionary theory, which after more than a century of scientific investigation was still without any tangible proof to justify its adoption. So successful have the creation scientists been in exposing its weaknesses that in the relatively short time since they published their first treatises, they have virtually demolished this once impregnable theory. Nowadays, buoyed by their success in the scientific field, the movement has transformed itself into a pseudo-evangelistic organization, but with far less impressive results. Nevertheless, they still carry the legacy of brilliant scientific research that has proven beyond doubt that:

- The dating methods used by traditional science are completely off the mark;
- The long 'ages' prior to Adam are figments of imagination;
- The biblical record of creation is both historical and accurate;
- There is no conflict between true science and the Word of God.

The Creation Science movement rocked the scientific world to its foundation; it spread among the educated and lay people alike, and continued to expand at a prodigious rate in many countries of the world. Even in Russia and other ex-communist countries, once the bastion of atheism, there are now influential scientists who are avidly following the Creation Science philosophy.

The remarkable thing about the success of this movement is that it has not been orchestrated by the churches, but by the scientists themselves. In fact many times they faced considerable opposition from church people who regard any newcomer to their field with suspicion if not downright hostility. To their credit, the main organizers behind this movement have remained undaunted by the occasional setbacks, surging ahead with a string of publications that bring further proof to the bankruptcy of the evolutionary theory and credence to the account of creation from the book of Genesis.

It is beyond the scope of this paper to go into scientific details; nevertheless a few examples will give an idea of the strength of the creationists' case. We chose for this purpose an excellent work by Dr Russell Humphreys,

## Evidence for a Young World

by Dr. Russell Humphreys, Ph.D., ICR Associate Professor of Physics

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Here are fourteen natural phenomena which conflict with the evolutionary idea that the universe is billions of years old. The numbers listed below in bold print (usually in the millions of years) are often **maximum possible** ages set by each process, not the actual ages. The numbers in italics are the ages *required by evolutionary theory* for each item. The point is that the maximum possible ages are always much less than the required evolutionary ages, while the Biblical age (6,000 years) always fits comfortably within the maximum possible ages. Thus, the following items are evidence against the evolutionary time scale and for the Biblical time scale. Much more young-world evidence exists, but I have chosen these items for brevity and simplicity. Some of the items on this list can be reconciled with the old-age view only by making a series of improbable and unproven assumptions; others can fit in only with a recent creation.

### 1. Galaxies wind themselves up too fast.

The stars of our own galaxy, the Milky Way, rotate about the galactic center with different speeds, the inner ones rotating faster than the outer ones. The observed rotation speeds are so fast that if our galaxy were more than **a few hundred million years** old, it would be a featureless disc of stars instead of its present spiral shape.<sup>1</sup> Yet our galaxy is supposed to be at least *10 billion years* old. Evolutionists call this "the winding-up dilemma," which they have known about for fifty years. They have devised many theories to try to explain it, each one failing after a brief period of popularity. The same "winding-up" dilemma also applies to other galaxies. For the last few decades the favored attempt to resolve the puzzle has been a complex theory called "density waves."<sup>1</sup> The theory has

conceptual problems, has to be arbitrarily and very finely tuned, and has been called into serious question by the Hubble Space Telescope's discovery of very detailed spiral structure in the central hub of the "Whirlpool" galaxy, M51.<sup>2</sup>

## **2. Too few supernova remnants.**

According to astronomical observations, galaxies like our own experience about one supernova (a violently-exploding star) every 25 years. The gas and dust remnants from such explosions (like the Crab Nebula) expand outward rapidly and should remain visible for over a *million years*. Yet the nearby parts of our galaxy in which we could observe such gas and dust shells contain only about 200 supernova remnants. That number is consistent with only about **7,000 years** worth of supernovas.<sup>3</sup>

## **3. Comets disintegrate too quickly.**

According to evolutionary theory, comets are supposed to be the same age as the solar system, about *five billion years*. Yet each time a comet orbits close to the sun, it loses so much of its material that it could not survive much longer than about 100,000 years. Many comets have typical ages of less than **10,000 years**.<sup>4</sup> Evolutionists explain this discrepancy by assuming that (a) comets come from an unobserved spherical "Oort cloud" well beyond the orbit of Pluto, (b) improbable gravitational interactions with infrequently passing stars often knock comets into the solar system, and (c) other improbable interactions with planets slow down the incoming comets often enough to account for the hundreds of comets observed.<sup>5</sup> So far, none of these assumptions has been substantiated either by observations or realistic calculations. Lately, there has been much talk of the "Kuiper Belt," a disc of supposed comet sources lying in the plane of the solar system just outside the orbit of Pluto. Some asteroid-sized bodies of ice exist in that location, but they do not solve the evolutionists' problem, since according to evolutionary theory, the Kuiper Belt would quickly become exhausted if there were no Oort cloud to supply it.

## **4. Not enough mud on the sea floor.**

Each year, water and winds erode about 20 billion tons of dirt and rock from the continents and deposit it in the ocean.<sup>6</sup> This material accumulates as loose sediment on the hard basaltic (lava-formed) rock of the ocean floor. The average depth of all the sediment in the whole ocean is less than 400 meters.<sup>7</sup> The main way known to remove the sediment from the ocean floor is by plate tectonic subduction. That is, sea floor slides slowly (a few cm/year) beneath the continents, taking some sediment with it. According to secular scientific literature, that process presently removes only 1 billion tons per year.<sup>7</sup> As far as anyone knows, the other 19 billion tons per year simply accumulate. At that rate, erosion would deposit the present mass of sediment in less than **12 million years**. Yet according to evolutionary theory, erosion and plate subduction have been going on as long as the oceans have existed, an alleged *three billion years*. If that were so, the rates above imply that the oceans would be massively choked with sediment dozens of kilometers deep. An alternative (creationist) explanation is that erosion from the waters of the Genesis flood running off the continents deposited the present amount of sediment within a short time about 5,000 years ago

## **5. Not enough sodium in the sea.**

Every year, rivers<sup>8</sup> and other sources<sup>9</sup> dump over 450 million tons of sodium into the ocean. Only 27% of this sodium manages to get back out of the sea each year.<sup>9-10</sup> As far as anyone knows, the remainder simply accumulates in the ocean. If the sea had no sodium to start with, it would have accumulated its present amount in less than 42 million years at today's input and output rates.<sup>10</sup> This is much less than the evolutionary age of the ocean, *three billion years*. The usual reply to this discrepancy is that past sodium inputs must have been less and outputs greater. However, calculations that are as generous as possible to evolutionary scenarios still give a maximum age of only **62 million years**.<sup>10</sup> Calculations<sup>11</sup> for many other seawater elements give much younger ages for the ocean.

## **6. The earth's magnetic field is decaying too fast.**

Electrical resistance in the earth's core wears down the electrical current which produces the earth's magnetic field. That causes the field to lose energy rapidly.

The total energy stored in the earth's magnetic field ("dipole" and "non-dipole") is decreasing with a half-life of 1,465 ( $\pm 165$ ) years.<sup>12</sup> Evolutionary theories explaining this rapid decrease, as well as how the earth could have maintained its magnetic field for *billions of years* are very complex and inadequate. A much better creationist theory exists. It is straightforward, based on sound physics, and explains many features of the field: its creation, rapid reversals during the Genesis flood, surface intensity decreases and increases until the time of Christ, and a steady decay since then.<sup>13</sup> This theory

matches paleomagnetic, historic, and present data, most startlingly with evidence for rapid changes.<sup>14</sup> The main result is that the field's total energy (not surface intensity) has always decayed at least as fast as now. At that rate the field could not be more than **20,000 years** old.<sup>15</sup>

#### **7. Many strata are too tightly bent.**

In many mountainous areas, strata thousands of feet thick are bent and folded into hairpin shapes. The conventional geologic time scale says these formations were deeply buried and solidified for *hundreds of millions of years* before they were bent. Yet the folding occurred without cracking, with radii so small that the entire formation had to be still wet and unsolidified when the bending occurred. This implies that the folding occurred **less than thousands of years** after deposition.<sup>16</sup>

#### **8. Biological material decays too fast.**

Natural radioactivity, mutations, and decay degrade DNA and other biological material rapidly. Measurements of the mutation rate of mitochondrial DNA recently forced researchers to revise the age of "mitochondrial Eve" from a theorized *200,000 years* down to possibly as low as **6,000 years**.<sup>17</sup> DNA experts insist that DNA cannot exist in natural environments longer than **10,000 years**, yet intact strands of DNA appear to have been recovered from fossils allegedly much older: Neandertal bones, insects in amber, and even from dinosaur fossils.<sup>18</sup> Bacteria allegedly *250 million years* old apparently have been revived with no DNA damage.<sup>19</sup> Soft tissue and blood cells from a dinosaur have astonished experts.<sup>20</sup>

#### **9. Fossil radioactivity shortens geologic "ages" to a few years.**

Radiohalos are rings of color formed around microscopic bits of radioactive minerals in rock crystals. They are fossil evidence of radioactive decay.<sup>21</sup> "Squashed" Polonium-210 radiohalos indicate that Jurassic, Triassic, and Eocene formations in the Colorado plateau were deposited **within months** of one another, not *hundreds of millions of years* apart as required by the conventional time scale.<sup>22</sup> "Orphan" Polonium-218 radiohalos, having no evidence of their mother elements, imply **accelerated nuclear decay** and very rapid formation of associated minerals.<sup>23,24</sup>

#### **10. Too much helium in minerals.**

Uranium and thorium generate helium atoms as they decay to lead. A study published in the *Journal of Geophysical Research* showed that such helium produced in zircon crystals in deep, hot Precambrian granitic rock has not had time to escape.<sup>25</sup> Though the rocks contain *1.5 billion years* worth of nuclear decay products, newly-measured rates of helium loss from zircon show that the helium has been leaking for only **6,000 (± 2000) years**.<sup>26</sup> This is not only evidence for the youth of the earth, but also for episodes of greatly accelerated decay rates of long half-life nuclei within thousands of years ago, compressing radioisotope timescales enormously.

#### **11. Too much carbon 14 in deep geologic strata.**

With their short 5,700-year half-life, no carbon 14 atoms should exist in any carbon older than 250,000 years. Yet it has proven impossible to find any natural source of carbon below Pleistocene (Ice Age) strata that does not contain significant amounts of carbon 14, even though such strata are supposed to be *millions or billions of years* old. Conventional carbon 14 laboratories have been aware of this anomaly since the early 1980s, have striven to eliminate it, and are unable to account for it. Lately the world's best such laboratory which has learned during two decades of low-C14 measurements how not to contaminate specimens externally, under contract to creationists, confirmed such observations for coal samples and even for a dozen diamonds, which cannot be contaminated in situ with recent carbon.<sup>27</sup> These constitute very strong evidence that the earth is only **thousands**, not billions, of years old.

#### **12. Not enough Stone Age skeletons.**

Evolutionary anthropologists now say that *Homo sapiens* existed for at least *185,000 years* before agriculture began,<sup>28</sup> during which time the world population of humans was roughly constant, between one and ten million. All that time they were burying their dead, often with artifacts. By that scenario, they would have buried at least eight billion bodies.<sup>29</sup> If the evolutionary time scale is correct, buried bones should be able to last for much longer than 200,000 years, so many of the supposed eight billion stone age skeletons should still be around (and certainly the buried artifacts). Yet only a few thousand have been found. This implies that the Stone Age was much shorter than evolutionists think, perhaps only **a few hundred years** in many areas.

### 13. Agriculture is too recent.

The usual evolutionary picture has men existing as hunters and gatherers for *185,000 years* during the Stone Age before discovering agriculture less than 10,000 years ago. <Deevey, E. S., The human population, *Scientific American*> **203**:194–204 (September 1960). Yet the archaeological evidence shows that Stone Age men were as intelligent as we are. It is very improbable that none of the eight billion people mentioned in item 12 should discover that plants grow from seeds. It is more likely that men were without agriculture **for a very short time** after the Flood, if at all.<sup>30</sup>

### 14. History is too short.

According to evolutionists, Stone Age *Homo sapiens* existed for *190,000 years* before beginning to make written records about **4,000 to 5,000 years** ago. Prehistoric man built megalithic monuments, made beautiful cave paintings, and kept records of lunar phases.<sup>31</sup> Why would he wait two thousand centuries before using the same skills to record history? The Biblical time scale is much more likely. <Dritt, J. O., Man's earliest beginnings: discrepancies in evolutionary timetables, *Proceedings of the Second International Conference on Creationism*>, vol. II, Creation Science Fellowship (1991), Pittsburgh, PA, pp. 73–78, order from <http://www.creationicc.org/>.

