

# Deadly Natural Disasters That Carry A Deadlier Message

Could anyone still say that the multitude of natural disasters of 2004 were mere cycles of nature, no different from those that have struck this planet in the past?

For over a decade we have warned the world that end time prophecies were in the making, that things would get progressively worse until humanity has learned the lesson that it cannot live without its Maker, yet few people took note of our warnings. Now, all of a sudden, world leaders and scientists are up in the arms over what is happening to this planet.

Year 2004 ended up with what the United Nations said was the worst natural disaster in its history, a tsunami of such magnitude that killed people in the hundreds of thousands and destroyed the livelihood of millions of people in twelve countries around the Indian Ocean. That was only the culmination of a series of catastrophes that struck all over the world.

There were four times more devastating hurricanes than usual in America, eight times more typhoons in the seas around Japan, floods of the century in China, India and Bangladesh, droughts of the century in Australia, mid west America, Africa and elsewhere, extremes of weather from draught to floods in Europe, deadly earthquakes in many parts of the world but especially in east Asia, plagues of locusts in Africa, the Middle East, Australia, and elsewhere, epidemics that threaten the future of many nations in the Third World, and general weather upheavals in all countries of the world.

Some television stations had the headline "Apocalypse" in the background as they read reports of these disasters, but generally speaking few people took seriously the notion that we are really in the end time. But if these are not the signs that Jesus Christ said would precede the Great Tribulation and His return to this earth, then we would like to know what they are. Let us have a look at what He said.

Mat 24:1 "Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple.

Mat 24:2 And Jesus said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down."

Mat 24:3 Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"

Mat 24:4 And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you.

Mat 24:5 "For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many.

Mat 24:6 "And you will hear of wars and rumours of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

Mat 24:7 "For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes

Mat 24:8 in various places. "All these are the beginning of sorrows.

Mat 24:9 "Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake.

Mat 24:10 "And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another.

Mat 24:11 "Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.

Mat 24:12 "And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.

Mat 24:13 "But he who endures to the end shall be saved.

Mat 24:14 "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

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 24:16 "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

Mat 24:17 "Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house.

Mat 24:18 "And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes.

Mat 24:19 "But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days!

Mat 24:20 "And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath.

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.

Mat 24:31 "And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Mat 24:32 "Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that

Mat 24:33 summer is near. "So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near; at the doors!

Mat 24:34 "Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place.

Mat 24:35 "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

Mat 24:36 "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.

Mat 24:37 "But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. "For as in the days before the flood,

Mat 24:38 they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark,

Mat 24:39 and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

Mat 24:40 "Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left.

Mat 24:41 "Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left.

Mat 24:42 "Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.

Mat 24:43 "But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into.

Mat 24:44 "Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Every single sign that Jesus Christ spoke about in this prophecy has been fulfilled, which means that the world is now in line for their culmination into the Great Tribulation and His return to this earth.

What is astounding about these impending world shattering events is that although the world has been warned about them countless times, it will still be taken by surprise by their fulfilment. If you think that the earthquakes and the tsunamis that struck this planet last year were unprecedented, consider the magnitude of the earthquake that will precede Jesus' return.

Rev 16:17 " Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, "It is done!" And there were noises and thunderings and lightnings; **and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth.**

Rev 16:19 Now the great city was divided into three parts, and **the cities of the nations fell.** And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath.

Rev 16:20 Then **every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.**

Rev 16:21 And great hail from heaven fell upon men, each hailstone about the weight of a talent. Men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, since that plague was exceedingly great.

Rev 17:1 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, "Come, I will show you the

Rev 17:2 judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication."

The current world travails are mere warnings of a catastrophe the likes of which the world has never seen, an earthquake of such magnitude that will flatten the cities of the nations, cover every island and flatten mountains. Those who think that this event is yet a long way in the future, will have a crude realisation soon. Our writings are a witness that we have done our duty before the world, before our Savior and before our God.

After providing countless scriptural and historical proofs of the bona fide of this work, we can do no more than add to it the latest scientific alarms about global warming and the threat it poses to the very survival of life on this planet, and the need for our heavenly Father to hasten the return of our Lord Jesus Christ and the setting up of the Millennium Kingdom without delay.

**"Polar Ice Caps Melting"** "Scientists have found that the ice caps in Greenland are melting ten times faster than previously thought. What's happening to the Greenland icesheet is considered a key measure of climatic change, and a sure sign that sea levels will rise dramatically. "The vast formidable landscape of the Greenland icesheet, compared to which our helicopter is but a speck moving beside it, is one of the largest masses of ice in the world. If it melts, the global sea levels will rise seven meters.

This is the frontline of what many scientists see as a key factor in climate change. It's remote and hostile, but what happens here could affect us all. This is volatile terrain. Huge icebergs brake away all the time, but the latest evidence is alarming – the recent melting is far beyond what normally happens in summer. It is ten times faster than previously thought.

This is the very edge of the icesheet, and scientists have discovered that it is in retreat at an alarming speed. To give you a sense of scale, this massive wall of ice behind me, is dropping in height at a rate of one meter a month. Whatever it causes, something pretty drastic is going on here. "If we'd been here three months ago, how much higher would we be standing", asked the reporter a local person.

"It's all changed in just a century. Back then the glaciers were pictured as being far larger. A satellite picture traces the extraordinary retreat of the ice, speeding up in the last fifteen years [*Remember, fifteen years ago is when we started this work*]. As a simulation shows what could happen – the whole thing is simply vanishing."

"Ferdinand and his family, has started cultivating potatoes. In the year 2000, he says, it got warmer [*Remember, in the year 2000 we unveiled Daniel's prophecies about the end time*]. Before that, the sea froze solid in winter. Now we are growing things like never before. Scientists don't understand it, but they are clear on two things: there is change, and the whole world will feel it." (SBS TV, July 29, 2004).

**Antarctic Ice Caps Melting Eight Times Faster Than a Decade Ago** "As the UN latest climate control conference gets under way, the United States has again resisted calls to ratify the Kyoto protocol. Leaders and environmentalists from 150 nations are gathering in Buenos Aires, just as scientists reveal that Antarctica's ice shelf is melting much more quickly than previously thought.

Jason Om (reporter): "Under the surface, Antarctica's glaciers are on the move. And according to a team of NASA scientists, much of the ice is melting."

Bob Thomas, Project Manager: "This has major implications, certainly for the next 10 to 100 years. Because if sea levels start to raise from this course, it will be impossible not to turn it into a rout."

J.O. "Researchers believe as the ice shells crack, the glaciers from behind start to accelerate into the sea at a rate eight times faster than a decade ago."

Jim Yungel, NASA scientist. "We're finding this in ice caps in Greenland; we're finding this in ice caps from northern Canada . . ." Almost everywhere we are making measurements around the world, the ice is in retreat."

J.O. It's more bad news for world leaders gathering in Buenos Aires. They're here for the UN's tenth annual climate change conference. Over the next ten days, they will discuss measures beyond the Kyoto protocol. It comes into force in February and requires its thirty nine signatories to dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2012. But without the world's worst polluter, the United States, the treaty will fail to achieve its stated aims. Washington remains adamant that the targets are too costly and unfair.

New figures show that China is now the world's second biggest emitter of carbon dioxide, pumping out one seventh of the world's CO2 emissions. The United States is responsible for nearly a quarter. Outside the conference, protesters are unhappy at the lack of progress.

Juan Carlos Villalonga, Greenpeace. "There is absolutely no balance. In ten years, the world hasn't been able to agree what type of effort to make to reduce emissions, despite the fact that there is an urgent problem."

J.O. "Australia, the other industrialised nation refusing to sign up, is expected to face renewed pressure to do so."

(SBS, TV News, December 7, 2004)

We strongly recommend that people read our article "Is It A Question Of Survival Or Salvation?" in *The Christian Herald No 3*, which we published as early as 1993. They will see where the roots of many of the current world problems lay. Here is a quote from that article.

"The former Soviet Union gave us Chernobyl then it collapsed. The world breathed a sigh of relief in the hope that the Cold War and the danger of nuclear confrontation were over. What the world did not know then was that the legacy of communism is just as catastrophic for the world as the danger from its nuclear arsenals: "Russia's nuclear-powered submarines and ice-breakers pose a greater danger of nuclear accidents than do its atomic power plants, according to Jane's Intelligence review" (*The Sun-Herald*, August 8, 1993).

People who are environmentally conscious know about the devastation caused by the Exxon Valdez oil spill in Alaska. But how many people know that in the vast Russian wilderness, four times that amount is being spilled every day from the decaying antiquated oil installations? The damage done to the environment by the oil spill and its many accompanying fires is incalculable. **The topsoil is being destroyed and the ground below, which was permanently frozen, is beginning to melt. Scientists fear that this will affect the global climate. Already in 1990, the temperature in the Arctic Circle reached 40 degrees Celsius, eight degrees above the normal.**

On the political scene, things are hardly better. The West has put all its hopes in President Yeltsin's ability and determination to introduce democratic reforms in Russia. But what will happen when he is no longer on the scene? He is in poor health, and while there

seem to be no obvious contenders who can step in his shoes and continue his reforms, there are many powerful rivals who call for the restoration of the Russian empire.

On the economic sphere, the one great resource that gives Russia its hard currency and keeps its grossly outdated industry going, is oil. But now it has been estimated that its oil reserves will dry out within a decade. What will the political and military leaders do when they see their people being decimated by hunger and their nuclear arsenal brought to nothing for lack of fuel? The dangers coming from that part of the world are yet to be comprehended.

"Last year, gathered at the Rio International Summit, more than one hundred heads of states to discuss the frightening deterioration of the environment. They discussed things, and that's all. Has anyone heard anything about that event since?

Human beings have an uncanny ability to discuss things when they get to a crisis point, then leave the problems to others to resolve. This time, however, the problems will not be resolved by others. The world is no longer facing temporary local problems, but intractable worldwide problems. It is no longer a question of survival, but one of salvation. But science cannot save; only God can.

Human beings, however, have decided that there is no room for God in their deliberations. Even when the world is crumbling around them, when it is becoming obvious that life itself is in danger of extinction, they will not turn to the only source that can save them.

They seek immortality through "scientific" methods such as cryogenics (deep-freezing of the corpse in the hope that one day scientists will discover the secret of immortality, cure their diseased bodies and revive them to eternal life), and perpetual replacement of body parts with robotic devices or genetically cloned body parts. That's the kind of immortality science offers humanity.

That educated people can come up with such absurdities is a witness to the bankruptcy of our educational system. That is the effect of compartmentalizing our tertiary studies in rigid disciplines without any relation to each other. It should be obligatory for all university students to study humanity subjects. As it is, we get medical graduates without ethics, lawyers without morals, and scientists with distorted visions of the future. They need to study not just any humanity subjects, but the good old fashion classics, philosophy and religion. During my university studies, the head of the Religious Studies Department once said that "time was when in philosophical studies people talked about God and the meaning of life, about ethics and values, but no more." These days they have a "Theory" that if people understand what they study, it is not worth studying.

Searching for truth, God, and a moral purpose in life does not go well with evolutionary thinking. In the struggle for survival there is no room for compassion, altruistic feelings and transcendental goals. Hedonistic materialism and the pursuit of mindless pleasures, are the things that count in our "enlightened" society. That is why humanity finds itself on the brink of catastrophe." (*The Christian Herald* No 3, p.4).

When people wonder why the melting of the ice caps has accelerated in the last decade or so they might wish to remember the inferno of oil wells that were set aflame by Saddam Hussein when he was in retreat from Kuwait.

Who is Saddam Hussein? The darling of France, Germany and Russia, which even after the discovery of over three hundred mass graves in Iraq still maintain that his removal was "illegal", and of Kofi Annan who said that he could do business with him even after he set up those enormous fires which greatly contributed to the global warming.

The following is a report from Australia's ABC television network about the perilous condition of the world.

TONY JONES [reporter]: Now to tonight's guest - David Goodstein is professor of physics at the California Institute of Technology or Caltech. In his latest book, 'Out of Gas' - the End of the Age of Oil', he explores the consequences of oil reserves getting lower and lower in the coming decades. Professor Goodstein joined us from San Francisco. David Goodstein, thanks for joining us.

PROFESSOR DAVID GOODSTEIN, AUTHOR 'OUT OF GAS': Thank you.

TJ: Your most alarming statement you make in your book is that civilisation as we know it will come to an end before the end of this century when we run out of fuel?

D G: Yes, that is, it's meant to be alarming, it's meant to alarm people, to wake people up and help prevent that from happening.

T J: So, how long do you reckon we've got in reality?

D G: Well, that's not an easy question to answer. We will probably have an oil crisis reasonably soon.

It may have already begun. We are much too close to the situation to know for sure. The information we're given is much too undependable for us to know for sure. **It might not actually happen until later this decade or even in the next decade.** Those differences are very important to us because we would like to go on living the comfortable lives we lead. But on the long scale of human history 10 or 20 years is absolutely negligible. So we will have an oil crisis. There are other fossil fuels that can be made a substitute for oil, at a price. So we might be able to muddle on for a while, though a much more likely scenario is that we will have resource wars and other terrible things happening. But it is possible we'll be able to muddle on for a while, even turning to coal, for example, which can be liquefied and used as a substitute for oil and which is in very large supply. But if we do all that, for one thing we will do an unpredictable amount of damage to our climate, and for another thing it's my guess that we would start running out of coal. Let us say we would reach the point where we're depleting the resource faster than we can develop new sources probably in the this century.

T J: This is one of the interesting things because people tend to think that coal and natural gas are available in virtually infinite quantities. If oil runs out you can turn to them. What you're saying is all fossil fuels are finite?

D G: All fossil fuels are finite. We don't have a very clear idea of how much there is for the various resources. The historical peak in oil discovery worldwide occurred around 1960, discoveries have been declining ever since. The historic peak and natural gas discoveries occurred in the 1970s and so the maximum for natural gas production probably is only 10 years or so behind that for oil. We seem to make hundreds to thousands of years estimates at the present rate of extraction but that's completely unrealistic because we use twice as much energy now from oil as we do for coal. If you're going to mine coal to substitute for the oil you have to mine it much faster, the conversion process is inefficient, the world's population is increasing. the poorer parts of the world want to be more like us and use more energy and finally, we will run out of, we will be in trouble with coal not when we mine the last tonne, but when we reach the peak production which is about the halfway point.

T J: We've just heard about Hubbard's peak and the speculation that we passed the point of no return. How does anyone know for sure that we're actually past that point?

D G: We can't know for sure. I've always thought that we will know that the peak has occurred when Saudi Arabia maxes out, when it reaches its peak in production. The Saudis claim they will be able to increase their production by a million barrels a day in a relatively short period of time. That promise has not yet been kept. We don't know whether it's true. If you look at the history of what's called proved oil reserves. The proved reserves of oil in the OPEC organisation of petroleum exporting countries, increased by 300 to 400 billion barrels in the late 1980s. There were no important discoveries of oil during that period. What happened instead was that OPEC changed its quota system how much oil each country could pump based on in part its claimed reserves and the claimed reserves just appeared out of nowhere by magic. So half the world's proved reserves may be an illusion and the information we're given is so undependable we really just can't say.

T J: Do you believe oil companies have lied about this?

D G: We know that Royal Dutch Shell did because they were audited by the SEC, by an external auditor an independent auditor forced to reduce their estimated reserves by 20 per cent. That sent shock waves through the entire oil industry. But 90 per cent of the proved reserves are held by countries, not by companies and nobody ordered the Saudi books.

T J: Have we really discovered all the remaining great oilfields though. We know for example geologists claim there is a great lake of oil under Antarctica?

D G: The people who would like to believe that the Hubbard's peak is further away than some of us fear, believe that we may make great discoveries in the deep oceans and the Antarctic, as you say, and central and northern Siberia and so on. I think they're grasping at

straws. Two-thirds of the world's oil reserves are in the Middle East the Persian Gulf. That's 10 times as much as Africa, ten times as much as the Middle East, ten times as much as in the former Soviet Union. There are no other important players in the game. We recently saw a spike because there were a couple of storms in the Gulf of Mexico. Just think of what's going to happen when the Saudi regime collapses.

T J: As we know, many scientists are convinced that global warming is happening so fast that if we don't stop burning fossil fuel fuels the earth will reach within 30 years a catastrophic tipping point. Are you saying that effectively we're going to run out of fossil fuels before we destroy the environment?

D G: There are some people who see that as the silver lining in the cloud. We'll reach Hubbard's peak and have to reduce our burning of fossil fuels and that will keep us from damaging and doing irreversible damage to the planet. It seems to me that's like hoping that the patient will have a fatal heart attack to save him from dying of cancer. It's not the way I think we ought to do things.

T J: Professor James Lovelock who's called by many the father of the environmental movement says "the industry world must now embrace nuclear power as the only viable alternative to oil and other fossil fuels". What do you say to that argument?

D G: It depends on what kind of nuclear power you mean. If you mean the kind of conventional power that we use for power in the United States, burning uranium 235, which is a rare isotope of uranium, there are a couple of problems. One of them is you would have to build 10,000 of the largest power plants that are feasible by engineering standards in order to replace the 10 terawatts of fossil fuel we're burning today. 10,000 nuclear plants of the largest kind possible - that's a staggering amount and if you did that, the known reserves of uranium would last for 10 to 20 years at that burn rate. So, it's at best a bridging technology. If you're talking about nuclear fusion, then in the long range the fuel is almost limitless but it's been 25 years away for the past 50 years and it's still 25 years away. It has been said of nuclear fusion and also shell oil which is one of the possible fossil fuels that they are the energy sources of the future and always will be.

T J: So, with nuclear power, even if we could build those 10,000 nuclear power plants presumably right around the world it would only be a temporary thing?

D G: It would only be a temporary fix. You can use the rest of the uranium to breed plutonium 239 then we'd have at least 100 times as much fuel to use. But that means you're making plutonium, which is an extremely dangerous thing to do in the dangerous world that we live in.

T J: So, what do you say then to the arguments of the Professor Lovelock and others, who say that nuclear power is the only alternative to avoid reaching the fatal tipping point?

D G: I agree with them. I think that we must make use of all possible alternatives to fossil fuels, nuclear power included. I'm just trying to stress that it's not the magic bullet that will by itself save us from our problems, but I certainly think we have to use it.

T J: There is one other alternative we should be talking about and that is hydrogen as fuel for future motor cars. What do you think of the hydrogen alternative?

D G: Hydrogen is made from fossil fuel. It is not a substitute for fossil fuels. It's just a way of conveying energy. It is not a source of energy. The economics today are if you make hydrogen by burning fossil fuel to generate electricity and then electrolyse water to make the hydrogen, it will require somewhere between three and six gallons of gasoline to make enough hydrogen to replace one gallon of gasoline. So, a hydrogen economy doesn't solve anything really. In the long-term future if you had plenty of fusion power available, stationary power, and the only problem was to make it mobile to serve for transportation then making hydrogen might make sense.

T J: So, what you're saying is that right now, making hydrogen could actually create more global warming than we're seeing at the moment?

D G: Yes, unless you make it from renewable sources such as solar energy or atomic energy.

T J: You were pointing out, and I think this is one of your major points - there is no magic bullet. So, presumably we have to combine our efforts using what we have - solar power, wind power, tidal power in combinations unlike anything we have seen before. Is that feasible though, would any politicians agree to make such great changes?

D G: Well, we went through a presidential election in the US in which neither party mentioned anything having to do with this problem, which I think is the most important problem of our era. Politicians do not want to touch this subject. Any politician who tells Americans that they'll have to give up their SUVs has committed political suicide. But it does seem to me that a courageous and visionary politician could say to us, "by burning fossil fuels we're putting ourselves at the mercy of some very nasty and unstable parts of the world and we're also endangering the climate of our planet. For the sake of our children and grandchildren we simply must learn to kick the fossil fuel habit." If that kind of challenge were given to our scientists and engineers I think we could do it.

T J: But as you say, the vision our political leaders is usually constricted to the three or four years of their electoral cycles. How long would be it be before the crisis reaches the point where great powers have no choice but to make radical decisions?

D G: It's impossible to guess. Everything we read about in the papers every day suggests that the worldwide system for production and distribution of oil is stretched to the breaking point. That certainly is a symptom one would expect if we have already reached the peak. But the fact we have a symptom doesn't mean we have already reached the peak, it's just an indication.

As I say, we are too close to the situation. The information we get is far too undependable for us to say. I can not predict how soon it will happen. But it will happen and when it happens there will be a huge price shock in the cost of gasoline at the pump, in the cost of everything that has to be transported and not insignificantly, in the cost of all petrochemicals. There are 6.4 billion people living on the planet today. Most of them reasonably well-fed as a result of what was called the 'green revolution' in the second half of the 20th Century. That consisted in a very large part of fertilising land using petrochemical-based fertilisers. So, that stuff is pretty valuable. I don't think we can sustain the population we have today, much less what we'll have in 20 or 50 years without petrochemical fertilisers.

T J: Just looking around the world, do you see any political leaders who appears to understand the full extent of this crisis?

D G: If there is one I have not met him or her yet.

T J: All right. Let's try, if we can, to end on a positive note. Are you confident that human ingenuity, scientific ingenuity will in the end find a way out of this problem?

D G: I'm hopeful, not confident.

T J: Professor David Goodstein, let's hope we have better news for our children and grandchildren than you're predicting. We thank you though, for joining us.

D G: Okay. (Broadcast by Australia's ABC television network on November 23, 2004).

We conclude this article with a short quote from Australia's largest circulation newspaper.

**"2004 in top ten warmest"** "A two-week hot spell in February, which set new temperature records, contributed to last year being ranked the **10<sup>th</sup> hottest year on record** [in Australia]. The Bureau of Meteorology's Annual Australian Climate Summary released yesterday said preliminary data showed the country's annual mean temperature was 0.45C above the 1961-1990 long-term average, making 2004 the tenth warmest year since 1910. In February, temperatures reached 48.5C in Ivanhoe in western NSW and 46.7C in Ouyen, south of Mildura in Victoria. The general rise in Australian temperatures during the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century was in line with global warming trends, the survey said. The World Meteorological Organisation reported the global mean temperature for 2004 at 0.44C above normal, **the fourth warmest year** since records began in 1861. The survey showed rainfall patterns to be far from uniform despite the 2004 average of 507mm outstripping the long-term average of 472mm." (*The Daily Telegraph*, January 7, 2005).

# "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free"

Just what did Jesus Christ mean when He made that statement? The Jews of His day thought that they knew the truth and were free, yet He told them that they neither knew the truth nor were free, but were in fact children of the Devil.

John 8:31 "Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.

John 8:32 "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

John 8:33 They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can you say, 'You will be made free'?"

John 8:34 Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin.

John 8:35 "And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever.

John 8:36 "Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

John 8:37 "I know that you are Abraham's descendants, but you seek to kill Me, because My word has no place in you.

John 8:38 "I speak what I have seen with My Father, and you do what you have seen with your father."

John 8:39 They answered and said to Him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would do the works of Abraham.

John 8:40 "But now you seek to kill Me, a Man who has told you the truth which I heard from God. Abraham did not do this.

John 8:41 "You do the deeds of your father." Then they said to Him, "We were not born of fornication; we have one Father; God."

John 8:42 Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me.

John 8:43 "Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word.

John 8:44 "You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the

John 8:45 father of it. "But because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me."

The implications of these statements are enormous, not the least because they have been misunderstood by most people, particularly by those who have transformed them into a doctrine of hatred towards the Jews. What they fail to understand is that in their natural state ALL human beings are the same, all are children of the Devil.

Luke 13:1 "There were present at that season some who told Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their

Luke 13:2 sacrifices. And Jesus answered and said to them, "Do you suppose that these Galileans were worse sinners than all other

Luke 13:3 Galileans, because they suffered such things? "I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.

Luke 13:4 "Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse sinners than all

Luke 13:5 other men who dwelt in Jerusalem? "I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish."

Repentance is the catalyst that changes human nature, the conscious act of mature individuals that changes them from children of the Devil into children of God.

Since the beginning of time God had people in the world who passed on this message to humanity, people who spoke His truth without fear or favour. There are countless examples of people who did so after the Flood of Noah, but not many people know that there were prophets of God who spoke His truth before the Flood too. Here is but one such example.

Jude 1:14 "Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten

Jude 1:15 thousands of His saints, to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him."

Speaking the truth of God in this world, however, has never been easy or welcomed. People would rather go their own way and "do their own thing" than have God in their proximity and take note of His messages. The very first human beings run away from God when they sinned, rather than repent, a characteristic they passed on to all their descendants.

Even the "chosen people", who saw an extraordinary array of miracles when they were delivered from Egyptian slavery, became uncomfortable with God in their proximity and demanded a mediator between them and God. It is worth having a fresh look at their story.

Lev 25:55 "For **the children of Israel are servants to Me**; they are **My servants whom I brought out of the land of Egypt**: I am the LORD your God.

Exo 19:3 And Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel:

Exo 19:4 "You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself.

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. "And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation."

Exo 19:6 These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel."

Exo 20:1 And God spoke all these words, saying:

Exo 20:2 "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

Exo 20:3 "You shall have no other gods before Me. (**The First Commandment**).

Exo 20:4 "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth

Exo 20:5 beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God,

am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me,

Exo 20:6 but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments. (**The Second Commandment**).

Exo 20:7 "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain. (**The Third Commandment**).

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. (**The Fourth Commandment**).

Exo 20:12 "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you. (**The Fifth Commandment**).

Exo 20:13 "You shall not murder. **(The Sixth Commandment)**.

Exo 20:14 "You shall not commit adultery. **(The Seventh Commandment)**.

Exo 20:15 "You shall not steal. **(The Eighth Commandment)**.

Exo 20:16 "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. **(The Ninth Commandment)**.

Exo 20:17 "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's." **(The Tenth Commandment)**.

Exo 20:18 Now all the people witnessed the thunders, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood afar off.

Exo 20:19 Then they said to Moses, "**You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die.**"

Exo 20:20 And Moses said to the people, "**Do not fear; for God has come to test you, and that His fear may be before you, so that you may not sin.**"

They loved their life so much they feared they would die if God spoke with them directly, yet all He wanted was to test them and teach them a lesson so that they may not sin and depart from His ways; that they may obey His Commandments and treasure the Covenant He made with them. That Covenant would have given them protection against their enemies, and unsurpassed blessings, but He conditioned it on their obedience to Him and on keeping His Commandments.

Exo 23:20 "Behold, I send an Angel before you to keep you in the way and to bring you into the place which I have prepared.

Exo 23:21 "Beware of Him and obey His voice; do not provoke Him, for He will not pardon your transgressions; for My name is in Him.

Exo 23:22 "But if you indeed obey His voice and do all that I speak, then I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your

Lev 26:1 adversaries." "**You shall not make idols for yourselves**; neither a carved image nor a sacred pillar shall you rear up for yourselves; nor shall you set up an engraved stone in your land, to bow down to it; for I am the LORD your God.

Lev 26:2 **You shall keep My Sabbaths** and reverence My sanctuary: I am the LORD.

Lev 26:3 'If you walk in My statutes and keep My commandments, and perform them,

Lev 26:4 then I will give you rain in its season, the land shall yield its produce, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit. . . "

Lev 26:7 You will chase your enemies, and they shall fall by the sword before you.

Lev 26:8 Five of you shall chase a hundred, and a hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight; your enemies shall fall by the sword

Lev 26:9 before you. 'For I will look on you favorably and make you fruitful, multiply you and confirm My covenant with you. . . "

Lev 26:14 'But if you do not obey Me, and do not observe all these commandments, and if you despise My statutes,

Lev 26:15 or if your soul abhors My judgments, so that you do not perform all My commandments, but break My covenant,

Lev 26:16 I also will do this to you: I will even appoint terror over you, wasting disease and fever which shall consume the eyes and cause sorrow of heart. And you shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it.

