

How Did It Ever Come To This?

She says she is gay, yet she was married four times. Her father is gay, yet he was happily married for decades and conceived her. Her friends are gay, she had chosen them well. Who is this person who shouts her gayness from the rooftops? None other than the world famous cabaret singer, Liza Minnelli! (*Sunday Telegraph*, June 19, 2011).

Why is she doing it? Because it is chic and cosmopolitan to be gay these days!

Gone are the days when they played their wares in dark alleys, isolated park lavatories, and hidden gay and lesbian nightclubs. How long ago was that? Not thousands of years, like in the time of Sodom and Gomorrah, or ancient Rome; not even centuries, as in the dark ages of Europe, when this abominable practice kept raising its head, but a few short decades ago in the world's major cities.

“Over the past quarter-century the love that dared not speak its name turned into a veritable motor mouth, to a point where the average American, an astonishing Gallup Poll last month showed, thinks that about 25 per cent of the population is homosexual. Hardly. But that perception underscores how visible gay people have become. And familiarity changes everything.” (*Sydney Morning Herald*, June 27, 2011).

God's Word says that far from being “the love that dares not speak its name”, this is the sin that it is shameful even to speak about.

Eph 5:11 And have no fellowship with **the unfruitful works of darkness**, but rather expose *them*.

Eph 5:12 For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret.

Rom 1:20 For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,

Rom 1:21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Rom 1:22 Professing to be wise, they became fools,

Rom 1:23 and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

Rom 1:24 Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves,

Rom 1:25 who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

Rom 1:26 For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature.

Rom 1:27 Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.

They claim that they are no different from heterosexual people, that their love is genuine and should be recognized as marriage, forgetting what the Scriptures say of those who engage in such abominable practices.

Rom 1:28 And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting;

Rom 1:29 being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; *they are* whisperers,

Rom 1:30 backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient

Rom 1:31 to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful;

Rom 1:32 who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.

The apostles of Jesus Christ said that far from being ‘love’, what they practice is “the unfruitful works of darkness”. But where are the custodians of the world's moral and spiritual standards these days? Why are they silent in the face of this unprecedented wave of immorality and debauchery?

Why are they not crying aloud the sins of their people in order to spare them a catastrophic end, as God said they should?

“The Catholic Church, arguably the only institution with the authority and reach to derail same-sex marriage, seemed to shrink from the fight. The head of the church in New York, Archbishop Timothy Dolan, did not deliver a major speech in the final days of the session. And when he did issue a strongly worded critique of the legislation – he called it “immoral” and an “ominous threat” – it was over the phone to an Albany-area radio show.”

Inside the Capitol, Governor Cuomo had taken pains to blunt the church’s opposition . . . Gay couples, he said, wanted recognition from the state that they were no different than the politicians in the room. In the late hours of Friday night, 33 members of the [New York] State Senate agreed with him.” (*New York Times*, June 17, 2011).

Well, maybe gay couples are no different than the politicians in that room, but they are very different from the people that God is grooming for everlasting life in His eternal Kingdom.

1Co 6:9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites,
1Co 6:10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.
1Co 6:11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

Notice carefully, “such were some of you, but you were washed, sanctified and justified in the name of the Lord Jesus by the Spirit of our God”. What does this tell you? That all those sins, inclusive homosexuality, are not irreversible but are carnal weaknesses and impulses from which people can recover and be saved? Yet instead of taking advantage of this extraordinary act of forgiveness from God, they are sinking even deeper into the mire by demanding that their “unfruitful works of darkness” be recognized as marriage.

Jesus Christ Himself confirmed that there is forgiveness for those who repent and turn back from sins to righteousness, yet there is precious little evidence that they are striving to do so.

Mat 10:14 And whoever will not receive you nor hear your words, when you depart from that house or city, shake off the dust from your feet.
Mat 10:15 Assuredly, I say to you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city!

The question is why has this avalanche of sins descended upon the world so strongly at this particular time? The Scriptures give us the answer.

2Ti 3:1 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come:
2Ti 3:2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,
2Ti 3:3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good,
2Ti 3:4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,
2Ti 3:5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!
2Ti 3:6 For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts,
2Ti 3:7 always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.
2Ti 3:8 Now as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith;
2Ti 3:9 but they will progress no further, for their folly will be manifest to all, as theirs also was.
2Ti 3:10 But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance,
2Ti 3:11 persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra—what persecutions I endured. And out of *them* all the Lord delivered me.
2Ti 3:12 Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.
2Ti 3:13 But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.
2Ti 3:14 But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*,

2Ti 3:15 and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.
2Ti 3:16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,
2Ti 3:17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Eph 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

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.

Eph 6:14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of

Eph 6:15 righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

Eph 6:16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

Eph 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

Eph 6:18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.

1Pe 4:12 Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you;

1Pe 4:13 but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.

1Pe 4:14 If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed *are you*, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified.

1Pe 4:15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters.

1Pe 4:16 Yet if *anyone suffers* as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter.

1Pe 4:17 For the time *has come* for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if *it begins* with us first, what will *be* the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?

1Pe 4:18 Now "IF THE RIGHTEOUS ONE IS SCARCELY SAVED, WHERE WILL THE UNGODLY AND THE SINNER APPEAR?"

1Pe 4:19 Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls *to Him* in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.

Is it a mere coincidence that these things are happening at a time when the world finds itself in a struggle for survival? Climate change is wrecking havoc around the world, national economies groan under a mountain of debt, world finances are on the brink of another financial meltdown, humanity is running out of food, water, oil, fish, resources, even clean air, all while homosexual vulgarities they call gay and lesbian festivals are taking the world by storm. Little do they know that their shameless acts of defiance to God hasten them and the world towards a fast coming cataclysmic end!

Mal 4:1 "For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, and all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble. And the day which is coming shall burn them up," Says the LORD of hosts, "That will leave them neither root nor branch.

Mal 4:2 But to you who fear My name The Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings; And you shall go out and grow fat like stall-fed calves.

Mal 4:3 You shall trample the wicked, for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day that I do *this*," says the LORD of hosts.

Mal 4:4 "Remember the Law of Moses, My servant, which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel, *with the statutes and judgments*.

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

Mal 4:6 And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with utter destruction.

How nations and empires sow the seeds of their own fall

History of the world is littered with empires that began as great civilizing forces and ended up in various states of decay. A strong belief in God, steadfast conviction in their destiny, a healthy attitude to life, and respect for a code of laws, gave way to confusion about what they stood for, a lackadaisical attitude to life, disrespect for law, and a widespread quest for instant gratification of carnal impulses.

It would be hard to find an education system that does not have a good account of the great empires of the past: Egypt, Greece and Rome, which have played an important role in shaping our civilization. However, it would be just as hard to find an education system that has a good explanation about the true causes for their fall.

Egypt fell in stages, the last one when Alexander the Great conquered it; the Greek Empire itself fell when the Romans expanded theirs to East Mediterranean and the Middle East; and the Roman Empire had its nadir when barbarian hordes played havoc with its boundaries.

Officially, empires fall when more powerful and more motivate people appear on the scene. But this does not explain why the old empires become weaker and lose their power and will to fight.