### Additional resources for items 9–11.

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### Footnotes

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There is not much one can add to this excellent expose, but a couple of points from other sources complement this work. But first here is another point from an earlier edition of Dr Humphrey’s *Evidence for a Young World*.

1. According to the evolutionary theory, top geological strata were deposited millions of years after the bottom strata. But fossils found in many parts of the world penetrate several strata, invalidating this theory.  
Fossils require rapid burial in order to prevent decay. In Nova Scotia, erect fossils are scattered through a strata that is 760 meters thick, covering 20 geological horizons. These findings not only cast doubt on the evolutionary time scale and dating methods, but validate the belief in catastrophic upheavals such as Noah’s Flood described in the Bible.
2. A steady stream of cosmic dust is falling on the earth and the moon at a measurable rate. If this had been going on for 4.5 billion years – the age of the earth according to the evolutionists – large deposits should have accumulated by now, but they have not. American scientists were worried that their moon craft would submerge in a layer of dust as deep as 30 meters, so they built it with long legs and pancake type landings capable of keeping it on top of this layer. But when the astronauts landed on the moon, they found less than 1 centimeter of dust. This could have accumulated in less than 10 000 years. (Sylvia Baker’s, *Bone of Contention, Is Evolution True?* p.23, Creation Science Foundation, Sunnybank, Queensland).
3. The sun is burning about one billion tons of its mass every second. Scientists have been suspecting for some time that the sun is in fact shrinking. Recently, a Chinese scientist,

Professor Wan Lai of Shanghai Observatory of Chinese Academy of Sciences, has confirmed this fact. He said that the sun has shrunk 410 kilometres in 273 years, from 1715 to 1987. This means that the sun is shrinking at a rate of about 1.5 kilometres per year. At this rate, a million years ago, the sun would have been double its present diameter. Ten million years ago, its size would have made it impossible for life to exist on earth. 210 million years ago, the surface of the sun would have reached the earth. (*The Australian*, April 14, 1990).

These examples, and there are many more in creationist publications, clearly show that the case for a recent creation is overwhelming, while the case for evolution is virtually non-existent. Yet how many people who believe in evolution know these facts? The theory of evolution continues to be taught in Schools and Universities throughout the world as if it were a fact, while any attempt to introduce a balance into the educational system by presenting facts about creation is vehemently opposed by educational departments, by government officials, and even by churches and religious organizations.

Such is the moral rectitude of our society, that in the face of all evidence, it clings on to fables simply because it does not wish to acknowledge a Creator God. But a Creator God it will acknowledge soon, because it no longer has a choice. The problems this world is facing are beyond the human resolve. Either God steps in to save humanity from its own destructive bent, or the slide towards oblivion cannot be stopped.

The greenhouse effect, the acid rain, the depletion of ozone layer, the changing weather pattern, the pollution of water, land and air, the epidemics of old and new diseases, the population increase amidst decreasing resources, and the ever present danger of nuclear war, have created the conditions that can set the world, if it hasn't already done so, on the road to extinction of life on earth.

The world needs to wake up and realize what traditional science has done to it, and the precipice to which it has been brought. Above all, human beings need to turn their hearts to their Creator God in worship, supplication and prayer, so that He may turn His heart to us and look upon us once more as His children worthy of salvation.

In the conclusion to the Old Testament, God inspired the prophet Malachi to record a dire warning to the world if a proper relationship between human beings and their heavenly Father is not restored.

Mal 4:5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.

Mal 4:6 And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse [utter destruction – *Tanakh*].

If the world continues to believe in those evolutionary fallacies, how can it ever turn to God if it does not even believe that there is a God? For without love and proper relationship between the Creator and His creation there could never be love and proper relationship between human parents and their children. God alone is the source of true love, and human beings would do well to always remember that. Therefore those who want to enrich their life, and improve this loveless world for the better, and give it a chance of salvation, must tap into the source of true love and keep it flowing through an intimate relationship with their heavenly Father and Creator God. As Jesus Christ said:

Joh 15:12 This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

Joh 15:13 Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.

Joh 15:14 You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. No longer do I call you servants,

Joh 15:15 for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.

Joh 15:16 You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may

Joh 15:17 give you. These things I command you, that you love one another.

**Postscript.** Some theologians and biblical scholars believe that they can reconcile the two irreconcilable positions by adopting the notion of “theistic evolution” as a means of creation. For this, they use those scientific arguments that give a probable age for the world in the millions, ignoring the other equally sound arguments that place that age merely in the thousands of years.

This theory was unknown to ancient people and to Jesus Christ and His Apostles, all of whom believed in the Genesis week of creation. Since the Bible enjoins us to have the mind that was in Christ Jesus, it means that one cannot think differently and still be a Christian.

Php 2:5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,  
Php 2:6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,  
Php 2:7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men.

Php 2:8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of* death, even the death of the cross.

Php 2:9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every

Php 2:10 name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and *that*

Php 2:11 every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, if we have the mind of God and of Christ, we avoid those theories that discredit the Scriptures, and bow our knees to God the Father and to Jesus Christ our Savior, confessing that He is Lord, to the glory of the Creator God.

If God could create this awesome universe in the first place, He could do so just as well in a week as in a few billion years. It is not the creation itself that is the problem, but the planning for it, and that may well have taken an eternity. It certainly did not happen in a week, but since God did not consider it a matter of concern to us, He did not tell us about it. Therefore any speculation on this matter is not helpful; it is not from Him, and not impinging on our salvation, except if we deny our Creator God.

All we know is that when the creation took place, the angels of God shouted for joy. Here is a wonderful account of that time from none other than the Creator Himself.

Job 38:1 Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said:

Job 38:2 "Who is this who darkens counsel By words without knowledge?

Job 38:3 Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me.

Job 38:4 "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell *Me*, if you have understanding.

Job 38:5 Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it?

Job 38:6 To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone,

Job 38:7 When the morning stars sang together, And all the sons of God shouted for joy?

Job 38:8 "Or *who* shut in the sea with doors, When it burst forth *and* issued from the womb;

Job 38:9 When I made the clouds its garment, And thick darkness its swaddling band;

Job 38:10 When I fixed My limit for it, And set bars and doors; When I said,

Job 38:11 "This far you may come, but no farther, And here your proud waves must stop!"

Job 38:12 "Have you commanded the morning since your days *began*, And caused the dawn to know its place,

Job 38:13 That it might take hold of the ends of the earth, And the wicked be shaken out of it?

Job 38:14 It takes on form like clay *under* a seal, And stands out like a garment.

Job 38:15 From the wicked their light is withheld, And the upraised arm is broken.

Job 38:16 "Have you entered the springs of the sea? Or have you walked in search of the depths?

Job 38:17 Have the gates of death been revealed to you? Or have you seen the doors of the shadow of death?

Job 38:18 Have you comprehended the breadth of the earth? Tell *Me*, if you know all this.

Job 38:19 "Where *is* the way *to* the dwelling of light? And darkness, where *is* its place,

Job 38:20 That you may take it to its territory, That you may know the paths *to* its home?

Job 38:21 Do you know *it*, because you were born then, Or *because* the number of your days *is*

Job 38:22 great? "Have you entered the treasury of snow, Or have you seen the treasury of hail,

Job 38:23 Which I have reserved for the time of trouble, For the day of battle and war?

Job 38:24 By what way is light diffused, Or the east wind scattered over the earth?

Job 38:25 "Who has divided a channel for the overflowing *water*, Or a path for the thunderbolt,

Job 38:26 To cause it to rain on a land *where there is* no one, A wilderness in which *there is* no man;

Job 38:27 To satisfy the desolate waste, And cause to spring forth the growth of tender grass?

Job 38:28 Has the rain a father? Or who has begotten the drops of dew?

Job 38:29 From whose womb comes the ice? And the frost of heaven, who gives it birth?

Job 38:30 The waters harden like stone, And the surface of the deep is frozen.

Job 38:31 "Can you bind the cluster of the Pleiades, Or loose the belt of Orion? Can you bring

Job 38:32 out Mazzaroth in its season? Or can you guide the Great Bear with its cubs?

Job 38:33 Do you know the ordinances of the heavens? Can you set their dominion over the earth?

Job 38:34 "Can you lift up your voice to the clouds, That an abundance of water may cover you?  
Job 38:35 Can you send out lightnings, that they may go, And say to you, 'Here we *are!*'?  
Job 38:36 Who has put wisdom in the mind? Or who has given understanding to the heart?  
Job 38:37 Who can number the clouds by wisdom? Or who can pour out the bottles of heaven,  
Job 38:38 When the dust hardens in clumps, And the clods cling together?  
Job 38:39 "Can you hunt the prey for the lion, Or satisfy the appetite of the young lions,  
Job 38:40 When they crouch in *their* dens, Or lurk in their lairs to lie in wait?  
Job 38:41 Who provides food for the raven, When its young ones cry to God, And wander about for lack of food?

Job 39:1 "Do you know the time when the wild mountain goats bear young? Or can you mark  
Job 39:2 when the deer gives birth? Can you number the months *that* they fulfill? Or do you know the time when they bear young?  
Job 39:3 They bow down, They bring forth their young, They deliver their offspring.  
Job 39:4 Their young ones are healthy, They grow strong with grain; They depart and do not return to them.  
Job 39:5 "Who set the wild donkey free? Who loosed the bonds of the onager,  
Job 39:6 Whose home I have made the wilderness, And the barren land his dwelling?  
Job 39:7 He scorns the tumult of the city; He does not heed the shouts of the driver.  
Job 39:8 The range of the mountains *is* his pasture, And he searches after every green thing.  
Job 39:9 "Will the wild ox be willing to serve you? Will he bed by your manger? Can you bind  
Job 39:10 the wild ox in the furrow with ropes? Or will he plow the valleys behind you?  
Job 39:11 Will you trust him because his strength *is* great? Or will you leave your labor to him?  
Job 39:12 Will you trust him to bring home your grain, And gather it to your threshing floor?  
Job 39:13 "The wings of the ostrich wave proudly, But are her wings and pinions *like the* kindly  
Job 39:14 stork's? For she leaves her eggs on the ground, And warms them in the dust;  
Job 39:15 She forgets that a foot may crush them, Or that a wild beast may break them. She treats  
Job 39:16 her young harshly, as though *they were* not hers; Her labor is in vain, without concern,  
Job 39:17 Because God deprived her of wisdom, And did not endow her with understanding.  
Job 39:18 When she lifts herself on high, She scorns the horse and its rider.  
Job 39:19 "Have you given the horse strength? Have you clothed his neck with thunder?  
Job 39:20 Can you frighten him like a locust? His majestic snorting strikes terror.  
Job 39:21 He paws in the valley, and rejoices in *his* strength; He gallops into the clash of arms.  
Job 39:22 He mocks at fear, and is not frightened; Nor does he turn back from the sword.  
Job 39:23 The quiver rattles against him, The glittering spear and javelin.  
Job 39:24 He devours the distance with fierceness and rage; Nor does he come to a halt because  
Job 39:25 the trumpet *has* sounded. At *the blast of* the trumpet he says, 'Aha!' He smells the battle from afar, The thunder of captains and shouting.  
Job 39:26 "Does the hawk fly by your wisdom, *And* spread its wings toward the south?  
Job 39:27 Does the eagle mount up at your command, And make its nest on high?  
Job 39:28 On the rock it dwells and resides, On the crag of the rock and the stronghold.  
Job 39:29 From there it spies out the prey; Its eyes observe from afar.  
Job 39:30 Its young ones suck up blood; And where the slain *are*, there it *is*."

Job 40:1 Moreover the LORD answered Job, and said: "Shall the one who contends  
Job 40:2 with the Almighty correct *Him*? He who rebukes God, let him answer it."  
Job 40:3 Then Job answered the LORD and said:  
Job 40:4 "Behold, I am vile; What shall I answer You? I lay my hand over my mouth.  
Job 40:5 Once I have spoken, but I will not answer; Yes, twice, but I will proceed no further."  
Job 40:6 Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said:  
Job 40:7 "Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me:  
Job 40:8 "Would you indeed annul My judgment? Would you condemn Me that you may be  
Job 40:9 justified? Have you an arm like God? Or can you thunder with a voice like His?  
Job 40:10 Then adorn yourself *with* majesty and splendor, And array yourself with glory and beauty.  
Job 40:11 Disperse the rage of your wrath; Look on everyone *who is* proud, and humble him.  
Job 40:12 Look on everyone *who is* proud, *and* bring him low; Tread down the wicked in their  
Job 40:13 place. Hide them in the dust together, Bind their faces in hidden *darkness*.  
Job 40:14 Then I will also confess to you That your own right hand can save you.