Lev 26:17 I will set My face against you, and you shall be defeated by your enemies. Those who hate you shall reign over you, and you shall flee when no one pursues you.

Lev 26:18 'And after all this, if you do not obey Me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins . . . "

The Israelites failed to keep their side of the bargain, and as a result they lost everything: blessings, land, protection, and worst of all, they lost their God. They had derailed so far from Him that when He came in their midst they did not recognise Him and they killed Him.

John 1:1 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:10 "He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.

John 1:11 **He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.**

John 1:12 **But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God,** to those who believe in His

John 1:13 name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:15 John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is preferred before

John 1:16 me, for He was before me.' "And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace.

John 1:17 For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ."

Yes, "the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ". The question is, does grace and truth override the law? Let us go back to the very beginning and settle this question once and for all in its context.

God felt so strongly about the Ten Commandments that He inscribed them again in their Scriptures. We won't list them again here, as you can read them for yourself in Deuteronomy chapter five. What we want to look at here rather is the emphasis He placed on the Second Commandment. He repeated that Commandment not once or twice, but dozens of times throughout the Old and New Testaments. And that is the Commandment against idolatry. Notice what He told the Israelites immediately after He gave them the Ten Commandments.

Exo 20:21 "So the people stood afar off, but Moses drew near the thick darkness where God was. Then the LORD said to Moses,

Exo 20:22 "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: 'You have seen that I have talked with you from heaven.

Exo 20:23 'You shall not make anything to be with Me; gods of silver or gods of gold you shall not make for yourselves.

Exo 20:24 'An altar of earth you shall make for Me, and you shall sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and your peace offerings, your sheep and your oxen. In every place where I record My name I will come to you, and I will bless you. 'And if you make Me an altar of stone,

Exo 20:25 you shall not build it of hewn stone; for if you use your tool on it, you have profaned it.

God repeated the Commandment against idolatry, then He told them that when they build Him an altar they must do it with stones on which they had not laid their tools, for the moment they did so they had profaned them.

Can you see why Jesus Christ said that in their natural state human beings are not free, do not know the truth of God, and can never know God Himself? To use an Old Testament term, carnal human beings are simply "unclean".

Of course He was speaking to the Jews, but His words have universal application. That is why He sent His disciples into all the world to make converts of all nations.

Mat 28:18 "And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

Mat 28:19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son

Mat 28:20 and of the Holy Spirit, "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

The Apostles of Jesus Christ understood the true condition of humanity, and the fact that they themselves were subject to the pulls of human nature even after conversion and the receiving of the Holy Spirit. As Apostle Paul said.

Rom 7:18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find. For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice.

Rom 7:20 Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.

Rom 7:21 I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good.

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

Rom 7:24 which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? I thank God;

Rom 7:25 through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.

Rom 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit."

All human beings who live according to the flesh are children of the Devil, and all who live according to the Spirit become children of 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. **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. But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit,

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

Rom 8:12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors; not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.

Rom 8:13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

Rom 8:14 For **as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.**"

Because the flesh is the domain of the Devil, those who live according to the flesh are easy prey for his wiles.

Eph 6:11 "Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Eph 6:12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Eph 6:13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand."

The number one danger that comes from the Devil, after the temptations of the flesh, is idolatry. From God's point of view, idolatry is a greater danger to human beings for it causes them to commit spiritual adultery, and that sin is more difficult to repent of than the sins of the flesh. For that is not merely a matter of turning away from dumb and deaf images, but one of changing one's thoughts and frame of mind, and that is very difficult indeed. Why do you think people find it so hard to depart from their idols and turn to the true God? One has to consider the fact that in the Bible idolatry is more than just worshipping forbidden images; it comprises all forms of disobedience to God.

Col 3:5 "Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and

Col 3:6 covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience,

Col 3:7 in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them."

I will never forget how I agonized for almost a year against my own thoughts when I entered into conflict with the leaders of the Worldwide Church of God some three decades ago when I was a member of that Church. Having been brainwashed into believing that they were true ministers of Jesus Christ, and that that was the "only true Church of God in the world", I refused to contemplate any thoughts that did not conform with their preaching, believing that they were coming from the Devil, as they were telling us.

The truth was quite different. God was trying to show me deadly scriptural errors on their part and I was refusing to accept it. How could I see things better than they did when I had been a member of that Church only for a few short years while they for decades, not only as members but ministers as well? Few people who have not experienced such agony would understand what it means to struggle against your own thoughts. In the end I had no choice but give in and admit that I was seeing things better than they did. I feared that by breaching this subject with them would cause them to expel me from that Church, which I did not want to happen for I still believed that that was a true Church of God. I had the sense to see that although they were false ministers of Jesus Christ, the milieu of the Church was conducive to the discovery of the truth of God for those who were diligently seeking it and were applying themselves to the study of the Bible. One of my stunning discoveries was that although they were telling people to study the Bible, they were not practicing what they were preaching.

The unwritten consensus in that Church, as in fact in most churches, was that you studied the Scriptures to confirm what the preachers said, not to confront them or discover new things. If you ever saw things differently you needed to study even more, not so much the Bible as their own writings, until you came to see things as they saw them.

Well, I did my very best to study both the Scriptures and their writings, but the more I studied the more things I saw in which they were wrong. In the end I did not care whether they expelled me from their church or not, I had to tell them the truth and happen what it may. That they expelled me did not surprise me anymore, but the hatred with which they did it, and their subsequent actions did. It was not enough for them to disfellowship me from their church, but they used the two people with whom I was sharing a flat to lock me out and rob me of everything I possessed. You have never felt real hatred until you experienced it from church people, from your own "brothers" in the faith. When Jesus Christ said that they "travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and when he is won, they make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves" He was not joking.

Now I would not care to remember or mention those things anymore, for God Almighty has saved me from those troubles and helped achieve far more than they ever will, but I do so because they are now creating even more problems for us in a series of panicked attempts to derail us from this course. The method they are using now is to burden us with false brethren, who are not satisfied to study our writings and follow our advise, but demand all sorts of material support as well.

How they could imagine that two people who struggle to support a worldwide work from their own pension could support them as well, we don't know. Nor do they understand that it is not outsiders who decide who and when one becomes a member of this Foundation, but Jesus Christ Himself. We are merely in tune with his will and comply with His wishes.

Membership into this Foundation requires repentance, meekness, truth, and righteousness, and we do not see such fruits on their part.

There are enough charitable organisations in the world to cater for the needs of the poor; our role is different.

We have been called to restore the long lost Gospel of Jesus Christ, and given enough resources to witness it to the world, a job we have done to the very best of our abilities.

For a decade and a half we have hoped and encouraged people to join us, and help us do a better and more widespread work, but none has done so. Then suddenly we find ourselves with 'converts' and people who claim to be members of our Foundation whom we have never heard of or seen before. Even so we would welcome them in our Foundation, except that from what we have seen so far we are not convinced that their works reflect a true repentance.

Moreover, some of them are telling us that they are Sunday worshippers when we have made it clear that Jesus' followers are expected to be found, at His return, observing the Sabbath (Mat. 24:20).

Our role is to cater to the spiritual needs of those who seek the truth of God, not to comply with the traditions of men that are so widespread in the churches of today.

This brings us back to the topic of the Commandments of God, and the question of how relevant these are in the New Testament. For this we need to go back briefly to the Old Testament, not to the writings of Moses, so beloved by the Jews, but to the much later writings of Isaiah.

Isa 56:1 "Thus says the LORD: "Keep justice, and do righteousness, For My salvation is about to come, And My righteousness to be

Isa 56:2 revealed. Blessed is the man who does this, And the son of man who lays hold on it; **Who keeps from defiling the Sabbath, And keeps his hand from doing any evil.**"

Blessed is the man who keeps himself from defiling the Sabbath. What man was this? Not the Israelite man, but the man of the world. The Covenant of God was given to Israel, but was intended for the whole world. This was one of Israel's greatest failures, for when God gave them His laws He did not mean that they had to implode among themselves and hide that law from the world. They were to be an example to the world, showing other human beings the kind of blessings and protection they too would enjoy if they embraced that law.

Isaiah's prophecy was addressing the whole world not only the Israelites.

Isa 56:3 "Do not let the son of the foreigner Who has joined himself to the LORD speak, saying, "The LORD has utterly separated me from His people"; Nor let the eunuch say, "Here I am, a dry tree."

Isa 56:4 For thus says the LORD: "To the eunuchs who keep My Sabbaths, And choose what pleases Me, And hold fast My

Isa 56:5 covenant, Even to them I will give in My house And within My walls a place and a name Better than that of sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name That shall not be cut off.

Isa 56:6 **"Also the sons of the foreigner Who join themselves to the LORD, to serve Him, And to love the name of the LORD, to be His servants; Everyone who keeps from defiling the Sabbath, And holds fast My covenant;**

Isa 56:7 Even them I will bring to My holy mountain, And make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices Will be accepted on My altar; For **My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations.**"

Lev 24:22 **"You shall have the same law for the stranger and for one from your own country; for I am the LORD your God."**

Now if a foreigner went to Israel today and told Jewish leaders that he would like to live among them and be treated like one of them, do you think they would embrace him and treat him as such? They are hardly more obedient to God now than they were in ancient time. And they wonder that they never get the blessings and protection that God promised them long ago. Apparently they do not give equal rights to their own people who turn to Christ, let alone to foreigners who may want to follow Him. Have the Jews ever stopped to consider these words of Moses?

Deu 18:15 "The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear."

If Jesus Christ is not that Prophet, would they pray tell us who might he be? We hope they have come around from the apostasy of believing that that Lubavitcher rabbi, who encouraged them to think that he was somebody and died crippled and in his sins, is their "Moshiach". Refusal to believe their own Scriptures, about a quarter of which clearly identify Jesus as the Messiah, does not nullify this fact nor spare them of the need for deep repentance.

We find it incredible that they cling on to the Old Testament even after seeing the light, insights, and incomparable advantages of the New Testament. All their sins – failure to conform with the tenets of the Old Testament, failure to treat foreigners who settled in their midst as their own, failure to turn the House of God into a House of Prayer **for all nations** – would be wiped out overnight if they repented, acknowledged their errors, and became members of the new elect of God.

Their current theology, which hardly conforms with the Old Testament let alone with the Bible as a whole, is extremely inadequate. And it cannot be otherwise for the Bible without the Holy Spirit is no longer the Word of God. Yet they cling on to the Old Testament determinedly and as a result they continue to reap the rewards of their unbelief and lack of repentance.

This is the malaise of modern academic theologians too. They think they can understand the Bible and God's plan for mankind by dismissing the relevance of the Holy Spirit. They specialise in peripheral aspects of the Bible – who wrote it, when and in what conditions – but are not particularly knowledgeable of its content. And it cannot be otherwise since they ignore the work of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit does not come to human beings on the basis of titles and qualifications, but on the basis of repentance, prayer, worship, and meditation of the law of God, and these are anathema in academic circles. One can hardly think of a better example of the blind leading the blind.

Even documented historical facts about the Bible are no longer kosher with those people. The biblical "documentaries" that have been coming out from those quarters recently are nothing but exercises in ignorance and incursions into demonism and spiritual darkness. I would never watch those programs anymore if I did not need to keep myself informed for the sake of this work. Those who have no such need are far better never looking at them.

The Jews keep blaming Christianity for their troubles during the two thousand years of Diaspora and for the Holocaust. Christianity had nothing to do with it. False Christians did all these things, the same that have been a thorn on the side of

true Christian for centuries. We find it extraordinary that even after we have conclusively proved to them that the Christianity of Jesus Christ had nothing to do with their pogroms, they continue to blame His followers for their problems.

What the mainstream churches have taken to the world IS NOT the Gospel of Jesus Christ but a false gospel. The Commandments of God were meant to form the basis upon which the New Testament was built, yet those churches have not only been telling their people that the Commandments of God have been done away with, but have been persecuting those who have remained faithful to the true Gospel of Jesus Christ.

These churches have been saying that the Ten Commandments have been substituted with the general Commandment to love one's neighbour as oneself. Well, this is true, but this Commandment does not do away with the Ten Commandments; rather it augments and builds upon them. One cannot love his neighbour as himself if he does not keep **all** of the other Commandments of God. If that were the case we would see a lot more love and a lot less war in the world today, but as it is, people keep neither the Ten Commandments nor love their neighbour as themselves.

Let us now go to Jesus Christ, the founder of the New Testament, and have Him speak to us on this matter.

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

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

Mat 5:19 fulfilled. **"Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."**

Is that clear enough? One cannot reach the Kingdom of Heaven if he breaks the least of God's Commandments.

John 14:15 **"If you love Me, keep My commandments.**

John 14:16 "And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever;

John 14:17 "the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He

John 14:18 dwells with you and will be in you. "I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

John 14:21 "He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."

John 15:10 "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in

John 15:11 His love. "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full."

Yes, without God's Commandments neither salvation nor genuine joy are possible. Now least people may wonder what Commandments Jesus was referring to, He recorded this incident in the Scriptures for us.

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

Mat 19:18 the commandments." 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."

If you want to enter into life, KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS. What Jesus Christ was telling us here is that what we have in this world is not life but misery, that only by keeping the Commandments can one attain true life and salvation.

He listed only the last six Commandments, the ones that deal with man's relationship to man, and left out the first four which deal with man's relationship with God, not because the first are not important, for they are more important than the last, but because the last six are in the power of human beings and are prerequisites for the first. In other words, those who break the last six Commandments have little chance of keeping the first, of coming near God, and of knowing Him.

John 17:3 "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."

Jesus said that His sacrifice was necessary for the arrival of the Holy Spirit, without whom no one could know God.

John 14:25 "These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father

John 14:26 will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you."

John 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.

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

The Helper, the Holy Spirit, is being sent by God to those who repent and follow His Son, and to no one else.

John 6:44 "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day."

Acts 4:12 "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Anyone can prove this fact by repenting, turning to a righteous life, and joining the elect of God. If he will not feel more joy and happiness than he has ever felt in life, he is free to leave and go back to the "pleasures" (enslavement) of this world.

Unlike other people, Christians do not kill those who depart from their midst and go after other gods and other religions. Such self-inflicted punishment is enough for them. We conclude with the immortal words of Jesus Christ, the One and Only true Savior of the world.

John 13:34 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

John 13:35 "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

John 15:11 These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.

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

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

John 15:14 "You are My friends if you do whatever I command you."

# The 'Strictly Secret' Communist Manifesto

The following document was sent from Moscow in 1947 to the newly formed communist governments of Eastern Europe. One of those Governments was that of Romania. The document came to life in late 1990s when Romanian democratic parties managed to wrest power briefly from the party of the former communists, the PSD. We have done our very best to translate it accurately and retain its intended meaning.

Moscow, 2.6.1947  
K AA/CC 113  
NK/003/47

## “Strictly Secret”

1. Embassies are forbidden to receive on their territories the natives who work for us as informers. They will be met by special service agents who are specifically trained and assigned to do this job. Their information will be passed on to the Embassies through these agents.

2. All measures must be taken to prevent the establishment of any links between our soldiers and local population. It is inadmissible for our officers to visit the natives in their homes; also, it is inadmissible for the simple soldiers to establish relations with native women. It is inadmissible the establishment of relations between our soldiers and the civilian population, inclusive with native soldiers.

3. It must accelerated the liquidation of citizens who maintain links, *unauthorised by us*, with the Communist Party, the Socialist Party, the Youth Communist Organisation, or with the Army and other associations. (Throughout this translation Italics are in the original).

4. In military campaigns against the opposition will take part those soldiers who have spent time on our territory [Soviet Union].

5. There must be an acceleration of the process of unification of all parties under a single umbrella, *making sure that all leading roles are taken by people who belong to our secret services*.

6. It is necessary the unification of all youth organisations. *Positions of leadership will be given to people who are approved by our special services*.

7. It should be organized and ensured that functionaries who are deputised to participate in congregational meetings, cannot complete their mandate for the entire period for which they have been elected. Deputies cannot under any circumstances convene meetings between institutions. If another solution cannot be found and a meeting must be convened, it should be ensured that those who had grievances and been active in calling the meeting in order to put forward their own concepts, are sidelined and prevented from carrying out their agenda. For every congress there must be new people who are prepared for this purpose, but only those who have been endorsed by our secret services.

8. Special attention must be paid to those with organizing capabilities, with sure chances of popularity. These people must be coopted, but if they are opposing it, they must not be given superior hierarchical positions.

**9. It must be ensured that State officials (excluding Securitate organs and those working in the mining industry) will receive small retributions. This must be especially the case with those working in the areas of health, justice, and culture, respective those in positions of leadership.** [Emphasis added throughout].

10. In all governmental institutions, respective in the majority of factories, we must have people *who cooperate with our special services (without the knowledge of the local administrative organs)*.

11. It shall be strictly watched that local press does not publicise statistics regarding the quality and variety of the goods that are made available. It is not permissible that this activity be called commerce. It must be made clear that we are talking simply of goods exchange.

12. Pressure must be exercised on local authorities to ensure that no documents are issued which prove ownership of land; the documents will show the quality of the land in use, but not who owns it.

13. The politics of the little country garden must follow this course in order to render the particular garden unprofitable. After that, collectivisation must begin in earnest. In the case of strong opposition, there must be a reduction in the distribution of the mechanisms of production, concomitant with an increase of State taxes. If the desired outcome is not achieved, it must be ensured that agricultural output will not satisfy the country's food needs, so that additional imports are needed.

14. All effort must be made to ensure that the decisions and orders – be they of judicial, economic or organisational – *are unpunctual*.

15. Every effort must be made to ensure that certain cases are discussed concomitant in a number of commissions, offices and institutions, but without any having the right to take decisions without the consent of the others (with the exception of the mining industry).

16. Administrative bodies cannot exercise any influence over the activities in their own factories. All they can do is to put in practice decisions taken higher up.

17. The syndicates have no right to oppose the administration. They must occupy themselves with other matters, such as the organisation of leisure activities in vacations, discussion of pension requests, cultural and entertaining programs, organisation of excursions, distribution of defective goods, the justification of points of view and decisions taken by the political organs of the administration.

18. It must be organised that only those leaders be promoted who execute impeccably the problems assigned them, but who do not go beyond their particular sphere of activity.

19. In regard to the natives that work for the Party, the State, or in administration, conditions must be created for them to be compromised in the face of employees, so that it would be impossible for them to return to their former positions.

20. Native military cadres could be given positions of responsibility in places where people in our special services have already been placed.

21. When army exercises are held, and on the occasion of shooting practices, a strict control must be maintained on the quantity of munitions used, regardless of the type of arms.

22. Every laboratory and research institute must be kept under observation.

23. Great attention must be given to inventors and innovators, and their activity supported and encouraged, but every invention must be registered with consistency at the centre. It is permissible the development of only those inventions that have applicability in the mining industry, or those that have our special permission. **It is not permissible the development of inventions that would ensure the growth in the production of finite goods, a reduction in the extraction of prime materials, or which would interfere with the fulfilment of our decisions. If an invention had become known, measures must be taken to be sold to foreigners. The documents regarding the value and the description of the invention must not be made public.**

24. The punctuality of the means of transport must be perturbed (*less those which conform with the directive NK 552-46*).

25. In the factories in which professional meetings and conferences are organised, an account must be kept of all proposals, including their authors.

26. Discussions with the workers that are in charge of solving production problems must be popularized, particularly those which criticise the past and current problems. Such issues must never be set aside from discussion.

27. Taking of positions by native leaders could have nationalistic or historical coloratura, and they can lead to national unity.

28. **Great attention must be paid that under no circumstances must there be water networks that are not linked to the main network in residential districts that are under construction. Old unconnected channels and independent fountains of water must be systematically liquidated, in time.**

29. **The reconstruction of old industrial objectives and the construction of new ones must be made in such a way that their residual materials are deposited in water reservoirs which could be used as reserves of potable water.**

30. *In cities that are reconstructed or newly constructed, it is not admissible to have excessive spaces that could be used to hold animals for an extended period, or for the deposit of foods.*

31. Industries that are held privately and personal entrepreneurs must receive only enough prime materials and utilities that ensure their failure to produce quality products. The price for their goods must be bigger than for similar products from State institutions.

32. *The expansion of State enterprises must be of the highest order and facilitated in all domains.* It is permissible the criticizing of administrative organs, but under no circumstances will a reduction in personnel of in their normal functioning be allowed.

33. Great care must be taken towards all projects of production in the mining industry, including in those institutions that are specifically marked as such. Care must be taken in preventing good provision of the international market too.

34. Special attention must be accorded to churches. Cultural-educative activities must be directed towards creating general antipathy towards them. *It is necessary to keep under observation church printing workshops, archives, preaching content, songs, all religious education, but also burial ceremonies.*

35. Popular professors in elementary and special schools, but especially in lyceums and faculties, must be removed. Their places must be taken by appointed people. An analysis must be undertaken of their programs, with a reduction in the number of documentaries. *In lyceums there must be a complete removal of studies of Latin and Greek languages, general philosophy, logic and genetics.* In regard to the teaching of history, *it must never be pointed out which rulers have served, or wanted to serve, the good of the country. What must be emphasized instead is the conniving of the rulers and the struggle of the oppressed masses.* In specialty schools must be introduced a narrow curricula.

36. Initiatives must be taken to organise activities of artistic or sporting nature which celebrate the struggle of the natives against invaders (especially the Germans, but excluding the Russians) and popularize the struggle for socialism.

37. On the local scene, it is forbidden the appearance of productions about natives that lived with us [USSR] before or during the Second World War.

38. If an organization is formed that supports an alliance with us, but at the same time insists over maintaining control over economic activities and official leadership, a campaign of condemnation must be immediately commenced accusing it of nationalism and chauvinism. This must be done in the following manner: profanation of graves that belong to us, destruction of cemeteries, spreading of manifestos that are defamatory to our nation and culture, and the rising of doubts about contracts made with us. Native people must be involved in this propaganda work, channelling their hatred towards these organisations.

39. Particular attention must be given to the construction and reconstruction of roads, bridges, and interconnecting routes, so that in case there is need for armed intervention, the places of resistance and concentration of reactionary forces can be accessible from all sides.

40. **Attention must be given to imprisoning the representatives of the political opposition. Particular attention must be given to those opponents that are popular with the native population. Before they could imprint themselves in the conscience of the native masses, they must be liquidated through so-called *unforeseen circumstances* or imprisoned and accused of common crimes.**

41. *It must be prevented the rehabilitation of those who were condemned in political processes.* If it becomes inevitable, such rehabilitation is permissible on the pretext that it was a judicial mistake; no reopening of their process must occur, and no convocation of those who accused them in the first place.

42. *Leaders named by the party, who through their activity have caused dissatisfaction among employees, must not be brought before judicial courts. In extreme cases, they will be recalled from function, and named in similar or superior positions.* In the end, they must be placed in leadership positions and kept under consideration as reserve cadres for the period of ulterior changes.

43. It shall be brought to the knowledge of the public those persons in leadership positions (in the first place those from the army, ministerial positions, important services, academic cadres) who are accused of hostile attitude towards the people, socialism, industrialization. It is an action that must attract the ire of the popular masses.

44. *Those who work in various [professional] functions must be removed and replaced with workers of the poorest professional preparation, or unqualified.*

45. Priority for university studies must be given to those who belong to the lowest social classes, who are not interested in further specialisation, but only in obtaining a diploma."

(Translated from, Vladimir Alexe, *Ion Iliescu - Biografia Secreta*, Annex 9, Elit Comentator, Romania, 2000).

If there ever was a document from Hell, conceived by the Devil and his cronies, this certainly must be it.

Communism had nothing to do with creating a utopia of well fed, well clothed, happy and contented individuals, and everything to do with creating an atheist hell of hungry, cold, suspicious, fearful and discontented individuals, with no God other than their own belly. Now we can see and understand why communist leaders were such insensitive hypocrites. Only one who had no compunction about lying, spying, denouncing and setting people against each other could have become a leader; one who had no feeling of compassion for his suffering compatriots; who had become so hated by his co-workers that he could never return to work in their midst again. And they wonder that the system came to such a crashing end.

If one had not lived through it, or seen it with his own eyes, he would have a hard time believing that human beings could come up with such a system. Those who have not lived through it and may still have doubts whether it was as evil as that should visit the remaining communist tyrannies – Cuba, North Korea, Laos, Vietnam, etc. – and see it with their own eyes before these too take their rightful place in history's dustbin.

Contrary to the claim that communism meant to do away with the class system, it reinforced a rigid hierarchical bureaucratic system like no other in history, one which engendered hatred and suspicion at every step and level of society.

A documentary film about Stalin showed how he was so obsessed with the fear of poisoning and murder, that he had his breakfast tasted and delivered on trays at the doors of three different apartments so as to prevent anyone from knowing exactly in which one he could be found at any one time.

What a life! Not to have a single person of trust near you. Even those closest to him abandoned him when they saw what kind of person he was: his wife committed suicide early in his reign, and his daughter fled his 'paradise' to the hated capitalist West. Any wonder that he became such a blood thirsty monster. He used to send out his secret service agents to murder a certain number of people to serve as examples to those who were reluctant to embrace communism. The agents knew that they would endear themselves to him by exceeding and even doubling that number. And we are not talking of just a few people, but of thousands upon thousands. The total number of communist victims in Russia is said to be as high as sixty million. And yet he is still revered by many who hunker for the "good old communist times".

Hundreds of millions of people worldwide were sacrificed on the altar of communism, and millions more were duped into giving their life willingly for what they thought was a worthy cause. One can only imagine their bewilderment at seeing what had become of their dream when they will be brought up in the resurrected for the judgment.

Students of history ought to study afresh the communist ideology in light of these revelations. But does anyone imagine that leftist ideologues who have penetrated educational institutions all over the world would include this document in their curricula? Why should they be more honest and conscious than their revered communist masters?

We would not be surprised if they declare this document to be a forgery, as they did with *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, together of which form the blueprint for communism. Amazon.com, the largest online bookshop, withstood enormous pressure from Jewish quarters to stop publishing that document. They refused it in the name of freedom of expression. One suspects that they also did it because they believe it to be true and historical.

*The Protocols of the Elders of Zion* was also meant to remain secret, but once brought to light their only option was to declare it a forgery. But there are a number of things that mitigate for its authenticity. 1) Upon reading it one simply does not get the feeling that it is a forgery. It is too complex and scholarly a document to be a deliberate forgery. 2) How could it be a forgery when the communist systems that ensued in Russia and in eastern European countries was based on it? 3) It continues to form the secret agenda of Freemasonry worldwide. Why do you think religion, family, education, and society as a whole, continue to be under attack from Hollywood, the legal systems, the media, all of which are largely under the control of Freemasonry.

The march to an atheist new world order has never stopped, only the means for achieving it have.

Local politicians are scarcely able to enact the will of their people anymore. They are mere pions on a worldwide chess table that seeks to do away with peoples freedoms of speech, freedom of worship and of conscience, in the name of "human rights". Human rights for lawbreakers and blasphemers, not for decent law abiding citizens. Consider this: A court in Saskatchewan, Canada, "upheld a 2001 ruling that fined a man for submitting a newspaper ad containing citations of four Bible verses that address homosexuality. Three years ago, the Ontario Human Rights Commission penalized printer Scott Brockie \$5,000 for refusing to print letterheads for a homosexual advocacy group." (WorldNetDaily.com, February 4, 2004).