The true reason for their fall is one that teachers and academics do not talk about, and one that is not found in history books. Without exception, after reaching the height of their power and influence, all empires underwent a process of decay when they became self-indulgent and allowed an element that they had not counted on, or bargained for, to enter their life and that was sin.

Why is sin not acknowledged as the overwhelming reason for the fall of the great empires? Because sin has become a part of everyday life, permeating every aspect of our society, and it is no longer recognized as such!

Even the more modern empires – Spanish, French, British and American – have fallen victim to this malaise. They brought civilization and God's religion, Christianity, to native peoples all over the world, but then lost the vision and purpose of their empires and tried to become popular by adopting local idolatrous practices. Consequently God abandoned them and allowed sin to take its course.

In their early stages, native peoples benefitted from the culture and civilization of the more advanced colonizers, but when these became lax morally and spiritually, and could no longer justify their domination, the natives became restless and returned to their old customs and earth animist religions. Unfortunately, to use a common proverb, more often than not the natives threw out the baby with the bathwater. Africa and other former colonies are littered with majestic buildings, farms, railways and factories that lay in ruins, while millions of people who had a good life by working with the colonizers now struggle to make a living. Those who led them to freedom have become their masters and led them to a new form of slavery. How true God's promises have proven out to be.

Gen 12:1 Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you.

Gen 12:2 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing.

Gen 12:3 I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

All the families of the earth, not only his direct descendants, were to be blessed in Abraham. And vice-versa: those who would curse and separate from Abraham would also be cursed by God and lose their blessings.

We began by pointing out that the empires of Egypt, Greece and Rome have played an important role in shaping our civilization. We said nothing about the Judeo-Christian tradition which was more influential than all the others put together. We did that for a

reason. Jewish and Christian academics, which shape the thinking of today, have in recent times followed a policy of denial.

The Jews deny that Abraham ever lived, that Exodus ever took place, that the Kingdom of David ever existed, and that the writings of the prophets – the Old Testament – are mere myths and fables. Instead, they assure us, the Jews were always natives of the Middle East, like the Palestinians, Lebanese, Jordanians, and others. Middle Eastern politics have shaped their thinking even to the point of denying their own history, tradition and heritage.

Christian academics, on their part, are not far behind their Jewish counterparts. According to them, the events surrounding Jesus Christ never happened. The miracles never occurred, the resurrection never took place, and the New Testament writings are mere scribbling of delusional men who were heartbroken after the Romans killed their leader who rose against the Romans. Inspired men of God and the Holy Spirit had no role in shaping and setting up the New Testament.

Therefore, we could not say that the Judeo-Christian tradition played an important role in shaping Western civilization when its own stalwarts deny that there ever was such a tradition. It only shows the moral and spiritual confusion and decrepitude into which modern academia has fallen into. But then isn't this what God's prophets and Jesus' apostles and said it would happen?

1Co 1:18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

1Co 1:19 For it is written: "I WILL DESTROY THE WISDOM OF THE WISE, AND BRING TO NOTHING THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE PRUDENT."

1Co 1:20 Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?

1Co 1:21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.

Let us consider the case of Australia, with which we are familiar. As in all cases, in the beginning there were conflicts between the new arrivals and the natives, but with the passage of time things settled down and the natives benefitted from the culture of the more advanced Europeans.

From God's point of view, the role of the colonizers was to bring the Scriptures to the native peoples just as they were brought to the natives of Africa, America and other far flung territories. Why was this necessary? Because in God's eternal Kingdom there will be people of all nations, tribes, and tongues.

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
Rev 5:4 look at it. So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll,
Rev 5:5 or to look at it. 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."

People may live in all sorts of environments, cultures and conditions, but what they cannot do if they want to be part of the Kingdom of God is being illiterate and uncivilized. Knowledge of the Scriptures and respect for the Law of God are essential for those who are called to be God's elect.

The wise of this world, however, have infected the Aborigines with the notion that they are the oldest culture in the world, some 40 thousand years old, on the one hand, and the most primitive one on the other hand.

If we were to tell them that biologically they are no different, that their culture is no older and no younger than any other, and that their forefathers arrived on these shores about four thousand years ago, after the Flood of Noah, they would probably be angry with us. The fact that some of them have achieved the highest level of education, given the chance, proves that they are just as capable, and not inferior to any other people.

It takes skill, long experience and determination to survive in Australia's harsh interior.

Some Aborigines decry the fact that they were taken from their families as children – stolen generation as they call it – and placed in foster families or in church missionary centres to be educated and brought up in modern ways. Now they demand compensation for their hardship and 'lost years'.

People like me, who have suffered as much, if not more, under the rigors of a communist indoctrination and training system that had no compassion for the weak, wish that they could demand compensation for their hardship and lost years too. Officially, we received a vocational training as mechanics, carpenters, plumbers, electricians, etc., but unofficially we were being trained to become inveterate revolutionaries, always ready to die for the cause of communism.

Having spent three years in vocational training and about two in the army, I can tell you that the boarding regime in vocational training was far worse than army training, not the least because the first took the best of my teen years. Their indoctrination, however, did not have their desired effect on me. When I could not reconcile their ideology with their practice, I flew over the cuckoo's nest, so to speak. I escaped from the Iron Curtain and immigrated to Australia where I ended up doing this work.

Aborigines need to get over the notion of victimhood, and be grateful to God for being given the opportunity to be part of His coming eternal Kingdom too, especially now that it has become obvious that this world is on its last legs. This does not mean that those who are entitled to it should not seek compensation; what it means is that they should be aware that a persistent mentality of victimhood gnaws at the heart, and prevents them from achieving peace of mind and tranquility of the soul which are necessary for the people of God.

The tragedy of this country is that church missionaries, who have done so much to help the Aborigines in the past, do not dare to stand up and ask those who are angry about their past whether they would have been better off if they were left in their original state. They do not do it because they no longer know what their churches stand for anymore. They have been taken over by progressives who want to modernize them by including women and homosexuals into the priesthood and in leadership positions. Any wonder that natives everywhere are returning to their ancestral religions.

These days it is common to find natives openly worshipping idols and speaking with pride of their 'gods', but rare to find Christians extolling the virtues of their faith. This excludes those who cry aloud on street corners, or go from door to door, who have no idea what they are talking about, and who do more harm than good to the cause of true religion.

The creeping malaise of sin has rendered the spokesmen of a highly civilized, law abiding and ordered society – the carriers of Shakespeare's language and culture, and of many other greats, or simply the tradition of British culture in general, which is worth fighting for and being associated with – into impotent, fearful and irrelevant wimps.

One only wishes that it did not facilitate the appearance of so many extremists of the evolutionary, atheist, homosexual kind. But then, every culture has its nadir, and the Anglo-Saxons have theirs coming these days.

Let us now look at how sin has brought down some of the great nations and empires of the past.

The fall of Egypt

Egyptian society was a highly religious one; too religious one may say. They were so obsessed with the underworld and afterlife they spent their entire life preparing for it. But it was not so from the beginning. An episode in the life of Abraham reveals a very different society.

Gen 12:10 Now there was a famine in the land, and Abram went down to Egypt to dwell there, for the famine *was* severe in the land.