Job 40:15 "Look now at the behemoth, which I made *along* with you; He eats grass like an ox.  
Job 40:16 See now, his strength *is* in his hips, And his power *is* in his stomach muscles.  
Job 40:17 He moves his tail like a cedar; The sinews of his thighs are tightly knit.  
Job 40:18 His bones *are like* beams of bronze, His ribs like bars of iron.  
Job 40:19 He *is* the first of the ways of God; Only He who made him can bring near His sword.  
Job 40:20 Surely the mountains yield food for him, And all the beasts of the field play there.  
Job 40:21 He lies under the lotus trees, In a covert of reeds and marsh.  
Job 40:22 The lotus trees cover him *with* their shade; The willows by the brook surround him.  
Job 40:23 Indeed the river may rage, *Yet* he is not disturbed; He is confident, though the Jordan gushes into his mouth,  
Job 40:24 *Though* he takes it in his eyes, *Or* one pierces *his* nose with a snare.

Job 41:1 "Can you draw out Leviathan with a hook, Or *snare* his tongue with a line *which* you  
Job 41:2 lower? Can you put a reed through his nose, Or pierce his jaw with a hook?  
Job 41:3 Will he make many supplications to you? Will he speak softly to you?  
Job 41:4 Will he make a covenant with you? Will you take him as a servant forever?  
Job 41:5 Will you play with him as *with* a bird, Or will you leash him for your maidens?  
Job 41:6 Will *your* companions make a banquet of him? Will they apportion him among the  
Job 41:7 merchants? Can you fill his skin with harpoons, Or his head with fishing spears?  
Job 41:8 Lay your hand on him; Remember the battle— Never do it again! Indeed,  
Job 41:9 *any* hope of *overcoming* him is false; Shall *one not* be overwhelmed at the sight of him?  
Job 41:10 No one *is so* fierce that he would dare stir him up. Who then is able to stand against Me?  
Job 41:11 Who has preceded Me, that I should pay *him*? Everything under heaven is Mine.  
Job 41:12 "I will not conceal his limbs, His mighty power, or his graceful proportions.  
Job 41:13 Who can remove his outer coat? Who can approach *him* with a double bridle?  
Job 41:14 Who can open the doors of his face, *With* his terrible teeth all around?  
Job 41:15 *His* rows of scales are *his* pride, Shut up tightly *as with* a seal;  
Job 41:16 One is so near another That no air can come between them;  
Job 41:17 They are joined one to another, They stick together and cannot be parted.  
Job 41:18 His sneezings flash forth light, And his eyes *are* like the eyelids of the morning.  
Job 41:19 Out of his mouth go burning lights; Sparks of fire shoot out.  
Job 41:20 Smoke goes out of his nostrils, *As from* a boiling pot and burning rushes.  
Job 41:21 His breath kindles coals, And a flame goes out of his mouth.  
Job 41:22 Strength dwells in his neck, And sorrow dances before him.  
Job 41:23 The folds of his flesh are joined together; They are firm on him and cannot be moved.  
Job 41:24 His heart is as hard as stone, Even as hard as the lower *millstone*.  
Job 41:25 When he raises himself up, the mighty are afraid; Because of his crashings they are beside themselves.  
Job 41:26 *Though* the sword reaches him, it cannot avail; Nor does spear, dart, or javelin.  
Job 41:27 He regards iron as straw, *And* bronze as rotten wood.  
Job 41:28 The arrow cannot make him flee; Slingstones become like stubble to him.  
Job 41:29 Darts are regarded as straw; He laughs at the threat of javelins.  
Job 41:30 His undersides *are* like sharp potsherds; He spreads pointed *marks* in the mire.  
Job 41:31 He makes the deep boil like a pot; He makes the sea like a pot of ointment.  
Job 41:32 He leaves a shining wake behind him; *One* would think the deep had white hair.  
Job 41:33 On earth there is nothing like him, Which is made without fear.  
Job 41:34 He beholds every high *thing*; He *is* king over all the children of pride."

Job 42:1 Then Job answered the LORD and said: "I know that You can do everything,  
Job 42:2 And that no purpose *of Yours* can be withheld from You.  
Job 42:3 *You asked*, 'Who is this who hides counsel without knowledge?' Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, Things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.  
Job 42:4 Listen, please, and let me speak; *You said*, 'I will question you, and you shall answer Me.'  
Job 42:5 "I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, But now my eye sees You.  
Job 42:6 Therefore I abhor *myself*, And repent in dust and ashes."

# The Inspiration of the Scriptures Scientifically Demonstrated

By Ivan Panin

## Letter to the New York Sun

In its Sunday edition of November 19, 1899, the New York Sun published a letter from a certain W.R.L. who denounced Christianity's truth and validity. He challenged "some champion of orthodoxy to come into the arena of the Sun", and present arguments in defense of this "outdated" religion.

On that day, the writer, who did not normally read this paper, was travelling by train from South Framingham to Grafton, Massachusetts, when a copy of the Sun, left on a vacant seat, "fell into his hands". He took the challenge and replied to the Sun. Later, he published that letter together with reactions to it in a pamphlet of about fifty pages long, together with the Greek text of Matthew 1:1-17, so that any scholarly reader could verify his statements for himself.

Sir: - In to-day's Sun Mr. W.R.L. calls for a "*champion of orthodoxy*" to "*step into the arena of the Sun;*" and give him some "*facts.*" Here are some facts:

The first 17 verses of the New Testament contain the genealogy of the Christ. It consists of two main parts: Verses 1-11 cover the period from Abraham, the father of the chosen people, to the Captivity, when they ceased as an independent people. Verses 12-17 cover the period from the Captivity to the promised Deliverer, the Christ.

Let us examine the first part of this genealogy.

Its vocabulary has 49 words, or  $7 \times 7$ . This number is itself seven (Feature 1) sevens (Feature 2), and the sum of its factors is 2 sevens (Feature 3). Of these 49 words 28, or 4 sevens, begin with a vowel; and 21, or 3 sevens, begin with a consonant (Feature 4).

Again: these 49 words of the vocabulary have 266 letters, or  $7 \times 2 \times 19$ ; this number is itself 38 sevens (Feature 5), and the sum of its factors is 28, or 4 sevens (Feature 6), while the sum of its figures is 14, or 2 sevens (Feature 7). Of these 266 letters, moreover, 140, or 20 sevens, are vowels, and 126, or 18 sevens, are consonants (Feature 8).

That is to say: Just as the number of words in the vocabulary is a multiple of seven, so is the number of its letters a multiple of seven; just as the sum of the factors of the number of the words is a multiple of seven, so is the sum of the factors of the number of their letters a multiple of seven. And just as the number of words is divided between vowel words and consonant words by sevens, so is their number of letters divided between vowels and consonants by sevens.

Again: Of these 49 words 35, or 5 sevens, occur more than once in the passage; and 14, or 2 sevens, occur but once (Feature 9); seven occur in more than one form, and 42, or 6 sevens, occur in only one form (Feature 10). And among the parts of speech the 49 words are thus divided: 42, or 6 sevens, are nouns, seven are not nouns (Feature 12). Of the nouns 35 or 5 sevens, are Proper names, seven are common nouns (Feature 12). Of the Proper names 28 are male ancestors of the Christ, and seven are not (Feature 13).

Moreover, these 49 words are distributed alphabetically thus: Words under A-E are 21 in number, or 3 sevens; Z-K 14, or 2 sevens; M-X also 14. No other groups of sevens stopping at the end of a letter are made by these 49 words, the groups of sevens stop with these letters and no others. But the letters A, E, Z, K, M, X, are letters 1, 5, 6, 10, 12, 22, of the Greek alphabet, and the sum of these numbers (called their Place Values) is 56, or 8 sevens (Feature 14).

This enumeration of the numeric phenomena of these 11 verses does not begin to be exhaustive, but enough has been shown to make it clear that this part of the genealogy is constructed on an elaborate design of sevens.

Let us not turn to the genealogy as a whole. I will not weary your readers with recounting all the numeric phenomena thereof: pages alone would exhaust them. I will point out only one feature: The New Testament is written in Greek. The Greeks had no separate symbols for expressing numbers, corresponding to our Arabic figures, but used instead the letters of their alphabet: just as the Hebrews, in whose language the Old Testament is written, made use for the same purpose of theirs. Accordingly, the 24 Greek letters stand for the following numbers: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 100, 200, 300, 400, 500, 600, 700, 800. Every Greek word is thus a sum in arithmetic obtained by adding the numbers for which its letters stand, or their numeric values. Now the vocabulary to the entire genealogy has 72 words. If we write its numeric value over each of these 72 words, and add them, we get for their sum 42,364, or 6,052 sevens, distributed into the following alphabetical groups only: A-B, have 9,821, or 1,403 sevens; G-D, 1904, or 272 sevens; 3,703, or 529 sevens; TH-R, 19,264, or 2,752 sevens; A-X 7,672, or 1,096 sevens. But the numeric value of the 10 letters used for making these groups is 931, or  $7 \times 7 \times 19$ , a multiple not only of seven but of seven sevens.

Let Mr. W.R.L. try to write some 300 words intelligently like this genealogy, and reproduce some numeric phenomena of like designs. If he does it in 6 months, he will indeed do a wonder. Let us assume that Matthew accomplished this feat in one month.

2. The second part of this chapter, verses 18-25, relates the birth of Christ. It consists of 161 words, or 23 sevens; occurring in 105 forms, or 15 sevens, with a vocabulary of 77 words or 11 sevens. Joseph is spoken to here by the angel. Accordingly, of the 77 words the angel uses 28, or 4 sevens; of the 105 forms he uses 35, or 5 sevens; the numeric value of the vocabulary is 52,605, or 7,515 sevens; of the forms, 65,429, or 9,347 sevens.

This enumeration only begins as it were to barely scratch the surface of the numerics of this passage. But what is specially noteworthy here is the fact that the angel's speech has also a scheme of sevens making it a kind of ring within a ring, a wheel within a wheel. If Mr. L. can write a similar passage of 161 words with the same scheme of sevens alone (though there are several others here) in some three years, he would accomplish a still greater wonder. Let us assume Matthew accomplished this feat in only 6 months.

3. The second chapter of Matthew tells of the childhood of the Christ. Its vocabulary has 161 words, or 23 sevens, with 896 letters, or 128 sevens, and 238 forms, or 34 sevens; the numeric value of the vocabulary is 123,529, or 17,647 sevens; of the forms, 166,985, or 23,855 sevens; and so on through pages of enumeration. This chapter has at least four logical divisions, and each division shows alone the same phenomena found in the chapter as a whole. Thus the first six verses have a vocabulary of 56 words, or 8 sevens, etc. There are some speeches here: Herod speaks, the Magi speak, the angel speaks. But so pronounced are the numeric phenomena here, that though there are as it were numerous rings within rings, and wheels within wheels, each is perfect in itself, though forming all the while only part of the rest.

If Mr. L. can write a chapter like this as naturally as Matthew writes, but containing in some 500 words so many intertwined yet harmonious numeric features, in say the rest of his days - whatever his age now, or the one to which he is to attain: if he thus accomplish it at all, it will indeed be marvel of marvels. Let us assume that Matthew accomplished this feat in only 3 years.

4. There is not, however, a single paragraph of the scores in Matthew that is not constructed in exactly the same manner. Only with each additional paragraph the difficulty of

constructing it increases not in arithmetical but in geometrical progression. For he contrives to write numeric relations to what goes before and after. Thus in his last chapter he contrives to use just 7 words not used by him before. It would thus be easy to show that Mr. L. would require some centuries to write a book like Matthew's. How long it took Matthew the writer does not know. But how he contrived to do it between the Crucifixion, A.D.30 (and his Gospel could not have been written earlier), and the destruction of Jerusalem, A.D.70 (and the Gospel could not have been written later), let Mr. L. and his like-minded explain.

Anyhow Matthew did it, and we thus have a miracle - an unheard-of literary, mathematical artist, unequaled, hardly even conceivable. This is the first fact for Mr. L. to contemplate.

A second fact is yet more important: In his very first section, the genealogy discussed above, the words found nowhere else in the New Testament, occur 42 times,  $7 \times 6$ ; and have 126 letters,  $7 \times 6 \times 3$ , each number a multiple not only of seven, but of 6 sevens, to name only two of the many numeric features of these words. But how did Matthew know, when designing this scheme for these words (whose sole characteristic is that they are found nowhere else in the New Testament) that they would not be found in the other 26 books? That they would not be used by the other 7 New Testament writers? Unless we assume the impossible hypothesis that he had an agreement with them to that effect, he must have had the rest of the New Testament before him when he wrote his book. The Gospel of Matthew, then, was written last.

5. It so happens, however, that the Gospel of Mark shows the very same phenomena. Thus the very passage called so triumphantly in today's Sun a "forgery," the Last Twelve Verses of Mark, presents among some sixty features of sevens the following phenomena: It has 175 words, or 95 sevens; a vocabulary of 98 words, or 2 sevens of sevens with 553 letters, or 79 sevens; 133 forms, or 19 sevens, and so on to the minutest detail.