The courts uphold the "human rights" of homosexuals at the expense of human rights for Christians. And to think that that legislation was supported by the churches! When God says that such countries will have little chance of surviving the Great Tribulation into the Millennial Kingdom of Jesus Christ, they think that this is a joke. How painfully they will discover the truth at that time, but it will be too late. Those who think that that event is far off into the future will have another painful realisation soon. Very soon!

Having failed to reform the world by means of violent revolutions, the enemies of God are now putting their efforts into subverting society through the law, the media, education, entertainment industries, and, of all things, the churches.

Examples of outrageous miscarriages of justice, common in this country as I am sure they are in yours, are not mere happenstances, but a well established agenda that serves two purposes: to silver line the pockets of lawyers with further litigation, and to create social unrest and optimum conditions for hypocrites to rise to the top and demand reforms that further the interests of the new world order. More than any other people, judges now play the role of social reformers. The fact that people and their elected representatives are becoming exasperated by their interpretation of the law seems to be of little concern to them. Their aim is to homogenise local laws into a worldwide legal system that serves the goal of the new atheist world order. Here is a sample of their work.

**"Judge rejects ban on gays"** Little Rock: A country judge has declared unconstitutional a state ban on placing foster children in households with a gay member. Ruling in a case brought by the Arkansas chapter of the Civil Liberties American Union, Country Circuit Judge Timothy Fox said the state Child Welfare Agency Review board had overstepped its authority by trying to regulate "public morality."

"The testimony and evidence overwhelmingly showed that there was no rational relationship between the . . . blanket exclusion (of gays) and the health, safety and welfare of the foster Children," Mr Fox said. ( *The Daily Telegraph*, December 31, 2004).

Demands for legal reform, usually fomented by God haters, are answered with laws that further curtail people's freedoms and take the world further away from God, from His laws, and the just society that His laws would engender.

If carried out equitably and honestly, globalisation would be beneficial for the world, for it would spread out the benefits of fair pay for equal amount of work from the developed to the developing countries. As it is, workers in the developing world, who are lucky enough to have a job, get a fraction of what their counterparts in the developed world get.

An equitable system will operate in the Millennium Kingdom of God when work will be valued equally everywhere. Those who push for a new world order now do so not to prepare the world for the Millennium Kingdom, but to keep it away. They are preparing the world to reject any Savior that does not agree with their perversions and false gospels. They cry out to heaven and to Jesus Christ: 'we do not want You, we have set up our own global atheist "utopia". Need we tell you what will be the outcome of this all?

Rev 17:14 "These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful."

# From Moldova To Chechnya - What One Sows Is What He Reaps

Beslan, a tiny town in Russia's southern province of North Ossetia, has become known around the world as a result of an Islamic terrorist attack in September 2004 that left hundreds of children dead or injured.

**"Moscow:** Schools in the southern Russian republic of North Ossetia are to resume today except for Beslan, the scene of a hostage drama in which 339 people died, local officials said. In Beslan itself, schools will reopen tomorrow, except for School No. 1 where the hostage seizure took place. These children are with their parents in rest homes, where they will attend classes but also receive psychological back-up. The other schools in Beslan will be inspected before they reopen." (*The Daily Telegraph*, September 14, 2004).

What the world does not know is that while Russian children were dying in North Ossetia, an almost similar tragedy was taking place in another part of Russia's Commonwealth of Independent States.

**Transnistria** "A campaign for donations began today for the orphans who are being starved by the Russian gendarmes of Igor Smirnov. Donations of money or food, clothes and books should be brought to the Hall of the Bucharest Palace. For almost a month now, 70 school children have barricaded themselves in their school against Russian gendarmes who want to expel them and annihilate any Romanian identity in the province of Transnistria. The campaign is supported by the Youth Romanian League, National Journal, newspaper Ziua, Association of Civic Media, Romanian Global News, World Romanian Council, and others. The World Romanian Council also started an on line petition at [www.petitiononline.com/nistru/](http://www.petitiononline.com/nistru/) which they intend to send to the United Nations, European Union, the White House, the USA Congress, and other world bodies." (*Ziua*, August 20, 2004).

**"Chisinau:** "The European Organisation for Security and Cooperation, OSCE, says that separatist Russians who want to create an independent State in Transnistria, a province of the Republic of Moldova, have thrown out into the street thousands of Moldovan children and closed down their schools. The separatists of Igor Smirnov have no intention of suspending the victimisation of Romanians from Transnistria.

More than a thousand students, of both primary and secondary schools, have been refused access to their schools. At the end of June, even orphan children from boarding schools, were thrown out into the street by Russian gendarmes.

"We demand that separatist leader, Igor Smirnov, respects his promise to reopen the Romanian schools from Transnistria, and permit them to function normally", said William Dell, OSCE Ambassador in Chisinau. Although Moldovan, Romanian, American and European authorities have demanded several times that Russian separatists from Tiraspol put an end to their anti-Romanian campaign, so far they have given no signs that they intend to conform with it." (*ZIUA*, September 13, 2004).

The difference between Beslan and Transnistria is that those who were victims in one place were perpetrators in the other. Beslan made the world media and Moldova did not, because Russia is what it is and Moldova is not. President Putin of Russia, whose country extends over nine time zones, felt that he did not have enough land and wanted a little bit more. So he decided to take it from the smallest and weakest member of the 'Commonwealth of Independent States', and create another Russian enclave, like the one in Kaliningrad.

A man of faith that he is, President Putin was seen worshiping in a glittering Russian Orthodox Church alongside the Russian Orthodox Patriarch in the aftermath of the Beslan massacre. The Patriarch, a man of love and piety, saw what Mr Putin was doing to his brothers in the faith from Transnistria and did not like it. So he showed him how he ought to deal with them.

**"Romanian Orthodox Church persecuted on the eastern side of the river Prut"** "The Orthodox Church of Basarabia, which is associated with Moscow, has begun an intense campaign of persecution against the Romanian priests of Moldova who want to affiliate with the Romanian Orthodox Church. The campaign has gone as far as burning down their churches. Priest Roman Galben was assaulted several times, the last time so severely that he ended up in hospital fighting for his life. His Church, "The Descending of the Holy Spirit", was burned down to the ground. Roman Galben informed the police of what happened to him and his church, but they told him that they were not interested in his problems. They mockingly suggested that he ought to forgive his assailants. The priest was assaulted again and warned that next time he will be killed if he insists on seeking affiliation with the Romanian Patriarchy." (*Ziua*, September 22, 2004).

Mr Putin got the message. He knew that if the Patriarch of the Orthodox Church was doing the same and did not condemn him for what he was doing in Transnistria, no one else in the world would. After all, did the world care much when Hitler annexed the Sudetenland from Czechoslovakia? Of course there is a big difference between Hitler and Mr Putin. For with all the evil that he created in the world, Hitler is not personally identified in the Bible; Mr Putin is. (See the article 'The Beats Of Revelation' in *The Christian Herald* No 4).

About two and a half centuries ago, when the British and the French were fighting in Canada, the French send word to their king that unless he was sending reinforcements he would loose Quebec. The king is said to have replied that when one's house is on fire he does not worry about the stables. Little do the Europeans know that the fire from their eastern stable will soon engulf their homes too.

A wise man once said that if might is right then Christ died in vain. But might is not right, and Christ did not die in vain. He died so that those who have no hope and are weak, may have hope and a defender. Moldavian Christians value life and do not fight dirty like the Chechen Islamists. Mr Putin will soon discover that when he took on the gentle but hapless Moldavians, he bit more than he can chew.

There was an unexpected corollary to this story. The Republic of Moldova refused to take part in the next meeting of Russia's Commonwealth of Independent States. That reduced their number from eleven to ten. Ten is the number of countries Russia will lead against Israel in the end time. In biblical prophecies, Israel is not just the nation of Judah, which the Jews have somewhat erroneously called 'Israel', but the nations that come from all tribes of Israel, and that means virtually all of Europe plus the Anglo-Saxon nations of the world. It seems that the end time Great Tribulation will be primarily between the countries that have inherited Israel's sceptre (Judah) and the primogeniture inheritance (Joseph) – current Israel and the Anglo-Saxons – on the one hand, and the other tribes plus the rest of the world on the other. Whether Russia's current Commonwealth of Independent States will be part of that end time alliance, or some other countries, remains to be seen. One thing is sure though: that alliance will be of a very short duration – one hour in biblical time.

The Republic of Moldova has been making tentative steps to come back into the bosom of its mother country. It is best if they do not hurry. That friendly, gentle, musical, poetic, Latin culture, deserves to be preserved, and since Romania has little chance of surviving the coming world vortex, that hope remains with Moldova. Romania's agents of death – the Securitate men – have struck a deadly blow against us during Iliescu's regime. They shamelessly continue to interfere with our work as if to say, 'see, there is nothing you can do to prevent us from doing what we want'. So twisted are that country's judicial and investigative systems, that even after we exposed the murder of my mother to the world, her murderers have not so much as even been asked a question, let alone being brought to justice.

The new President, Traian Basescu, vowed to wage war against the country's entrenched corruption, and to clean its judicial, administrative and security systems. We wish him well and pray for his success, but we are not too confident that he will succeed in the short time that he has. One of the country's main newspapers said that unless he removes the heads of that "cancerous gangrene" within a month he will suffer a similar fate as the former President, Constantinescu, who barely survived one term in power (*ZIUA*, Dec. 31, 2004).

If the country is to have any chance of surviving the impending wrath of God it must get rid of Dracula Park without delay, and bring to justice the criminals that have struck against this work. No country that has been dedicated to Dracula and persecuted the servants of God can hope to survive the Great Tribulation and make it into the Millennial Kingdom of Jesus Christ.

We warned Romania that it does not have two thousand years of history to recover from the abyss like Israel did, but its leaders have not heeded our warning. Now they and the nation will have to face the consequences. It is that serious.

We have not put our lives in danger for the sake of an ego trip, but because necessity has been laid upon us. Jesus Christ is the Life and the Foundation of this work. Anyone who strikes against this work strikes against Him, and He will not be crucified a second time.

# Reflections On The Collapse Of An Atheist Ideology

When the Soviet Union collapsed in 1990 after seventy years of tyranny, it seemed to us impossible that such an important historical event would not have a prophetic meaning. Yet after more than two decades of theological and historical studies, we had never come across any credible work that would put communism in a proper prophetic context. We say credible because there are plenty of writings about the Soviet Union that are not worth the paper they are written on.

I remember how soon after arriving in Australia some thirty years ago, I was waiting for a train at a Brisbane station when I noticed a billboard headline on another platform saying, "Russia Invades Israel."

I was shocked because there was no major international crisis to justify such an invasion. I was convinced that we were on the brink of a nuclear war, for that act could not be left unanswered by the West. I was puzzled that everybody was still going about as if nothing serious had happened, until I rushed over and read the small print.

That was not a newspaper headline as I thought, but the prophetic surmising of a church called the "Christadelphians". It was their belief that communist Russia was about to strike Israel any time. So sure were they of this fact that they did not even speak of it as a possible future event, but as if it were an already accomplished fact.

I cannot begin to tell you how angry I was, not the least because while rushing to read their poster, I lost my train. Being a weekend, when the trains were not running too often, I had to wait another half an hour or until the next train arrived.

Now it is an undeniable prophetic fact that Russia will one day make war against Israel, but the historical context was not ripe for such an event. Besides, what people fail to understand is that when the Bible speaks of the countries of the far north coming against Israel, it does not refer only to that tiny state in the Middle East, but to all the countries that came out of the tribes of Israel, and that means Europe, the USA, and the white Anglo-Saxon nations of the world.

That will occur in the end time, the time of the Great Tribulation spoken of by Jesus Christ, and I knew that there were yet a few prophecies which needed to be fulfilled before that could happen. (Prophecies which have been fulfilled by now, or are in the process of being fulfilled).

It is interesting to note at this point that the Worldwide Church of God and its siblings have been preaching for decades that there never will be a war between Russia and the USA, because "it is not in prophecy" and because Germany still represents their mortal danger. Until, that is, we showed them this prophecy of Zechariah.

Zec 9:13 "For I have bent Judah, My bow, Fitted the bow with Ephraim, And raised up your sons, O Zion, Against your sons, O Greece, And made you like the sword of a mighty man."

Everybody knows who the sons of Zion are, but few people knew that 'sons of Greece' in prophecy refers to the countries of the Orthodox Church, whose strongest member is by far Russia. (See details in *The Christian Herald No 13*).

Now these churches are preaching a different tune, without, of course, giving credit to whom credit is due for their change of mind. But then, do thieves and charlatans acknowledge their act when they steal things from others?

The prophecy about the Great Tribulation is still in the future, short or long as that may be, but we were interested in placing the collapse of the Soviet Union in a prophetic context, and that was in the past, an already accomplished fact.

For an event that had reverberated around the world, it proved to be a surprisingly difficult task, until we came across some very important clues.

The first one came when a television documentary revealed Russia's links to a Viking historical past. Russia's underground archives contain many Viking memorabilia, which the communist leaders did their best to keep from public view.

Biblical scholars rightly believe that Scandinavian people, from where the Vikings originated, are of Israelite stock, descendants of the so-called lost Ten Tribes of Israel. But for reasons which they have never fully explained, theologians have divided Europe roughly along the lines of the Iron Curtain: the capitalist West versus the communist East, the goodies versus the baddies, the noble Israelites versus the second class Gentiles. In so doing they have blinded themselves to prophetic facts which unmistakably place Russia within the bounds of Israel.

Many of Russia's leaders before communism, and just as many during communism, were of Israelite or Jewish stock.

The second clue came when we discovered that the famous Cossack warriors of Russia are of Israelite origin, their name being a derivative of Isaacs, or sons of Isaac in the local dialect.

And the third clue came with the discovery of *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, the Jewish blueprint for a new world order. The Russian Revolution, like the French, and to some extent the American, was nothing but an attempt by Israelite Freemasonry to free themselves from the strictures of religious dogma, particularly the Catholic one, and create an atheist world state. The Jews held the most important positions in the first Bolshevik Government. The ideology was theirs, those in charge of the army and secret services were Jews, and the Jews played important roles in setting up the communist governments of eastern Europe too.

The communist utopia was nothing but a perversion of the biblical concept of the Kingdom of God. When they departed from the Law and the Covenant of God, and God instituted a New Covenant and shifted the emphasis from an earthly to a heavenly kingdom, instead of conforming with the requirements for the new "elect of God", the Israelites in general, and the Jews in particular, decided that they will set up their own Kingdom of Israel on earth.

The Israelite's predilection to follow their own way was manifested very early in their history. First they would refuse to obey God, then when He told them that they would be punished and told to do something else, they would want to do what they should have done at first even though God did not want them to do that anymore and told them to do something else.

Num 14:26 "And the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying, "How long shall I bear with this evil congregation

Num 14:27 who complain against Me? I have heard the complaints which the children of Israel make against Me.

Num 14:28 "Say to them, 'As I live,' says the LORD, 'just as you have spoken in My hearing, so I will do to you:

Num 14:29 'The carcasses of you who have complained against Me shall fall in this wilderness, all of you who were numbered, according to your entire number, from twenty years old and above.

Num 14:30 'Except for Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun, you shall by no means enter the land which I swore I

Num 14:31 would make you dwell in. 'But your little ones, whom you said would be victims, I will bring in, and they shall know the

Num 14:32 land which you have despised. 'But as for you, your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness.

Num 14:33 'And your sons shall be shepherds in the wilderness forty years, and bear the brunt of your infidelity, until your carcasses  
 Num 14:34 are consumed in the wilderness. 'According to the number of the days in which you spied out the land, forty days, for  
 each day you shall bear your guilt one year, namely forty years, and you shall know My rejection.  
 Num 14:35 'I the LORD have spoken this; I will surely do so to all this evil congregation who are gathered together against Me. In this  
 wilderness they shall be consumed, and there they shall die.'" Now the men whom Moses sent to spy out the land,  
 Num 14:36 who returned and made all the congregation complain against him by bringing a bad report of the land,  
 Num 14:37 those very men who brought the evil report about the land, died by the plague before the LORD.  
 Num 14:38 But Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh remained alive, of the men who went to spy out the land.  
 Num 14:39 Then Moses told these words to all the children of Israel, and the people mourned greatly.  
 Num 14:40 And they rose early in the morning and went up to the top of the mountain, saying, "**Here we are, and we will go up to  
 the place which the LORD has promised, for we have sinned!**"  
 Num 14:41 And Moses said, "**Now why do you transgress the command of the LORD? For this will not succeed.**  
 Num 14:42 "Do not go up, lest you be defeated by your enemies, for the LORD is not among you.  
 Num 14:43 "For the Amalekites and the Canaanites are there before you, and you shall fall by the sword; **because you have turned  
 away from the LORD, the LORD will not be with you.**"  
 Num 14:44 **But they presumed to go up to the mountaintop;** nevertheless, neither the ark of the covenant of the LORD nor Moses  
 Num 14:45 departed from the camp. Then the Amalekites and the Canaanites who dwelt in that mountain came down and attacked  
 them, and drove them back as far as Hormah."

They were defeated when they presumed to do what God did not want them to do anymore. They repeated that kind of rebellion later on with Joshua.

Josh 24:13 'I have given you a land for which you did not labor, and cities which you did not build, and you dwell in them; you eat of  
 the vineyards and olive groves which you did not plant.'  
 Josh 24:14 "Now therefore, fear the LORD, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on  
 the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD!  
 Josh 24:15 "And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods  
 which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and  
 my house, we will serve the LORD."  
 Josh 24:16 **So the people answered and said: "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods;**  
 Josh 24:17 "for the LORD our God is He who brought us and our fathers up out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage, who  
 did those great signs in our sight, and preserved us in all the way that we went and among all the people through whom we passed.  
 Josh 24:18 "And the LORD drove out from before us all the people, including the Amorites who dwelt in the land. We also will serve  
 the LORD, for He is our God."  
 Josh 24:19 But Joshua said to the people, "**You cannot serve the LORD, for He is a holy God.** He is a jealous God; He will not  
 forgive your transgressions nor your sins. *[Joshua understood the principle of two kinds of people in the world, which did not become  
 apparent until Jesus Christ elaborated upon it in His parables and teachings, but he could not explain it to the Israelites at that time].*  
 Josh 24:20 "If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then He will turn and do you harm and consume you, after He has done  
 Josh 24:21 you good. **"And the people said to Joshua, "No, but we will serve the LORD!"**  
 Josh 24:22 So Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD for yourselves, to  
 serve Him." And they said, "We are witnesses!"  
 Josh 24:23 "Now therefore," he said, "put away the foreign gods which are among you, and incline your heart to the LORD God of  
 Josh 24:24 Israel." And the people said to Joshua, "The LORD our God we will serve, and His voice we will obey!"  
 Josh 24:25 So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made for them a statute and an ordinance in Shechem.  
 Josh 24:26 Then Joshua wrote these words in the Book of the Law of God. And he took a large stone, and set it up there under the  
 oak that was by the sanctuary of the LORD.  
 Josh 24:27 And Joshua said to all the people, "Behold, this stone shall be a witness to us, for it has heard all the words of the LORD  
 which He spoke to us. It shall therefore be a witness to you, lest you deny your God."  
 Josh 24:28 So Joshua let the people depart, each to his own inheritance.  
 Josh 24:29 Now it came to pass after these things that Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died, being one hundred and  
 Josh 24:30 ten years old. And they buried him within the border of his inheritance at Timnath Serah, which is in the mountains of  
 Ephraim, on the north side of Mount Gaash.  
 Josh 24:31 **Israel served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had  
 known all the works of the LORD which He had done for Israel."**

As soon as Joshua and the elders who knew him disappeared from the scene, the Israelites broke the promise they made to him and the Covenant they made with God. It was a habit that would remain with them to the present time, keeping promises when it suited them, and going their own ways when it didn't.

They behaved exactly the same way with Jesus Christ too. They rejected His Messiahship because He would not free them from the Roman domination and would not set up 'the Kingdom of Israel' right then and there. Then, when they realised what they had done, and that they were no longer the 'chosen people', they decided to set up their own 'kingdom of Israel', and make themselves 'chosen people'.

They had been fighting for that dream for two thousand years. They thought that they had accomplished it in Soviet Russia, but instead they created an atheist hell on earth.

Now there is a problem with including Russia among the descendants of Israel. (Certainly not all people of the Russian Federation are descendants of Israel; only those of European Russia, and most likely not all of them either). The problem comes in relation with the prophecy about "Jacob's trouble".

Jer 30:7 "Alas! For that day is great, So that none is like it; And it is the time of Jacob's trouble, But he shall be saved out of it."

It used to be generally assumed among those who dabbled in biblical prophecies that the Great Tribulation would pit the descendants of Jacob against the Gentile world. But if Russia is included among the Israelites, this can no longer be the case. Rather, what now appears more and more likely is that the Great Tribulation will pit some tribes of Israel against other tribes of Israel that have allied themselves with the Gentile world. More precisely, the tribes that came out of Joseph, which have inherited Jacob primogeniture blessings, and on which Jacob put his name – the Anglo-Saxons – plus Judah who inherited the spiritual sceptre, will find themselves facing the other tribes of Israel and the rest of the world. In other words, that awesome end time conflict will be a repeat on a larger scale of what happened in ancient world when Joseph's brothers

ganged up against him and sold him into Egyptian Slavery. The outcome however, though painful on all sides, will be quite different this time, for God says that Jacob will be saved out of it", which He does not say of any other nation.

This however still does not quite answer our question about the place in prophecy of the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Since many of Russia's leaders and people are of Israelite stock, it is not unreasonable, indeed it is prophetically imperative, that we regard Russia as an Israelite nation or dominion. When we do that, a whole new prophetic world opens before our eyes. In particular, it is the seventy years of communist rule that send us to prophecies that could not have been fulfilled at any time in history.

But before we look at those prophecies, we need some important clarifications. Virtually all biblical prophecies have dual fulfillments: a minor and immediate one, and a major and more distant one. Names such as Chaldea, Babylon, Tyre, etc., which can easily be identified in their ancient context, often become ruses in future fulfillments. For example, Babylon has long since disappeared from the face of the earth, yet the most prophetic book of the Bible, the Revelation, speaks of a Babylon the Mother of Harlots as an entity at the very end time. Similarly Tyre, a prosperous city on the East Mediterranean coast in ancient times, has long since vanished from history, yet the king of Tyre is supposed to lead a rebellion against God to the very end time.

If one were to take these terms literally, he would be searching forever for Chaldea, Babylon, Tyre, and others, which are no longer on the scene but which feature prominently in prophecies that lead to the very end time. All these terms need to be placed in prophetic and historic contexts that are quite different from the ones that may appear at first sight. Even 'Jerusalem' could mean more than the capital of Judea, often incorporating Jews who lived in territories outside Judea.

Without accepting the principle of duality in the Bible, one would never be able to understand its prophecies. For example, we have the Old Testament and the New Testament; the first Adam – a fallen man and the second Adam – a saving One; the Devil versus Christ, an earthly Kingdom and an heavenly Kingdom of God; earthly Jerusalem versus heavenly Jerusalem, and so on.

Another point to be remembered when discussing biblical prophecies, is that the term 'end time' could mean up to a century or more. For us that may seem quite a long time, but in God's scheme of things it is but a drop in the ocean.

It is a specific prophetic and historical context that identifies and determines when a prophecy is being fulfilled. With these in mind we can now look at some of the prophecies that speak of a seventy year period that can only refer to communist Russia.

Isa 23:15 Now it shall come to pass **in that day** that Tyre will be forgotten **seventy years**, according to the days of one king. At the end of **seventy years** it will happen to Tyre as in the song of the harlot:

Isa 23:16 "Take a harp, go about the city, You forgotten harlot; Make sweet melody, sing many songs, That you may be

Isa 23:17 remembered." And it shall be, at the end of **seventy years**, that the LORD will visit Tyre. She will return to her hire, and commit fornication with all the kingdoms of the world on the face of the earth.

The mention of seventy years would make little sense if applied to the ancient city by that name because Tyre existed for far longer than seventy years. Rather, this prophecy could only refer to an easily identifiable period in history, and we can think of no other time in which this seventy years period could apply. Since we are now coming to the wrapping up of all prophecies, there could never be a time when this prophecy could be fulfilled in the future either. Moreover, since elsewhere in the Bible the king of Tyre stands for the Devil and his rebellion against God, it is only fitting that the seventy year period of communist Russia be identified with the Devil's rule on earth. After all, what was the Soviet Union if not a demonic rebellion against God?

The term 'in that day' confirms that this prophecy takes us to the end time or close to it, for that is the time of God's vengeance upon a wayward world, the time of the Great Tribulation. The world has been in the preceding stages to that catastrophe ever since the Soviet Union collapsed. Is it not remarkable that that coincided with the beginning of the work of restoration of the long lost Gospel of Jesus Christ? Now back to Isaiah.

Isa 24:2 "And it shall be: As with the people, so with the priest; As with the servant, so with his master; As with the maid, so with her mistress; As with the buyer, so with the seller; As with the lender, so with the borrower; As with the creditor, so with the debtor.

Isa 24:3 The land shall be entirely emptied and utterly plundered, For the LORD has spoken this word.

Isa 24:4 The earth mourns and fades away, The world languishes and fades away; The haughty **people of the earth** languish.

Isa 24:5 The earth is also defiled under its inhabitants, Because they have transgressed the laws, Changed the ordinance, Broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore the curse has devoured the earth, And those who dwell in it are desolate. Therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, And few men are left."

The prophecy began with Tyre, then it shifted to the "people of the earth". Now notice something quite extraordinary. The earth mourns and fades away because "they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore the curse has devoured the earth, and those who dwell in it are desolate. therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, And few men are left."

Who has broken the covenant? The Israelites, yet the whole world suffers as a result of it. Why? Because the Covenant was not only for the Israelites, but for the entire world. That is why we keep on telling people that they must keep the Commandments of God, because these were not only for ancient Israel, but for the whole world, and for all time.

Isa 24:19 "The earth is violently broken, The earth is split open, The earth is shaken exceedingly.

Isa 24:20 The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, And shall totter like a hut; Its transgression shall be heavy upon it, And it will

Isa 24:21 fall, and not rise again. It shall come to pass **in that day** That the LORD will punish on high the host of exalted ones, And on the earth the **kings of the earth**.

Now why would the Lord punish the exalted ones and the kings of the earth **in that day**? Revelation tells us why.

Rev 16:13 And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of

Rev 16:14 the mouth of the false prophet. For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to **the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.**

Instead of being happy that their Savior is coming to fix this world and set up a righteous Kingdom, the “kings of the earth” are planning to fight him at his return. Not just some but all of them. Bear in mind that in the Bible all leaders are referred to as kings. And why would they fight Christ at His return? Because they have been deceived by a certain “Babylon, the Mother of Harlots”.

Rev 17:1 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, with whom **the kings of the earth committed fornication**, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication."

Rev 17:3 So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.

Rev 17:4 The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication.

Rev 17:5 And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

Rev 17:6 I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marvelled with great amazement.

Isn't it extraordinary? Instead of being happy that the Savior of the world is coming, the Mother of Harlots gathers up the kings of the earth to fight Him. And they meekly follow her.

When we sent our magazines to world leaders warning them of this fact, many of them made their way to the Vatican, seeking the Pope's blessings, and showing us exactly what they think of us. So did our Queen - Elizabeth II, our Prime Minister - John Howard, and President Bush of the USA, the three important personalities that play such important roles in the prophecies of our time.