Gen 12:11 And it came to pass, when he was close to entering Egypt, that he said to Sarai his wife, "Indeed I know that you *are* a woman of beautiful countenance.

Gen 12:12 Therefore it will happen, when the Egyptians see you, that they will say, 'This *is* his wife'; and they will kill me, but they will let you live.

Gen 12:13 Please say you *are* my sister, that it may be well with me for your sake,

Gen 12:14 and that I may live because of you." So it was, when Abram came into Egypt, that the Egyptians saw the woman, that she *was* very beautiful.

Gen 12:15 The princes of Pharaoh also saw her and commended her to Pharaoh. And the woman was taken to Pharaoh's house.

Gen 12:16 He treated Abram well for her sake. He had sheep, oxen, male donkeys, male and female servants, female donkeys, and camels.

Gen 12:17 But the LORD plagued Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai,

Gen 12:18 Abram's wife. And Pharaoh called Abram and said, "What *is* this you have done to me? Why did you not tell me that she *was* your wife?

Gen 12:19 Why did you say, 'She *is* my sister'? I might have taken her as my wife. Now therefore, here *is* your wife; take *her* and go your way."

Gen 12:20 So Pharaoh commanded *his* men concerning him; and they sent him away, with his wife and all that he had.

In the ancient world, nothing came 'naturally' as people believe it happens these days. Everything had a reason, and evil things had sins as their cause. The Egyptians knew that their plagues came from God, and when they discovered that it was because of Abraham, they were angry with him, but did not harm him, for they feared God. At that time, they made no distinction between their God and the God of Abraham; they spoke of Him as of a common God. That was about 1900 B.C. The memory of the Flood, which had taken place about four and a half centuries earlier, was still very much in their minds, and they were keen to obey God and be in good terms with Him. They knew that He had destroyed the old world because of sin, and had no desire to fall into the same trap.

How different that was from the Egyptian culture we find at the Exodus time, some four and a half centuries later. Without guidance and protection from above, which Abraham and his descendants had, Egypt had become an extremely idolatrous society. They became so immersed in their idolatry that reality and fantasy became indistinguishable. Gone was the knowledge and reverence for the true God, and in was the worship of abominable anthropomorphic gods such as cats, dogs, cows, jackals, and even snakes. The Pharaoh had taken the place of the true God, and become a god himself.

It was inevitable that a culture with that mentality would not last long. Egypt's first fall came at the time of the Exodus when God ravaged it with the well known biblical plagues. Egypt received a reprieve after that, but because it had not learned its lesson and fallen again into its old idolatry, God brought Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon against it, and he put an end to Egypt as a great power.

Jer 46:19 O you daughter dwelling in Egypt, Prepare yourself to go into captivity! For Noph shall be waste and desolate, without inhabitant.

Jer 46:20 "Egypt *is* a very pretty heifer, *But* destruction comes, it comes from the north.

Jer 46:21 Also her mercenaries are in her midst like fat bulls, For they also are turned back, They have fled away together. They did not stand, For the day of their calamity had come upon them, The time of their punishment.

Jer 46:25 The LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, says: "Behold, I will bring punishment on Amon of No, and Pharaoh and Egypt, with their gods and their kings—
 Jer 46:26 Pharaoh and those who trust in him. And I will deliver them into the hand of those who seek their lives, into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and the hand of his servants. Afterward it shall be inhabited as in the days of old," says the LORD.
 Jer 46:27 "But do not fear, O My servant Jacob, And do not be dismayed, O Israel! For behold, I will save you from afar, And your offspring from the land of their captivity; Jacob shall return, have rest and be at ease; No one shall make *him* afraid.
 Jer 46:28 Do not fear, O Jacob My servant," says the LORD, "For I *am* with you; For I will make a complete end of all the nations To which I have driven you, But I will not make a complete end of you. I will rightly correct you, For I will not leave you wholly unpunished."

Ezekiel had his own prophecy about the fall of Egypt.

Eze 29:2 "Son of man, set your face against Pharaoh king of Egypt, and prophesy against him,
 Eze 29:3 and against all Egypt. Speak, and say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, I *am* against you, O Pharaoh king of Egypt, O great monster who lies in the midst of his rivers, Who has said, 'My River *is* my own; I have made *it* for myself.'
 Eze 29:4 But I will put hooks in your jaws, And cause the fish of your rivers to stick to your scales; I will bring you up out of the midst of your rivers, And all the fish in your rivers
 Eze 29:5 will stick to your scales. I will leave you in the wilderness, You and all the fish of your rivers; You shall fall on the open field; You shall not be picked up or gathered. I have given you as food To the beasts of the field And to the birds of the heavens.
 Eze 29:6 "Then all the inhabitants of Egypt Shall know that I *am* the LORD, Because they have been a staff of reed to the house of Israel.
 Eze 29:7 When they took hold of you with the hand, You broke and tore all their shoulders; When they leaned on you, You broke and made all their backs quiver."
 Eze 29:8 "Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: "Surely I will bring a sword upon you and cut off from you man and beast.
 Eze 29:9 And the land of Egypt shall become desolate and waste; then they will know that I *am* the LORD, because he said, 'The River *is* mine, and I have made *it*.'
 Eze 29:11 Neither foot of man shall pass through it nor foot of beast pass through it, and it shall be uninhabited forty years.
 Eze 29:12 I will make the land of Egypt desolate in the midst of the countries *that are* desolate; and among the cities *that are* laid waste, her cities shall be desolate forty years; and I will scatter the Egyptians among the nations and disperse them throughout the countries."

It is commonly believed that the term Gypsy comes from India. Not so; it comes from Egypt. Few people are aware of the parallel history of the Jews and the Gypsies. The first were to be the carriers God's Law among the nations, and the second the carriers of the Devil's lawlessness and idolatry.

Eze 29:13 'Yet, thus says the Lord GOD: "At the end of forty years I will gather the Egyptians from the peoples among whom they were scattered. [*Some came back, but many more did not, and remained among the nations to this day, just like the Jews*].
 Eze 29:14 I will bring back the captives of Egypt and cause them to return to the land of Pathros, to the land of their origin, and there they shall be a lowly kingdom.
 Eze 29:15 It shall be the lowliest of kingdoms; it shall never again exalt itself above the nations, for I will diminish them so that they will not rule over the nations anymore.
 Eze 29:16 No longer shall it be the confidence of the house of Israel, but will remind them of *their* iniquity when they turned to follow them. Then they shall know that I *am* the Lord GOD." ' ' "
 Eze 29:17 And it came to pass in the twenty-seventh year, in the first *month*, on the first *day* of the month, *that* the word of the LORD came to me, saying,
 Eze 29:18 "Son of man, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon caused his army to labor strenuously against Tyre; every head *was* made bald, and every shoulder rubbed raw; yet neither he nor his army received wages from Tyre, for the labor which they expended on it.
 Eze 29:19 Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: 'Surely I will give the land of Egypt to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon; he shall take away her wealth, carry off her spoil, and remove her pillage; and that will be the wages for his army. I have given him

Eze 29:20 the land of Egypt *for* his labor, because they worked for Me,' says the Lord GOD.