Mark, then, is another miracle, another unparalleled literary genius. And in the same way in which it was shown that Matthew wrote last it is also shown that Mark, too, wrote last. Thus to take an example from this very passage: It has just one word found nowhere else in the New Testament, 'deadly'. This fact is signaled by no less than seven features of sevens thus: Its numeric value is 581, or 83 sevens, with the sum of its figures 14, or 2 sevens, of which the letters 3, 5, 7, from both the BEGINNING and END of the word have 490, or  $7 \times 7 \times 5 \times 2$ : a multiple of seven sevens, with the sum of its factors 21, or 3 sevens. In the vocabulary it is preceded by 42 words,  $7 \times 6$ ; in the passage itself by 126 words, or  $7 \times 6 \times 3$ , both numbers multiples not only of seven, but of 6 sevens. We have thus established before us this third fact for Mr. L. to contemplate: Matthew surely wrote after Mark, and Mark just as surely wrote after Matthew.

6. It happens, however, to be a fourth fact, that Luke presents the same phenomena as Matthew and Mark; and so does John, and James, and Peter, and Jude, and Paul. And we have thus no longer two great unheard-of mathematical literati, but eight of them and each wrote after the other.

7. And not only this: As Luke and Peter wrote each 2 books, John 5, and Paul 14, it can in the same way be shown that each of the 27 New Testament books was written last. In fact, not a page of the over 500 in Westcott and Hort's Greek edition (which the writer has used throughout) but it can be demonstrated thus to have been written last.

The phenomena are there and there is no human way of explaining them. Eight men cannot each write last, 97 books, some 500 pages cannot each be written first. But once assume that one Mind directed the whole, and the problem is solved simply enough; but this is Verbal Inspiration - of every jot and tittle of the New Testament.

There remains only to be added that by precisely the same kind of evidence the Hebrew Old Testament is proved to be equally inspired. Thus the very first verse of Genesis has seven words, 28 letters, or 4 sevens: to name only two out of the dozens of numeric features of this one verse of only seven words. - N.Y. Sun, Nov. 21, 1899 - Corrected.

To this letter several replies appeared in the Sun, but not a single answer. For in only three ways can it be refuted.

(a) By showing that the facts are not as here given.

(b) By showing that it is possible for 8 men to write each after the other 7; for 27 books, for some 500 pages to be each in its turn written last.

(c) By showing that even if the facts be true, the arithmetic faultless, and the collocation of the numerics honest, it does not follow that mere men could not have written this without Inspiration from above.

Accordingly, as many as nine noted rationalists (of whom Drs. Lyman Abbot and Charles W. Eliot are still living) [now in 1927 also gone to where they may know] were respectfully but publicly invited to refute the writer. One was not "*interested*" in the writer's "*arithmetical*" doings; two "*regretted*" that they "*had no time*" to give heed thereto. Another "*did not mean to be unkind*," but ... The rest were silent. For the special benefit of these the writer printed the original data with numerous details, enabling them in the easiest manner to verify every statement made by him, if they wished. And to the best of his ability he has for years seen to it that no scholar whom surely these things specially concern remain in ignorance of the facts here recounted and of like cogency.

A notable exception to the above is a lawyer of standing [now also dead], whose books on Law are deemed as of authority. He had intelligence enough and candor withal to confess that the case for the Bible as made out by the writer is impregnable, that the Bible is thus proved to be an "*absolutely unique book*." This much the case itself exhorts from the but too well equipped writer on - EVIDENCE; and accordingly he henceforth reads the writer's Numerics with intense appreciation. And then, fresh from this confession, he betakes himself once more to the circulation of his anti-Christian books in the writing of which he joys to spend his leisure hours.

In the second letter to the N. Y. Sun the author, in discussing some irrelevant "*answers*" to his first letter, recited the three ways of refuting him and then continued:

No sane man will try to refute me by the second method. To refute me by the first method I herewith respectfully invite any or all of the following to prove that my facts are not facts: namely Messrs: Lyman Abbott, Washington Gladden, Heber Newton, Minot J. Savage, Presidents Eliot of Harvard, White of Cornell, Professors J. Henry Thayer of Harvard, and Dr. Briggs, and any other prominent higher critic so called. They may associate with themselves, if they choose, all the contributors of the ninth edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica who wrote its articles on Biblical subjects together with a dozen mathematicians of the calibre of Professor Simon Newcomb. The heavier the calibre of either scholar or mathematician, the more satisfactory to me.

They will find that my facts are facts. And since they are facts, I am ready to take them to any three prominent lawyers, or, better still, to any judge of a superior or supreme court, and abide by his decision as to whether the conclusion is not necessary that Inspiration alone can account for the facts, if they are facts.

All I should ask would be that the judge treat the case as he would any other case that comes before him: declining to admit matters for discussion as irrelevant when they are irrelevant; and listening patiently to both sides, as he does in any trial." Ivan Panin (panin.htm).

# THE KINGDOM OF GOD

## Defining the Concept

The Bible is a book about the Kingdom of God. It is about transforming mortal human beings into immortal spirit beings, capable of assuming responsibility for eternal life in the Kingdom of God.

This is the message brought to this world by Jesus Christ nearly two thousand years ago, yet in spite of the fact that the Bible has been with us all this time the Kingdom of God remains one of the most elusive and least understood of all the biblical concepts.

Some people believe that the Kingdom of God is in people's hearts; others that it is the church; others that it is the place where "immortal" souls go at death; others say that it will be established on this earth at the end of time; while many more do not believe that there is, or ever will be, a Kingdom of God in this or any other world. The truth is, none of these concepts are true. During Jesus' ministry, He spoke many times about the Kingdom of God, but always couched His language in parables. At one time His disciples came to Him and asked:

Mat 13:10 And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?"

Mat 13:11 He answered and said to them, "Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.

Mat 13:12 For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.

Mat 13:13 Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.

Mat 13:14 And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says: 'HEARING YOU WILL HEAR AND SHALL NOT UNDERSTAND, AND SEEING YOU WILL SEE AND NOT

Mat 13:15 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.'

Mat 13:16 But blessed *are* your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear;

Mat 13:17 for assuredly, I say to you that many prophets and righteous *men* desired to see what you see, and did not see *it*, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear *it*.

What He was saying then is that those who do not deserve to enter the Kingdom of God are not given the understanding that would guide them therein. History of the world has proven how accurate His words were, and still are, for in spite of the fact that the meaning of all of His parables were recorded in the Bible for all to see, precious few have been able to understand and follow them. Unless one's heart is right before God, he will never be able to understand the mysteries of the Kingdom of God.

The Gospel of the Kingdom of God, is the Gospel of salvation. Those who care about the purpose of their life, who wish to attain eternal life in the Kingdom of God, must turn to God in prayer, supplication and worship, asking Him for forgiveness and the Holy Spirit. They will then be granted wisdom and guidance on how to conduct their lives so that their eyes may be opened, their ears unplugged, and their hearts made ready to receive the Holy Spirit. As Jesus Christ said:

Mat 7:7 "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to

Mat 7:8 you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

He also said:

Mat 20:16 So the last will be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few chosen."

Mat 22:14 "For many are called, but few *are* chosen."

Without the Holy Spirit no one can see the face of God or enter into His Kingdom. But if you are among the lucky ones who receive His call, do not neglect this unique gift for there is no second chance.

1Ti 4:14 Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership.

1Ti 4:15 Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be

1Ti 4:16 evident to all. Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

Yes, by giving yourself to meditation, prayer, worship and supplication before the Almighty God, “you will save both yourself and those who hear you.” The author of the book of Hebrews, amplified on these thoughts in a wonderful passage from the book of Hebrews.

Heb 2:2 For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward,

Heb 2:3 how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard *Him*,

Heb 2:4 God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?

Heb 2:5 For He has not put the world to come, of which we speak, in subjection to angels.

Heb 2:6 But one testified in a certain place, saying: "WHAT IS MAN THAT YOU ARE MINDFUL OF HIM, OR THE SON OF MAN THAT YOU TAKE CARE OF HIM?

Heb 2:7 YOU HAVE MADE HIM A LITTLE LOWER THAN THE ANGELS; YOU HAVE CROWNED HIM WITH GLORY AND HONOR, AND SET HIM OVER THE WORKS OF

Heb 2:8 YOUR HANDS. YOU HAVE PUT ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET."

For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing *that is* not put under him. But now we do not yet see all things put under him.

Heb 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.

Heb 2:10 For it was fitting for Him, for whom *are* all things and by whom *are* all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through

Heb 2:11 sufferings. For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified *are* all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren,

Heb 2:12 saying: "I WILL DECLARE YOUR NAME TO MY BRETHREN; IN THE MIDST OF THE ASSEMBLY I WILL SING PRAISE TO YOU."

Heb 2:13 And again: "I WILL PUT MY TRUST IN HIM." And again: "HERE AM I AND THE CHILDREN WHOM GOD HAS GIVEN ME." Inasmuch then as the children have

Heb 2:14 partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,

Heb 2:15 and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

Heb 2:16 For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of

Heb 2:17 Abraham. Therefore, in all things He had to be made like *His* brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things *pertaining* to God, to make propitiation for

Heb 2:18 the sins of the people. For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.

Heb 3:1 Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus, who was faithful to Him

Heb 3:2 who appointed Him, as Moses also *was faithful* in all His house.

Heb 3:3 For this One has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as He who built the house has more honor than the house.

Heb 3:4 For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things *is* God.

It would be hard for anyone to improve on this passage and explain the meaning of life and the purpose of salvation better than this author. It is a lengthy passage, but it could not be truncated if its meaning was to be preserved in its entirety. So study these Scriptures, meditate of them, make them your daily spiritual food, “for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.”

This is what the Kingdom of God and the Gospel of salvation are all about.

# LOCATION AND NATURE OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Like the kingdoms of men that have a defined geographical location in this world, the Kingdom of God has a location too, only in a different world – a spiritual one. A major difference between them is their duration – the kingdoms of this world being of a temporary nature, while the Kingdom of God is permanent and eternal.

This world was not designed to last forever, a fact confirmed by the second law of thermodynamics, which states that this universe is slowly winding down. The sun will one day run out of matter and energy, and no longer give out its life sustaining light and heat. Scientists are now assuring us that this universe will expand until its gravitational force will dissipate to such an extent that it will no longer hold it together, thus causing it to come to a standstill and vanish without trace. That may well be the case if it lasted that long, but our Creator tells us that this world will in fact last a lot less than that.

Those who do not believe in a higher force may ponder on the futility of life in general and the emptiness in their life in particular, but those who believe in God know that He created both this world and human beings for a transcendental purpose – eternal life in a better and more enduring world.

Isa 40:21 Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

Isa 40:22 *It is* He who sits above the circle of the earth, And its inhabitants *are* like grasshoppers, Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, And spreads them out like a tent to dwell in.

Isa 34:4 All the host of heaven shall be dissolved, And the heavens shall be rolled up like a scroll; All their host shall fall down As the leaf falls from the vine, And as *fruit* falling from a fig tree.

Rev 20:11 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them.

Rev 20:12 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 which were written in the books.

Rev 20:13 The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.

Rev 20:14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

Rev 20:15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

Rev 21:1 Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.

Rev 21:2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Rev 21:3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them *and be* their God.

Rev 21:4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

Rev 21:5 Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful."

A wonderful picture and a great prospect! No more death, no sorrow, no crying, and no more pain, for the former things have passed away. Then God Himself will dwell among His people on a new earth and a new heaven. He will be their God and they shall be His children forever more.

So then the kingdoms of this world are a preparation, a stepping ground for the Kingdom of God. God could not grant eternity to anyone until He made sure that human beings would not do to His Kingdom what they have done to this world. As the Scriptures say:

Rev 11:18 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, And should destroy those who destroy the earth."

Those who destroy the earth, who pollute it, who tamper with the fabric of God's creation – cloning, genetic engineering, etc. – will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

# THE KING OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Like the kingdoms of this world, the Kingdom of God also needs a King. Few people in the world would not know by now that Jesus Christ qualified to become that King.

At His trial before Pontius Pilate, He was asked whether He was indeed a king. This was His reply:

Joh 18:33 Then Pilate entered the Praetorium again, called Jesus, and said to Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?"

Joh 18:34 Jesus answered him, "Are you speaking for yourself about this, or did others tell you this concerning Me?"

Joh 18:35 Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You to me. What have You done?"

Joh 18:36 Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here."

Joh 18:37 Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say *rightly* that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."

"You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." This is the most potent phrase in the entire Bible. My soul rejoices and trembles every time I read it.