The question is, how are all those kings going to fight Jesus Christ at His return? They are unlikely to take arms to fight Him in the air before He lands on Mount Zion, though given their madness they may well try to do that too, but they will fight Him by sending out the message that He is not wanted and not welcomed. They do that by worshiping a false god, and by following an idolatrous religion that presents a carved image, an abominable idol, as their saviour. And they happily approve of it and embrace that false religion.

Anyone who is not observing the Sabbaths, the Holy Days and the Commandments of God, and not living according with the true Gospel of Jesus Christ, is an enemy of God and of Jesus Christ.

Rev 12:17 And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, **who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.**

Rev 17:18 "And the woman [the Mother of Harlots] whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth."

Rev 18:1 After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory. And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird!"

Rev 18:3 "For all the nations have drunk of the wine of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury."

Rev 18:4 And I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive

Rev 18:5 of her plagues. "For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.

Rev 18:6 "Render to her just as she rendered to you, and repay her double according to her works; in the cup which she has mixed,

Rev 18:7 mix double for her. "In the measure that she glorified herself and lived luxuriously, in the same measure give her torment and sorrow; for she says in her heart, 'I sit as queen, and am no widow, and will not see sorrow.'

Rev 18:8 "Therefore her plagues will come in one day; death and mourning and famine. And she will be utterly burned with fire, for strong is the Lord God who judges her.

Rev 18:9 "The **kings of the earth who committed fornication and lived luxuriously with her will weep and lament for her, when**

Rev 18:10 **they see the smoke of her burning, standing at a distance for fear of her torment, saying, 'Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour your judgment has come.'"**

Now notice a parallelism between Isaiah's and Mathew's prophecies, how they both lead to the Great Tribulation.

Isa 24:22 They will be gathered together, As prisoners are gathered in the pit, And will be shut up in the prison; After many days they will be punished. Then the moon will be disgraced And the sun ashamed; For the LORD of hosts will reign On Mount Zion and in Jerusalem And before His elders, gloriously."

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 we go to Jeremiah, the other major prophet of the Bible, we also find prophecies that have an immediate fulfilment and a distant one. Once again, names that were real in ancient time, become allegorical in future fulfilments.

Jer 25:4 "And the LORD has sent to you all His servants the prophets, rising early and sending them, but you have not listened nor

Jer 25:5 inclined your ear to hear. "They said, 'Repent now everyone of his evil way and his evil doings, and dwell in the land that the LORD has given to you and your fathers forever and ever. 'Do not go after other gods to serve them and worship them,

Jer 25:6 and do not provoke Me to anger with the works of your hands; and I will not harm you.'

Jer 25:7 "Yet you have not listened to Me," says the LORD, "**that you might provoke Me to anger with the works of your hands to**

Jer 25:8 **your own hurt.** "Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts: 'Because you have not heard My words, 'behold,

Jer 25:9 **I will send and take all the families of the north,**' says the LORD, 'and Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, My servant, and will bring them against this land, against its inhabitants, and against these nations all around, and will utterly destroy them, and make them an astonishment, a hissing, and perpetual desolations.

The families of the north are real, but “Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon”, like the ‘king of Tyre’, are allegorical and stand for the Devil. The Devil, of course, works through the agency of human beings. Once again, what we have here are the horrors of communism and of the shambles that came of it. Let us not forget that ever since he came to power, Putin has

been doing his best to return Russia to the 'glorious times' of communism. It is opposition to this trend that will result in the world exploding into the end time worldwide devastation. We are now in the preparatory stages for that calamitous event.

Jer 25:10 'Moreover I will take from them the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the sound of the millstones and the light of the lamp.

Jer 25:11 'And this whole land shall be a desolation and an astonishment, and **these nations shall serve the king of Babylon**

Jer 25:12 **seventy years.**' Then it will come to pass, **when seventy years are completed**, that I will punish the king of Babylon and that nation, the land of the Chaldeans, for their iniquity,' says the LORD; 'and I will make it a perpetual desolation.

Jer 25:13 'So I will bring on that land all My words which I have pronounced against it, all that is written in this book, which Jeremiah has prophesied concerning all the nations.

Jer 25:14 '(For many nations and great kings shall be served by them also; and I will repay them according to their deeds and according to the works of their own hands.)'

Jer 25:15 For thus says the LORD God of Israel to me: "Take this wine cup of fury from My hand, and cause all the nations, to whom I

Jer 25:16 send you, to drink it. "And they will drink and stagger and go mad because of the sword that I will send among them."

Jer 25:17 Then I took the cup from the Lord's hand, and **made all the nations drink**, to whom the LORD had sent me:

Jer 25:18 Jerusalem and the cities of Judah, its kings and its princes, to make them a desolation, an astonishment, a hissing, and a

Jer 25:19 curse, as it is this day; Pharaoh king of Egypt, his servants, his princes, and all his people;

Jer 25:20 all the mixed multitude, all the kings of the land of Uz, all the kings of the land of the Philistines (namely, Ashkelon, Gaza,

Jer 25:21 Ekron, and the remnant of Ashdod); Edom, Moab, and the people of Ammon;

Jer 25:22 all the kings of Tyre, all the kings of Sidon, and the kings of the coastlands which are across the sea;

Jer 25:23 Dedan, Tema, Buz, **and all who are in the farthest corners**;

Jer 25:24 all the kings of Arabia and all the kings of the mixed multitude who dwell in the desert;

Jer 25:25 all the kings of Zimri, all the kings of Elam, and all the kings of the Medes; **all the kings of the north**,

Jer 25:26 **far and near, one with another; and all the kingdoms of the world which are on the face of the earth.**

All nations that were subjugated by communism suffered grievously, but all the kingdoms of the world were terrified by that subversive ideology. They all drunk from "Nebuchadnezzar's" cup whether they liked it or not.

Jer 25:27 "Therefore you shall say to them, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: "Drink, be drunk, and vomit! Fall and rise

Jer 25:28 no more, because of the sword which I will send among you." "'And it shall be, if they refuse to take the cup from your hand to drink, then you shall say to them, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts: "You shall certainly drink!

Jer 25:29 "For behold, I begin to bring calamity on the city which is called by My name, and should you be utterly unpunished? You shall not be unpunished, for I will call for a sword **on all the inhabitants of the earth**," says the LORD of hosts.'

A sword on all inhabitants of the earth will occur only once, just prior to the return of Jesus Christ during the Great Tribulation. This is why this prophecy is more about our time than about the ancient time when it had only a minor fulfilment. It is a prophecy that takes us beyond the seventy years of communism, to the very end of this age.

Jer 25:30 "Therefore prophesy against them all these words, and say to them: 'The LORD will roar from on high, And utter His voice from His holy habitation; He will roar mightily against His fold. He will give a shout, as those who tread the grapes, Against all the inhabitants

Jer 25:31 of the earth. A noise will come **to the ends of the earth**; For the LORD has a controversy with the nations; He will plead His case with all flesh. **He will give those who are wicked to the sword**,' says the LORD."

Jer 25:32 Thus says the LORD of hosts: "Behold, disaster shall go forth From nation to nation, And a great whirlwind shall be raised

Jer 25:33 up **from the farthest parts of the earth**. "And **at that day the slain of the LORD shall be from one end of the earth even to the other end of the earth**. They shall not be lamented, or gathered, or buried; they shall become refuse on the ground.

The term 'the furthest parts of the earth', needs no further explanation. The question is, why would all those people become refuse on the earth instead of being lamented and buried? The answer is rather obvious: there will be no one, or too few people, to lament for them and bury them. It will be a devastation the likes of which the world had never seen.

Mat 24:20 "And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. "For then there will be great tribulation,

Mat 24:21 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.

Now finally a prophecy from Zechariah which complements those of Isaiah and Jeremiah, but which brings us some good news too.

Zec 1:3 "Therefore say to them, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts: "Return to Me," says the LORD of hosts, "and I will return to you,"

Zec 1:4 says the LORD of hosts. "Do not be like your fathers, to whom the former prophets preached, saying, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts: "Turn now from your evil ways and your evil deeds." ' But they did not hear nor heed Me," says the LORD.

Zec 1:5 "Your fathers, where are they? And the prophets, do they live forever? Yet surely My words and My statutes,

Zec 1:6 Which I commanded My servants the prophets, Did they not overtake your fathers? "So they returned and said: 'Just as the LORD of hosts determined to do to us, According to our ways and according to our deeds, So He has dealt with us.' ' ' "

Zec 1:7 On the twenty-fourth day of the eleventh month, which is the month Shebat, in the second year of Darius, the word of the LORD came to Zechariah the son of Berechiah, the son of Iddo the prophet:

Zec 1:8 I saw by night, and behold, a man riding on a red horse, and it stood among the myrtle trees in the hollow; and behind him were horses: red, sorrel, and white.

Zec 1:9 Then I said, "My lord, what are these?" So the angel who talked with me said to me, "I will show you what they are."

Zec 1:10 And the man who stood among the myrtle trees answered and said, "**These are the ones whom the LORD has sent to walk to and fro throughout the earth.**"

Zec 1:11 So they answered the Angel of the LORD, who stood among the myrtle trees, and said, "We have walked to and fro throughout the earth, and behold, all the earth is resting quietly."

Zec 1:12 Then the Angel of the LORD answered and said, "O LORD of hosts, how long will You not have mercy on Jerusalem and on the cities of Judah, **against which You were angry these seventy years?**"

Zec 1:13 And the LORD answered the angel who talked to me, with good and comforting words.

Zec 1:14 So the angel who spoke with me said to me, "Proclaim, saying, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts: "I am zealous for Jerusalem And for Zion with great zeal.

Zec 1:15 I am exceedingly angry with the nations at ease; For I was a little angry, And they helped; but with evil intent."

Zec 1:16 "Therefore thus says the LORD: "I am returning to Jerusalem with mercy; My house shall be built in it," says the LORD of hosts, "And a surveyor's line shall be stretched out over Jerusalem."

The rebuilding of Jerusalem and the cities of Judah after the seventy years of Babylonian captivity was only minor. This future "seventy years" prophecy was not about Jerusalem and the cities of Judah, which have been under God's curse not for seventy years now but for two millennia, but for the cities and people that have been under Jewish domination for seventy years during their ill conceived atheist empire.

Is it not remarkable that while millions of people have been decimated under that tyrannical atheist ideology, the Jews themselves suffered their greatest calamity ever, the Holocaust, elsewhere in Europe? As God says, what you do to others it shall be done to you. But of course this is terribly 'politically incorrect', and no Jew would admit to that.

Or would they? Unless they admit and repent of the horrors they have brought upon the world through their disdain for the Covenant of God and their ill conceived communist 'utopia' on earth they too will perish during the Great Tribulation, just like the nations that would come against them. Enough of them have turned to Jesus Christ to enable the remaining promises made by God to the patriarchs of old to be fulfilled as stated.

The Bible says that when they are brought back from Diaspora they would be blessed and protected by God. Well, back they have been brought, but blessed and protected they have not been. Why? Because when they came back they were supposed to repent, admit their mistakes, turn to God in heartfelt repentance, and to the One they have foolishly pierced.

Zec 12:8 "In that day the LORD will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; the one who is feeble among them in that day shall be like David, and the house of David shall be like God, like the Angel of the LORD before them.

Zec 12:9 "It shall be in that day that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.

Zec 12:10 "And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.

The fact that the Jews have not reached this point yet is no reason for anyone to turn against them, for as the Scriptures make it clear, God is the final arbiter of all that is happening in the world. Like other people, they have merely fulfilled the role assigned to them from above. Although they have caused untold sufferings to others, they themselves have suffered more than enough.

People should never forget what Jesus Christ, who once said that they were children of the Devil, also prayed as He was giving up His Spirit: "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." (Luke 23:34). Earlier He also said:

Mat 7:1 "Judge not, that you be not judged.

Mat 7:2 "For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you."

As Jesus Christ would have said, go and do likewise.

## The Benefits Of Meditation, But Which Meditation?

Meditation seems to be the buzz word these days: Buddhist meditation, Hindu meditation, Shinto meditation, yoga meditation, whichever way meditation – all meditations according to eastern religions. These kind of meditations are spreading like bush fire in the West, all promising peace of mind on earth and happiness in heaven.

There is no doubt that meditation could be beneficial to people's health, but it has to be the right kind of meditation for it could also be very harmful. All meditations have religious undertones, and this where major problems arise, and where the differences between eastern and western meditations become important. For while both seek to slow down the mind and clear it of troublesome thoughts, what they promise in regard to the ultimate destiny of life and soul is very different and very dangerous for the people of God.

Salvation in Buddhism means reaching Nirvana – a state of nothingness where all thoughts are extinguished and all memory is lost. Nirvana is achieved by meditating oneself to extinction – emptying the mind of everything, and leaving behind a shell that is aware of nothing but the immediate environment – a walking corpse, in other words. It is not for nothing that Buddhists feel best when they can meditate in cemeteries. But, like in all other religions, over time a huge gap has developed between Buddhist philosophy and Buddhist practice. While telling their followers that there is no God, they encourage them to worship the Buddha and seek their fortune in idolatry, stargazing and witchcraft. Idols of the Buddha, the stars, and the spirits of witches, have become the new gods in Buddhism. But what does the Bible, the Word of the true God, say?

Isa 47:12 "Stand now with your enchantments And the multitude of your sorceries, In which you have laboured from your youth;

Isa 47:13 Perhaps you will be able to profit, perhaps you will prevail. You are wearied in the multitude of your counsels; Let now the astrologers, the stargazers, And the monthly prognosticators stand up and save you from what shall come upon you.

Isa 47:14 Behold, they shall be as stubble, The fire shall burn them; They shall not deliver themselves From the power of the flame; It shall not be a coal to be warmed by, nor a fire to sit before!"

God was addressing the people of Israel in this passage, but we know that the Bible is a book for the whole world, especially since the New Testament. Jesus Christ is a Savior of the whole world, and that is why He sent His followers to make disciples of all nations.

Mat 28:18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. "Go therefore

Mat 28:19 and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

Mat 28:20 "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Having refused the New Testament, and the Holy Spirit that comes with it, the Jews have made themselves easy preys for eastern demagogues. They have one of the highest percentages of people who fall victims to eastern religions' idolatrous philosophies.

By comparison, Christian meditation, does not seek salvation through emptying one's mind of everything, or salvation through idols, stargazing and witchcraft. Christian meditation aims to slow down a troubled mind and replace harmful thoughts with calming beneficial ones. This is achieved by meditating on the Law of God, on aspects of creation, and on the purpose of human life. Salvation means attaining the mind of God, expanding one's consciousness to the consciousness of God, being at peace with God, the self, and the universe. That cannot be achieved through an empty mind, by separating oneself from God and His creation. All things have been made for Him and through Him.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:2 He was in the beginning with God.

John 1:3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

John 1:4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

John 1:5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

Rom 11:34 "For who has known the mind of the LORD? Or who has become His counselor?"

Rom 11:35 "Or who has first given to Him And it shall be repaid to him?"

Rom 11:36 **For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.**

God did not create the universe and the human mind in their wondrous complexity, only to have them annihilated in wilful acts of self immolation. Denying the existence of God means denying the existence of the self. Which explains why Buddhists, who say that there is no God, end up seeking salvation in death and thought annihilation. Which explains also why people who deny God, or act contrary to His life giving laws, have aimless troubled minds and lives.

Proper meditation leads not only to peaceful and contented minds and souls, but to prosperity and success in life, the very things that are shied away by eastern philosophies, which teach that life is sorrow and misery. Life is what you make of it: sorrow and misery, or blessing and happiness. This is what proper meditation is all about, and what it should lead to.

Josh 1:8 "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but **you shall meditate in it day and night**, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For **then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.**"

Psa 119:97 Oh, how I love Your law! It is **my meditation all the day.**

Psa 119:98 You, through **Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; For they are ever with me.**

Psa 119:99 I have more understanding than all my teachers, For **Your testimonies are my meditation.**

Psa 119:100 I understand more than the ancients, Because I keep Your precepts.

Psa 119:103 How sweet are Your words to my taste, Sweeter than honey to my mouth!

Psa 119:104 **Through Your precepts I get understanding;** Therefore I hate every false way.

Psa 119:12 "Blessed are You, O LORD! Teach me Your statutes!

Psa 119:15 **I will meditate on Your precepts, And contemplate Your ways.**

Psa 119:16 **I will delight myself in Your statutes; I will not forget Your word.**

Psa 1:1 Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel **of the ungodly**, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the  
Psa 1:2 scornful; But his delight is in the law of the LORD, **And in His law he meditates day and night.**

Psa 1:3 He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither;

Psa 1:4 And whatever he does shall prosper. The ungodly are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind drives away.

Psa 1:5 Therefore **the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.**

Psa 1:6 **For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the ungodly shall perish.**

People often speak with glee of the immediate benefits of eastern meditation, without realising where it all leads to if carried to its ultimate goal. By contrast, there are no hidden dangers in Christian meditation, only benefits all around.

Meditation outside of God's realm is dangerous because it lets people believe that they can obtain happiness without God, through their own singular efforts. Christian meditation serves double purpose: harmonious and happy existence in this world, and salvation in the next.

Christian meditation can be done individually or in groups. It can be done at home – meditating on the Word of God; in nature – meditating on the unfathomable riches and beauty of God's creation; listening to a soothing piece of music, travelling, and even working. The Apostles of Jesus Christ spoke about the beneficial effects of meditation in combination with prayer, supplication and thanksgiving.

Phil 4:4 "Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!

Phil 4:5 Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing,

Phil 4:6 but in everything **by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the**

Phil 4:7 **peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.** Finally,

Phil 4:8 brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy; **meditate on these things.**

Phil 4:9 The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you."

1 Tim 4:8 For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that

1 Tim 4:9 which is to come. This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance.

1 Tim 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.

1 Tim 4:15 **Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all.** Take heed

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

What wonderful benefits Christian meditation can bring to one's life: peace of mind, prosperity, success, wisdom, and, ultimately, salvation. No contest!

# Crying Aloud In A 'Wilderness' Of People

**"Cry aloud, spare not; Lift up your voice like a trumpet; Tell My people their transgression, And the house of Jacob their sins." (Isa 58:1).**

It has fallen to us, people of little significance, of another country and another tongue, to cry aloud the sins of these people and warn them of the consequences of their wayward ways. As the Scriptures say:

Isa 28:9 "Whom will he teach knowledge? And whom will he make to understand the message? Those just weaned from milk? Those just drawn from the breasts?"

Isa 28:10 For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, Line upon line, line upon line, Here a little, there a little."

Isa 28:11 For **with stammering lips and another tongue He will speak to this people**, To whom He said,

Isa 28:12 "This is the rest with which You may cause the weary to rest," And, "This is the refreshing"; Yet they would not hear.

Isa 28:13 But the word of the LORD was to them, "Precept upon precept, precept upon precept, Line upon line, line upon line, Here a little, there a little," That they might go and fall backward, and be broken And snared and caught.

Isa 28:14 Therefore hear the word of the LORD, you scornful men, Who rule this people who are in Jerusalem,

Isa 28:15 Because you have said, "We have made a covenant with death, And with Sheol we are in agreement. When the overflowing scourge passes through, It will not come to us, For we have made lies our refuge, And under falsehood we have hidden ourselves."

Isa 28:16 Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation, A tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a

Isa 28:17 sure foundation; Whoever believes will not act hastily. Also I will make justice the measuring line, And righteousness the plummet; The hail will sweep away the refuge of lies, And the waters will overflow the hiding place.

Isa 28:18 Your covenant with death will be annulled, And your agreement with Sheol will not stand; When the overflowing scourge passes through, Then you will be trampled down by it."

Now there is no doubt that Jesus Christ was the precious cornerstone "Foundation" who will make justice the measuring line and sweep away the refuge of lies, but He was neither of another tongues nor of stammering lips.

On the other hand, neither myself nor my companion in this work are native English speakers, nor are we particularly good at public speaking. Only God knows how much we have been struggling with this work, and how much we wished we had someone to at least do the proofreading for us, but we haven't had that person, nor could we afford it. And yet, we have done a work that was sorely needed in the world, one that does not resemble anything in the world at present, and one which has reached far and wide.

What is even more extraordinary is that this work is being done by people who received an atheist education in their formative years, both of us having spent the first decades of our lives in communist Romania. Our experiences from those early years gave us the strength to cope with the trials that the work of God would inevitably draw from a world full of unbelievers. We both put our lives in danger when we escaped from one of the most totalitarian regimes this world has ever seen, none of us having any idea at that time that we would end our days working for God.

Our primary mission has been to the English speaking people, but because this has coincided with astonishing advances in technology we found it easy to extend this work to the whole world. We are happy to see that even without engaging ourselves in paid advertising we have managed to make this work known "as a witness" to the furthest corners of the earth. Some people may wonder what we mean by the words "as a witness". Well, there are myriads of missionaries out there in the world, seeking converts and preaching all kinds of gospels to gullible people, but there are no reference points by which people may judge whether what they are being preached is right or not. Now they can do so by referring to *The Christian Herald*, for just because someone is reading from the Bible does not necessarily mean that what he is preaching is right. Our magazines are free and easily accessible to everyone who is interested in them. We witness the original Gospel of Jesus Christ that has become lost in the course of time.

It was our heavenly Father's decision to make His Word understandable only to those who gained merit by virtue of an honest quest for truth and righteousness, and to seal it from those who did not deserve to understand it, those who turned it into a commercial venture. As Jesus said:

Mat 11:25 "At that time Jesus answered and said, "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes.

Mat 11:26 "Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight."

We have done our very best to make it easy for people to compare what people preach with what the Bible says. We have been supporting our viewpoints with heavy scriptural quotations. We have found that what churches and religions are preaching these days is in large measure not true.

At no time in history were these words of Apostle Paul more appropriate than they are now.

2 Cor 11:4 "For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted; you may well put up with it!

2 Cor 11:5 For I consider that I am not at all inferior to the most eminent apostles. Even though I am untrained in speech,

2 Cor 11:6 yet I am not in knowledge. But we have been thoroughly manifested among you in all things.

2 Cor 11:7 Did I commit sin in humbling myself that you might be exalted, because I preached the gospel of God to you free of charge?"

2 Cor 11:12 But what I do, I will also continue to do, that I may cut off the opportunity from those who desire an opportunity to be regarded just as we are in the things of which they boast.

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

2 Cor 11:14 And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his

2 Cor 11:15 ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.

2 Cor 11:19 For you put up with fools gladly, since you yourselves are wise! For you put up with it if one brings you into bondage,

2 Cor 11:20 if one devours you, if one takes from you, if one exalts himself, if one strikes you on the face.

2 Cor 11:21 To our shame, I say that we were too weak for that! But in whatever anyone is bold; I speak foolishly; I am bold also.

2 Cor 11:29 Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to stumble, and I do not burn with indignation?  
2 Cor 11:30 If I must boast, I will boast in the things which concern my infirmity.  
2 Cor 11:31 The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying.”

2 Cor 13:5 “Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is  
2 Cor 13:6 in you? Unless indeed you are disqualified. But I trust that you will know that we are not disqualified.”

How many times have you heard preachers tell their listeners to examine themselves in order to find out whether they are in the faith or not? How can one find that one out? **By the standards of the Scriptures!** There is no other way by which people may know whether they are in the faith or not than by studying the Scriptures. You may seek help, you may read what other peoples write, but in the final analysis unless you take your destiny in your own hands, unless you check it out in the Scriptures for yourself, you will not make it into the Kingdom of God. Those who think that one can distinguish between true and false preachers just by listening to them will almost certainly end up becoming victims of a cruel deception.

It is not for nothing that Apostle Paul warned people to beware of false preachers who transform themselves into ministers of Christ, who present the Devil as a minister of righteousness. Do you know any of them? Of course you don't. If you knew you would not attend their churches. Or do you think that such people cry aloud that they are false preachers, that they preach Satan instead of Christ, that theirs is a false gospel which leads to perdition rather than salvation?

It is everyone's duty to “test the spirits” to find out whether they are true or false, whether they are of God or of the Devil. The spirits, good or bad, work through human beings, through our feelings and actions towards others.

1 John 2:9 “He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now.

1 John 2:10 He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him.

1 John 2:11 But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

1 John 3:15 Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

1 John 4:15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

1 John 4:16 And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God,

1 John 4:17 and God in him. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world.

1 John 4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been

1 John 4:19 made perfect in love. We love Him because He first loved us.

1 John 4:20 If someone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?

1 John 4:21 And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also.

1 John 5:1 Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is

1 John 5:2 begotten of Him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments.

1 John 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.”

Here we have three tests by which people may know if they are approved by God. The first one is the test of love. Those who hold grudges, who are short tempered, who cannot forgive, who do not love their neighbours as themselves, who do not love even their enemies, who cannot say ‘I am sorry’ when making mistakes, are not approved by God. And if one is not approved By God he cannot be saved.

One should always remember the example of Jesus Christ. As He was dying on the cross, He looked at those who were rejoicing at His feet and casting lots for His clothes, and said: “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.” (Luke 23:34). Do you think that you suffered a greater loss than Jesus Christ? If you did not, why can't you forgive them and ask the Father to forgive them too? When you do that, you may or may not help them much, but you will certainly do yourself a lot of good. A positive, loving and forgiving frame of mind works wonder upon your own body and psyche. It heals you and helps you live a happier, longer, and more fulfilled life.

Now to the second test: “Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.” Without acknowledging Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior no one can be saved. That requires faith, and faith comes from the Scriptures.

Rom 10:17 “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

And the third test that came out of these Scriptures: “this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments”.

The Commandments of God are the surest standard and most visible test by which people may determine whether they are being preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ or some other concoction. (See *The Christian Herald No 11*, for further details on this topic).

This then has been the purpose of this work from the very beginning – to offer people an honest guide on their road to salvation.

Now it is an extraordinary trait of human nature that when offered something good and particularly useful for salvation, to receive it with a great deal of cynicism and suspicion. Although thousands upon thousands of people have availed themselves of our services, and an increasing number continue to do so through our web site, no one has taken the plunge to join us in this work. We knew that this would be the case and said so in more than one edition of this magazine. How did we know it? Because we saw that this work fit into a specific prophecy. The Bible told us that those who would be engaged in it would have to do it alone to the very end.

Now even though we knew this fact very well, we were still amazed to see that people who started a religious work at about the same time, whose gospels are demonstrably false, who put heavy burdens upon their followers, have been surging ahead in leaps and bounds, having amassed great wealth and large following by now, yet we are still in the same condition that we started with. Now what does that tell you about human nature?

Other churches and their preachers would have been mortified to admit that they were so spectacularly unsuccessful, yet we not only did not keep this a secret, but let the whole world know of our predicament. Why? As a witness, and because this confirms our bona fides.

Knowing what the Scriptures say about this work, we wrote years ago that if a single person converted to our religion and became a genuine follower of us, we would not be whom we say we are. There was plenty of time for the world to prove us wrong, yet it did not happen. No one has joined us, and no one has lend us a helping hand, even though we have exhausted ourselves trying to bring people to the true Gospel of Jesus Christ, giving little heed to what that might mean for us if our prediction proved wrong.

Now what shall we say or do about that? Shall we be terribly heartbroken about it, or rather should we say:

**“Thank you world for making us who we are!”**

# The Secret to Unveiling the Book of Revelation

When we announced in our last edition that we intended to unveil the mysteries of the book of Revelation, a new wave of sermons about that book took to the air from our nemesis. They were determined to leave nothing for us to talk about that they have not already covered. We were quite happy for them to do that, and they did not disappoint us.