Eze 30:20 And it came to pass in the eleventh year, in the first *month*, on the seventh *day* of the month, *that* the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

Eze 30:21 "Son of man, I have broken the arm of Pharaoh king of Egypt; and see, it has not been bandaged for healing, nor a splint put on to bind it, to make it strong enough to hold a sword.

Eze 30:22 Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: 'Surely I *am* against Pharaoh king of Egypt, and will break his arms, both the strong one and the one that was broken; and I will make the sword fall out of his hand.

Eze 30:23 I will scatter the Egyptians among the nations, and disperse them throughout the countries.

Eze 30:24 I will strengthen the arms of the king of Babylon and put My sword in his hand; but I will break Pharaoh's arms, and he will groan before him with the groanings of a mortally wounded *man*.

Eze 30:25 Thus I will strengthen the arms of the king of Babylon, but the arms of Pharaoh shall fall down; they shall know that I *am* the LORD, when I put My sword into the hand of the king of Babylon and he stretches it out against the land of Egypt.

Eze 30:26 I will scatter the Egyptians among the nations and disperse them throughout the countries. Then they shall know that I *am* the LORD.' "

And so, sin brought down the greatest and longest lasting empire of the ancient world. But that was only the beginning, for as we shall see, many more empires and great nations would fall to the ravages of sin.

The fall of Canaan

We saw earlier what happened to Abraham when he went to Egypt. Incredibly, he had an identical experience in the land of Canaan. God showed us how in the space of four or five centuries, Egypt transformed itself from an obedient nation to the true God to the most idolatrous nation that ever existed. Through Abraham also we learn that the Canaanites followed an identical path.

Gen 20:1 And Abraham journeyed from there to the South, and dwelt between Kadesh and Shur, and stayed in Gerar. Now Abraham said of Sarah his wife,

Gen 20:2 "She *is* my sister." And Abimelech king of Gerar sent and took Sarah.

Gen 20:3 But God came to Abimelech in a dream by night, and said to him, "Indeed you *are* a dead man because of the woman whom you have taken, for she *is* a man's wife."

Gen 20:4 But Abimelech had not come near her; and he said, "Lord, will You slay a righteous nation also?"

Gen 20:5 Did he not say to me, 'She *is* my sister'? And she, even she herself said, 'He *is* my brother.' In the integrity of my heart and innocence of my hands I have done this."

Gen 20:6 And God said to him in a dream, "Yes, I know that you did this in the integrity of your heart. For I also withheld you from sinning against Me; therefore I did not let you touch her.

Gen 20:7 Now therefore, restore the man's wife; for he *is* a prophet, and he will pray for you and you shall live. But if you do not restore *her*, know that you shall surely die,

Gen 20:8 So you and all who *are* yours." Abimelech rose early in the morning, called all his servants, and told all these things in their hearing; and the men were very much afraid.

Gen 20:9 And Abimelech called Abraham and said to him, "What have you done to us? How have I offended you, that you have brought on me and on my kingdom a great sin? You have done deeds to me that ought not to be done." Then Abimelech said to Abraham,

Gen 20:10 "What did you have in view, that you have done this thing?"

Gen 20:11 And Abraham said, "Because I thought, surely the fear of God is not in this place; and they will kill me on account of my wife.

Gen 20:12 But indeed *she* is truly my sister. She is the daughter of my father, but not the daughter of my mother; and she became my wife.

Gen 20:13 And it came to pass, when God caused me to wander from my father's house, that I said to her, "This is your kindness that you should do for me: in every place, wherever we go, say of me, "He is my brother." ' ' "

Gen 20:14 Then Abimelech took sheep, oxen, and male and female servants, and gave *them* to Abraham; and he restored Sarah his wife to him.

Gen 20:15 And Abimelech said, "See, my land is before you; dwell where it pleases you."

Gen 20:16 Then to Sarah he said, "Behold, I have given your brother a thousand *pieces* of silver; indeed this vindicates you before all who *are* with you and before everybody."

Gen 20:17 Thus she was rebuked. So Abraham prayed to God; and God healed Abimelech, his wife, and his female servants. Then they bore *children*;

Gen 20:18 for the LORD had closed up all the wombs of the house of Abimelech because of Sarah, Abraham's wife.

Abimelech and his people were familiar with the God of Abraham in the same way that early Egyptians were familiar with Him. God came to him in a dream to warn him of the danger in which he found himself because of Abraham's wife. Now we know that God does not communicate with wicked people. He tells us that even their prayer is an abomination to Him.

Pro 28:9 One who turns away his ear from hearing the law, Even his prayer is an abomination.

Therefore, at that stage, the Canaanites were law abiding people and at peace with God. But what happened to Egypt in the space of five hundred years or so, happened to the Canaanites. They had fallen into unspeakable forms of idolatry and wickedness, including homosexuality, temple prostitution, bestiality and sacrifice of children to monstrous idols.

From God's point of view, there was no longer any remedy or possibility of redemption. There is a point in which people could no longer recover from the clutches of sin. So He ordered the Israelites to wipe off the face of the earth the Canaanites and their neighbours.

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 adversaries.

Exo 23:23 For My Angel will go before you and bring you in to the Amorites and the Hittites and the Perizzites and the Canaanites and the Hivites and the Jebusites; and **I will cut them off.**

Although Israel was to do the job, God took responsibility for cutting off those sinful nations, as He does for everything that happens in this world, good or bad.

Amo 3:6 If a trumpet is blown in a city, will not the people be afraid? If there is calamity in a city, will not the LORD have done *it*?

Joh 3:27 John answered and said, "A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven.

This does not mean that those whom God uses as instruments for His purpose are exempt from His punishment if they step outside His boundaries, be they "chosen people" or not, as the Jews are only too aware of this fact, or should be. Now back to Exodus.

Exo 23:24 You shall not bow down to their gods, nor serve them, nor do according to their works; but you shall utterly overthrow them and completely break down their *sacred* pillars.

See what God thinks of sacred pillars? They are an abomination in His sight, yet modern nations have proudly mounted them everywhere. The Americans and the French went so far as to bring some sacred pillars all the way from Egypt and mount them in prominent places in their capitals. If they knew what God is going to do with those pillars they would unceremoniously dump them in the sea.

Exo 23:25 "So you shall serve the LORD your God, and He will bless your bread and your water. And I will take sickness away from the midst of you.

Exo 23:26 No one shall suffer miscarriage or be barren in your land; I will fulfill the number

Exo 23:27 of your days. "I will send My fear before you, I will cause confusion among all the people to whom you come, and will make all your enemies turn *their* backs to you.

Exo 23:30 Little by little I will drive them out from before you, until you have increased, Exo 23:31 and you inherit the land. And I will set your bounds from the Red Sea to the sea, Philistia, and from the desert to the River. For I will deliver the inhabitants of the land into your hand, and you shall drive them out before you.

Exo 23:32 You shall make no covenant with them, nor with their gods.

Exo 23:33 They shall not dwell in your land, lest they make you sin against Me. **For if you serve their gods, it will surely be a snare to you."**

Lev 18:21 And you shall not let any of your descendants pass through *the fire* to Molech, nor shall you profane the name of your God: I *am* the LORD.