Jesus Christ not only qualified to become the Great King of the Kingdom of God, He showed the way that others may qualify to rule under Him too. Among the first to do so were His Apostles.

Mat 19:27 Then Peter answered and said to Him, "See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have?"

Mat 19:28 So Jesus said to them, "Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

The twelve Apostles will rule over the twelve tribes of Israel, but in the Kingdom of God there will be people from all nations. Who will rule over these? Well, when God does things He does not do them by half measures. He made provision for kings and priests for all nations who will make it into His Kingdom.

Rev 1:3 Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.

Rev 1:4 John, to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne,

Rev 1:5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,

Rev 1:6 and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him *be* glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Rev 5:9 And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,

Rev 5:10 And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth."

This should make it abundantly clear why God created this world in the first place. Life is not easy in this world. But the trials, sufferings and tribulations that human beings must endure, enables them to develop the character needed for eternal life in the Kingdom of God. Like the stars of heaven, some shine better than others.

1Co 15:35 But someone will say, "How are the dead raised up? And with what body do

1Co 15:36 they come?" Foolish one, what you sow is not made alive unless it dies.

1Co 15:37 And what you sow, you do not sow that body that shall be, but mere grain—perhaps wheat or some other *grain*.

1Co 15:38 But God gives it a body as He pleases, and to each seed its own body.

1Co 15:39 All flesh is not the same flesh, but *there is one kind of flesh* of men, another flesh of animals, another of fish, *and* another of birds.

1Co 15:40 There are also celestial bodies and terrestrial bodies; but the glory of the celestial *is one*, and the *glory* of the terrestrial *is another*.

1Co 15:41 There is one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for *one* star differs from *another* star in glory.

1Co 15:42 So also *is* the resurrection of the dead. *The body* is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory.

1Co 15:43 It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power.

1Co 15:44 It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

1Co 15:45 And so it is written, "THE FIRST MAN ADAM BECAME A LIVING BEING." The last Adam *became* a life-giving spirit.

1Co 15:46 However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual.

1Co 15:47 The first man *was* of the earth, *made* of dust; the second Man *is* the Lord from

1Co 15:48 heaven. As *was* the man of dust, so also *are* those *who are made* of dust; and as *is* the heavenly Man, so also *are* those *who are* heavenly.

1Co 15:49 And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man.

1Co 15:50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption.

1Co 15:51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—

1Co 15:52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

1Co 15:53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality.

1Co 15:54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP IN VICTORY."

1Co 15:55 "O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING? O HADES, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY?"

1Co 15:56 The sting of death *is* sin, and the strength of sin *is* the law.

1Co 15:57 But thanks *be* to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

# THE INHABITANTS OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Who then are the inhabitants of the Kingdom of Heaven? Well, we know that God the Father will be there as Head figure over all; Jesus Christ will be there as the Executive King over all; the Apostles will be there as kings and priests over the twelve tribes of Israel; the kings and priests that have qualified from other nations will be there; and of course, the angels of God will be there too.

The question is, who are the inhabitants, the subjects of the Kingdom of God, over who will rule all those kings and priests? Would they be the angels of God? No, the angels' role has been determined long ago, before human beings were even placed on this earth.

- Heb 1:1 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets,  
Heb 1:2 has in these last days spoken to us by *His* Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;  
Heb 1:3 who being the brightness of *His* glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,  
Heb 1:4 having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.  
Heb 1:5 For to which of the angels did He ever say: "YOU ARE MY SON, TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU"? And again: "I WILL BE TO HIM A FATHER, AND HE SHALL BE TO ME A SON"?  
Heb 1:6 But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: "LET ALL THE ANGELS OF GOD WORSHIP HIM."  
Heb 1:7 And of the angels He says: "WHO MAKES HIS ANGELS SPIRITS AND HIS MINISTERS A FLAME OF FIRE."  
Heb 1:8 But to the Son He says: "YOUR THRONE, O GOD, IS FOREVER AND EVER; A SCEPTER OF RIGHTEOUSNESS IS THE SCEPTER OF YOUR KINGDOM.  
Heb 1:9 YOU HAVE LOVED RIGHTEOUSNESS AND HATED LAWLESSNESS; THEREFORE GOD, YOUR GOD, HAS ANOINTED YOU WITH THE OIL OF GLADNESS MORE THAN YOUR COMPANIONS."  
Heb 1:10 And: "YOU, LORD, IN THE BEGINNING LAID THE FOUNDATION OF THE EARTH, AND THE HEAVENS ARE THE WORK OF YOUR HANDS.  
Heb 1:11 THEY WILL PERISH, BUT YOU REMAIN; AND THEY WILL ALL GROW OLD LIKE A GARMENT;  
Heb 1:12 LIKE A CLOAK YOU WILL FOLD THEM UP, AND THEY WILL BE CHANGED. BUT YOU ARE THE SAME, AND YOUR YEARS WILL NOT FAIL."  
Heb 1:13 But to which of the angels has He ever said: "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, TILL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES YOUR FOOTSTOOL"?  
Heb 1:14 Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?

So the angels are "ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation". And who are those who will inherit salvation? Human beings of course! Those who deserve to be saved out of all nations of the world.

In the Old Testament, we have an interesting promise God made to the prophet Daniel.

Dan 12:8 Although I heard, I did not understand. Then I said, "My lord, what *shall be* the end of these *things*?"

Dan 12:9 And he said, "Go *your way*, Daniel, for the words *are* closed up and sealed till the time of the end.

Dan 12:10 Many shall be purified, made white, and refined, but the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand.

Dan 12:11 "And from the time *that* the daily *sacrifice* is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up, *there shall be* one thousand two hundred and ninety days.

Dan 12:12 Blessed is he who waits, and comes to the one thousand three hundred and thirty-five days.

Dan 12:13 "But you, go *your way* till the end; for you shall rest, and will arise to your inheritance at the end of the days.

You will arise and receive your inheritance at the end of the days! Until then Daniel is resting, as are all other prophets and saints who have died for the Work of God and the Word of Jesus Christ.

Rev 6:9 When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held.

Rev 6:10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"

Rev 6:11 Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both *the number of* their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they *were*, was completed.

They should rest until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed. What does this tell you in addition to the fact that human beings would be the inhabitants of the Kingdom of God? It tells you that whatever happens in this world is well known and planned by our Creator God. It is for this reason that Jesus Christ said: "My Father has been working until now, and I have been working." (John 5:17).

A lot of people believe that after the creation week, God has been sitting on His throne up in heaven, watching how human beings, under the influence of Satan, have been debauching and devouring themselves and made a wreck of this world. Well, the truth is quite different. After he created this world, God began the more important work of creating spiritual beings for His eternal Kingdom.

Now we know how Jesus Christ qualified to be the Supreme King of the Universe; we know how the Apostles qualified for their positions; and we know how the other kings and priests qualified for their positions. How would the other human beings qualify for their place in the Kingdom of God? The same way that everyone else has. Notice what Apostle Paul said.

Act 14:21 And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch,

Act 14:22 strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting *them* to continue in the faith, and saying, "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God."

Indeed, we must through many tribulations enter the Kingdom of God. On our own, we cannot achieve that goal, but with the help of the Holy Spirit everything is possible.

Mat 19:23 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven.

Mat 19:24 And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

Mat 19:25 When His disciples heard *it*, they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?"

Mat 19:26 But Jesus looked at *them* and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

Joh 14:25 "These things I have spoken to you while being present with you.

Joh 14:26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

Joh 16:7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.

Joh 16:8 And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

Joh 16:9 of sin, because they do not believe in Me;

Joh 16:10 of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more;

Joh 16:11 of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

Joh 16:12 "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear *them* now.

Joh 16:13 However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own *authority*, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.

Joh 16:14 He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare *it* to you.

Joh 16:15 All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare *it* to you.

With the help of the Holy Spirit we can overcome the tribulations of this world to the end.

Mat 10:22 And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved.

In His parable of the sower, Jesus Christ also made it clear that not those who receive the Word of God and rejoice in it for a while will be saved, but those who bear fruit and remain steadfast to the end.

Mat 13:18 "Therefore hear the parable of the sower:

Mat 13:19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand *it*, then the wicked *one* comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside.

Mat 13:20 But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy;

Mat 13:21 yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles.

Mat 13:22 Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.

Mat 13:23 But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands *it*, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."

At one time, two of His disciples sought to gain a privileged position in His Kingdom. Notice what He told them.

Mar 10:35 Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Him, saying, "Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask."

Mar 10:36 And He said to them, "What do you want Me to do for you?"

Mar 10:37 They said to Him, "Grant us that we may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on Your left, in Your glory."

Mar 10:38 But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?"

Mar 10:39 They said to Him, "We are able." So Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink the cup that I drink, and with the baptism I am baptized with you will be baptized;

Mar 10:40 but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but *it is for those* for whom it is prepared."

Mar 10:41 And when the ten heard *it*, they began to be greatly displeased with James and John.

Mar 10:42 But Jesus called them to *Himself* and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them.

Mar 10:43 Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant.

Mar 10:44 And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all.

Mar 10:45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

Jesus told them that they "will indeed drink the cup that I drink, and with the baptism I am baptized with you will be baptized". Every human being who aspires to attain eternal life in the Kingdom of God needs to be baptized with the baptism that Jesus Christ was baptized with – each according to his own gifts and abilities.

Mat 16:27 For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.

At one time, a young man wanted to know how he might gain eternal life. Notice Jesus' answer.

Mat 19:16 Now behold, one came and said to Him, "Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?"

Mat 19:17 So He said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, *that is*, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments."

Mat 19:18 He said to Him, "Which ones?" Jesus said, " 'YOU SHALL NOT MURDER,' 'YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY,' 'YOU SHALL NOT STEAL,' 'YOU SHALL NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS,'

Mat 19:19 'HONOR YOUR FATHER AND YOUR MOTHER,' and, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' "

Mat 19:20 The young man said to Him, "All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?"

Mat 19:21 Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."

Mat 19:22 But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

Mat 19:23 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven.

Mat 19:24 And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

"If you want to enter into life, keep the commandments", said Jesus Christ. Yet most of the mainstream churches preach that the commandments have been done away with because Jesus Christ supposedly instituted a new commandment:

Mat 22:35 Then one of them, a lawyer, asked *Him a question*, testing Him, and saying,

Mat 22:36 "Teacher, which *is* the great commandment in the law?"

Mat 22:37 Jesus said to him, 'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.'

Mat 22:38 This is *the* first and great commandment.

Mat 22:39 And *the* second is like it: 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.'

Mat 22:40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

What they do not realize is that this commandment is found in the Old Testament too.

Deu 6:5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

Deu 11:1 "Therefore you shall love the LORD your God, and keep His charge, His statutes, His judgments, and His commandments always.

Lev 19:18 You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I *am* the LORD.

Can one love God with all his heart, with all his soul, and with all his strength, and his neighbor as himself without keeping the commandments? Take another look at Deuteronomy 11:1 and notice that in addition to loving God it also requires to keep "His statutes, His judgments, and His commandments always."

Those who claim that the commandments are no longer valid, use this as convenient excuse for not keeping the fourth commandment. Do you know which one that is?

Exo 20:8 "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

Exo 20:9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work,

Exo 20:10 but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. *In it* you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates.

Exo 20:11 For *in* six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

Instead of hallowing the Sabbath of the Lord, they hallow the Day of the Sun. In so doing they cut themselves off from God and His people, for He made the Sabbath a sign between Him and His people.

Exo 31:12 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

Exo 31:13 "Speak also to the children of Israel, saying: 'Surely My Sabbaths you shall keep, for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, that *you* may know that I *am* the LORD who sanctifies you.

Exo 31:14 You shall keep the Sabbath, therefore, for *it is* holy to you. Everyone who profanes it shall surely be put to death; for whoever does *any* work on it, that person shall be cut off from among his people.

Exo 31:15 Work shall be done for six days, but the seventh is the Sabbath of rest, holy to the LORD. Whoever does *any* work on the Sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death.

Exo 31:16 Therefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations as a perpetual covenant.

Exo 31:17 It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever; for *in* six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He rested and was refreshed.' "

Exo 31:18 And when He had made an end of speaking with him on Mount Sinai, He gave Moses two tablets of the Testimony, tablets of stone, written with the finger of God.

In the New Testament, the followers of Jesus Christ are the true Jews and the New Israel. So if you want to find out who are the people who will inherit the Kingdom of God, find out who keeps God's commandments, including the Sabbath. But beware, there are many people who worship on the Sabbath and keep that day rigorously, yet are bigger hypocrites than the Pharisees of Jesus' day.