As we expected, as biblical scholars have done for ages, when they talk about the book of Revelation they begin with the so-called "four horsemen of the Apocalypse." It suits them well, for those horsemen are usually accompanied by frightening scenarios that send shivers through the hearts of those who watch them. Nothing pleases preachers more than to keep their followers on their toes and ask for more of the same. They are good at that, for there is plenty of it in the Bible, but what they are not so good at is placing them in their proper historical setting, in the context of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Apocalypse is the Greek name for the book of Revelation, except that in the course of time the term 'Apocalypse' has acquired some sinister end time connotations. Not long ago, there was a film called 'Apocalypse Now', which is still being shown on our screens from time to time. They used the Greek term for it instead of its English counterpart for its suggestive end time sinister scenarios. Imagine the effect it might have had if they had called it, 'Revelation Now.' Not only would it not have stirred people's interest, but it would have caused them to run away for it would have implied serious biblical stuff.

Now there is no question that the four horsemen of Revelation convey a frightening scenario. What is under question is when are they supposed to made their presence in the world.

Modern theologians who have written or spoken about them, have either placed them in an indeterminate future, or in not very convincing scenarios in connection with the two World Wars and the Cold War, and more recently with Islamic terrorism. In plain words, what they have offered us is nothing but unsubstantiated guesswork.

Decades ago, when I used to be a member of the Worldwide Church of God, its leader, the late Herbert W Armstrong, used to say that ninety percent of biblical prophecies are yet to be fulfilled, a theme which has been taken by his disciples and still being preached these days.

What I could not understand then was how on earth could he possibly know that? I resolved that mystery only recently when those who have been trained in his school of thought said the same thing in connection with 'four horsemen of Apocalypse. You see, if those horsemen are yet to make their presence in the world, or if they have struck only in recent times, then indeed the vast majority of Bible's prophecies are yet to be fulfilled. That is because from chapter six of Revelation, when the horsemen make their presence, to the end of it there are sixteen more chapters, all full of prophecies.

That raises another question: why would God put so much importance on the last few years of this age and treat the whole of past history as if were just an appendage. The truth is He hasn't. All of mankind's history has been important, and all of it has been permeated with prophetic meanings and outcomes. The best example is offered by none other than these four horsemen.

Just because something has been revealed in the last book of the Bible does not mean that those events are to take place in the last years of history. We should never forget how prophecy has been written.

Isa 28:9 "Whom will he teach knowledge? And whom will he make to understand the message? Those just weaned from milk? Those just drawn from the breasts?"

Isa 28:10 For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, Line upon line, line upon line, Here a little, there a little."

Isa 28:11 For with stammering lips and another tongue He will speak to this people,

Isa 28:12 To whom He said, "This is the rest with which You may cause the weary to rest," And, "This is the refreshing"; Yet they

Isa 28:13 would not hear. But the word of the LORD was to them, "Precept upon precept, precept upon precept, Line upon line, line upon line, Here a little, there a little," That they might go and fall backward, and be broken And snared and caught.

Isa 28:14 Therefore hear the word of the LORD, you scornful men, Who rule this people . . . "

Who is to fall back and be caught and be snared and broken? Not God's true servants, but scornful men who rule their people with cruelty. Contrast this with what God says about His true prophets.

Amos 3:7 "Surely the Lord GOD does nothing, Unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets."

We once said that virtually everything that people have written about the book of Revelation is wrong. Now how could we have known that? Have we read and assessed everything that people have written about that book? No! We have read a lot, but by no means all of it. Then how did we know it? We knew it from this.

Rev 10:5 "The angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised up his hand to heaven

Rev 10:6 and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and the things that are in it, the earth and the things that are in it, and the sea and the things that are in it, that there should be delay no longer, but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel,

Rev 10:7 when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets."

If what people have written about this book were right, the mystery of God would have been finished, the end would have arrived, Jesus Christ would have returned to this earth, and the world would be now in the Millennial Kingdom.

But the mystery of God has not been finished and none of those things have occurred, therefore those writings could not have been right. Indeed, what we have read about this book is so far off the mark, so speculative, as to render them worse than useless. That is why we suggested that people gather them together and make them ready for a good bonfire.

The biggest mistake people make when talking about Revelation is to assume that this book is about the history of the world since the time of Jesus Christ to the end of time. Nothing could be further from the truth. Revelation encapsulates the entire history of the world, from creation to the end of time, as we shall prove. Let us go directly to chapter six.

Rev 6:1 "Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, "Come and see."

Rev 6:2 And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out

Rev 6:3 conquering and to conquer. When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come and see."  
 Rev 6:4 Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that people should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword. When He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, Rev 6:5 "Come and see." So I looked, and behold, a black horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand.  
 Rev 6:6 And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine."  
 Rev 6:7 When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come and see."  
 Rev 6:8 So I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth."

This is only the first half of this chapter. As you can see, it deals with the four horsemen. This is all one can find in the Bible about these creatures, yet they have fired peoples imagination perhaps more than any other prophetic event.

Now, there is general agreement among biblical scholars that the first horse, the white one, represents spiritual deception. Under him, people were conquered and dominated through false religious dogmas.

The second horse, the red one, represents war among nations.

The third horse, the black one, represents famine and starvation.

And the fourth, the pale horse, is a culmination and combination of all of the above: religious strife, wars, hunger, epidemics, pestilences, earthquakes, etc. Not too dissimilar from what we see in the word at present. In fact this is what has derailed many biblical scholars who have tried to fit those horsemen into our contemporary history. The problem is, this prophecy does not describe our own time. The time of this prophecy is being revealed in the second part of this chapter.

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  
 Rev 6:10 testimony which they held. 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.  
 Rev 6:12 I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood.  
 Rev 6:13 And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind.  
 Rev 6:14 Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place.  
 Rev 6:15 And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks,  
 Rev 6:16 "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!  
 Rev 6:17 "For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

When would 'the great day of God's wrath' come upon this world other than at the end time?

The term "the great day of the Lord", is found many times in the Old Testament. Almost in every case it refers to the end time Great Tribulation. Chapter six, however, cannot possibly refer to that event for the following reasons.

- 1) Between chapter six and the end of Revelation there are sixteen chapters of major prophetic developments. If the Great Tribulation comes as early as chapter six, when would the other prophecies of Revelation be fulfilled?
- 2) The wording between these expressions is somewhat different: 'the great day of His wrath' versus 'the great day of the Lord'. That may appear a minor nominal differences, but in biblical prophecies nothing is minor. Let us compare verses 12 – 16 of this prophecy with Matthew's prophecy about the end time Great Tribulation. See if you can tell the difference.

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. "And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet,  
 Mat 24:31 and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."

Did you notice any differences? A casual reading of it could hardly reveal any, but look at the timing. In Revelation chapter six all of those events are in the past tense: 'there **was** a great earthquake', 'the sun **became** black as sackcloth', 'the moon **became** like blood', the stars of heaven **fell** to the earth', 'the sky **receded**', and 'every mountain and island **was moved out of its place**', whereas in Matthew's prophecy all of these events are all in the future: 'there **will be** great tribulation', 'the sun **will be** darkened', 'the moon **will not give** its light', 'the stars **will fall** from heaven', and so on.

So when could Revelation chapter six have occurred, if not in the future? Only one time in history has the world been turned up side down in that manner, and that was at the Flood of Noah. Let us have a brief look at it.

Gen 7:11 "In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, **on that day all the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened.**  
 Gen 7:12 And the rain was on the earth forty days and forty nights.  
 Gen 7:24 And the waters prevailed on the earth one hundred and fifty days.  
 Gen 8:1 Then God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the animals that were with him in the ark. And God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters subsided.  
 Gen 8:2 The **fountains of the deep and the windows of heaven were also stopped**, and the rain from heaven was restrained."

Add to this Revelation 6:12-17 and you get the full picture. Here it that account again.

Rev 6:12 "I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood.  
 Rev 6:13 And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind.  
 Rev 6:14 Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place.  
 Rev 6:15 And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks,  
 Rev 6:16 "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!  
 Rev 6:17 "For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

Chapter six gives us in prophetic terms the history of the world from creation to the Flood of Noah. The four horsemen tell us what occurred in the world during that time. This is the secret to unveiling the book of Revelation.

People have been thrown off the track by the events described in Rev. 6:1 and 6:9 – 11. Here is the first verse again.

Rev 6:1 "Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, "Come and see."

It is a well known fact that 'the Lamb' could only refer to Jesus Christ. What is not so well known is that from the time of Adam and Eve people knew that a 'Lamb' would come to save the world from its sins. They did not know under what name He would come, and that is why for a long time they only referred to Him as the 'Lamb', and not as Jesus Christ.

Leaving aside the first chapter of Revelation which merely sets the stage for Jesus' revelation of this book to Apostle John, the name 'Jesus Christ' appears for the first time in chapter twelve, which is fitting for it is only in that chapter that we come to the historical context of the New Testament.

Now let us look at the second case that has thrown theologians off the track.

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 Rev 6:10 testimony which they held. 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."

It has generally been assumed that this could only refer to a Christian scenario, but that is not the case. God had people in the world who obeyed Him and spoke His truth since the beginning of time, Abel, Enoch, and Noah being only the most obvious examples of righteous men from that time.

With this in mind we can now unveil the rest of the book of Revelation.

## Unveiling The Book Of Revelation (1)

The first chapter of Revelation sets the stage for what is to happen in the rest of this book. The glorified Christ appears in a vision to His most beloved Apostle, John, and tells him to write down what he is about to see and hear.

Apostle John, the youngest of the Apostles, received this vision at an advanced age when all the other Apostles had disappeared from the scene. Jesus Christ did not want them to know the contents of this book, but why? The reason is rather simple: they had to live **and write** as if He were about to return any time. Had they seen the contents of Revelation, they would have known that His return would be a long time in the future, and that would have slackened their resolve and caused them to write different things. Notice what Apostle Paul told the Thessalonian Church.

1 Th 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 1 Th 4:16 means precede those who are asleep. 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.

1 Th 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 1 Th 4:18 we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words."

Did Apostle Paul believe that he himself would be alive at the return of Jesus Christ, or was he saying that only in the general sense? Hard to say, but in all likelihood he believed that Jesus Christ would return in his own life time, otherwise it is hard to see how he could have said, "we who are alive" if he believed that he would be dead at that time.

Now had he and the other Apostles seen the Revelation, they would have written entirely different things to their people and we would have an entirely different New Testament. But as it is, the Holy Spirit gave them only what they needed to know in order to write exactly what He wanted, and so we now have the New Testament in its current format and content.

We will now analyse chapter by chapter, and unveil things that have remained secret since the beginning of the world.

Rev 1:1 "The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants; things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John,

Rev 1:2 who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw. Blessed is he

Rev 1:3 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 1:7 Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.

Rev 1:8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the

Rev 1:9 Almighty." I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Rev 1:10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet,

Rev 1:11 saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last," and, "What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea."

Rev 1:12 Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands,

Rev 1:13 and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band.

Rev 1:14 His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire;

Rev 1:15 His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters;

Rev 1:16 He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the

Rev 1:17 sun shining in its strength. And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last.

Rev 1:18 "I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.

Rev 1:19 "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

Rev 1:20 "The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches."

There are many things one could say about this chapter, but for now we will only look at verses 5-6, for they are the more relevant for the leaders of today. Glory and dominion forever and ever be to "Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us **kings and priests** to His God and Father."

Jesus Christ is creating a new set of kings and priests for the Kingdom of His Father. But what will happen to the kings and priests of today, why is He not choosing them? Here is the astonishing answer.

Rev 19:17 "Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, "Come and gather together for the supper of the great God,

Rev 19:18 "that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, both small and great."

Rev 19:19 And I saw **the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army.**

Rev 19:20 Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with

Rev 19:21 brimstone. And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh."

Rather than welcome Jesus Christ when He returns to this earth to save humanity from self-annihilation, the kings and priest of this world will take up arms against Him. The general tone of that verse indicates that not only some kings and priests will make war against Him, but that all kings and priests regardless of when or where they lived would do the same. Isn't this what the Apostles said about "the rulers of this age" too?

1 Cor 2:6 "However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing.

1 Cor 2:7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory,

1 Cor 2:8 which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

1 Cor 2:9 But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

It is not only the Jews and the Romans that are guilty of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, but all "the rulers of this age". All of them would have done exactly the same. Human beings in their raw form are all the same – all are hostile to God.

It is in the character of this world's rulers to be hostile to God, to His laws, and to His people. This is why at the return of Jesus Christ instead of receiving Him with open arms, they will take arms against Him. Those who think that this is a scenario for an indeterminate future are gravely mistaken. This is in the making right now. All leaders have rejected the true Gospel of Jesus Christ and embraced the false gospel of the one who is leading them to perdition.

None of them want to see Jesus Christ return at present or in their life time. He returns when He has to return, not when they want Him. As for those who do not want to see Him now or ever, this is what He has to say.

Luke 19:27 'Bring here those enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, and slay them before me.'

There is another expression in the first chapter of Revelation that needs some explanation. The words, "things which must shortly take place" have led most people to believe that all things revealed in this book were to take place after the book was given to Apostle John. Well, as we have seen in the previous article, this is not the case.

If you have a New King James version of the Bible, you will see that the term "shortly" is qualified and could also have been translated "quickly" or "swiftly". The difference may not appear to be all that big, but it is big enough to make us think about it and allow for other possibilities. When something passes quickly, it does not necessarily pass shortly, nor necessarily in the future.

The book of Revelation was written before the world began, and it contains the history of the entire world, not just the history of the world after Jesus Christ.

Another thing that needs to be brought to people's attention is the appearance of the glorified Christ. This shows us why it is impossible for human beings to convey through the works of their hands how Jesus Christ and the Father look like. This is why the Scriptures say that those who make idols and worship them are as dead as their idols.

Psa 115:3 "But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases.

Psa 115:4 Their idols are silver and gold, The work of men's hands.

Psa 115:5 They have mouths, but they do not speak; Eyes they have, but they do not see;

Psa 115:6 They have ears, but they do not hear; Noses they have, but they do not smell;

Psa 115:7 They have hands, but they do not handle; Feet they have, but they do not walk; Nor do they mutter through their throat.

Psa 115:8 **Those who make them are like them; So is everyone who trusts in them.**"

The next two chapters of Revelation address seven specific Churches of God. We will look at them in total.

Rev 2:1 "To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, 'These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands:

Rev 2:2 "I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars;

Rev 2:3 "and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary.

Rev 2:4 "Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.

Rev 2:5 "Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place; unless you repent.

Rev 2:6 "But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

Rev 2:7 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God."

Rev 2:8 "And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write, 'These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life:

Rev 2:9 "I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.

Rev 2:10 "Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Rev 2:11 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death."

Rev 2:12 "And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, 'These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword:

Rev 2:13 "I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.

Rev 2:14 "But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality.

Rev 2:15 "Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.

Rev 2:16 "Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.

Rev 2:17 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it."

Rev 2:18 "And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write, 'These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass:

Rev 2:19 "I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and as for your works, the last are more than the first.

Rev 2:20 "Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.

Rev 2:21 "And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent.

Rev 2:22 "Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds." I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works.

Rev 2:24 "Now to you I say, and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as do not have this doctrine, who have not known the depths of Satan, as they say, I will put on you no other burden.

Rev 2:25 "But hold fast what you have till I come.

Rev 2:26 "And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations;

Rev 2:27 "He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels"; as I also have received from

Rev 2:28 My Father; and I will give him the morning star.

Rev 2:29 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

Rev 3:1 "And to the angel of the church in Sardis write, 'These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: "I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.

Rev 3:2 "Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before

Rev 3:3 God. "Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you. "You have a few names even in Sardis

Rev 3:4 who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy.

Rev 3:5 "He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

Rev 3:6 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

Rev 3:7 "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, 'These things says He who is holy, He who is true, "He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens":

Rev 3:8 "I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name.

Rev 3:9 "Indeed I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie; indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you.

Rev 3:10 "Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.

Rev 3:11 "Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.

Rev 3:12 "He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. And I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name.

Rev 3:13 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

Rev 3:14 "And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, 'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God:

Rev 3:15 "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot.

Rev 3:16 "So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.

Rev 3:17 "Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'; and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked;

Rev 3:18 "I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.

Rev 3:19 "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.

Rev 3:20 "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

Rev 3:21 "To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His

Rev 3:22 throne. "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." "

Before we speak about the other churches, we need to say a few things about the Church of God in Philadelphia first.

The late Herbert W Armstrong of the Worldwide Church of God used to say that his church was none other than this particular Church. But this was an internal matter for members only, not for the outside world. He felt that coming out into the open would upset other churches and might bring unnecessary problems to his followers.

After his death, however, when his church began to disintegrate, another man rose who saw a unique opportunity for himself. He revived the old doctrines and kept alive the spirit of the old man. He and his underlings did away with any pretence of modesty, and called their congregation by no other name than Philadelphia Church of God. Ever since that time, they have been beating the drums that they are doing the work that Jesus assigned to this Church.

What they have not explained, however, is which is the exact work that they are doing, for that Church contains two kinds of people, each doing its own things. For example, Rev. 3:8 speaks of people of "little strength" who have not denied Jesus' word and kept His name, before whom He opened a door that no one can close.

Revelation 3:9 on the other hand, speaks of "those of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not."

Now, could a church, or churches, whose members number into the thousands, and their income into the millions of dollars, be said to be of "little strength"? Yet this is exactly what the leaders of both WWCG and PCH have been claiming.

They have also been claiming that their radio and television broadcasts are the doors that Jesus opened for them to take their gospels into people's homes.

Now what do you think would be more advantageous for those who want to study the Bible and find out the truth for themselves, radio and television broadcasts, or the Internet? Why do you think the Internet has become the tool of choice for students all over the world? Radio and television broadcasts cost a lot of money, whereas Internet sites cost relatively little. Even a people of "little strength" can afford to do that, and that is why the door that Jesus was talking about is the Internet not radio and television broadcasts.

It is not for nothing that Jesus Christ calls the larger group a synagogue of Satan, for they preach and practice doctrines which belonged to the Old Testament but which have become 'doctrines of demons' under the New Testament. They have become 'doctrines of demons' under the New Testament because they disobey Christ and take people back to rudimentary things of the Old Testament, whose sole purpose was to bring us to Christ.

1 Tim 4:1 "Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and

1 Tim 4:2 doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron,

1 Tim 4:3 forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.

1 Tim 4:4 For every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving;

1 Tim 4:5 for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

1 Tim 4:6 If you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine which you have carefully followed."

The Jews were not allowed to intermarry racially, and were required to practice strict dietary laws, things which are no longer required for Christians. And this is why.

Mat 28:18 "And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

Mat 28:19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the

Mat 28:20 Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen!

One cannot make disciples of all nations if he forbids them from intermarrying each other, and eating whatever is customary in their lands. It is for this reason that Apostle Paul said this also.

1 Cor 10:25 "Eat whatever is sold in the meat market, asking no questions for conscience' sake;

1 Cor 10:26 for "the earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness."

1 Cor 10:27 If any of those who do not believe invites you to dinner, and you desire to go, eat whatever is set before you, asking no question for conscience' sake.

1 Cor 10:28 But if anyone says to you, "This was offered to idols," do not eat it for the sake of the one who told you, and for conscience' sake; for "the earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness."

1 Cor 10:29 "Conscience," I say, not your own, but that of the other. For why is my liberty judged by another man's conscience?"

1 Cor 10:30 But if I partake with thanks, why am I evil spoken of for the food over which I give thanks?

1 Cor 10:31 Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

1 Cor 10:32 Give no offense, either to the Jews or to the Greeks or to the church of God,

1 Cor 10:33 just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved.

1 Cor 11:1 Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ."

"Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ." Now do you think that those who preach and practice these "doctrines of demons" imitate Christ? The lengths to which they go to "prove" that these Scriptures do not mean what they say is truly unbelievable. More than that, they also impose heavy burdens on their followers in the name of tithing and mandatory offerings which neither the Apostles nor we have ever advocated. As Apostle Paul said.

2 Cor 11:19 For you put up with fools gladly, since you yourselves are wise!

2 Cor 11:20 For you put up with it if one brings you into bondage, if one devours you, if one takes from you, if one exalts himself, if one strikes you on the face.

2 Cor 11:21 To our shame, I say that we were too weak for that! But in whatever anyone is bold; I speak foolishly; I am bold also. . . "

Jesus Christ said that during the work of those people of "little strength", the hour of trial will come upon the whole world to test those who dwell on the earth. Let us have another look at it for this is a very important matter.

Rev 3:10 "Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.

Rev 3:11 "Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown."

The hour of trial comes for two purposes. 1) It is God's vengeance upon an unbelieving, wayward, world, and 2) to test those who dwell on the earth and see who deserves to receive a place in the eternal Kingdom of God.

Remember what He said about the elect of God?

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."

It is clear that the "hour of trial" and the "great tribulation" are one and the same thing, and that this catastrophe will take place during the work of these "elect of God" of "little strength" who have kept the word of Jesus and not denied His name.

We hope you understand the implication of all of this and take the steps to become one of God's elect by bringing forth works worthy of repentance, for there is no other way by which people may save themselves from this awesome tribulation.

Now to the other Churches of God. There has been a great deal of debate among biblical scholars as to what exactly is the meaning of those Churches. They cannot have been important as a result of their geographical location, for larger and far more important cities of early Churches are not even mentioned, such as those in Rome, in Corinth, in Galatia, and even the one in Jerusalem. No, these seven churches transcend both time and geographical location.

Christians should look upon them not as ancient entities of little relevance to them, but as congregations of people that carry important messages for themselves. Indeed, they must look upon them as if they themselves were members of these Churches. For the seven churches describe phases which all people undergo in their life as Christians. For example:

The Church in Ephesus reflects the initial enthusiasm with which we all embraced the faith of Jesus Christ. Jesus praises it because it persevered and had patience, and had laboured for His name's sake and had not become weary. But then, as with all of us when things do not quite turn out as expected, comes the let down: "Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love".

The Church in Smyrna went through a period of stabilisation and trials, just as we all did. "I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life."

The church in Pergamos is close to being dead, which is what happens when people become disillusioned and lose faith as a result of trials. "I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality. Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth."

Now there are some very interesting things that we need to consider here. This church is located where Satan's throne is, where the faithful martyr Antipas was killed. Now where is that place, and who might this Antipas be?

Jesus Christ expected His followers to know both these things, otherwise He would not have mentioned them.

People have known since ancient times where Satan's seat is. We were not the first to discover that it is in the Vatican, though we came to this conclusion independently. What no one has explained, however, is who Antipas might be.

When you think about it, it is not all that hard to find that out. We have conclusively proven in previous editions that Apostle Peter never went to Rome. Apostle Paul, however, was brought to Rome in chains, was judged, and was martyred there on false charges. No one else could possibly be Antipas than Apostle Paul, for no other personality in the New Testament has attained a greater importance with the passage of time than he has. It was not too long after his demise that true Christians were forced to go underground. They remained so until after the Reformation which opened new windows of opportunity for them. No historical personality has arisen during this time who practiced the true religion of Jesus Christ, who could have supplanted Apostle Paul in importance as far as the Gospel of Jesus Christ is concerned.

The word "Nicolaitans" associated with the Church in Pergamos, comes from Nicolas, or Saint Nicolas, or as is more commonly known these days, Santa Claus. Christmas is not the birth date of Jesus Christ. Even if it were, He did not sanction it as a day of celebration. Instead He commanded His followers to observe the Passover, the day He sacrificed Himself for us, a Holy Day which the Nicolaitans do not keep.

The Church in Thyatira rises from the ashes of Pergamos and brings forth some good works. Nevertheless, because its members have lost their first love, they are easy pray to the sins of the flesh and of the spirit. Isn't this what we all had to cope with in our life as Christians? "I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and as for your works, the last are more than the first. Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent. . . " The fallen woman Jezebel stands for a fallen church.

The Church in Sardis, which follows, is almost dead spiritually, which is what happens with all Christians who become entangled in the sins of the flesh or of the spirit. "I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God. Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you. You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy."

Then comes the Church in Philadelphia which we discussed earlier. And finally, the Church in Laodicea. Mature Christians who think that they have done all there is to be done and accomplished something in life, fall easy pray to the sin of arrogance, complacency and self-satisfaction. This is why this Church is thrown into the vortex of the Great Tribulation.

Now one has to be careful what he says about this Church for although it is a lacklustre Church, it is not a fallen away church. It is still a Church of God which is not the case with a fallen church. Many preachers have failed to make a distinction between a fallen asleep and a fallen away church, and have committed blasphemy by saying that Laodicea is a fallen away Church. There is no hope of redemption for a fallen away church, as it is for a fallen asleep one. Laodicea Church of God has not fallen away, but fallen asleep, and that is a major difference.

You can see now how the progression from one church to the other fits the stages which all Christians go through in their life. We all start enthusiastically then follow a rocky road of ups and down to the very end. But as Jesus Christ said, only those who overcome to the end will make it into His Kingdom, not those who just cruise along.

To the Church in Ephesus He said: "To **him who overcomes** I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God."

And to the Church in Smyrna: "**He who overcomes** shall not be hurt by the second death."

And to the Church in Pergamos: "To **him who overcomes** I will give some of the hidden manna to eat."

And to the Church in Thyatira: "And **he who overcomes**, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations."

And to the Church in Sardis: "**He who overcomes** shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life;

And to the Church in Philadelphia: "**He who overcomes**, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. . . "

And finally the church in Laodicea: "To **him who overcomes** I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne."

Those who think that salvation is all about going to church on Sundays and prostrating before icons have a little surprise coming their way. Seven times the glorified Christ used the expression, 'he who overcomes', and there are more in the Bible, which tells us how important it is for people to pursue the right and true path to the very end and not to become slack in their struggle for salvation. It is not an easy struggle, but the rewards are worth any sacrifice.

1 Cor 2:9 "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

Now chapter four.

Rev 4:1 After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this."

Rev 4:2 Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne.

Rev 4:3 And He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald.

Rev 4:4 Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads.

Rev 4:5 And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

Rev 4:6 Before the throne there was a sea of glass, like crystal. And in the midst of the throne, and around the throne, were four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back.

Rev 4:7 The first living creature was like a lion, the second living creature like a calf, the third living creature had a face like a man, and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle.

Rev 4:8 The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!"

Rev 4:9 Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever,

Rev 4:10 the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying:

Rev 4:11 "You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created."

Rev 5:1 And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals.

Rev 5:2 Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?"

Rev 5:3 And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it.

Rev 5:4 So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it.

Rev 5:5 But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals."

Rev 5:6 And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth.

Rev 5:7 Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.

Rev 5:8 Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

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."

Rev 5:11 Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands,

Rev 5:12 saying with a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!"

Rev 5:13 And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: "Blessing and honor and glory and power Be to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!"

Rev 5:14 Then the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever.

Chapters four and five go together. They show us how in the history of the world only one person was found worthy to open the scroll that was in the hand of God. That scroll had been written before the world began, just a Jesus sacrifice was preordained before the world began. You may wish to ponder a little upon the following Scriptures.

Mat 13:34 All these things Jesus spoke to the multitude in parables; and without a parable He did not speak to them,

Mat 13:35 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: "I will open My mouth in parables; I will utter **things kept secret from the foundation of the world.**"

Mat 25:34 "Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, **inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:**

Luke 11:49 "Therefore the wisdom of God also said, 'I will send them prophets and apostles, and some of them they will kill and  
Luke 11:50 persecute,' that **the blood of all the prophets which was shed from the foundation of the world** may be required of  
Luke 11:51 this generation, from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah who perished between the altar and the temple. Yes, I say to you, it shall be required of this generation."