Lev 18:22 **You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Israelites did not fully obey God and left out a few pockets of natives in order to use them as laborers. It was a big mistake, for just as God had predicted and warned them against, the natives became a thorn in their side and an idolatrous stumbling block, and continue to be so to this very day.

So just as the fall of Egypt into extreme forms of idolatry was linked to the fall of Judah, the fall of Canaan into unspeakable forms of wickedness was also linked to it. Disobedience and sin had taken hold of all people in the Middle East, and by contamination, of God's own people. But, interestingly, the fall of Judah gave hope to the remaining Canaanites.

Jdg 2:1 Then the Angel of the LORD came up from Gilgal to Bochim, and said: "I led you up from Egypt and brought you to the land of which I swore to your fathers; and I said, 'I will never break My covenant with you.

Jdg 2:2 And you shall make no covenant with the inhabitants of this land; you shall tear down their altars.' But you have not obeyed My voice. Why have you done this?

Jdg 2:3 Therefore I also said, 'I will not drive them out before you; but they shall be *thorns* in your side, and their gods shall be a snare to you.' "

Jdg 2:4 So it was, when the Angel of the LORD spoke these words to all the children of Israel, that the people lifted up their voices and wept.

Jdg 2:5 Then they called the name of that place Bochim; and they sacrificed there to the LORD.

Jdg 2:6 And when Joshua had dismissed the people, the children of Israel went each to his own inheritance to possess the land.

Jdg 2:7 So the people served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great works of the LORD which He had done for Israel.

Jdg 2:8 Now Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died *when he was* one hundred and ten years old.

Jdg 2:9 And they buried him within the border of his inheritance at Timnath Heres, in the mountains of Ephraim, on the north side of Mount Gaash.

Jdg 2:10 When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them who did not know the LORD nor the work which He had done for Israel.

Jdg 2:11 Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served the Baals;

Jdg 2:12 and they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt; and they followed other gods from *among* the gods of the people who *were* all around them, and they bowed down to them; and they provoked the LORD to anger.

Jdg 2:13 They forsook the LORD and served Baal and the Ashtoreths.

Jdg 2:14 And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel. So He delivered them into the hands of plunderers who despoiled them; and He sold them into the hands of their enemies all around, so that they could no longer stand before their enemies.

Jdg 2:15 Wherever they went out, the hand of the LORD was against them for calamity, as the LORD had said, and as the LORD had sworn to them. And they were greatly distressed.

Jdg 2:16 Nevertheless, the LORD raised up judges who delivered them out of the hand of those who plundered them.

Jdg 2:17 Yet they would not listen to their judges, but they played the harlot with other gods, and bowed down to them. They turned quickly from the way in which their fathers walked, in obeying the commandments of the LORD; they did not do so.

Jdg 2:18 And when the LORD raised up judges for them, the LORD was with the judge and delivered them out of the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge; for the LORD was moved to pity by their groaning because of those who oppressed them and harassed them.

Jdg 2:19 And it came to pass, when the judge was dead, that they reverted and behaved more corruptly than their fathers, by following other gods, to serve them and bow down to them. They did not cease from their own doings nor from their stubborn way.

Jdg 2:20 Then the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel; and He said, "Because this nation has transgressed My covenant which I commanded their fathers, and has not heeded My voice,

Jdg 2:21 I also will no longer drive out before them any of the nations which Joshua left when he died,

Jdg 2:22 so that through them I may test Israel, whether they will keep the ways of the LORD, to walk in them as their fathers kept *them*, or not."

Jdg 2:23 Therefore the LORD left those nations, without driving them out immediately; nor did He deliver them into the hand of Joshua.

The fall of Greece

The Greeks were proud carriers of a new and flourishing civilization, but like Egypt, Canaan and Israel, they fell victims to sin too. Apostle Paul gave us the following account.

- Act 17:16 Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him when he saw that the city was given over to idols.
- Act 17:17 Therefore he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and with the *Gentile* worshipers, and in the marketplace daily with those who happened to be there.
- Act 17:18 Then certain Epicurean and Stoic philosophers encountered him. And some said, "What does this babbler want to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign gods," because he preached to them Jesus and the resurrection.
- Act 17:19 And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new doctrine *is* of which you speak?"
- Act 17:20 For you are bringing some strange things to our ears. Therefore we want to know what
- Act 17:21 these things mean." For all the Athenians and the foreigners who were there spent their time in nothing else but either to tell or to hear some new thing.
- Act 17:22 Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I perceive that
- Act 17:23 in all things you are very religious; for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you:
- Act 17:24 God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands.
- Act 17:25 Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things.
- Act 17:26 And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their pre-appointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings,
- Act 17:27 so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us;
- Act 17:28 for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.'
- Act 17:29 Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man's devising.
- Act 17:30 Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men
- Act 17:31 everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."
- Act 17:32 And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked, while others said,
- Act 17:33 "We will hear you again on this *matter*." So Paul departed from among them.
- Act 17:34 However, some men joined him and believed, among them Dionysius the Areopagite, a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

Greek idolatry and wickedness were nowhere near as strong and prevalent as those of Egypt and the Middle Eastern nations. It did not inhibit their spirit, as they give humanity unsurpassed masterpieces in arts, literature, architecture, military strategy, democracy, etc. While idolatry was part of their culture too, homosexuality seems to have been a greater problem. Here is a brief account of Greek history which shows the highs and lows of that civilization.

"When we think of ancient Greece, we think right away of Athens. But Athens wasn't always great. It began as a collection of villages in some of the poorest agricultural land in Greece. Only carefully tended grapes and olives provided early Athens with a livelihood, that and trade.

The distance between the haves – the ruling aristocratic trading families – and the have nots – peasants working the land – and the accompanying feudal oppression, grew so great that it looked like the city and its surrounding area would collapse under the weight.

In 594 bc, the leaders of the middle class recruited a merchant named Solon to accept leadership of the city and restore some peace and prosperity. He began by canceling all debts and freeing all who had been enslaved on account of debt. Then he proceeded to draft a constitution in which the population was divided into four classes based entirely on economic worth, with the highest retaining the greatest power, but the lowest being exempt from taxes.

After a difficult transition, the world's first democracy was established under the leadership of Cleisthenes in 507 bc, when he decreed that all free men would be permitted to vote. This, of course, falls short of a complete democracy, but don't judge them too harshly: Slavery would not be outlawed until 1814, when Mexico would become the very first sovereign nation to permanently ban slavery. The US wouldn't free its slaves until 1865 with the 13th amendment. And women didn't get to vote until New Zealand gave them the vote in 1893. It would take the US until 1919 and the 19th amendment.

Unfortunately, at about the same time the democratic experiment began, the great Persian Empire to the east decided to expand into, first, Ionia, and then Greece proper. But in 490 bc, 20,000 Greeks defeated 100,000 Persian troops at Marathon, north of Athens. (A messenger named Pheidippides ran the 26 miles -- 42.195 km -- to Athens to give them the good news, hence the sport of *marathon* running!)

In 481, the Persian emperor Xerxes sent an army of over two million men, assisted by a fleet of 1200 ships, to attack Greece again. The army ravaged the north of Greece and prepared to attack Athens. They found the city deserted. The Persian navy, however, found the Greek fleet waiting for it in the Bay of Salamis. The Greeks won the day against enormous odds. By 479, the Persians were forced back into Asia Minor.