When the young man asked Jesus Christ what he must do to inherit eternal life, Jesus' first words were, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God." Now can you think of a religious leader who would admit that he is not good? How could they say that when they have given themselves such titles as, "His Holiness", "His Highness", "Most Reverend", or even God's own title of, "Holy Father"?

Can one say, I am not good, but I am "Holy", I am "Reverend"? Or I am not good, but I am infallible, I am the "Holy Father"? That is why one should never forget the Apostles' warnings:

2Co 11:13 For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ.

2Co 11:14 And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.

2Co 11:15 Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.

Remember also the words of the great prophet Isaiah.

Isa 8:20 To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, *it is* because *there is* no light in them.

The Pharisees of Jesus' day led their followers to perdition. The "Pharisees" of our day do no better. But you can ensure your place in the Kingdom of God by doing what Jesus Christ, His Apostles, and the prophets have said: study the Word of God, worship Him, keep the commandments, be humble, serve others, and bring fruits worthy of salvation.

# THE SETTING OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD

There seems to be as much confusion about the setting of the Kingdom of God as there is about the Kingdom itself. The confusion comes from failing to understand the difference between the Millennial Kingdom and the proper Kingdom of God.

Many people speak of a thousand year reign of Christ on this earth, believing that that is the same thing as the Kingdom of God. Nothing could be further from the truth. Notice the difference.

Rev 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then *I saw* the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received *his* mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

Rev 20:5 But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This *is* the first resurrection.

Rev 20:6 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.

So first we have the thousand-year reign, during which the kings and priests who are resurrected at the beginning of the Millennium reign under Christ, then comes the judgment of God and the proper Kingdom of God.

When Jesus Christ comes back at the beginning of the Millennium, He does not come to live on this earth, but to take His people to Himself.

Joh 14:1 "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.

Joh 14:2 In My Father's house are many mansions; if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

Joh 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also.

I go and prepare a place for you, then I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. Isn't that clear enough? It cannot be otherwise, for then you would have spirit beings intermingling with and living among human beings. Now would Jesus Christ leave His position and glory that He enjoys in heaven to come and live on a devastated and heavily polluted planet?

The needs of human beings are quite different from those of spirit beings. Besides, flesh and blood is enmity with God.

Rom 8:5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those *who live* according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.

Rom 8:6 For to be carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace.

Rom 8:7 Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.

Rom 8:8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

Rom 8:9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

During the Millennial Kingdom, some of nations will still endure the wrath of God for refusing to tow the line.

Zec 14:16 And it shall come to pass *that* everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.

Zec 14:17 And it shall be *that* whichever of the families of the earth do not come up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, on them there will be no rain.

Zec 14:18 If the family of Egypt will not come up and enter in, they *shall have no rain*; they shall receive the plague with which the LORD strikes the nations who do not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.

Zec 14:19 This shall be the punishment of Egypt and the punishment of all the nations that do not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.

Then, near the end of the Millennium, the world will once again be ravaged by war.

Rev 20:7 Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his  
Rev 20:8 prison and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea.

Rev 20:9 They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them.

It is only then that the proper Kingdom of God will be established, and not on this earth, but on a new earth and a new heaven.

Now Jesus Christ abolished the enmity that existed between human beings and God, but they are still human beings, and still carnal and subject to the laws of the flesh. As Apostle Paul said:

Rom 7:22 For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man.

Rom 7:23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

This has nothing to do with Satan. Human beings will still be subject to the pulls of human nature even when Satan will be locked up during the thousand-year reign, just as Adam and Eve were before they fell under his influence. Jesus Christ and the priests and kings who will rule and judge the world for a thousand years, will not dwell with human beings in buildings made by human hands, but in heaven. Most people ignore a little known Scripture that confirms this fact.

Rev 14:1 Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred *and* forty-four thousand, having His Father's name written on their foreheads.

Rev 14:2 And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps.

Rev 14:3 They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred *and* forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth.

Rev 14:4 These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from *among* men, *being* firstfruits to God and to the Lamb.

Rev 14:5 And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God.

The Mount Zion mentioned here, is not on this earth, but in heaven. After coming to resurrect and receive His people to Himself, Jesus Christ takes them to heaven, where they

sing a new song before the throne of God. It is from there that they will rule this world, and follow Him wherever He goes.

They come back to earth as they wish, they judge the world, but they always return to their place in heaven. It does not take long to make that journey. Immediately after His resurrection, in a single day, Jesus Christ went up to heaven, presented Himself to the Father, then came back and showed Himself to His Apostles. Notice:

Joh 20:15 Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?"

She, supposing Him to be the gardener, said to Him, "Sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away."

Joh 20:16 Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to Him, "Rabboni!" (which is to say, Teacher).

Joh 20:17 Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.' "

Joh 20:18 Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and *that* He had spoken these things to her.

Joh 20:19 Then, the same day at evening, being the first *day* of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace *be* with you."

Joh 20:20 When He had said this, He showed them *His* hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.

During the Millennial Kingdom there will be a vastly reduced number of people on this earth. The Great Tribulation will see to that.

Mat 24:21 For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.

Mat 24:22 And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.

During that period, the earth will enjoy its sabbatical rest. But as human beings multiply again, the earth will once again reach saturation point and come under pressure. That is when Satan will be released from his restraint and allowed lead one final revolt against God and His people.

Rev 20:1 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

Rev 20:2 He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is *the* Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years;

Rev 20:3 and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.

Rev 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then *I saw* the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received *his* mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

Rev 20:5 But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This *is* the first resurrection.

Rev 20:6 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 20:7 Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his

Rev 20:8 prison and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number *is* as the sand of the sea.  
Rev 20:9 They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them.  
Rev 20:10 The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet *are*. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

It is only after the Millennial Kingdom that the proper Kingdom of God will be set up, and not on this earth, but on a new earth and a new heaven.

Rev 20:11 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them.  
Rev 20:12 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 which were written in the books.  
Rev 20:13 The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.  
Rev 20:14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.  
Rev 20:15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

Rev 21:1 Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.  
Rev 21:2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.  
Rev 21:3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them *and be* their God.  
Rev 21:4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."  
Rev 21:5 Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful."  
Rev 21:6 And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts.  
Rev 21:7 He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.  
Rev 21:8 But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."  
Rev 21:9 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, "Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife."  
Rev 21:10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,  
Rev 21:11 having the glory of God. Her light *was* like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal.  
Rev 21:12 Also she had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates, and names written on them, which are *the names* of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel:  
Rev 21:13 three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west.  
Rev 21:14 Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.  
Rev 21:15 And he who talked with me had a gold reed to measure the city, its gates, and its wall.  
Rev 21:16 The city is laid out as a square; its length is as great as its breadth. And he measured the city with the reed: twelve thousand furlongs. Its length, breadth, and height are equal.  
Rev 21:17 Then he measured its wall: one hundred *and* forty-four cubits, *according to* the measure of a man, that is, of an angel.  
Rev 21:18 The construction of its wall was *of* jasper; and the city *was* pure gold, like clear glass.  
Rev 21:19 The foundations of the wall of the city *were* adorned with all kinds of precious stones: the first foundation *was* jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald,  
Rev 21:20 the fifth sardonyx, the sixth sardius, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst.

Rev 21:21 The twelve gates *were* twelve pearls: each individual gate was of one pearl. And the street of the city *was* pure gold, like transparent glass.

Rev 21:22 But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

Rev 21:23 The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb *is* its light.

Rev 21:24 And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it.

Rev 21:25 Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there).

Rev 21:26 And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it.

Rev 21:27 But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

Rev 22:1 And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb.

Rev 22:2 In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, *was* the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each *tree* yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree *were* for the healing of the nations.

Rev 22:3 And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him.

Rev 22:4 They shall see His face, and His name *shall be* on their foreheads.

Rev 22:5 There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.

Rev 22:6 Then he said to me, "These words *are* faithful and true." And the Lord God of the holy prophets sent His angel to show His servants the things which must shortly take place.

Rev 22:7 "Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed *is* he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."

Rev 22:8 Now I, John, saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things.

Rev 22:9 Then he said to me, "See *that you do not do that*. For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God."

Rev 22:10 And he said to me, "Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand.

Rev 22:11 He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still."

Rev 22:12 "And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward *is* with Me, to give to every one according to his work.

Rev 22:13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, *the Beginning and the End*, the First and the Last."

Rev 22:14 Blessed *are* those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.

Rev 22:15 But outside *are* dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie.

Rev 22:16 "I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star."

Rev 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.

Rev 22:18 For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book;

Rev 22:19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and *from* the things which are written in this book.

Rev 22:20 He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming quickly." Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

Rev 22:21 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you all. Amen.

# THE LAWS OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD

All nations have sets of laws to govern their citizens. The Kingdom of God is no different. It too must have laws to govern its inhabitants. The question is, what laws could operate in that Kingdom that would guaranty peace and harmony forever more? We already know the answer: it is God's commandments, judgments and statutes, the same ones that guaranty eternal life in His Kingdom in the first place.

God Himself has told us that He will imbed His laws in the hearts of those who will inherit His Kingdom.

Eze 11:19 Then I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within them, and take the stony heart out of their flesh, and give them a heart of flesh,

Eze 11:20 that they may walk in My statutes and keep My judgments and do them; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God.

Eze 36:25 Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols.

Eze 36:26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

Eze 36:27 I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do *them*.

Eze 36:28 Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your God.

The land that God promised to the fathers of Israel is not in this world, but in His eternal Kingdom.

Mat 8:11 And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.

Mat 8:12 But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

A good question to ask at this point is what would happen to the myriad of laws and penal codes that operate in the world at present? Well, if they had created a harmonious and peaceful society they would be retained. But looking at the morass, into which this world has fallen, and the confusion and lawlessness that prevail in the world at present, can anyone say that they have done their job?

The law profession is one of the largest industries in the western world. In the United States there is one lawyer for every 400 people; in Australia it is one for 500 people; in France one for 1800 people, and in Japan it is one lawyer for every 7000 people. In 1970, the starting wage difference in the United States between lawyers and teachers was \$2,000. By 2001 this difference has blown to \$120,000. Is there any wonder that education is in crisis in the western world while lawyers are bankrupting these countries? Clearly, the people of the Western world, particularly the Anglo-Saxons, are a litigious people, yet they claim to base their civilization on the Bible, on the so-called Judeo-Christian tradition.

God delivered His laws in person to these people, yet instead of applying them in their lives, they thought that they could do better by inventing their own set of laws. They continue to invent more laws in a never-ending process. And who benefits from this legal juggernaut? Lawyers, of course!

The world is in desperate need of a return to the simplicity, certainty, and authority of God's laws. Fortunately, this is exactly what the Scriptures are telling us will happen shortly.

Zec 8:20 "Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'Peoples shall yet come, Inhabitants of many cities;

Zec 8:21 The inhabitants of one *city* shall go to another, saying, "Let us continue to go and pray before the LORD, And seek the LORD of hosts. I myself will go also."  
 Zec 8:22 Yes, many peoples and strong nations Shall come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem, And to pray before the LORD.'  
 Zec 8:23 "Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'In those days ten men from every language of the nations shall grasp the sleeve of a Jewish man, saying, "Let us go with you, for we have heard *that God is with you.*" ' ' "

Some people tremble at the thought that the Jews would one day become the leading servants of God once again. They know that in the western world they dominate the law profession, and they don't like what they see. Well, they need not worry about that, because none of the wicked Jews will make it into Kingdom of God any more than the wicked Gentiles will. They should not forget that Jesus Christ and His Apostles were Jews too, and I don't think anyone would object to having Them ruling the world. Only the Jews who repent and learn to apply the law of God without partiality or personal interest would attain that position. Let us not forget what God says about the rebellious house of Israel.

Eze 36:16 Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying:  
 Eze 36:17 "Son of man, when the house of Israel dwelt in their own land, they defiled it by their own ways and deeds; to Me their way was like the uncleanness of a woman in her customary impurity.  
 Eze 36:18 Therefore I poured out My fury on them for the blood they had shed on the land, and for their idols *with which* they had defiled it.  
 Eze 36:19 So I scattered them among the nations, and they were dispersed throughout the countries; I judged them according to their ways and their deeds.  
 Eze 36:20 When they came to the nations, wherever they went, they profaned My holy name—when they said of them, 'These *are* the people of the LORD, *and* yet they have gone out of His land.'  
 Eze 36:21 But I had concern for My holy name, which the house of Israel had profaned among the nations wherever they went.  
 Eze 36:22 "Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "I do not do *this* for your sake, O house of Israel, but for My holy name's sake, which you have profaned among the nations wherever you went.  
 Eze 36:23 And I will sanctify My great name, which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst; and the nations shall know that I *am* the LORD," says the Lord GOD, "when I am hallowed in you before their eyes.  
 Eze 36:24 For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land.  
 Eze 36:25 Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols.  
 Eze 36:26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.  
 Eze 36:27 I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do *them*.  
 Eze 36:28 Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your God.  
 Eze 36:29 I will deliver you from all your uncleannesses. I will call for the grain and multiply it, and bring no famine upon you.  
 Eze 36:30 And I will multiply the fruit of your trees and the increase of your fields, so that you need never again bear the reproach of famine among the nations.  
 Eze 36:31 Then you will remember your evil ways and your deeds that *were* not good; and you will loathe yourselves in your own sight, for your iniquities and your abominations.  
 Eze 36:32 Not for your sake do I do *this*," says the Lord GOD, "let it be known to you. Be ashamed and confounded for your own ways, O house of Israel!"  
 Eze 36:33 "Thus says the Lord GOD: "On the day that I cleanse you from all your iniquities, I will also enable *you* to dwell in the cities, and the ruins shall be rebuilt.  
 Eze 36:34 The desolate land shall be tilled instead of lying desolate in the sight of all who pass by.