John 17:24 "Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for **You loved Me before the foundation of the world.**

Eph 1:3 "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly  
Eph 1:4 places in Christ, just as **He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world**, that we should be holy and without blame  
Eph 1:5 before Him in love, **having predestined us to adoption as sons** by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure  
Eph 1:6 of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved."

Heb 4:3 "For we who have believed do enter that rest, as He has said: "So I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest,' " although **the works were finished from the foundation of the world.**"

1 Pet 1:19 ". . . but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

1 Pet 1:20 **He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world**, but was manifest in these last times for you who

1 Pet 1:21 through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

Rev 13:7 "It was granted to [the Dragon] to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every  
Rev 13:8 tribe, tongue, and nation. **All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.**"

Rev 13:9 If anyone has an ear, let him hear.

Rev 17:8 "The beast that you saw was, and is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to perdition. And those who dwell on the earth will marvel, whose names are not written in the Book of Life **from the foundation of the world**, when they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet is."

Now if all these things had been determined and predestined before the foundation of the world – Jesus' sacrifice, the righteous, the wicked, the 'beast', the Devil and his role, etc., isn't it reasonable to assume that a book of such importance like the Revelation had also been written before the foundation of the world? The fact that it was revealed to the world at the time of Apostle John does not mean that it was written at that time too. And if it was written before the foundation of the world, why should it contain the history of the world only from the time of Jesus Christ to the end of the world? The truth is, it doesn't. Rather, Revelation contains the history of the world in prophetic symbols from the beginning of the world to the end of it. Without this key in mind, no one can make sense of this book. Now let us continue with Revelation chapter six.

Rev 6:1 Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, "Come and see." And I looked, and behold,

Rev 6:2 a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.

Rev 6:3 When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come and see."

Rev 6:4 Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that people should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword.

Rev 6:5 When He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come and see." So I looked, and behold, a black horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand.

Rev 6:6 And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine."

Rev 6:7 When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come and see."

Rev 6:8 So I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth.

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. And they cried with a loud voice, saying,

Rev 6:10 "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.

Rev 6:12 I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood.

Rev 6:13 And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind.

Rev 6:14 Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place.

Rev 6:15 And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains,

Rev 6:16 and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath

Rev 6:17 of the Lamb! "For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

We've already discussed this chapter at length in the preceding article, so we will go to the next one.

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 sea,

Rev 7:3 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: of the tribe of Judah twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand were sealed;

Rev 7:5 of the tribe of Gad twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Asher twelve thousand were sealed;

Rev 7:6 of the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand were sealed;

Rev 7:7 of the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Levi twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Issachar

Rev 7:8 twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Benjamin twelve thousand were sealed.

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 7:11 All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne

Rev 7:12 and worshiped God, saying: "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, Thanksgiving and honor and power and might, Be to our God forever and ever. Amen."

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

Rev 7:16 dwell among them. "They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat;

Rev 7:17 "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."

This chapter reflects the saving work of God from the Flood of Noah to the end of the world. We have amply explained who the 144 000 people and the multitude of white robed people are in *The Christian Herald No 1*.

Rev 8:1 When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.

Rev 8:2 And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets.

Rev 8:3 Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.

Rev 8:4 And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel's hand.

Rev 8:5 Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw it to the earth. And there were noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake.

Rev 8:6 So the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.

Rev 8:7 The first angel sounded: And hail and fire followed, mingled with blood, and they were thrown to the earth. And a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up. Then the second angel sounded:

Rev 8:8 And something like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood.

Rev 8:9 And a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.

Rev 8:10 Then the third angel sounded: And a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on

Rev 8:11 the springs of water. The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died

Rev 8:12 from the water, because it was made bitter. Then the fourth angel sounded: And a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them were darkened. A third of the day did not shine, and likewise the night.

Rev 8:13 And I looked, and I heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, "Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!"

Generally speaking, this chapter deals with the physical history of the world from the Flood of Noah to the latter part of the nineteenth century. The mistake people have made with this chapter is to assume that the devastation would come all at once. Not so. One third of the trees and the grass have disappeared gradually during that period. In other words, desertification has been an ongoing process, as in fact it is these days only more so and on a larger scale.

The effect of the second angel is also highly metaphorical. "And something like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood. And a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed." What this is really telling us is that in the same period there has been a gradual erosion in the quality of water and a continuous disappearance of the living organisms within it.

The third angel relates a similar process of degradation in the rivers of fresh water and how their pollution has affected people's health in that period. This brings us to chapter nine in which we see a sudden catastrophic change for the worse.

Rev 9:1 Then the fifth angel sounded: And I saw a star fallen from heaven to the earth. To him was given the key to the bottomless

Rev 9:2 pit. And he opened the bottomless pit, and smoke arose out of the pit like the smoke of a great furnace. So the sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke of the pit.

Rev 9:3 Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.

Rev 9:4 They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.

Rev 9:5 And they were not given authority to kill them, but to torment them for five months. Their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it strikes a man.

Rev 9:6 In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them.

Rev 9:7 The shape of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle. On their heads were crowns of something like gold, and their

Rev 9:8 faces were like the faces of men. They had hair like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth.

Rev 9:9 And they had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was like the sound of chariots with many horses running into battle.

Rev 9:10 They had tails like scorpions, and there were stings in their tails. Their power was to hurt men five months.

Rev 9:11 And they had as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, but in Greek he has the

Rev 9:12 name Apollyon. One woe is past. Behold, still two more woes are coming after these things.

Rev 9:13 Then the sixth angel sounded: And I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God,

Rev 9:14 saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates."

Rev 9:15 So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released to kill a third of

Rev 9:16 mankind. Now the number of the army of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them.

Rev 9:17 And thus I saw the horses in the vision: those who sat on them had breastplates of fiery red, hyacinth blue, and sulfur yellow; and the heads of the horses were like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths came fire, smoke, and brimstone. By these three

Rev 9:18 plagues a third of mankind was killed; by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which came out of their mouths.

Rev 9:19 For their power is in their mouth and in their tails; for their tails are like serpents, having heads; and with them they do harm.

Rev 9:20 But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk.

Rev 9:21 And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.

The star of the bottomless pit is the Devil. We don't need to spend time on that. But what is this bottomless pit out of which came smoke and all those fire breathing "locusts" and "scorpions"? What this chapter relates is the oil that came out of

the earth and the industrial revolution that it engendered. We said that chapter eight covers the history of the world from the Flood to the latter part of the nineteenth century because that is when industrial revolution began.

Verse nine tells us that all this horror will last for five months. Well, in biblical parlance that is about 150 years (day for a year principle), which means that something drastic will occur in the very near future to put an end to it all.

Now what could possibly happen to bring the industrial revolution to an end and stop the oil from coming out of the ground and oiling the machinery of today? That would pretty much mean the end of the world as we know it, wouldn't it? Well, yes and no. What it means is a return to a more natural way of living. That will happen after the Great Tribulation which will reduce mankind by a minimum of two billions and a maximum of six. Jesus Christ will return immediately after that enormous devastation. He will capture the angel of the bottomless pit and lock him back until the end of the Millennium.

Rev 10:1 I saw still another mighty angel coming down from heaven, clothed with a cloud. And a rainbow was on his head, his face was like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire.

Rev 10:2 He had a little book open in his hand. And he set his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land,

Rev 10:3 and cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roars. When he cried out, seven thunders uttered their voices.

Rev 10:4 Now when the seven thunders uttered their voices, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Seal up the things which the seven thunders uttered, and do not write them."

Rev 10:5 The angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised up his hand to heaven

Rev 10:6 and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and the things that are in it, the earth and the things that are in it, and the sea and the things that are in it, that there should be delay no longer,

Rev 10:7 **but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets.**

Rev 10:8 Then the voice which I heard from heaven spoke to me again and said, "Go, take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel who stands on the sea and on the earth."

Rev 10:9 So I went to the angel and said to him, "Give me the little book." And he said to me, "Take and eat it; and it will make your stomach bitter, but it will be as sweet as honey in your mouth."

Rev 10:10 Then I took the little book out of the angel's hand and ate it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth. But when I had eaten it, my stomach became bitter.

Rev 10:11 And he said to me, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings."

This chapter speaks of the very thing you are reading right now: the unveiling of the book of Revelation. The world is that close to the end of those things and of the return of Jesus Christ. When He comes back, the first resurrection will occur which will involve bringing back to life those who have been trained to become the new kings and priests of the world. Among these will be Apostle John who received this Revelation. That is why he was told that he must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings. A wholesale conversion to the faith of Jesus Christ will occur during the Millennial Kingdom, and the prime movers behind this will be Jesus' kings and priests.

Rev 11:1 Then I was given a reed like a measuring rod. And the angel stood, saying, "Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there.

Rev 11:2 "But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city underfoot for forty-two months.

Here we need to make an injunction before we proceed with the rest of this chapter. We need to do this because the first two verses of this chapter have nothing to do with the rest of it.

Biblical scholars, particularly those of a fundamentalist orientation, have surmised that the court of the temple and the holy city would be trampled under foot by the Gentiles for forty-two months after a new temple is built in Jerusalem. They have been saying that this prophecy must be fulfilled before Jesus Christ can return to this earth. It is for this reason that they have vigorously supported the Jews in their battle with the Arabs. They expected, and encouraged, the Jews to build that temple as soon as possible. But as of late they have been not too happy that the Jews have been dragging their feet in destroying the Muslim Dome of the Rock and building their new temple in its place. They have not done so because that would have aligned the whole world on the side of the Arabs, and because the Jews, like just about everybody else, are not too keen on seeing the Man they had killed set up a Kingdom of God that does not include them. Without repentance and conversion no one could be part of that Kingdom, and the Jews have not been particularly keen these things so far.

Those scholars fail to understand that forty-two months represent not 1260 days, but 1260 years.

In our No 4 edition, when we discussed the beast of Revelation 13, of which the Bible says that it was given authority to continue for forty-two months (Rev 13:5), we demonstrated that, according to the biblical principle of a day for a year (Nu. 14:34; Ezek. 4:4-6), forty two months represent approximately 1260 years. We say approximately because when prophetic times are given in months, as opposed to days or hours, they require a certain degree of approximation. That is because a month is less precise than a day, and a day less precise than an hour. The lengths of time represented by each of these terms must be treated accordingly.

Forty-two months then represent 1260 years, give or take a few years. This is how long the Roman Empire lasted when counting from the foundation of Rome in about 750 BC to its collapse in about 510 A.D.

Since the Gentile nations are said to trample under foot the court of the temple and the holy city for the same length of time, we must look for the people who have been in control of Jerusalem for about 1260 years.

When Jesus Christ was on earth, the Romans had dominion over Jerusalem. But the Bible does not refer to the Romans as Gentiles. The Roman Empire, alongside the Greek, Persian and Babylonian Empires, are referred to as "beasts". Besides, the Romans did not have control over Jerusalem for that length of time. But what happened after the Roman Empire collapsed? In the West, the Popes created the Holy Roman Empire, and in the East, the Muslims took control of Jerusalem.

If we calculate 1260 years from the conquest of Jerusalem by the Ottoman forces in 655 AD or thereabouts, we come to the year 1915, the middle of the First World War, when the British forces liberated the city from Turkish domination.

The Muslims were the Gentiles who trampled underfoot the court of the temple for forty-two months. Why only the court and not the temple itself? Because there no longer was a temple in Jerusalem by then! The Jewish temple had long since been destroyed by the Romans, as Jesus said that it would happen, and that temple had never been rebuilt since.

The Muslims built their Dome of the Rock on that ground because there was no longer a Jewish temple there anymore.

Now we continue with the rest of chapter 11.

Rev 11:3 "And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in

Rev 11:4 sackcloth." These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth.

Rev 11:5 And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm

Rev 11:6 them, he must be killed in this manner. These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire.

Rev 11:7 When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome

Rev 11:8 them, and kill them. And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt,

Rev 11:9 where also our Lord was crucified. Then those from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three-and-a-half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves.

Rev 11:10 And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth.

Rev 11:11 Now after the three-and-a-half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear

Rev 11:12 fell on those who saw them. And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them.

Rev 11:13 In the same hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. In the earthquake seven thousand people were killed, and the rest were afraid and gave glory to the God of heaven.

Rev 11:14 The second woe is past. Behold, the third woe is coming quickly.

Rev 11:15 Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!"

Rev 11:16 And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God,

Rev 11:17 saying: "We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, The One who is and who was and who is to come, Because You have taken Your great power and reigned.

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

Rev 11:19 destroy the earth." Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple. And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail.

In regard to these two witnesses we have said a fair bit in the past. One only has to look at the tables of contents in our web site to locate it. So we won't repeat that here, but what we will do instead is take you to an Old Testament prophecy that speaks about them too.

Zec 4:1 "Now the angel who talked with me came back and wakened me, as a man who is wakened out of his sleep.

Zec 4:2 And he said to me, "What do you see?" So I said, "I am looking, and there is a lampstand of solid gold with a bowl on top of it, and on the stand seven lamps with seven pipes to the seven lamps.

Zec 4:3 "Two olive trees are by it, one at the right of the bowl and the other at its left."

Zec 4:4 So I answered and spoke to the angel who talked with me, saying, "What are these, my lord?"

Zec 4:5 Then the angel who talked with me answered and said to me, "Do you not know what these are?" And I said, "No, my lord."

Zec 4:6 So he answered and said to me: "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' Says the LORD of hosts."

Reference to the two olive trees tells us that these are the same people that are mentioned in Rev.11: 4. The fact that their work is being done "Not by might nor by power, but by God's Spirit" tells us who is behind their work and why though few in number their work resonates all over the world. There is, however, another quite extraordinary mystery about them.

Zec 4:12 And I further answered and said to him, "What are these two olive branches that drip into the receptacles of the two gold pipes from which the golden oil drains?"

Zec 4:13 Then he answered me and said, "Do you not know what these are?" And I said, "No, my lord."

Zec 4:14 So he said, "These are the two anointed ones, who stand beside the Lord of the whole earth."

When two of His disciples asked Jesus Christ to grant them to sit on either side of Him in His Kingdom, He told them that they did not know what they were asking.

Mat 20:22 "You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" They said to Him, "We are able."

Mat 20:23 So He said to them, "You will indeed drink My cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with; 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 by My Father."

Jesus had power to appoint the twelve Apostles, who will reign with Him over the twelve tribes of Israel, "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 by My Father." He was aware of this prophecy, and knew that God would be the One who would chose the two witnesses and be behind their work.

This however is not the mystery we were referring to. Have a look at this.

Zec 5:1 "Then I turned and raised my eyes, and saw there a flying scroll. And he said to me,

Zec 5:2 "What do you see?" So I answered, "I see a flying scroll. Its length is twenty cubits and its width ten cubits."

Zec 5:3 Then he said to me, "This is the curse that goes out over the face of the whole earth: 'Every thief shall be expelled,' according to this side of the scroll; and, 'Every perjurer shall be expelled,' according to that side of it."

Zec 5:4 "I will send out the curse," says the LORD of hosts; "It shall enter the house of the thief and the house of the one who swears falsely by My name. It shall remain in the midst of his house and consume it, with its timber and stones."

This is merely telling us that during the time of the two witnesses, the Devil and his demons will do ravages in the world, particularly among those who do not keep the law of God.

Zec 5:5 Then the angel who talked with me came out and said to me, "Lift your eyes now, and see what this is that goes forth."

Zec 5:6 So I asked, "What is it?" And he said, "It is a basket that is going forth." He also said, "This is their resemblance throughout

Zec 5:7 the earth: "Here is a lead disc lifted up, and this is a woman sitting inside the basket";

Zec 5:8 then he said, "This is Wickedness!" And he thrust her down into the basket, and threw the lead cover over its mouth."

The mention of a woman in connection with this prophecy can mean only one thing: one of the two witnesses is a woman. That she is described as 'wickedness' tells us whose work she is doing. If you think you are having problems in your life, spare a thought for the man who has to contend with the Devil incarnate while doing the work of God.

Now in light of these facts, have a look at this prophecy in its entirety and consider its implications for our time.

Zec 3:1 "Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the Angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to oppose him. And the LORD said to Satan, "The LORD rebuke you, Satan! The LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?"

Zec 3:3 Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and was standing before the Angel.

Zec 3:4 Then He answered and spoke to those who stood before Him, saying, "Take away the filthy garments from him." And to him He said, "See, I have removed your iniquity from you, and I will clothe you with rich robes."

Zec 3:5 And I said, "Let them put a clean turban on his head." So they put a clean turban on his head, and they put the clothes on him. And the Angel of the LORD stood by.

Zec 3:6 Then the Angel of the LORD admonished Joshua, saying,

Zec 3:7 "Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'If you will walk in My ways, And if you will keep My command, Then you shall also judge My house, And likewise have charge of My courts; I will give you places to walk Among these who stand here.'

Zec 3:8 'Hear, O Joshua, the high priest, You and your companions who sit before you, For they are a wondrous sign; For behold, I am bringing forth My Servant the BRANCH.'

Zec 3:9 For behold, the stone That I have laid before Joshua: Upon the stone are seven eyes. Behold, I will engrave its inscription,' Says the LORD of hosts, 'And I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day.'

Zec 3:10 In that day,' says the LORD of hosts, 'Everyone will invite his neighbor Under his vine and under his fig tree.'

Zec 4:1 Now the angel who talked with me came back and wakened me, as a man who is wakened out of his sleep.

Zec 4:2 And he said to me, "What do you see?" So I said, "I am looking, and there is a lampstand of solid gold with a bowl on top of it, and on the stand seven lamps with seven pipes to the seven lamps.

Zec 4:3 "Two olive trees are by it, one at the right of the bowl and the other at its left."

Zec 4:4 So I answered and spoke to the angel who talked with me, saying, "What are these, my lord?"

Zec 4:5 Then the angel who talked with me answered and said to me, "Do you not know what these are?" And I said, "No, my lord."

Zec 4:6 So he answered and said to me: "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' Says the LORD of hosts.

Zec 4:7 'Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain! And he shall bring forth the capstone With

Zec 4:8 shouts of "Grace, grace to it!"' " Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying: "The hands of Zerubbabel Have laid

Zec 4:9 the foundation of this temple; His hands shall also finish it. Then you will know That the LORD of hosts has sent Me to you.

Zec 4:10 For who has despised the day of small things? For these seven rejoice to see The plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel. They are the eyes of the LORD, Which scan to and fro throughout the whole earth."

Zec 4:11 Then I answered and said to him, "What are these two olive trees; at the right of the lampstand and at its left?"

Zec 4:12 And I further answered and said to him, "What are these two olive branches that drip into the receptacles of the two gold pipes from which the golden oil drains?"

Zec 4:13 Then he answered me and said, "Do you not know what these are?" And I said, "No, my lord."

Zec 4:14 So he said, "These are the two anointed ones, who stand beside the Lord of the whole earth."

Zec 5:1 Then I turned and raised my eyes, and saw there a flying scroll. And he said to me,

Zec 5:2 "What do you see?" So I answered, "I see a flying scroll. Its length is twenty cubits and its width ten cubits."

Zec 5:3 Then he said to me, "This is the curse that goes out over the face of the whole earth: 'Every thief shall be expelled,' according to this side of the scroll; and, 'Every perjurer shall be expelled,' according to that side of it." [This is the scroll that the 'Lamb' unveils in Rev. 5].

Zec 5:4 "I will send out the curse," says the LORD of hosts; "It shall enter the house of the thief And the house of the one who swears falsely by My name. It shall remain in the midst of his house And consume it, with its timber and stones."

Zec 5:5 Then the angel who talked with me came out and said to me, "Lift your eyes now, and see what this is that goes forth."

Zec 5:6 So I asked, "What is it?" And he said, "It is a basket that is going forth." He also said, "This is their resemblance throughout

Zec 5:7 the earth: "Here is a lead disc lifted up, and this is a woman sitting inside the basket";

Zec 5:8 then he said, "This is Wickedness!" And he thrust her down into the basket, and threw the lead cover over its mouth.

Zec 5:9 Then I raised my eyes and looked, and there were two women, coming with the wind in their wings; for they had wings like the wings of a stork, and they lifted up the basket between earth and heaven. [Both women are witnesses of God. One replaces the other half way through the work of God. Each stands for one of the Covenants, God having been married to both of them in the course of time].

Zec 5:10 So I said to the angel who talked with me, "Where are they carrying the basket?"

Zec 5:11 And he said to me, "To build a house for it in the land of Shinar; when it is ready, the basket will be set there on its base."

Zec 6:1 Then I turned and raised my eyes and looked, and behold, four chariots were coming from between two mountains, and the

Zec 6:2 mountains were mountains of bronze. With the first chariot were red horses, with the second chariot black horses,

Zec 6:3 with the third chariot white horses, and with the fourth chariot dappled horses; strong steeds.

Zec 6:4 Then I answered and said to the angel who talked with me, "What are these, my lord?" And the angel answered and said to

Zec 6:5 me, "These are four spirits of heaven, who go out from their station before the Lord of all the earth.

Zec 6:6 "The one with the black horses is going to the north country, the white are going after them, and the dappled are going toward

Zec 6:7 the south country. "Then the strong steeds went out, eager to go, that they might walk to and fro throughout the earth. And He said, "Go, walk to and fro throughout the earth." So they walked to and fro throughout the earth. And He called to me, and spoke to me,

Zec 6:8 saying, "See, those who go toward the north country have given rest to My Spirit in the north country."

These four horsemen – four spirits of heaven – are the ones spoken of in Revelation 7. They fulfil their role over a long period of time. Two of them are going to the 'north country' where they give rest to God's Spirit. This is the vengeance of God upon a wayward world that culminated with the atheist empire of the Soviet Union.

The dappled horse that goes to the south country represents the Islamist world, and its culmination with the terror that it is inflicting upon the world these days.

The 'strong steeds' represent the West and its colonial past.

The second part of Revelation needs a new key. We must leave that for our next edition. We give our nemesis the chance to try to take the wind from underneath our wings once again. Maybe they will have better luck and be more successful this time.

# Sign Of The End Time: Islamic Terrorism

For centuries, western society's philosophy has been predicated on the notion that religion was on its way out, yet now the world is more sharply divided along religious lines than it has ever been.

The United Nations was working towards a globalised world when suddenly the children of Islam threw a deadly spanner in its works. One cannot speak of the condition of the world today without mentioning what is on just about everybody's lips: Islamic terrorism.

The problem with Islam is not that its children take human lives in their customary gruesome manner, for, like everybody else, they have been programmed for their role before the world began, but that in their zeal they have forgotten what it is to be human. Since no one can reason with them anymore and change their attitude, they have become not only enemies of the West and of progress, but enemies of humanity and as such the enemies of God.

Twice in the history of the world, God has been heartbroken by human predilection for evil and degradation. The first time was before the Flood of Noah.

Gen 6:5 "Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart  
Gen 6:6 was only evil continually. And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.  
Gen 6:7 So the LORD said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing  
Gen 6:8 and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them." "But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD."

The second time has happened in our own time. By trampling under foot God's universal laws of hospitality, generosity, gratitude and fair play, Islamic terrorists have forfeited the right to a place in the civilised world. They have revived the spectre of a dark age from which the world thought it had escaped long ago.

What the world does not know is that the angel of death which is behind their actions, has been released from his "bottomless pit" and will not be restrained before Jesus Christ returns to this world. And He will not return before the world is cleansed of its physical, moral and spiritual pollutions. That is the very purpose of the Great Tribulation. Only the true servants of Jesus Christ are safe from the ravages of this angel, and that because death has no power over them anymore.

Rev 9:1 "Then the fifth angel sounded: And I saw a **star fallen from heaven** to the earth. To him was given the key to the bottomless pit.  
Rev 12:10 Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.  
Rev 12:11 "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to  
Rev 12:12 the death. "Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For **the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time.**"  
Rev 12:13 Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child."

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."

The problem with Islam is that, unlike Christianity, it has no notion of good spirits and bad spirits.

1 John 4:1 "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world."

1 Th 5:21 "Test all things; hold fast what is good.

1 Th 5:22 Abstain from every form of evil."

Islam has no concept of false prophets, false teachers, false brethren, and false salvation either. Everyone who is a Muslim is supposed to be good and saved. Well, what we have seen in the last few years is a side of Islam that few people knew it existed.

It is a horrible perversion of truth and reversal of facts to say that Allah is most merciful and most compassionate when those who claim to be his followers show so little mercy and compassion, and cut the throats of even well intentioned guests, including women, who go to Muslim countries to help the poor and helpless. By contrast, how many Muslim missionaries do we see helping the poor in Christian countries? No one will ever cut their throats in these countries. Which is why with all its faults, God Almighty still greatly favours Christianity above all other religions of the world.

So callous have those terrorists become that they are massacring their own people, because they are easy targets, in the hope that in so doing they may reach some westerners too.

The tragedy of Islam is that its spiritual and secular leaders have not raise their voices in horror at such atrocities. In so doing they have allowed themselves and their religion to be identified with those terrorists.

No one has tried harder than we have over the years to bring Islam out from the cold, so to speak, and put it on the pedestal alongside the other 'people of the book', but we have to admit with regret that our efforts have been in vain. If you cannot reach people you cannot reason with them, and if you cannot reason with them, you cannot help them.

We know that God Almighty does not like what is happening in the world, but has no choice than to let it happen until the world has learned the lesson that it cannot survive apart from its Creator.

As for the work of those inhuman terrorists, this is what Jesus Christ is telling them:

Mat 18:7 "Woe to the world because of offenses! For offenses must come, but woe to that man by whom the offense comes!

Luke 17:1 Then He said to the disciples, "It is impossible that no offenses should come, but woe to him through whom they do come!

Luke 17:2 "It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones."

No murderer, no hateful destroyer of life, no unbeliever, no sinner of any kind, will ever be among the blessed of the LORD!

# State Of The World – 2004

In the Millennium Kingdom of God there will be a return to the kind of society that was originally envisioned for Israel, with no separation between the secular and the religious. No secular publication, or any that have served the purpose of preaching false gospels, can make a transition into that Kingdom. This is why *The Christian Herald* strives to provide as much a witness to the world of the true Gospel of Jesus Christ, as a record of our times for future generations.

The following is a selection of articles from the world media which reflect the state of the world in our time.

**“Defining the war we're fighting”** Something needs to be made very clear: The war we wage, the United States and its coalition of friends, now Spain-less (spineless), is not a war on "terror." Terror is an emotion. It is not a war on "terrorism." Like blitzkrieg, siege or ambush, terrorism is a tactic. And it's not a war against "evildoers," a creaky tag that conjures faceless heavies of a vaguely extraterrestrial nature, not the seedy killers who lurk in our cities' secret cells. The war we wage, the United States and its coalition of friends, is a war on Islamic jihad – the spread of Islam by violent means – and we wage it against Islamic jihadists who dream of death and destruction in their religion's name.

Two and a half years after the Twin Towers fell, our nation and its friends fight on, but in those two and a half years this great semantic fudge has allowed our enemies to remain ill-defined. Maybe that explains why we have seen confusion spring up between "the war on terror," which is conceived of as a response to the attacks of 9/11, and the "war in Iraq," which has sometimes been erroneously depicted, particularly by anti-war Democrats, as a wholly disconnected venture. No such confusion arises when you set out to combat global jihad, a phrase that just as aptly describes the struggle against Islamic fighters in Iraq or the West Bank as it does the struggle against Islamic fighters in the skies over Pennsylvania or on the train tracks of Madrid. Terrorism may be the tactic Islamic fighters employ, but jihad is the ideology they share.