If this seems like just a little piece of history, consider: This victory allowed the Greek adventure to continue to produce the kind of thinking that would set the tone for the next two millennia in Europe and the Mediterranean. During the time period we are looking at in this chapter, Athens had as many as 300,000 people, making it one of the largest cities in the world. About half were free, one third were slaves, and one sixth were foreigners (metics). The free adult males who could vote numbered about 50,000.

Socrates (470-399) was the son of a sculptor and a midwife, and served with distinction in the Athenian army during Athens' clash with Sparta. He married, but had a tendency to fall in love with handsome young men, in particular a young soldier named Alcibiades. He was, by all accounts, short and stout, not given to good grooming, and a lover of wine and conversation. His famous student, Plato, called him "the wisest, and justest, and best of all men whom I have ever known" (Phaedo). He was irritated by the Sophists and their tendency to teach logic as a means of achieving self-centered ends, and even more their promotion of the idea that all things are relative. It was the truth that he loved, desired, and believed in.

Philosophy, the love of wisdom, was for Socrates itself a sacred path, a holy quest – not a game to be taken lightly. He believed – or at least said he did in the dialog *Meno* – in the reincarnation of an eternal soul which contained all knowledge. We unfortunately lose touch with that knowledge at every birth, and so we need to be reminded of what we already know (rather than learning something new). He said that he did not teach, but rather served, like his mother, as a midwife to truth that is already in us! Making use of questions and answers to remind his students of knowledge is called *maieutics* (midwifery), *dialectics*, or the Socratic method.

One example of his effect on philosophy is found in the dialog *Euthyphro*. He suggests that what is to be considered a good act is not good because gods say it is, but is good because it is useful to us in our efforts to be better and happier people. This means that ethics is no longer a matter of surveying the gods or scripture for what is good or bad, but rather thinking about life. He even placed individual conscience above the law – quite a dangerous position to take!

Socrates wasn't loved by everyone by any means. His unorthodox political and religious views gave the leading citizens of Athens the excuse they needed to sentence him to death for corrupting the morals of the youth of the city. In 399, he was ordered to drink a brew of poison hemlock, which he did in the company of his students. His final words were "Crito, we owe a cock to Asclepius (the god of medicine). Pay it and do not neglect it." (George Boeree, "The Ancient Greeks", *Wikipedia*)

Isn't it interesting how this homosexual's philosophy resembles that of the homosexuals of today: forget about the law, follow your own conscience, and if it feels good do it.

Alexander the Great is said to have been a homosexual too. He was enamored with some of his soldiers, whom he kept close throughout his adventures. Not surprisingly, God cut his life short. His death weakened the Empire, and made it easy for the Romans to conquer it.

The fall of Rome

The Roman Empire was no different from its predecessors. It too fell victim to the insidious sins of idolatry and homosexuality. Here is Apostle Paul again.

Rom 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

Rom 1:19 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown *it* to them.

Rom 1:20 For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are

Rom 1:21 without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Rom 1:22 Professing to be wise, they became fools,

Rom 1:23 and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

Rom 1:24 Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves,

Rom 1:25 who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

Rom 1:26 For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature.

Rom 1:27 Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.

Rom 1:28 And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting;

Rom 1:29 being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; *they are* whisperers,

Rom 1:30 backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient

Rom 1:31 to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful;

Rom 1:32 who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.

Rom 2:1 Therefore you are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things.

Rom 2:2 But we know that the judgment of God is according to truth against those who practice

Rom 2:3 such things. And do you think this, O man, you who judge those practicing such things, and doing the same, that you will escape the judgment of God?

Rom 2:4 Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?

Rom 2:5 But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,

Rom 2:6 who "WILL RENDER TO EACH ONE ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS":

Rom 2:7 eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor,

Rom 2:8 and immortality; but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness—indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish,
Rom 2:9 on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek;
Rom 2:10 but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good,
Rom 2:11 to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For there is no partiality with God.
Rom 2:12 For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law, for not the hearers of the law
Rom 2:13 are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified;

When the old Roman Empire fell, it resurrected itself under a new identity: the Holy Roman Empire, under the tutelage of the Catholic Church. Now isn't it extraordinary how the same sins, idolatry and homosexuality, have been the scourges of the Catholic Church to this day?

Will these sins bring down this Spiritual Empire too? Well, God does not change, and since there is little chance that this Church will change its ways, watch out for the collapse of this, and all other, modern religious empires.

The fall of America

Will sin bring down the overpowering civilization of our time – the American Empire? Well, since God does not change, you judge for yourself.

“New Yorkers celebrates same-sex marriage in flamboyant parade”
THOUSANDS of elated gays, lesbians and their friends hailed New York's approval of same-sex marriage with a triumphant flamboyant gay pride parade. The parade, an annual tradition **celebrating diversity and tolerance**, began heading south from Fifth Avenue towards Manhattan's Greenwich Village, to stream past the historic Stonewall Inn, the gay-friendly bar raided by police 42 years ago, sparking what has become the modern day US gay rights movement. Marchers, backed by blaring dance music and rainbow-colored balloon displays, held up signs in tribute to state Governor Andrew Cuomo for spearheading the "Marriage Equality Act" and promptly signing it into law on Friday.

"Thank you, Governor Cuomo. Promise kept," read signs held up by some activists.

Cuomo himself marched at the head of the parade, waving a small rainbow flag alongside. (*AFP, The Australian*, June 27, 2011)

What did they celebrate? “Diversity and tolerance”! This is how tolerant they are.

“Support traditional marriage? ‘You’re dead’”

“A federal court in Tacoma, Wash., has been asked to order that the names of signatories of a state petition seeking to protect traditional marriage be redacted to protect them from death threats from homosexual activists. "What is becoming increasingly evident," said James Bopp of the James Madison Center, "is that some groups and individuals, certainly a minority, have resorted to advancing their cause, not by debating the merits of the issue but by discouraging participation in the democratic process itself.

"The First Amendment was designed to ensure that all groups, whatever their persuasion, could participate fully in our republic," he said. That breaks down when some groups or individuals are cowed into silence for fear that they or their families will be targeted or threatened if they speak up." The issue is some 138,000 Washington state residents who signed a petition in 2009 to repeal a law that gave same-sex partners all the legal rights of married couples. The petition forced a referendum vote in November of

that year in which voters decided to sustain the law. The filing on behalf of Protect Marriage Washington explains the real problem is the documentation of actual threats that have been made against those who support traditional marriage, a litany of what the Los Angeles Times described as a "vengeful campaign."

Among the documented threats:

- "We're going to kill you and your family."
- "I'm going to kill the pastor."
- "Get ready for retribution all you bigots."
- Burn their f---ing churches to the ground, and then tax the charred timbers."

The evidence included churches marred by graffiti, swastikas on lawns and walls, bricks thrown through windows and doors, adhesive poured into locks, suspicious packages of white powder sent in the mail – "all for nothing more than supporting traditional marriage."