Eze 36:35 So they will say, 'This land that was desolate has become like the garden of Eden; and the wasted, desolate, and ruined cities *are now* fortified *and* inhabited.'

Eze 36:36 Then the nations which are left all around you shall know that I, the LORD, have rebuilt the ruined places *and* planted what was desolate. I, the LORD, have spoken *it*, and I will do *it*."

Yes, God will cleanse these people out of their iniquity and filthiness, and grant them His Holy Spirit, not because they are worthy of it, but because He had concern for His holy name, which they had profaned among the nations in which He scattered them.

Now to give you an example of the difference the Holy Spirit makes in the life of human beings, take a look at what the Jews have done with the laws of God. Over the centuries, the leading Jewish scholars have simplified and regrouped those laws by related topics in a list called, "The 613 'Mitzvots'".

Mitzvot 94 read like this: "Not to commit sodomy with one's father's brother (Lev. 18:14).

This seems to imply that sodomy is all right with anyone else except with one's father's brother. The truth is, Leviticus 18:14 says no such a thing. Notice:

Lev 18:14 You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's brother. You shall not approach his wife; she *is* your aunt.

The "nakedness" mentioned here is that of the aunt, which in marriage becomes of the husband. Leviticus 20:11 and 20:21 confirm this.

Lev 20:11 The man who lies with his father's wife has uncovered his father's nakedness; both of them shall surely be put to death. Their blood *shall be* upon them.

Lev 20:21 If a man takes his brother's wife, it *is* an unclean thing. He has uncovered his brother's nakedness. They shall be childless.

As you can see, Leviticus 18:14 has nothing to do with sodomy, and everything to do with incest. We alerted them to their error and they seemed to be grateful for it, saying that they will look into it. That was about a year ago, but since Mitzvot 94 is still the same, it means that they are still looking into it. When they finish looking into it, they can come to us and we will show them more things that they need to look into.

Now coming back to the laws of God, some people may content that they do not cover all situations that arise from everyday conflicts and activities. Oh, they certainly do! When you eliminate speculative activities and those that are harmful to human beings, you eliminate the need for armies of lawyers and judges to arbitrate on such matters. For example, there will be no Futures and Stock Markets, there being no need for insurance against possible future loss since God guarantees a plentiful harvests for all. The priests will fulfill the role of judges, just as it used to be in the Old Testament times.

Jesus Christ confirmed the sanctity of the law of God when He said that He did not come to destroy it but to fulfill it.

Mat 5:17 "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.

Mat 5:18 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.

Mat 5:19 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*, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

Mat 5:20 For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds *the righteousness* of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

He not only confirmed the sanctity of the law, He went on to say that whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Many people confuse Jesus' teaching about personal forgiveness and His attitude towards the law. If the law is still intact, how can the two be reconciled? Simple! The law belongs to the State, while forgiveness is a matter of personal choice. Christians are under obligation to forgive personal offences, but they cannot interfere with the working of the law. Jesus Christ did not initiate a new set of laws for His followers. Neither did He leave them at the mercy of evildoers forever more. If someone does not mend his ways after repeated forgiveness, in serious matters that involve personal injuries, or interference with one's freedom of worship for example, the law must be allowed to take its course. The two go hand in hand up to a point, but when things become unmanageable, the State takes over and applies the law.

You may have heard of the expression, "three strikes and you are out" applied in many countries of the world at present. That is a Christian method, taught by none other than Jesus Christ Himself.

Mat 18:15 "Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother.

Mat 18:16 But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that 'BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY WORD MAY BE ESTABLISHED.'

Mat 18:17 And if he refuses to hear them, tell *it* to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.

You can wipe out all the laws and penal codes of this world and replace them with the first five books of the Old Testament and the first four of the New Testament, and have the formula for a harmonious and crimeless society. For if everyone kept God's commandments and loved his neighbor as himself, there would be no need for dispute resolution before judges and lawyers. Apostle Paul went on to say that in this world people are better off suffering loss than seeking justice before the unrighteous.

1Co 6:1 Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unrighteous, and not before the saints?

1Co 6:2 Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters?

1Co 6:3 Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, things that pertain to this life?

1Co 6:4 If then you have judgments concerning things pertaining to this life, do you appoint those who are least esteemed by the church to judge?

1Co 6:5 I say this to your shame. Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you, not even one, who will be able to judge between his brethren?

1Co 6:6 But brother goes to law against brother, and that before unbelievers!

1Co 6:7 Now therefore, it is already an utter failure for you that you go to law against one another.

Why do you not rather accept wrong? Why do you not rather *let yourselves* be cheated?

1Co 6:8 No, you yourselves do wrong and cheat, and *you do* these things *to your* brethren!

1Co 6:9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites,

1Co 6:10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.

1Co 6:11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

If none of those lawbreakers will be in the Kingdom of God, there will be no need of a large code of laws, or of armies of lawyers and judges to apply them. That is why people should clamor to study not the law of man in its huge complexity in order to amass a fortune in this world, but the law of God in its simplicity in order to gain a greater fortune, plus eternal life in the Kingdom of God.

# MYSTERY OF THE 144 000 PEOPLE

In the seventh chapter of the book of Revelation, we find a statement that has puzzled biblical scholars for centuries.

Rev 7:1 After these things I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree.

Rev 7:2 Then I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God. And he cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the

Rev 7:3 sea, saying, "Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads."

Rev 7:4 And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred *and* forty-four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel *were* sealed:

Countless books and articles have been written about who these people might be, but as far as we could ascertain none has come even remotely close to resolving this mystery. This comes as no surprise to those who know how biblical prophecies work. Like all the others, this prophecy was not meant to be understood before its time.

Since this event is just around the corner, it means that its time has arrived.

To find out who these people are, you need to understand the order in which God's people will be resurrected. This is what Apostle Paul told the Thessalonian people.

1Th 4:14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

1Th 4:15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive *and* remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep.

1Th 4:16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

1Th 4:17 Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

1Th 4:18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

The dead in Christ and those who are following Christ at the time of His return, will be part of this first resurrection. These are the kings and priests that will rule and judge the world during the Millennial Kingdom. Here is that Scripture again.

Rev 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then *I saw* the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received *his* mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

Rev 20:5 But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. *This is* the first resurrection.

Rev 20:6 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.

Some churches believe that these people will come from the twelve physical tribes of Israel only, but this cannot be true for the following reason. The book of Revelation speaks about a spiritual Israel, and we know that in the New Testament this is made up of believers from all nations and tribes of the world. Apostle Paul said that in the New Testament there is no longer a difference between Jews and Gentiles.

Gal 3:26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

Gal 3:27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

Gal 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Gal 3:29 And if you *are* Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Christ's followers are inheritors of Abraham's promise. And Abraham's promise is a place in the Kingdom of Heaven. Those who are resurrected in the first resurrection, the 144 000, are members of spiritual Israel that will be formed from people who follow Christ from all over the world. There is a very good reason for that: these people will rule over and judge all nations of the world.

Rev 14:1 Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred *and* forty-four thousand, having His Father's name written on their foreheads.

Rev 14:2 And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps.

Rev 14:3 They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred *and* forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth.

Rev 14:4 These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from *among* men, *being* firstfruits to God and to the Lamb.

Rev 14:5 And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God.

Rev 15:3 They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying: "Great and marvelous *are* Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true *are* Your ways, O King of the saints!

Rev 15:4 Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For *You* alone *are* holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You, For Your judgments have been manifested."

Moses was the man who received God's commandments, and had the mission of transforming Israel into a holy nation and a kingdom of priests?

Exo 19:5 Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth *is* Mine.

Exo 19:6 And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These *are* the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel."

What Moses was supposed to achieve with Israel on this earth, will be achieved with spiritual Israel in heaven. That is why those who are in the first resurrection will sing the song of Moses. They will learn to be righteous kings and priests, ruling the world according to the law of God when the rest of humanity is brought up in the second resurrection at the end of the millennium.

Rev 7:9 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands,

Rev 7:10 and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation *belongs* to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

Rev 7:13 Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?"

Rev 7:14 And I said to him, "Sir, you know." So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Rev 7:15 Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them.

Rev 7:16 They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them,

Rev 7:17 nor any heat; for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

These people are not resurrected at the beginning of the Millennium in the first resurrection, but at the end of it in the second resurrection. They are not among the 144 000 people that follow Jesus Christ wherever He goes during the Millennium

Although they 'wash their robes' during the Great Tribulation, and thus could be included in the first resurrection, because they are not meant to be kings and priests they must wait for their turn at the end of the Millennium.

The Millennial Kingdom will be an opportunity for God to show people what it is like when they obey Him, when they keep His commandments, and observe His Holy Days. Those who wholeheartedly believe in God's promise, who accept Jesus' sacrifice on their behalf, become His followers and accept to make their own sacrifice as it is required of them, have every chance of being among the 144 000 peoples that will be brought up in the first resurrection. They will be part of the team that will prepare the world during the thousand-year reign for the establishment of the real Kingdom of God at the end of the Millennium.

## **WHAT IS THE USA'S VITAL INTEREST?**

At the beginning of the current Middle Eastern crisis, President Bush said that the Middle East represented an area of vital interest to the United States and its allies. The invasion of Kuwait by Iraqi forces posed a direct threat to that interest and as a result a concerted military campaign was organized with the participation of a surprisingly large number of countries.

President Bush went on to say that the world had entered an "era of promise, freedom and peace", and that a new world order was being established in which acts of "naked aggression" like the one perpetrated by Saddam Hussein against Kuwait would not be appeased as was the case of Hitler's aggression against his neighbors that led to the Second World War.

Promising words from the leader of the world's greatest power, and worthy of praise if he remains consistent, but so far he has not explained why one aggression is worse than another. Saddam Hussein, the darling of the West when he invaded Iran, became its foe when he invaded Kuwait. It seems that in this new world order aggression is allowed against some countries but not against others, depending on whether they are friends or foes of the USA.

Neither did President Bush explain since when is the Middle Eastern oil vital to the survival of the U.S.A. and its allies, for no doubt oil is what he had in mind when he spoke of their vital interest. Would these countries perish if a quarter of the Middle Eastern oil were cut off? Would any nation perish if all the oil from that region were to be cut off - a most

unlikely occurrence anyway? To be sure, there would be major disruptions to many countries' economies and life-styles – not a bad development as far as the environment is concerned – but no nation would perish as a result of it, certainly not the U.S.A. and its allies, most of which still have substantial energy resources of their own plus supplies from other areas of the world. No, the current Middle Eastern military campaign has an entirely different objective of which most of its participants are not even aware. But more of this later, now let us find out what is the USA's truly vital interest.

In a front page article, in one of Australia's major newspapers (*Sydney Morning Herald*, August 10, 1990), a journalist described what he discovered when he inquired about the latest in children's computer programs. What appeared at first sight to be a seemingly innocuous article, of interest mainly to the younger generation, turned out to be neither innocuous nor childish, but a grisly saga of unspeakable abominations and perversions that sent shivers through our bodies. Here is part of what he wrote:

"Without much trouble, I arranged a meeting this week with a young man who prefers to be known by his nom-de-modem of Crud. I was shown a selection which ranged from shots of 'Penthouse' centrefolds to the latest La Cicciolina movie (The Rise and Fall of a Roman Empress) to Animal House, which features unspeakable acts with dogs, donkeys and chickens, to 'interactive party games' in which the player(s) can compete... The kids don't need access to the family video, they can do it in the privacy of their bedrooms... anyone who knows how to use a computer and a modem can obtain this stuff, and parents wouldn't have a clue."

One might have expected that such a story would have stirred to action the custodians of society's moral and spiritual standards, but one would have been very disappointed if he thought that way. Not a voice of concern from a preacher, a Member of Parliament, an educationist, a community leader, or from the ordinary people. These people's feelings have been dulled to such an extent by the fall in moral standards that nothing shocks them anymore. The religious leaders (in most countries but especially in America) are busy preaching week by week, telling people what they want to hear, instead of what they ought to hear, feeding themselves instead of feeding the flock (Eze.34: 8). Is it any wonder that national leaders are blind to their countries' true vital interests?