A great irony of the Spanish election is that even as mass-murdering jihadists take credit for bringing about the Socialist victory -- expected to result in Spain's withdrawal from Iraq of its 1,300 troops -- they have also thrown a giant spotlight on the intertwined tactical connections between Islamic terror networks and the war in Iraq. The most likely scenario is that Islamic fighters either affiliated with or inspired by Al Qaeda chose to attack Spain in order to strike at the U.S.-led coalition in Iraq.

"The approaching general elections in Spain in March must be exploited to the extreme," announced an online manifesto that has been appearing on jihadist Web sites associated with Al Qaeda since December. The manifesto went on to predict that attacks on Spain would virtually guarantee a Socialist victory along with the jihadist objective of seeing Spanish troops leave the American-led coalition. If jihadists make the connection between "terrorism" and Iraq, why can't we?

Maybe the conclusion to be drawn is too horrifying: namely, that in warding off jihadist aggression, we combat an ideology born of a religion. In the formerly Judeo-Christian, currently relativist-hedonist West, such a thought triggers near-panic: How can religious worship, pure and unhijacked, inspire anything but goodwill among men? And aren't terrorist tactics opposed by all but a statistically invisible Islamic fringe? Perhaps it's better to ask what kind of religion offers salvation in exchange for unholy acts of violence. And better to wonder how invisible a fringe is when a recent poll, commissioned by the liberal British newspaper *The Guardian*, claims that more than 1 in 10 British Muslims (over 160,000 people) believe Al Qaeda-style attacks on the United States are justified.

But most of us don't ask and don't wonder. Valiantly, we fight "terrorism." Determinedly, we target "evildoers."

Maybe it is this same gauzy scrim that has obscured the other kinds of jihad -- quiet jihad or even cold jihad -- that have transformed the culture of Western Europe, from Granada, where the first mosque has opened since Christian forces ended Muslim rule in Spain in 1492, to Oxford, where historian Niall Ferguson reports that historian Edward Gibbon's prediction that minarets would one day rise over the university will come true next year with the opening of a grand new Islamic Studies center.

Such seismic cultural shifts mainly result from immigration policies that have introduced vast concentrations of non-assimilating Muslims throughout Western Europe. But there's something else. Some 14,000 "white Britons" have converted to Islam, according to the *Times of London*, including "some of Britain's top landowners, celebrities and the offspring of senior establishment figures." Among the converts are Yahya (formerly Jonathan) Birt, son of Lord Birt, former director-general of the BBC, and Emma Clark, great-granddaughter of the Liberal prime minister Herbert Asquith. Miss Clark, incidentally, helped design Prince Charles' Islamic garden at his home, Highgrove. "We're all the rage now," said Miss Clark, referring to Muslims. "I hope it's not a passing fashion." In today's world, that's very hard to say. (Diana West, *WorldnetDaily.com*, March 22, 2004).

## **“The XXVIII Olympiad in Athens reflects America's sacrifice to promote freedom across the world”**

"Even antiwar activist and former Democratic presidential candidate Howard Dean's heart had to skip a beat when the Iraqi athletes walked into the magnificent stadium at the Olympic opening ceremony. Boy, did they look happy. Genuinely happy.

Compare their elation - reaching towards the crowd, tapping their hearts -- with the athletes from Iran or Saudi Arabia, who had that smile-or-disappear look Olympic athletes forlornly wore when they represented the Soviet Union or the Eastern bloc nations. In a word, the Iraqis looked free.

It occurred to me watching this pageant of superb sportsmen and sportswomen that much the same true freedom of spirit could be seen on the faces of athletes from a list of nations with familiar names -- Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Afghanistan, Grenada, Kuwait, South Korea, the former captive nations of Romania, Bulgaria, the Czechs, Slovakia, Estonia, Lithuania (all holding elections since the early 1990s), and the other former Soviet republics.

These Olympians have one thing in common: they come from the nations the US has liberated since the end of World War II.

Across the past half century, the US used the power of its soldiers, its financial power or its diplomatic power to liberate these people from authoritarian and totalitarian governments or invaders. Save perhaps for Cubans, there will be no defections to the US at these Games. It is no longer fair sport to barrack against athletes from communist Poland and Hungary. These two nations are now US allies; their soldiers fight in Iraq alongside Americans.

Afghanistan's first election is scheduled for October 9. Iraq's is in January. We can expect the members of Iraq's soccer team, the miracle story of these Olympics, to return home to cast votes in their nation's first free election. Formerly they went home to be tortured by Uday Hussein, whom the US killed last year. How many nations have free France and free Germany liberated since 1945?

My apologies for ruffling the global fellow feeling that lies officially beneath the summer Games. But for many Americans, it has become more than a little tiresome of late hearing how much the Europeans "hate us" and how the US has "alienated" our "friends". And how all this global ill will is because George W. Bush "invaded" Iraq to wage an "unjustifiable" or unnecessary war.

Afghanistan's flag bearer was Nina Suratger. Is she displeased that the US twice involved itself in her formerly godforsaken country -- during its war with the Soviet Union and more recently to drive out the Taliban? Suratger wouldn't be carrying that flag had not Americans fought to liberate Afghanistan from the Taliban.

Saudi Arabia had no women in its Olympic delegation but it just might at the Beijing Olympics if the political process struggling to take root in Iraq spreads there -- or to Syria, Yemen or Jordan. And if the notion of an Arab constitutional democracy makes your eyes roll, perhaps we can let Iraqi soccer coach Abdul Kareem Hajim speak for at least laying the cornerstone: "Now we have freedom. Our chains are broken. We just need a stable government to make sure everyone has work and a salary."

Let's consider Nedzad Fazlija, the 36-year-old flag bearer for Bosnia-Herzegovina. He is old enough to remember the friends who didn't survive the internecine war that burned in a corner of Europe for years until the US sent in troops.

Here is the official reason the US entered that war: "Over the last four years, a quarter of a million Bosnians have been killed, more than half of Bosnia's people have been driven from their homes, a million of them are still refugees. We have seen parents divided from their children, children deprived of their dreams, people caged like animals in concentration camps, women and young girls subject to systematic rape. We have seen unbelievable horrors. But now we have a chance to end this misery for good and we have a responsibility to act."

That was president Bill Clinton on December 2, 1995. Here's President Bush speaking last week: "A free and peaceful Iraq and a free and peaceful Afghanistan will be powerful examples in a part of the world that is desperate for freedom. Free countries do not export terror. Free countries do not stifle the dreams of their citizens."

It is most certainly true that not all US interventions work out well for local people. Haiti and Somalia remain disordered. Sudan appears beyond reach. None has a team in Athens.

Serious people can always measure and debate foreign commitments against America's interests, goals and resources. Dean Acheson in 1950 suggested South Korea lay outside America's defence perimeter. A similar argument is being made about Iraq – that Bush overstated the threat.

In the meantime, perhaps the athletes from Bosnia, Afghanistan and Nicolae Ceausescu's Romania will find their way to the Iraqi pavilion to hear familiar stories about living in a land of exterminations - of Shias murdered in southern Iraq and Kurds in the north. That has ended, thanks, as in many other places around the world, to US intervention, however unnecessary or poorly planned.

We thrill to see Olympic athletes strain across the ground or through the air and water to free themselves from limits set by nature on physical human effort. I, for one, am happy that America has strained to free many more people from man-made limits on personal freedom, most recently in Iraq. (Daniel Henninger, the author of this article, is deputy editorial page editor of *The Wall Street Journal*, from which this article was reprinted in *The Australian*, August 24, 2004)

**“Man of History”** We are with President Bush who has said, "I am the man who makes history." Who, other than President Bush, can launch a war against terrorism? Who else will come to the rescue of people suppressed by dictators? Who else was there to build and develop nations? and above all who made democracy the new international system for all the people in this world?

None of the Middle Eastern countries could face terrorism alone. Some of them went to the extent of making promises and allying with terrorist organisations. These countries were afraid to kick out terrorists until the United States arrived on the scene, heading a coalition of the willing to root out terrorism. Some people may be sceptical about what the US has achieved. But we know it has not only liberated Afghanistan from Taliban and its ally Osama Bin Laden but also created a modern democratic country with its own police, army and other civil institutions. The United States has also liberated the Iraqi people and created a modern country from the ruins of the former regime. There are some people who still call the war to liberate Iraq as "baseless," citing the failure of Americans to find any weapons of mass destruction (WMD). What they forget is that the Americans did find many mass graves where millions had been buried alive. This alone is enough to prove Saddam's regime was more lethal than any WMD man has known.

Quite recently the US forces have cleansed the holy places in Najaf of the remnants of the former regime and other infiltrators. When we consider all these there is no doubt Bush is a man who creates history. Western countries, which were against Bush in his war on terrorism, are now feeling the painful stings of terrorism. France has two of its citizens kidnapped in Iraq. The kidnapers have threatened to behead the French hostages if France fails to reconsider its law, which bans Muslim women from wearing hijab in schools. Terrorism can be tackled only through war and only the United States, backed by a President who creates history, is capable of handling such a war. We must remember Islam has nothing to do with terrorism. Terrorists exploit the religion to achieve their objective, which is to destroy civilisation, kill people, start wars and plunge the world into darkness. We saw how these terrorists kidnapped and killed innocent people under the cloak of religion only to forget all about their cause in exchange for a fistful of dollars.

The entire world is aware of the cause and effect of terrorism. The killing and beheading of some innocent people won't prevent the United States or its allies from confronting terrorism. Americans are convinced of the need to fight this menace and no country is better equipped to do this job except the United States, which has the mightiest armed forces history has ever known. President Bush has the right to say "I am the man who makes history" because he is fighting aggression against modern civilisation. He is creating countries which enjoy democracy, peace, stability and security.

These countries are now able to be a part of the international community sharing their traditions and culture with the rest of the humanity. Bush is the President of not only the United States but the whole world for he is making history on this small planet. (Ahmed Al-Jarallah, Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times – Kuwait, September 9, 2004).

**“Muslim leader plans commemoration of 9/11”** “The spiritual leader of a British Muslim group that is planning a commemoration of 9/11 says he supports abducting British children, "because Britain has carried out acts of terrorism in Iraq." The extremist leader of Al-Muhajiroun, Omar Bakri Mohammed, said this week that he would support holding women and children as hostages. Mohammed told *The Sunday Telegraph*, "If an Iraqi Muslim carried out an attack like that in Britain, it would be justified because Britain has carried out acts of terrorism in Iraq. As long as the Iraqi did not deliberately kill women and children, and they were killed in the crossfire, that would be okay." Mohammed, father of seven, came to Britain after being deported from Saudi Arabia because of his membership in a banned group.

Relating to the horrific school attack in southern Russia in which close to 400 people have been reported killed, Mohammed said, "The Mujahideen (Chechen terrorists) would not have wanted to kill those people, because it is strictly forbidden as a Muslim to deliberately kill women and children. It is the fault of the Russians."

Al-Muhajiroun plans to hold its third annual commemoration of the 9/11 attacks with a convention in London titled, "The Choice is in Your Hands: Either You're with the Muslims or with the Infidels. We want the world to remember this operation that lifted the head of the Muslim nation." Al-Muhajiroun claimed, as of last year, no fewer than 30 offices across Britain, with branches in France, Pakistan, Algeria and throughout the Middle East." (*The Lekarev Report*, September 9, 2004).

**“Child martyrdom promoted in Palestine”** “An alarming television segment strongly promoting child "martyrdom" has returned to official Palestinian Authority TV. The clip has been aired repeatedly in recent weeks after being taken off the air over a year ago following widespread outrage. At a US Senate Hearing in October 2003, Director of Palestinian Media Watch (PMW) Itamar Marcus displayed extensive documentary evidence that the PA was indoctrinating children to aspire to heroic death as "Shahids" (martyrs for Allah). Since then, many PA TV clips that encouraged children to seek martyrdom through involvement with terrorism were removed. The removal was ostensibly due to the inability of the PA representative at the Senate hearing to defend the practice, accompanied by extensive outrage from both the print and TV media. One such clip, which presented a child's death in combat as "sweet," because it was Death for Allah, was aired regularly up to the period of condemnations following the October, 2003 Senate hearings. The clip was taken out of PA TV's rotation and was not aired for almost a year. Suddenly, according to PMW, the clip is being broadcast again - at least three times in the last two weeks.

The segment, known as the "Farewell Letter" clip, features an Arab child writing a farewell letter to his parents, glorifying his desire to die. The child then goes out to the combat zone, where he is shot and achieves his death wish. As he falls in death, the words of his letter are sung twice: "How sweet is Shahada (Death for Allah) when I embrace you, my land." (*The Lekarev Report*, September 9, 2004).

**“Legacy of hatred”** “The spectacle of world leaders from Jacques Chirac to Kofi Annan falling over themselves to pay tribute to a corrupt old terrorist such as Yasser Arafat is truly nauseating.

Let's not forget who Arafat really was. Besides being the founder of modern terrorism, he was also a gangster, a showman, a liar and a cheat – a man who salted away millions while his people starved. A man who signed agreements and then broke them immediately afterwards. A man who supported Saddam's invasion of Kuwait and who called the march of a million martyrs to Jerusalem.

Our sympathy should go out instead to the innocent victims of terrorism still living, those who have buried their children, parents, siblings, relatives or friends, and to the thousands who have been scarred for life or have lost homes, businesses and their livelihood. The ghost of Hitler lives on in the legacy of hatred and division that Arafat has left behind." (Arthur Hurwitz, Letters to the editor, The Daily Telegraph (Sydney), November 15, 2004).

**"Arafat successor al-Qaida sympathizer"** "New leader of ruling Fatah quotes Mao, favors Iran, Syria. "The new leader of the ruling Fatah movement is an al-Qaida sympathizer with close ties to such terrorist sponsors as Iran and Syria. Farouq Qaddumi is largely unknown to the 3 million Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. He hasn't stepped foot in these areas for nearly 40 years. But Qaddumi represents powerful Middle East countries, including Iran and Syria, which regard him as a means to expand their foothold in the Palestinian Authority.

For the last 30 years Qaddumi has headed the Palestinian Liberation Organization Foreign Affairs Department. He has made it clear that he sees terrorism as a strategic option for Palestinians. Born in the West Bank of Jenin and a founding member of Fatah in 1957, Qaddumi, like his late boss, Yasser Arafat, has made a career of currying favor with Mideast despots.

"Resistance is the path to reach political settlement because we do not claim we are capable of defeating the Israeli army," Qaddumi told Hezbollah television last week.

"This policy was determined by the PLO when our brother the martyr, our brother the president, Abu Amar [Arafat], stood at the United Nations in 1974 and said: 'I hold a gun in one hand and an olive branch in the other.'"

Already, Qaddumi has also called for a wave of attacks against Israel. He has sought to align himself with Iran and Syria as an alternative to the leadership of new PLO chairman Mahmoud Abbas and Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Ahmed Qurei. Qaddumi's words have fallen on eager ears. Under Qaddumi's leadership, the Fatah movement has launched an effort to spearhead the Palestinian war against Israel. Palestinian sources said Fatah commanders have ordered their cadres to step up attacks against Israel following Arafat's death. Fatah has acquired rockets, mortars and other weaponry to attack Israeli military and civilian targets in the Gaza Strip.

Although he opposed the 1993 Oslo agreements, Qaddumi expressed understanding for the temporary Palestinian ceasefire with Israel in the 1990s. As he saw it, the Palestinians stopped fighting when they were obtaining concessions. When the concessions ended, the fighting resumed. "It is a war based on the element of surprise, in time and place," Qaddumi told Al Hayat in an interview in December 2001. "In this war, one incites the public for 20 hours, and fights for perhaps two hours." "Guerilla war is like commerce," Qaddumi said. "As Mao Zedong said, we trade when trade is profitable and stop when it's not. The Palestinian resistance is continuing. But we must assure, first, the success of the resistance. Second, [we must] prevent damage to Palestinian security." Over the past year, Qaddumi has helped make Jordan a terrorist base for Fatah operatives.

Israeli security sources said that after a lull of several years Fatah agents have resumed using Jordan for operations planning, recruitment and the transfer of money from Iran to Arafat loyalists in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The sources said the Fatah operation, which began in 2002, has been raised by Israel in discussions with the Hashemite kingdom.

Fuad Balbisi has led the Fatah network in Jordan, security sources said. Balbisi worked for Qaddumi and has been financing Fatah insurgency cells with money from Iran and Hizbullah. Balbisi was directing the recruitment and operations of Fatah squads in the territories in attacks against Israeli targets.

Oil as weapon Qaddumi also has advocated using the Islamic oil weapon against the United States. He said the oil weapon could be a more powerful weapon against the West than terrorism or war. "We thank God that the oil begins to take a new position from which it will be possible to use in that war," Qaddumi said. "World demand for oil is increasing. Therefore it becomes possible to use oil to exert pressure."

Qaddumi sees Israel as on the verge of collapse and regards the election of Ariel Sharon as the last choice of the Jewish state, or as he put it, the last bullet in the Israeli rifle. "When that bullet is spent, he said, Israel would disintegrate a la the Soviet Union or Yugoslavia. Not surprising, Qaddumi has positive words for al-Qaida and its 9/11 suicide strikes on New York and Washington. After saying he condemned the attacks, Qaddumi discussed the benefits of the attacks.

"These events will serve as a lesson to the United States," Qaddumi said. "This was the first time that Arabic names were introduced to American households," he added. "These incidents caused America to re-examine its foreign policy to find the causes of terrorism." (WorldNetDaily.com, November 20, 004).

**"Syrian bank funded insurgency with Saddam's millions"** The United States has concluded that Syria helped finance the Sunni insurgency in Iraq. Officials said the regime of President Bashar Assad used the state-owned Commercial Bank of Syria to relay hundreds of millions of dollars to Saddam Hussein loyalists in Iraq. They said the money has been deployed to finance the insurgency against the U.S.-led coalition primarily in Iraq's Sunni Triangle.

The Commercial Bank of Syria held more than \$1 billion in Saddam regime accounts on the eve of the U.S.-led war in Iraq in March 2003, officials said. Most of that money stemmed from Iraqi arms and oil smuggling as well as illegal commissions obtained from Iraqi oil sales overseen by the United Nations.

During a hearing by the Senate subcommittee on Nov. 15, Treasury Assistant Secretary Juan Carlos Zarate asserted that Syria has disbursed \$600 million to unidentified Iraqis. Zarate, responsible for terrorist financing and financial crimes at Treasury, said a U.S. team was auditing the Commercial Bank of Syria in an attempt to trace the transfer of funds.

"What we found was when we sent our investigators to Damascus, upon review of the documents and review of the transactional data, it became clear that the Syrians had, in fact, paid out the vast bulk of the amount that had existed in that particular account," Zarate said.

Officials said that over the last 18 months Damascus transferred up to \$800 million of Saddam's assets to senior aides of the former president, several of whom have been based in Syria. They said much of the money was believed to have been transferred to ex-Iraqi Vice President Izzet Ibrahim Al Douri, identified as the chief financier of the Sunni insurgency.

"We have folks on the front line right now that are sacrificing their lives, that are under fire, and somewhere, somehow, there's money being used to fuel that insurgency," Sen. Norm Coleman, chairman of the permanent investigations subcommittee of the Senate Government Affairs Committee, said. "And I would just hope that a very strong message is delivered to the Syrians, that we get their cooperation, that we track this down and we figure out what's what."

Officials said Syria has asserted that the money was relayed to Iraqi brokers and traders. They said Treasury was seeking to examine these claims, but said Damascus has failed to cooperate.

Officials said Damascus has failed to honor its assurances to the United States regarding Iraq. They said Damascus has also refused to relay any of Saddam's assets to help develop Syria's eastern neighbor. The Bush administration has been under pressure from Congress to impose additional sanctions on Syria for its failure to halt the flow of weapons, money and fighters to the Sunni insurgency in Iraq.

Officials said this would comprise a key issue when Congress begins its new session in 2005. Zarate said Treasury was working with other U.S. government agencies to trace U.S. currency seized in Iraq to determine the flow of funds to the insurgency. He did not elaborate. "We also have assets within Iraq, and that's why the Department of Defense, our soldiers on the ground, the FBI and others are working so hard to try to find those caches of cash within Iraq," Zarate said. "And then finally you have traditional sources of terrorist funding in the region which are mobilizing for the Iraqi jihad, in essence." (World Tribune.com, November 19, 2004).

**“Dutch go to war on terror. Killing sparks action”** An investigation into the murder of controversial Dutch film-maker Theo van Gogh, whose suspected assailant has ties to radical Islamists, pointed to a “terrorist conspiracy”, prosecutors said yesterday . . . The alleged killer, identified by Dutch media as Mohammed B, was remanded in custody for 10 days together with four men of Moroccan and Algerian descent . . . The suspect has so far refused to speak to investigators.

Dutch deputy prime minister Gerrit Zalm vowed, after a meeting of all cabinet ministers yesterday, to fight Muslim extremism. A letter left on the body of van Gogh threatened the Somali-born Dutch liberal politician Hirsi Ali because it said she had turned away from Islam, as well as Amsterdam’s mayor Job Cohen for allegedly pitting Jews against non-Jews. Van Gogh was widely known for his criticism of Islam. He recently caused an uproar with a film, made with Ali, linking domestic abuse with perceived subservience of women in the Islamic faith.” (*The Sunday Telegraph*, November 7, 2004).

**“Medicines Sans Frontiers the latest casualty in a war with no boundaries”** These are dangerous times for doing good. Perhaps, the most dangerous ever. Citing the “extreme risk” to its workers, the global medical relief agency, Medicines Sans Frontiers – Doctors Without Borders (MSF) – announced yesterday it was pulling out of Iraq “with a great degree of regret and sadness”.

CARE Australia closed its doors following the kidnapping of its Irish-Iraqi office head, Margaret Hassan, last month. In Afghanistan, at least 40 aid workers have been killed this year. In Chechnya, Red Cross officials were murdered as they slept, and in Baghdad the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) office was directly targeted by suicide bombers.

These are frontline humanitarian organisations, seasoned experts in running the gauntlet of perilous battlefields. They do not scare easily, nor take lightly what it means to cut the humanitarian lifeline in a conflict zone. But, therein lies the first problem. The battle fields of the so-called “war on terror” are not drawn in neat lines on the map, with two sides decently sporting the colours of their allegiance, the protective flag of neutrality raised over relief teams scurrying around in the despair of no man’s land. The new battlefield is virtually unrecognisable. “We are just living it and experiencing it. In a few years time we might be able to say what it was,” says Pierre Krahenbuhl, head of operations at the ICRC, of asymmetric unconventional conflicts, in which everyone – civilian or combatant – is a potential target.” (Louise Williams, *Sydney Morning Herald*, Weekend Edition, November 6 -7, 2004).

**“Insanity and evil run in the blood”** “The bloody knife used in the Iraq beheadings is poised to strike at the heart of Australian democracy. It was not difficult to find the web-video of the execution of US hostage Eugene Jack Armstrong on the internet – but it was almost impossible to watch.

A group of five black-masked gunmen pose beneath an Arabic banner proclaiming blessings upon their ghastly mission as their leader, understood to be senior al-Qaeda figure Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, reads a list of bogus charges behind the kneeling and blindfolded captive.

Then the Jordanian-born al-Zarqawi steps forward, knocks the quivering prisoner over and begins sawing at his neck with a large knife, knocking off his blind-fold. The choked screaming made as the blade tears into Mr Armstrong’s now blood-filled throat is horrifyingly audible. Hours later, the same group announced it had “executed” Mr Armstrong’s companion, American Jack Hensley, and was preparing to kill Briton Kenneth Bigley.

Mocking all pretence to decency, humanity and civilisation, the murderers claimed that their slaughter was carried out in the name of Allah. But these acts are godless, furiously anti-religious. There is not a scintilla of mercy – only evil hatred. As there was when three Kurds had their throats cut earlier this week, and a dozen Nepalese, and the Turks . . .

Al-Zarqawi’s gang claim they wanted the release of “all Muslim women” being held by the US military in Iraq but apparently there were only two – Rihab Taha, a microbiologist nicknamed “Dr Germ” who run Iraq’s biological weapons program in the late ‘80s, and Huda Ammash, also in the weapons program and known as “Mrs Anthrax”. Neither are in the Abu Ghraib or Um Wasr prisons.

That they played major roles in Saddam Hussein’s murderous regime makes no difference to al-Zarqawi., they are no more than excuses for his bloody acts of barbarism.

Those opposed to the liberation of Iraq, the human shields, the Labor Party, the doctor’s wives and other blinkered individuals, don’t want to know about al-Zarqawi because his existence nails the lie that there were no connections between Saddam and Al-Qaeda.

As US Secretary of State Colin Powell told the UN of February 5, 2003: “What I want to bring to your attention today is the potential much more sinister nexus between Iraq and the al-Qaeda terrorist network, a nexus that combines classic terrorist organisations and modern methods of murder. Iraq today harbours a deadly terrorist network headed by al-Zarqawi, a collaborator of Osama bin Laden.

Al-Zarqawi was an honoured guest of Saddam’s in Baghdad. He went there after being wounded in Afghanistan, where he ran an al-Qaeda terrorist training camp specialising in poisons.

With the ousting of the Taliban, he took his team to north-eastern Iraq and establishes another poison and explosive centre. Now he has a A\$35 million price tag on his head and no agenda but to destroy.

Despite the clear lines running from al-Qaeda to terrorists such as the captured September 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and his convicted Australian protégé Jack Roche, Opposition Leader Mark Latham’s policy is not to recognise the threat of international terrorism until it turns up within a boat ride of Australia and to then meet with the coast guard.

British Labour Prime Minister Tony Blair sees the problem somewhat differently and acknowledges that the second Iraq war, the war against the international terrorists who want to undermine the newly-liberated nation, is under way.

Mark Latham wants Australia to walk away from all that and wait until these insane killers arrive in our coastal waters before striking.

To do so would be to unravel the work the international coalition has achieved since the fall of Saddam’s regime and, though you wouldn’t know it watching the ABC and SBS or from reading Fairfax press [Sydney Morning Herald. The Age, etc.], progress is being made in Iraq and the majority of Iraqis are mightily relieved Saddam’s thugs no longer run the country.

As the respected military historian John Keegan pointed out in *The Daily Telegraph* in London: “When they are not silenced by the threat of violence from extremists and criminals, they are ready to say they regard the Western troops in their midst as liberators.

“Western so-called progressives who denounce the war of 2003 as a mistake are in fact illiberal and reactionaries. They should be ashamed of themselves.”

The evil medieval forces in Baghdad are precisely the same people who took 88 Australian lives in Bali and attempted to destroy Australian Embassy in Jakarta two weeks ago. If they are not exterminated in Iraq, in Afghanistan, in the Sudan and wherever they have their camps and training bases, they will spread like cockroaches.

This is not the time to show weakness by cutting and running. This is the time for fortitude and resolution. Not since WWII has the civilised world faced a greater threat to its existence than that represented by the brutal beheadings in Baghdad.” (Piere Akerman, *The Daily Telegraph*, September 22, 2004).

**“Ignorant attacks hurt innocent Muslims”** 11.10am Thursday, September 23 – Female talkback caller says she agrees that Australians should not allow Muslims to enter the country and thinks Muslims already in Australia should not be allowed to leave.

11.13am – Male caller says it is a security concern that Muslim women wearing burkas enter banks with their heads covered.

11.29am – Host asks why there is a prayer room [for Muslims] at Sydney Airport . . .