"On two occasions, both in Washington state, a group called Bash Back! boldly accepted credit for vandalizing houses of worship, writing in one case, 'when we [graffitied your walls] and glued all the doors shut, we threw open our own doors and tattooed those words on hour (sic) hearts. Welcome to our world s---heads.'"

The federal court filing said, "The evidence compiled is overwhelming in demonstrating a 'pattern of threats' and 'specific manifestations of public hostility' ... against those who have, often out of a sense of religious conviction, voiced opposition to the homosexual movement. At their core, however, these reprisals are 'not so much anti-religions as anti-democratic.'"

"When dialogue and disagreement degenerate into the thuggery of intimidation and retaliation, civility is lost, and with it our liberties," it warned. (*WorldNetDaily.com*, July 2, 2011)

And how did America's President, Barak Obama, react to this? He said that the New York State's legislation on the same-sex marriage is a 'good thing'.

Barack backs gay marriage

"Gays and lesbians and transgender persons have got to be treated like every other American," the US President said yesterday. But he cautioned he could not dictate the process and said equality would come about gradually.

"What you saw in New York, I think, was a good thing," Mr Obama said. "It was contentious, it was emotional, but ultimately they made a decision to recognize civil marriages. And I think that's exactly how things should work.

Mr Obama, who held a Manhattan gay community fundraiser last month, made his comments in an hour-long news conference just hours before hosting a White House reception for LGBT – Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender – Pride week. He held out little hope congress would repeal the Defence of Marriage Act, which bars federal recognition or benefits for couples in same-sex marriages. He called the act unconstitutional and ended all federal legal defence of it. Bills introduced in March to repeal the act have stalled in the Republican-controlled house and made little progress in the Democratic-led Senate. (*The Australian*, July 1, 2011).

It has been unprecedented in the history of the world to have a leader who incited his people to sin. When a prophet went to the ancient city of Nineveh and warned its people of God's impending punishment for their sins, this is how they reacted.

Jon 3:1 Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying,

Jon 3:2 "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and preach to it the message that I tell you."

Jon 3:3 So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, a three-day journey *in extent*.

Jon 3:4 And Jonah began to enter the city on the first day's walk. Then he cried out and said,

Jon 3:5 "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" So the people of Nineveh believed God, proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them.

Jon 3:6 Then word came to the king of Nineveh; and he arose from his throne and laid aside his robe, covered *himself* with sackcloth and sat in ashes.

Jon 3:7 And he caused *it* to be proclaimed and published throughout Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything; do not let them eat, or drink water.

Jon 3:8 But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily to God; yes, let every one turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. Who can tell *if* God

Jon 3:9 will turn and relent, and turn away from His fierce anger, so that we may not perish?

Jon 3:10 Then God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it.

Ever since he came to power, we have taken God's message to Barack Obama, as we could see that his nation was in grave danger. But he ignored both God's messages and the lessons of history. First, he introduced homosexuality into the army, thus depriving his soldiers of God's help and protection. This is what happens to the people who depart from God and His Laws.

Exo 14:13 And Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever.

Exo 14:14 **The LORD will fight for you**, and you shall hold your peace."

Jos 23:1 Now it came to pass, a long time after the LORD had given rest to Israel from all their enemies round about, that Joshua was old, advanced in age.

Jos 23:2 And Joshua called for all Israel, for their elders, for their heads, for their judges, and for their officers, and said to them: "I am old, advanced in age.

Jos 23:3 You have seen all that the LORD your God has done to all these nations because of you, for the LORD your God *is* He who has fought for you.

Jos 23:4 See, I have divided to you by lot these nations that remain, to be an inheritance for your tribes, from the Jordan, with all the nations that I have cut off, as far as the Great Sea

Jos 23:5 westward. And the LORD your God will expel them from before you and drive them out of your sight. So you shall possess their land, as the LORD your God promised you.

Jos 23:6 Therefore be very courageous to keep and to do all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, lest you turn aside from it to the right hand or to the left,

Jos 23:7 and lest you go among these nations, these who remain among you. You shall not make mention of the name of their gods, nor cause *anyone* to swear *by them*; you shall not serve them nor bow down to them,

Jos 23:8 but you shall hold fast to the LORD your God, as you have done to this day.

Jos 23:9 For the LORD has driven out from before you great and strong nations; but *as for* you, no one has been able to stand against you to this day.

Jos 23:10 One man of you shall chase a thousand, for the LORD your God *is* He who fights for you, as He promised you.

Jos 23:11 Therefore take careful heed to yourselves, that you love the LORD your God.

Jos 23:12 Or else, if indeed you do go back, and cling to the remnant of these nations—these that remain among you—and make marriages with them, and go in to them and they to you,

Jos 23:13 know for certain that the LORD your God will no longer drive out these nations from before you. But they shall be snares and traps to you, and scourges on your sides and thorns in your eyes, until you perish from this good land which the LORD your God has given you.

After shackling his army with the sin of Sodom and Gomorrah, Obama urged the whole nation to get used to the idea of same-sex marriage, because that was a "good thing".

No sir, this is not a good thing, but the most evil thing that you could possibly have bestowed upon this once proud and obedient nation of God. In so doing, you set it up for a mighty punishment from God.

America was already with one foot in the grave when you took its reigns. Now you will be known as the man who pushed it completely over the edge.

The fall of Judah

It is interesting to note that God linked the fall of Judah, His 'chosen people', with the fall of Egypt. Here is Jeremiah again.

- Jer 44:1 The word that came to Jeremiah concerning all the Jews who dwell in the land of Egypt, who dwell at Migdol, at Tahpanhes, at Noph, and in the country of Pathros, saying,
- Jer 44:2 "Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: 'You have seen all the calamity that I have brought on Jerusalem and on all the cities of Judah; and behold, this day they *are* a desolation, and no one dwells in them,
- Jer 44:3 because of their wickedness which they have committed to provoke Me to anger, in that they went to burn incense *and* to serve other gods whom they did not know, they nor you nor your fathers.
- Jer 44:4 However I have sent to you all My servants the prophets, rising early and sending *them*, saying, "Oh, do not do this abominable thing that I hate!"
- Jer 44:5 But they did not listen or incline their ear to turn from their wickedness, to burn no incense to other gods.
- Jer 44:6 So My fury and My anger were poured out and kindled in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem; and they are wasted *and* desolate, as it is this day.'
- Jer 44:7 "Now therefore, thus says the LORD, the God of hosts, the God of Israel: 'Why do you commit *this* great evil against yourselves, to cut off from you man and woman, child and infant, out of Judah, leaving none to remain,
- Jer 44:8 in that you provoke Me to wrath with the works of your hands, burning incense to other gods in the land of Egypt where you have gone to dwell, that you may cut yourselves off and be a curse and a reproach among all the nations of the earth?

Remember, at the time of Abraham the Egyptians worshipped the same God, but now God referred to the objects of their worship as abominable things. Yet, the people of Judah chose to burn incense to the same gods.