One would be excused in hoping that perhaps what the journalist described was an isolated case in some sleepy suburb of Sydney, but he would be very wrong again if he thought that way. The young man's computer was connected to an international network distributed from, where else but - you guessed it - the United States of America:

"Most of the material is taken from an overseas network of bulletin boards - there is much demand for the output of a military installation in the US Mid-West where bored computer operators create much of the raunchier electro-porn... 'There is no control over it at all,' said Crudd..."

No, there is no control over it at all, nobody cares what happens to our younger generation anymore. No one cares what kind of adults they will grow up to be with that kind of garbage in their minds, for once it is fixed in there it cannot be taken out. The people who created such despicable programs are now in the Middle East, trying to right the wrongs of the Arabs and perhaps impart to them some of their precious knowledge. Any wonder that some of the Arabs protest against the Americans, saying that they are polluting their holy places simply by being there.

The United States of America has become the most, morally and spiritually, polluted land on earth. They glorify homosexuality, bestiality, satanism, adultery, teenage promiscuity, crime, theft, and blasphemies, in movies that are then exported to every corner of the world. Everything God condemns in the Bible, they do and encourage others to do too. And now the

children, the last frontier as it is, have to be corrupted and infested with these unspeakable abominations through the insidious use of modern technology. And as if it is not enough to do it to their own people, they are forcing other nations to adopt their norms and lifestyle too. These days, in order to be in the good grace of the USA, you must allow your people the same kind of “freedoms” they allow to their people, otherwise you are not a good friend.

For centuries, the U.S.A. and the British Commonwealth have been the beneficiaries of the greatest of God's blessings. These countries have well and truly been “flowing with milk and honey”, a promise God made to those nations that obey His voice and keep His Commandments. Until recent times they seemed to be good examples to the world, with a work ethic and spiritual values that were worthy of emulation. Their pioneers gave us the term, “Puritan work ethic”, and zealously tried to make the Word of God the foundation of their living.

These nations also produced and exported most of the Bibles of this world, and were always ready to help others less fortunate who fell on hard times. But what has happened to them lately is nothing short of astonishing. They have fallen into a deep morass from which there seems to be no way out. Their obsessive emphasis on personal freedoms and “human rights” is threatening the very fabric of their society. Freedom without responsibility, without decency, without God, is no freedom at all; it is enslavement to one's uncontrolled passions and desires, and to Satan's clever devices and deceptions.

The Bible, the unshakable Word of God, has preserved for us the example of those nations that have defiled themselves with the kind of pollutions that are now rampant in the western world, and especially in the USA. God made it clear that there is a heavy penalty for such depravity, even to the point of national annihilation.

Lev 18:23 Nor shall you mate with any animal, to defile yourself with it. Nor shall any woman stand before an animal to mate with it. It is perversion.

Lev 18:24 'Do not defile yourselves with any of these things; for by all these the nations are defiled, which I am casting out before you.

Lev 18:25 For the land is defiled; therefore I visit the punishment of its iniquity upon it, and the land vomits out its inhabitants.

Lev 18:26 You shall therefore keep My statutes and My judgments, and shall not commit *any* of these abominations, *either* any of your own nation or any stranger who dwells among you

Lev 18:27 (for all these abominations the men of the land have done, who *were* before you, and thus the land is defiled),

Lev 18:28 lest the land vomit you out also when you defile it, as it vomited out the nations that *were* before you.

Lev 18:29 For whoever commits any of these abominations, the persons who commit *them* shall be cut off from among their people.

Lev 18:30 'Therefore you shall keep My ordinance, so that *you* do not commit *any* of these abominable customs which were committed before you, and that you do not defile yourselves by them: I *am* the LORD your God.' "

Can President Bush see now where his nation's truly vital interest lies? Does he realize the danger in which he finds himself, and the catastrophe that is about to engulf his nation and the rest of the world?

If he does, he ought to take quick measures to rectify it, for the conditions are all set for the most spectacular fall in the history of the world. That this coincides with the fast approaching Great Tribulation that will change the face of the earth, should make it that much more obvious that the nations of this world in general, and the U.S.A. in particular, are about to face the truth and consequences of their way of life.

How long before all these things shall happen? Not long for sure.

Luk 21:20 "But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near.

Luk 21:21 Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those who are in the midst of her depart, and let not those who are in the country enter her.

Luk 21:22 For these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled.

Is Jerusalem surrounded by armies now? No, not yet. They haven't finished with Iraq yet, but when they do they would only need to turn around and face Jerusalem. We said earlier that the current Middle Eastern crisis is not about Iraq and Kuwait. That's only the pretext to bring the armies of the world against Jerusalem. God works in wondrous ways. Would anyone, except a few Arab countries, have sent their armies against Jerusalem? Hardly, but now that they are there, it's a different story. Once Iraq is brought into line, whether by force or by diplomacy, those armies are not just going to pack up and go home leaving the Middle East no better than it was before. No, they need to create conditions for the new world order and the era of "promise, freedom and peace" promised by President Bush.

That cannot be achieved until the problems of Jerusalem are resolved and peace brought to that city first. Because three major world religions - Judaism. Christianity and Islam - claim it as a central place in their faith, the only possible solution is to make it an international city. That way we would have the conditions for a Pope to visit that city too. Did you know that no Pope has ever visited Jerusalem in two thousand years of Christianity? Only one Pope will God Almighty allow to step foot on that land and most likely he will come to inaugurate the new era of peace. When that happens, be ready for Armageddon.

**Postscript.** It is clear that since we first published this article eleven years ago, events have not develop quite the way we expected them to. The Pope did visit Israel and Jerusalem in the year 2000, yet the world did not explode into the Great Tribulation as we thought it would. That made our nemesis very happy, promptly declaring us to be false prophets. Human nature being as it is, would rather point out the one time that we were wrong than the ninety nine times that we were right. But if they knew by how much we were wrong, they would cry rather than laugh.

Our mistake was in being too anxious to see the return of Jesus Christ and not paying enough attention to His prophecy about the time of His return. But we are not alone; we are in good company, for virtually all of His Apostles believed that His return would occur during their lifetime and establish the Kingdom of God right then and there. We based our prediction on Jesus' prophecy of Matthew 24. Here is part of it.

Mat 24:15 "Therefore when you see the 'ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand),

Mat 24:21 For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.

Mat 24:22 And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.

Mat 24:23 "Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There!' do not believe *it*.

Mat 24:24 For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.

Mat 24:25 See, I have told you beforehand.

Mat 24:26 "Therefore if they say to you, 'Look, He is in the desert!' do not go out; or 'Look, *He is in the inner rooms!*' do not believe *it*.

Mat 24:27 For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

Mat 24:28 For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together.

Mat 24:29 "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

Mat 24:30 Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

When you look at this passage as we presented it here, you get the impression that immediately after the 'abomination of desolation' stands in the holy place the world would be plunged into the Great Tribulation. It is a belief that has been expressed by virtually everyone that has ever written on this topic.

But that is a trap into which everyone fell, including us. Jesus Christ knew about it, and that is why He added in parenthesis, (whoever reads, let him understand).

Now look at that passage again, and notice that between Mat. 24:22 and Mat. 24:29, there are 7 verses which we left out. Now look at them and consider when these events are supposed to take place.

Mat 24:23 "Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There!' do not believe *it*.

Mat 24:24 For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.

Mat 24:25 See, I have told you beforehand.

Mat 24:26 "Therefore if they say to you, 'Look, He is in the desert!' do not go out; or 'Look, *He is* in the inner rooms!' do not believe *it*.

Mat 24:27 For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

Mat 24:28 For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together.

What these verses are telling us is that after the 'abomination of desolation' defiles the holy place, there is still a period during which time false prophets will proliferate and try to deceive even the elect. Are they doing this work right now? Well, if you could see what we receive at this office, your hair would stand on end too. Their deceptions are so cleverly disguised, so deviously written, that millions of people are totally unaware that they are being led to destruction.

Now how long will this period last? This is what Daniel's prophecy, to whom Jesus Christ sent His disciples, is telling us:

Dan 12:11 "And from the time *that* the daily *sacrifice* is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up, *there shall be* one thousand two hundred and ninety days.

So from the moment the "abomination of desolation" defiles the Holy Place, there will still be one thousand two hundred and ninety days until the Great Tribulation.

As Jesus Christ said: "whoever reads let him understand".



## PRAYER AND BLESSINGS (1)

- Almighty Father, we come before You in humble worship, knowing full well that we are unworthy of the love and mercy You have shown us! Amen!
  
- Lord God Almighty, we thank You that through the sacrifice of Your Son Jesus Christ You redeemed us from our sins and gave us the hope of eternal life! Amen!
  
- Heavenly Father, we thank You that through Your Son Jesus Christ You made the Holy Spirit available to us that we may become Your children too! Amen!
  
- O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world, receive our prayer and grant us Your peace and blessings! Amen!
  
- Eternal God, we pray that You fill us with Your Holy Spirit that He may keep us in remembrance of You and our Lord Jesus Christ, and help us to overcome the trials and temptations of this world always! Amen!
  
- Our loving Father, forgive our sins, purify our soul, and heal our sicknesses, that we may serve and worship You and our Lord Jesus Christ with a pure heart always! Amen!
  
- Almighty God, place Your love and fear in our hearts that we may never depart from Your ways! Amen!
  
- Lord God and Savior, we beseech You take our heart in Your hand and lead us to Your heavenly Kingdom where there will be no more pain and suffering! Amen!
  
- Our Father, help us grow in grace and knowledge, and fulfill the command of our Lord Jesus Christ to become holy and perfect as You are holy and perfect! Amen!
  
- Everlasting Father, we pray that You place our names in Your Book of Life, that at the resurrection of the just You may grant us a place in Your Kingdom and be with You and our Lord Jesus Christ forever! Amen!
  
- Wonderful Father, we bless You, praise You, honor, worship, and glorify You and our Lord Jesus Christ for Your greatness and goodness, and Your wondrous creation! Amen!
  
- Eternal Father, we love You and our Lord Jesus Christ with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength, and shall continue to do so for the rest of our lives and for eternity! Amen!
  
- Holy Father, we now humble ourselves before You, that we may receive Your blessings:
  
- The Lord God bless us and keep us!
- The Lord let His light shine upon us and pardon us!
- The Lord grant us His peace and blessings! Amen! Alleluia!



## PRAYER AND BLESSINGS (2)

Eternal Father, we come before You with great joy and humility, asking You to listen to our prayer not because we are worthy of Your attention, but because we know that You love those who repent and seek Your forgiveness. Alleluia!

In Your greatness and goodness, You have called us to follow in the steps of Your Son Jesus Christ, and given us the hope of immortality in Your eternal Kingdom. Alleluia!

Now help us Father be a light to those who seek to come out of the confusion of this world, and a guide to those who want to follow Your ways. Help us grow together in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ, in the fellowship of Your Holy Spirit. Alleluia!

You have given us a great responsibility in taking Your Gospel to all nations. Now we pray that You bless those who hear Your Word and accept Your Gospel. Alleluia!

We pray for those who respond to this call and join us in this work of love and service to the world. We ask that You heal and strengthen them to overcome the trials and temptations that may come their way from this world that is hostile to Your Word. Alleluia!

We are grateful to You Father for Your love and mercy, and for the understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of Your creation that You have given us. The world does not acknowledge Your great power and wisdom, but we do Father, for You have shown it to us. Alleluia!

Now we pray that You reveal Yourself to all those who accept Your Word, and turn to You wherever they are in the world. Alleluia!

Bless us Father, and bless everyone who joins us in this worship and service to You and to our Lord Jesus Christ. Keep us in good health that we may be able to fulfil our duties to the end. Alleluia!

We offer special prayer for our brothers in Christ around the world who live under difficult circumstances. We trust in You and know that You keep Your Word to bless and protect those who keep Your Commandments and follow Your ways. Alleluia!

We also pray for those who are in authority over us, "that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence." Alleluia!

Our Lord Jesus Christ said, "I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly". We are grateful to You Father for blessing us abundantly, not with the riches of this world, but with hope of eternal life in Your wonderful Kingdom. Alleluia!

We ask You to continue to keep us neither wealthy, that our hearts may depart from You, nor poor, that we fall into temptations. Do the same Father to all who understand Your ways, who lay their lives in Your hand, and who worship You in truth and in spirit. Alleluia!

We honour, worship, and glorify You and our Lord Jesus Christ wholeheartedly, in whose name we always come before You. Amen! Alleluia!