Listening to comments on talkback, one begins to understand why Muslims feel increasingly under attack.

Islam is misrepresented, Muslims are stereotyped and experts who are not educated in the faith are telling mass audiences what the religion teaches – not based on the teachings but their own fears and apprehensions . . .

Is these comments were made in Saudi Arabia in relation to another religion, or in Egypt or Iran, there would have been condemnation throughout the world.

Why are these comments being made? Is our society so desensitized towards Muslims that it will accept any criticism of Muslims and Islam, regardless of how spurious such allegations are?" (Keyzar Trad, Assistant to the Mufti of Australia and a director of the Lebanese Muslims Associations, *The Daily Telegraph*, November 2, 2004).

How charming. Only a Mufti could give Saudi Arabia and Iran as paragons of correctitude in relation to the freedoms of speech and of worship, when those countries would not even allow Christians to worship God in their own homes let alone in public buildings. Is he aware of the petition of the "Free Muslims" to the United Nations, to the USA and the world, against narrow minded, misguided Muslim clerics who justify violence and encourage terrorism in the name of their God?

**"Muslim group takes responsibility for 9-11: We Are So Sorry"** This September 11 marks the third unforgettable anniversary of the worst mass murder in American history. After September 11, many in the Muslim world chose denial and hallucination rather than face up to the sad fact that Muslims perpetrated the 9-11 terrorist acts and that we have an enormous problem with extremism and support for terrorism. Many Muslims, including religious leaders, and "intellectuals" blamed 9-11 on a Jewish conspiracy and went as far as fabricating a tale that 4000 Jews did not show up for work in the World Trade Center on 9-11. Yet others blamed 9-11 on an American right wing conspiracy or the U.S. Government which allegedly wanted an excuse to invade Iraq and "steal" Iraqi oil.

After numerous admissions of guilt by Bin Laden and numerous corroborating admissions by captured top level Al-Qaida operatives, we wonder, does the Muslim leadership have the dignity and courage to apologize for 9-11?

If not 9-11, will we apologize for the murder of school children in Russia?

If not Russia, will we apologize for the train bombings in Madrid, Spain?

If not Spain, will we apologize for suicide bombings in buses, restaurants and other public places?

If not suicide bombings, will we apologize for the barbaric beheadings of human beings?

If not beheadings, will we apologize for the rape and murder of thousands of innocent people in Darfour?

If not Darfour, will we apologize for the blowing up of two Russian planes by Muslim women?

What will we apologize for?

What will it take for Muslims to realize that those who commit mass murder in the name of Islam are not just a few fringe elements?

What will it take for Muslims to realize that we are facing a crisis that is more deadly than the AIDS epidemic?

What will it take for Muslims to realize that there is a large evil movement that is turning what was a peaceful religion into a cult?

Will Muslims wake up before it is too late? Or will we continue blaming the Jews and an imaginary Jewish conspiracy? The blaming of all Muslim problems on Jews is a cancer that is destroying Muslim society from within and it must stop.

Muslims must look inward and put a stop to many of our religious leaders who spend most of their sermons teaching hatred, intolerance and violent jihad. We should not be afraid to admit that as Muslims we have a problem with violent extremism. We should not be afraid to admit that so many of our religious leaders belong behind bars and not behind a pulpit.

Only moderate Muslims can challenge and defeat extremist Muslims. We can no longer afford to be silent. If we remain silent to the extremism within our community then we should not expect anyone to listen to us when we complain of stereotyping and discrimination by non-Muslims; we should not be surprised when the world treats all of us as terrorists; we should not be surprised when we are profiled at airports. Simply put, not only do Muslims need to join the war against terror, we need to take the lead in this war. As to apologizing, we will no longer wait for our religious leaders and "intellectuals" to do the right thing. Instead, we will start by apologizing for 9-11.

We are so sorry that 3000 people were murdered in our name. We will never forget the sight of people jumping from two of the highest buildings in the world hoping against hope that if they moved their arms fast enough they may fly and survive a certain death from burning.

We are sorry for blaming 9-11 on a Jewish or right wing conspiracy.

We are so sorry for the murder of more than three hundred school children and adults in Russia.

We are so sorry for the murder of train passengers in Spain.

We are so sorry for all the victims of suicide bombings. We are so sorry for the beheadings, abductions, rapes, violent Jihad and all the atrocities committed by Muslims around the world.

We are so sorry for a religious education that raised killers rather than train people to do good in the world. We are sorry that we did not take the time to teach our children tolerance and respect for other people.

We are so sorry for not rising up against the dictators who have ruled the Muslim world for decades.

We are so sorry for allowing corruption to spread so fast and so deep in the Muslim world that many of our youth lost hope.

We are so sorry for allowing our religious leaders to relegate women to the status of fourth class citizens at best and sub-humans at worst. We are so sorry. (www.freemuslims.org, September 10, 2004).

**"Sign Petition to Punish Religious Leaders who Preach Violence and Justify Terrorism"** "The Free Muslims Against Terrorism (Free Muslims) have partnered with progressive Arabs and Muslims to hold religious leaders accountable for justifying violence and encouraging terrorism. The Free Muslims are petitioning the UN Security Council and the United States government to establish an international tribunal to prosecute religious leaders, including clerics who issue "fatwas" which are religious opinions, edicts, rulings and conclusions that incite violence and justify the use of terrorism. These religious leaders are especially dangerous because some of their followers consider their opinions to be gospel.

This petition is a follow up to the recently adopted UN Resolution 1566 that reads in part: "...[A]ll members of the Security Council to consider and submit recommendations... on practical measures to be imposed upon, individuals ... involved in or associated with terrorist activities...bringing them to justice through prosecution or extradition, freezing of their financial assets..."

It is crucial to hold these religious leaders accountable because most terrorists who kill in the name of Islam rely on the fatwas and conclusions of these religious leaders to convince themselves that they are going to heaven after their death.

The Following is an example of a Fatwa that encourages terrorism:

Sheikh Yousif Al-Qardhawi issued a Fatwa permitting the killing of "fetuses" (unborn) Jews, because (according to him) when Jews are born and grown-up they will join the Israeli army. Furthermore, on September 3, 2004, (at the Egyptian Journalist Union) Al-Qardhawi issued a fatwa to kill all American civilians working in Iraq. And on July 3, 2004, he issued another fatwa permitting the killing of Muslim intellectuals as being apostates, claiming that Islam justifies the killing of such apostates.

These extremist clerics continue to issue fatwas that incite terrorism under the false umbrella of Islam. Join us in stopping these religious leaders by signing this petition requesting the U.N. to create an International Tribunal to prosecute them.

This petition has been organized by Dr. Jawad Hashim (Iraq's former Minister of Planning), Lafif Lakhdar (A Tunisian Intellectual), and Dr. Shakir Al-Nabulsi (A Jordanian writer and author). The Free Muslims Against Terrorism has joined this effort and we seek 20,000 people to sign this petition. More than 3,000 people have already signed.

All people are invited to sign this petition by sending your name, profession, country of residence and nationality to Jmhashim@hotmail.com and cc: President@freemuslims.org. Write "petition" in the subject line. For more information visit our website at: www.freemuslims.org (Free Muslim Coalition Against Terrorism", November 30, 2004).

**"Vatican helps Saddam deputy fight war case"** "London: Saddam Hussein's former foreign minister and deputy prime minister has persuaded sympathisers in the Vatican to arrange free legal advice for his defence against war crimes.

Tariq Aziz, a practicing Christian (*how a man whose regime was responsible for more than three hundred mass graves could be a "practicing Christian" we do not know. Ed.*), secured the services of Italian lawyers after contacting a group of Catholic priests and bishops.

He wrote to his family from jail in Baghdad urging them to get in touch with Jean-Marie Benjamin, a left-wing priest who had previously brokered a meeting between Aziz and the Pope before the invasion last year. Father Benjamin, who has said he is acting with the Vatican's unofficial blessing, is orchestrating religious and legal support for Aziz.

The campaign also has the backing of Monsignor Emmanuel Delly, the Patriarch of Baghdad and spiritual leader of Iraq's 500 000-strong Chaldean branch of the Catholic Church, which Aziz belongs to.

The church's involvement in Aziz's defence could prove embarrassing for Italy's Prime Minister Berlusconi, whose government the US-led invasion and has about 3000 troops in Iraq. Supporters of Aziz say he was only a diplomat but the British and Americans believe his role as apologist for Saddam's regime makes him culpable. . .

Father Benjamin received a letter from Cardinal Abgelo Sodano, the Vatican's secretary of state, thanking him for "building links with Iraq's and the wider world." (*The Telegraph*, London, and *SMH* Sydney, December 13, 2004).

**"Agenda for new Congress: Get U.S. out of U.N."** "Every day, a new outrage emerges from the United Nations bureaucracy. Kofi Annan, once known for his deliberate, even-handed diplomacy, now openly condemns the United States' action in Iraq as "illegal." He is offended that the U.S. expects accountability in the oil-for-food scandal and refuses to open the books for independent review. The corruption erupting from this single program eclipses the intrigue that is inherent throughout the United Nations system.

For years, individuals and organizations have warned that the United Nations is implementing an agenda that ultimately leads to total global control. These warnings have been discounted by the media and ridiculed by the "enlightened" as the blathering of "black helicopter conspiracy freaks."

Putting aside, for the moment, the U.N.'s agenda, the blatant corruption, deceit and open opposition to all things American, combined with the U.N.'s consistent failure to stop the slaughter of refugees in the Sudan, Rwanda, Somalia and elsewhere around the globe should have Americans asking their congressmen why we continue to support this institution.

What exactly does the United States get for the billions of dollars invested every year in the hundreds of U.N. agencies around the world? We get slapped in the face by the U.N. Security Council, whose members didn't want to disturb their profitable, private arrangements with Saddam's oil-for-food program. We get booted off the U.N. Human Rights Commission and replaced by nations whose human rights practices are among the world's worst.

We get harangued at every U.N. meeting by people who blame the United States for the world's poverty, for global warming and environmental degradation, and worst of all, for supporting Israel. There is virtually no benefit derived from U.N. membership that is not readily available outside the U.N. through bi-lateral negotiations for less cost and much less grief.

President Bush has indicated rather strongly that his patience with the U.N. has limits. He has also indicated his willingness to work with the U.N. in some areas, such as UNESCO. This position is confusing, particularly to conservatives. It could be interpreted as the president's effort to be engaged in the international community, but not bound by it. The United States cannot build new walls of isolation or withdraw from the international community. The opposite must happen; the United States should reach out to other nations and offer a hand of friendship to all nations that share our values of freedom, individual rights and representative government. The United Nations is not needed for this outreach. The United Nations is not needed at all.

Why not get rid of it? The new Congress that convenes in January could adopt Rep. Ron Paul's proposal to completely withdraw from the U.N. Every year this bill has been introduced, it has received more and more votes. The U.N.'s refusal to cooperate with congressional investigations of the oil-for-food program could inspire sufficient wrath in Congress to finally authorize withdrawal from the U.N. Congress could stop short of withdrawal and stop all funding of the U.N., pending a congressional review. Each U.N. agency should be reviewed for relevance and benefit before receiving U.S. funding. Many, if not all, U.N. agencies would find it difficult to demonstrate a benefit to the U.S.

Should these U.N. agencies be subjected to a congressional review, what would quickly become apparent is the presence of a comprehensive agenda. While each U.N. agency is responsible for implementing specific programs within its particular jurisdiction, each program and every agency is working from the same playbook – toward a comprehensive agenda.

The ultimate goal of the agenda is to transform the system of governance for the entire world, regardless of the type of government in any nation. The new system of governance is best described as "Administrative Governance." In this system, public policy is made by professionals, with input from the people only through approved and duly accredited non-government organizations. Public policy is then "administered" by participating governments – regardless of the type of government – through treaties and agreements arranged and enforced by the U.N. Implementation of public policy is policed by the same NGOs that helped shape the policies.

The United Nations then becomes the supreme policy-making body. Each participating nation – by treaty or agreement – becomes an administrative unit. In the United States, each state becomes an administrative unit of the federal government, and each local government becomes an administrative unit of the state. This new system of governance has arrived and is known as Agenda 21 – the rulebook for sustainable development. There are no black helicopters or blue-helmeted troops. But the agenda is real, just the same.

The U.N.'s agenda and its corruption provide ample reasons for the United States to withdraw from this institution. Withdrawal should be a priority for the new Congress. (Henry Lamb, *WorldNetDaily.com*, November 20, 2004).

**"Irrelevant [UN] wingers let the world down"** "The United Nations has failed the victims of the Sumatran tsunami.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, who wouldn't brake his skiing vocation to tackle the crisis, should be thrown out the door of the Turtle Bay palace he presides over on New York's East River.

UN Humanitarian Affairs Under-Secretary Jan Egeland should be tossed out as well, after bagging the US for being "stingy" with aid money. He should be forcibly reminded that the US picks up about a quarter of the total bill for the UN, and an even greater percentage of special operations like the World Food Program and the UN Human Rights Commission.

Of course, it's fashionable for the elitist latte-sipping chiefs of the UN to be critical of the US and other nations that actually show global leadership because the historically corrupt UN is such an abject failure by any accounting. The whole world knows that Australia, the US, Japan and India are setting the pace for relief assistance across the devastated region and the UN is trailing in the mud.

Mr Annan's biggest initiative so far has been to call an international conference for January 11 – and that's still a full week away – while obliquely criticising US President George W. Bush for moving to co-ordinate the activities of the flying foursome!

Typical of the latte-lappers is former UK development secretary Clare Short who said the co-ordinating role should be left to the UN because "I think this initiative from America to set up four countries claiming to co-ordinate sounds like yet another attempt to undermine the UN when it is the best system we have got and the one that needs building up. "Only really the UN can do that job," she told BBC Radio Four's PM program. "It is the only body that has the moral authority." Give me a brake. The US, Japan, India, and Australia, already in the field, distributing supplies, setting up field hospitals, arranging for sanitation and clean water, don't have the moral authority for tsunami crisis relief? What a joke. I'm proud of the fact that Australia is right at the forefront of the international aid effort, that Australian officials are in charge of all consular activities for all nations in Thailand and in particular are co-ordinating the international effort to trace all missing foreigners in the stricken tourist areas, working to establish the identities of the dead and locate all Western tourists.

Australia was the first country to weigh in with aid and has just kept scaling it up since the tsunami struck. Prime Minister John Howard and Foreign Minister Alexander Downer will no doubt offer even more when they meet with other regional and international relief chiefs in Jakarta on Thursday. The fact that the US, India and Japan are prepared to let Australia take the lead role in the effort shows how respected we are in the region.

It is to be hoped that our participation does not go unnoticed by the Islamic community in Indonesia, the world's largest Muslim nation.

Perhaps our local Islamic leaders could let their brothers abroad know exactly how much the Christian Western nations are contributing at this time to the affected Muslims and counter propaganda that spews out of the terrorists' news network, al-Jazeera. They might even point out that their hated Israel was one of the first to fly in supplies and medical teams.

Opposition foreign affairs spokesman Kevin Rudd has complemented the Government on the manner in which it has risen to meet the demands flowing from the disaster. His positive and constructive stance can't be faulted. . .

The tsunami has accurately shown how a coalition of likeminded nations can act promptly and work together while dysfunctional UN issues grandiose statements and attempts to justify its bloated presence. If the UN feels it has been snubbed by the efforts of the coalition, let it raise this matter when it meets next week. No-one could care less because no-one will be listening. The doers will be in the field flying helicopters, unloading the C-130s, and setting up field hospitals where they are needed, not sitting around conference tables in Geneva fiddling their claims and trying to think up ways of demeaning the efforts of Australia, the US, India and Japan.

Under Kofi Annan, the UN failed in Rwanda, the Congo, the Sudan and it has now failed in South-East Asia. The UN bureaucracy's self-serving response is a laughing stock.

This lesson must not be forgotten when the UN's multilateralists jump on their soap boxes in the future and presume to tell Australia, and other advanced nations, how they should conduct themselves." Pier Akerman, *The Daily Telegraph*, January 4, 2005).

**“TROUBLE IN THE HOLY LAND”** “Officials praise Arafat as 'jihad' warrior” Following announcement of the death of Yasser Arafat last Thursday, Palestinian officials and leaders spoke candidly in Arabic-language television interviews of their continued commitment to "jihad," or holy war, and the elimination of Israel.

On Al-Alam TV in Iran, Friday, the Palestinian ambassador to Tehran, Salah Zawawi, praised Arafat as a "martyr" who understood it was only a matter of time before Israel would be eradicated. The video clip was recorded and translated by the Middle East Media Research Institute TV Monitor Project, or MEMRI TV.

"This man knew that this path is the path of martyrdom and jihad. He knew that this great cause requires martyrs, not leaders, who look after their personal future and not the nation's future," Zawawi said.

Arafat "fought the jihad and we saw him in many battles," the ambassador continued. "Sometimes he was right and sometimes he erred. And whenever he erred, we would tell him: this is a mistake. And whenever he was right we would praise him. And now he is gone.

"If you ask me what will surely be the end of this Zionist entity, I will say to you that this entity will disappear one of these days," said Zawawi. "And its leaders, who can see what will be in the future, understand this. It's a matter of time."

The Fatah leader noted a "change in the world." "Europe has changed and its position has become more clearly in our favor," he said. "America is bogged down in Iraq and doesn't know what to do."

In an interview that day with the same Dubai station, Raid Al-Aidi, leader of the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, called for directing the terrorist group's "painful blows" against Israel. "We call from here to all the heroes of the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, throughout the homeland to oppose this occupier, and strike this occupier anywhere, with no holds barred," he said.

After Arafat's death, the group renamed itself Yasser Arafat Martyrs Brigades. "We in the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades will direct our painful blows against this monstrous entity," Al-Aidi continued. "The Palestinian state will be achieved only by strengthening the resistance, supporting the resistance, and continuing the resistance, until this oppressing occupier leaves our land, since this occupier doesn't understand the language of peace or surrender."

The terrorist group's leader said Israel understands "only the language of gunfire and gun powder and we will teach this occupier, Allah willing, a lesson as we have taught it in the past, in Tel Aviv, Hadera, and everywhere." (WorldNetDaily.com, November 16, 2004).

**“WARS AND RUMORS OF WARS”** “Iran: We can hit anywhere in Israel. Ayatollahs posture for pre-emptive strike against own nuclear reactors. A senior Iranian military official told reporters yesterday Israel and the United States would not dare attack Iran since it could strike back anywhere in Israel and against U.S. military installations in the Middle East with its latest missiles.

"The entire Zionist territory, including its nuclear facilities and atomic arsenal, are currently within range of Iran's advanced missiles," the ISNA students news agency quoted Yadollah Javani, head of the Revolutionary Guards political bureau, as saying.

"Therefore, neither the Zionist regime nor America will carry out its threats" against Iran, he said. An attack on Iran "could only be carried out by angry or stupid people. For that reason, officials of the Islamic Republic must always be prepared to counter possible military threats," Javani said in a statement, ISNA reported. . .

"Such statements by Iran only serve to demonstrate the need for Israel to maintain and further develop defensive systems such as the Arrow II," a senior Israeli defense source said Sunday. "It appears that Iran is rattling its saber for fear of a pre-emptive strike by Israel or the United States – however grounded in fact such fears are or are not," the source said. . .

Israel has recently conducted military exercises for a pre-emptive strike against several of Iran's nuclear power facilities and is ready to attack if Russia supplies Iran with rods for enriching uranium.

**An Israeli defense source said "Israel will on no account permit Iranian reactors – especially the one being built in Bushehr with Russian help – to go critical."** (Aaron Klein, *WorldNetDaily.com*, August 16, 2004).

**Iran to confront USA** "Maariv has confirmed through western intelligence sources that Iran's hardline leaders have decided that risking a confrontation with the US over their nuclear weapons development program rather than make any concessions is worth the risk. At a recent meeting of the Iranian leadership, currently totally dominated by the conservative hard liners, it was decided that Teheran could risk taking an uncompromising position. This position was supported by most of the participants, including former president Rafsanjani, Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei's most trusted and respected counsellor regarding foreign affairs.

Iran believes it can get away with stonewalling until it has amassed a sufficient amount of enriched uranium required for fabricating a nuclear weapon. This requires ensuring international inspections do not uncover the covert operations at secret facilities IAEA inspectors have not yet uncovered. The prevailing opinion voiced at the meeting was that the Europeans will prefer appeasement to confrontation. The Iranian leadership believes the Europeans lack the will to risk a military showdown with Iran, and will not risk their lucrative trade contracts by allowing the US to get the UN to impose meaningful sanctions against Teheran. Even if sanctions are imposed, Teheran has a large financial reserve to ride them out for several months, having invested much of its oil revenues, inflated by the high price of crude, in a contingency fund for such an eventuality. Teheran also intends to increase pressure on the US by getting firebrand Shiite cleric Moqtada el Sadr to renew and escalate his rebellion against the interim Iraqi government and the US forces in Iraq. At the moment there is a window of opportunity for Iran to exploit, due to the current incapacitation of Ayatollah Ali Sistani, who is currently undergoing medial treatment in London for a heart condition. Sistani is one of the most well respected religious leaders and has encouraged cooperation with the US." *The Lekarev Report: Iran Risking Confrontation with US*, August 12, 2004).

**“Iran's new weapons to hit Europe. Building long-range missiles”** LONDON: Iran is developing long-range missiles capable of hitting European capitals, as well as nuclear and chemical warheads, according to an exile group.

The National Council of Resistance of Iran, which has in the past given accurate information on some of Iran's nuclear facilities, said Teheran was working on missiles with a range of 2500-3000km, capable of hitting cities such as Berlin. Iran denies any intention of making long-range ballistic missiles and says its existing missiles are purely for deterrence. . .

Iran has acknowledged it can make large numbers of medium-range Shahab-3 ballistic missiles, capable of hitting Israel or US bases in the Gulf, but has repeatedly denied Israeli accusations that it is developing the Shahab-4.

"Militarily speaking, by obtaining long-range and medium-range missiles, the clerics are trying to put many regions of the world, including all of Europe, within their range," NCRI's Ali Safavi said. . . Last month, US Secretary of State Colin Powell suggested Iran was working to fit missiles with nuclear warheads but Iran says its atomic plants are solely for power generation. Earlier this week the United Nations' nuclear watchdog decided against referring Iran to the Security Council after Teheran agreed to freeze all activities which could be used to produce weapons material." (*The Daily Telegraph*, Dec. 4, 2004).

**“Israel: EU Should Not Be Fooled by Iran”** The European Union should not be fooled by Iran, which will "never" abandon its bid to make nuclear weapons, warned Israeli foreign Minister Silvan Shalom yesterday. Shalom told the EU's Dutch presidency in a meeting at The Hague that while Israel welcomed a deal brokered earlier this month by Britain, France and Germany under which Iran claims it will suspend uranium-enrichment activities, Iran must still be closely watched and cannot be trusted.

"I told them we are very sceptical because we know what the real intentions of the Iranians are, we know that they will never abandon their dream to have a nuclear bomb," Shalom said. (The Lekarev Report, November 30, 2004)

**“Iran building secret tunnel”** In a report to be published tomorrow in Germany's "Der Spiegel", Iran has been building a secret tunnel since October to continue uranium enrichment, despite a deal two weeks ago to freeze the program.

The weekly, citing a secret service file, said that Iranian supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei had personally ordered the facility built last month near the uranium enrichment site in Isfahan that is under UN observation. The tunnel, which "Der Spiegel" said is out of the view of spy satellites, is intended to house a production site for large amounts of uranium UF6 gas which can be enriched in gas centrifuges - a key step in the building of a nuclear bomb. Der Spiegel's report says that the clandestine project is being led by a task force that answers directly to Khamenei. (The Lekarev Report, November 29, 2004).

**“What's Wrong with this Picture?”** It is more than interesting to note that Saudi Arabia has pledged \$10 million for millions of Muslim refugees of the tsunami disaster [later raised to \$35 million]. Yet, last year, Saudi Arabia raised \$150 million dollars for the families of suicide bombers. Kuwait, which *The NY Times* reported is expected to run a budget surplus this year of roughly \$10 billion, has offered precisely 1/1000th of that amount, or \$10 million, to aid the tsunami victims. Kuwait, which the *Times* also reported today recently distributed \$700 million to its citizens, has offered precisely 1/70th of that amount to aid the homeless and hungry tsunami victims - also \$10 million. It originally offered \$1 million, then another million, and then raised it to the current amount after a local newspaper wrote that Kuwait apparently "deserves its reputation for being cheap."

Commentator Naomi Ragen noted, "Given the fact that Indonesia is 78% Moslem, and has lost more than 100,000 people... one would think that Arab nations would now show an outpouring of support and sympathy. After all, isn't that the excuse they always use for backing the 'poor Palestinians' -- that they are fellow Moslems and their solidarity is a given? ... Makes one think, doesn't it, that perhaps all these years their concern for the plight of the Palestinian 'refugees' wasn't based on purely humanitarian grounds." (*Lekarev Report*, Jan. 6, 2005)

**“How We're Helping Out”** “The massive injection of funds catapulted Australia to the top of a list of donor nations, with A\$1 billion from the government and more than 135 million from private donations, creating ties with the region that no amount of talk or trade could have matched.” In addition, Australia has about 500 Defence Force personnel on the ground, a navy ship arrives in Aceh on January 13 carrying with it a crew of 246, plus 150 army engineers. Total deployment in the devastated region includes field medical teams, six C-130 Hercules aircraft, one Boeing 707 transport aircraft, one Beech King Air utility aircraft, four Iroquois helicopters, two Sea King helicopters, two landing craft. Water purification plant capable of producing 140,000 litres a day on ground. 600 ADF staff supporting operation in Australia.

Australian aid workers – 18 Oxfam, eight Red Cross, two Caritas delegates, four Medicines Sans Frontier, five CARE Australia and CARE International. A 25-person civilian team arrived in Aceh on Thursday. A 20-person medical team from Queensland remains on standby. All these in Indonesia alone, and there are many more in the other affected countries. (*The Daily Telegraph*, January 8, 2005).

## THE CHRISTIAN HOLY DAYS FOR THE YEARS 2005 - 2007

	2005	2006	2007
<b>The Passover</b> (Pesah - Nissan 14)  Unlike the Jews, who used to kill the Passover lamb “at the twilight” of Nissan 14 (meaning in the evening towards Nissan 15), we, Christians, observe the Passover when our “Lamb” – Jesus Christ – was sacrificed. That happened on the afternoon of Nissan 14, before the twilight of Nissan 14, meaning that we keep it a little earlier than the Jews. We commemorate His death, not His supper, which occurred the previous evening, as some churches do. The time when His body was broken, not when He broke the symbolic bread.	23 April	12 April	2 April
<b>Days of Unleavened Bread</b> (Nissan 15 – 21)  On the first and seventh days there shall be holy convocations. No work shall be done on these days.	24 – 30 April	13 – 19 April	3 – 9 April
<b>Pentecost</b> (Shavuot – Sivan 6)	13 June	2 June	23 May
<b>Feast of Trumpets</b> (Rosh Hashanah - Tishri 1)	4 Oct.	23 Sept.	13 Sept.
<b>Day of Atonement</b> (Yom Kippur – Tishri 10)	13 Oct.	2 Oct.	22 Sept.
<b>Feast of Tabernacles</b> (Succoth -- Tishri 15 – 22)	18 – 25 Oct.	7 – 14 Oct.	27 Sept. – 4 Oct.

On the first and the eighth days there shall be holy convocations. No work shall be done on these days.