- Jer 44:9 Have you forgotten the wickedness of your fathers, the wickedness of the kings of Judah, the wickedness of their wives, your own wickedness, and the wickedness of your wives, which they committed in the land of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem?
- Jer 44:10 They have not been humbled, to this day, nor have they feared; they have not walked in My law or in My statutes that I set before you and your fathers.'
- Jer 44:11 "Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: 'Behold, I will set My face against you for catastrophe and for cutting off all Judah.
- Jer 44:12 And I will take the remnant of Judah who have set their faces to go into the land of Egypt to dwell there, and they shall all be consumed *and* fall in the land of Egypt. They shall be consumed by the sword *and* by famine. They shall die, from the least to the greatest, by the sword and by famine; and they shall be an oath, an astonishment, a curse and a reproach!
- Jer 44:13 For I will punish those who dwell in the land of Egypt, as I have punished Jerusalem, by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence,
- Jer 44:14 so that none of the remnant of Judah who have gone into the land of Egypt to dwell there shall escape or survive, lest they return to the land of Judah, to which they desire to return and dwell. For none shall return except those who escape.' "
- Jer 44:15 Then all the men who knew that their wives had burned incense to other gods, with all the women who stood by, a great multitude, and all the people who dwelt in the land of Egypt, in Pathros, answered Jeremiah, saying:
- Jer 44:16 "As *for* the word that you have spoken to us in the name of the LORD,

Jer 44:17 we will not listen to you! But we will certainly do whatever has gone out of our own mouth, to burn incense to the queen of heaven and pour out drink offerings to her, as we have done, we and our fathers, our kings and our princes, in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem. For *then* we had plenty of food, were well-off, and saw no trouble.

Jer 44:18 But since we stopped burning incense to the queen of heaven and pouring out drink offerings to her, we have lacked everything and have been consumed by the sword

Jer 44:19 and by famine." The women also said, "And when we burned incense to the queen of heaven and poured out drink offerings to her, did we make cakes for her, to worship her, and pour out drink offerings to her without our husbands' *permission*?"

And what was Jeremiah's reply to that?

Jer 44:20 Then Jeremiah spoke to all the people—the men, the women, and all the people who had given him *that* answer—saying:

Jer 44:21 "The incense that you burned in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem, you and your fathers, your kings and your princes, and the people of the land, did not the LORD remember them, and did it *not* come into His mind?"

Jer 44:22 So the LORD could no longer bear *it*, because of the evil of your doings *and* because of the abominations which you committed. Therefore your land is a desolation, an astonishment, a curse, and without an inhabitant, as *it is* this day.

Jer 44:23 Because you have burned incense and because you have sinned against the LORD, and have not obeyed the voice of the LORD or walked in His law, in His statutes or in His testimonies, therefore this calamity has happened to you, as *at* this day."

Jer 44:24 Moreover Jeremiah said to all the people and to all the women, "Hear the word of the LORD, all Judah who *are* in the land of Egypt!

Jer 44:25 Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, saying: 'You and your wives have spoken with your mouths and fulfilled with your hands, saying, "We will surely keep our vows that we have made, to burn incense to the queen of heaven and pour out drink offerings to her." You will surely keep your vows and perform your vows!' Therefore hear the word of the

Jer 44:26 LORD, all Judah who dwell in the land of Egypt: 'Behold, I have sworn by My great name,' says the LORD, 'that My name shall no more be named in the mouth of any man of Judah in all the land of Egypt, saying, "The Lord GOD lives."

Jer 44:27 Behold, I will watch over them for adversity and not for good. And all the men of Judah who *are* in the land of Egypt shall be consumed by the sword and by famine,

Jer 44:28 until there is an end to them. Yet a small number who escape the sword shall return from the land of Egypt to the land of Judah; and all the remnant of Judah, who have gone to the land of Egypt to dwell there, shall know whose words will stand, Mine or theirs.

Jer 44:29 And this *shall be* a sign to you,' says the LORD, 'that I will punish you in this place, that you may know that My words will surely stand against you for adversity.'

Jer 44:30 "Thus says the LORD: 'Behold, I will give Pharaoh Hophra king of Egypt into the hand of his enemies and into the hand of those who seek his life, as I gave Zedekiah king of Judah into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, his enemy who sought his life.' "

The Jews run to Egypt in order to escape Nebuchadnezzar and his army, and continue to worship the queen of heaven, to whom they ascribed their good life and blessings in earlier times. How could they escape God's punishment?

It became obvious to God that as long as Egypt remained a prop for His people they would not fulfill their calling. The prophecies about the Messiah and the New Covenant were in danger of not being fulfilled. So God brought Nebuchadnezzar against Egypt, but when Babylon fell and Egypt threatened to rise again, he brought Alexander the Great against it, and he made sure that Egypt would never rise again to its former glory.

How Jewish 'Queen of Heaven' became Catholic 'Queen of Heaven'

There is no evidence that any of the Jews who went to Egypt ever returned to their land, but those who were taken into the Babylonian captivity did return and resume their former lifestyle and religion. Unfortunately they became so zealous about it that they lost any sense of proportion, logic and fairness, and blinded themselves to the real message of the Law.

We all know how the Pharisees behaved at the time of Jesus Christ, how He confronted them about their emphasis on human traditions and their misapplication of the Law of God. Nevertheless they paid no attention to His teachings and crucified Him in the end.

Now you would think that after all that they had endured because of their false religion and their attachment to the Queen of Heaven they would have been cured of ever retuning to that worship, but no they maintained their association with that abomination even to the point of killing some of Jesus' disciples and apostles.

Act 19:20 So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed.

Act 19:21 When these things were accomplished, Paul purposed in the Spirit, when he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, to go to Jerusalem, saying, "After I have been there, I must also see Rome."

Act 19:22 So he sent into Macedonia two of those who ministered to him, Timothy and Erastus, but he himself stayed in Asia for a time.

Act 19:23 And about that time there arose a great commotion about the Way.

Act 19:24 For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Diana, brought no small profit to the craftsmen.

Act 19:25 He called them together with the workers of similar occupation, and said: "Men, you know that we have our prosperity by this trade.

Act 19:26 Moreover you see and hear that not only at Ephesus, but throughout almost all Asia, this Paul has persuaded and turned away many people, saying that they are not gods which are made with hands.

Act 19:27 So not only is this trade of ours in danger of falling into disrepute, but also the temple of the great goddess Diana may be despised and her magnificence destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worship."

Act 19:28 Now when they heard *this*, they were full of wrath and cried out, saying, "Great is Diana of the Ephesians!"

Act 19:29 So the whole city was filled with confusion, and rushed into the theater with one accord, having seized Gaius and Aristarchus, Macedonians, Paul's travel companions.

Act 19:30 And when Paul wanted to go in to the people, the disciples would not allow him.

Act 19:31 Then some of the officials of Asia, who were his friends, sent to him pleading that he would not venture into the theater.

Act 19:32 Some therefore cried one thing and some another, for the assembly was confused, and most of them did not know why they had come together.

Act 19:33 And they drew Alexander out of the multitude, the Jews putting him forward. And Alexander motioned with his hand, and wanted to make his defense to the people.

Act 19:34 But when they found out that he was a Jew, all with one voice cried out for about two hours, "Great is Diana of the Ephesians!"

Act 19:35 And when the city clerk had quieted the crowd, he said: "Men of Ephesus, what man is there who does not know that the city of the Ephesians is temple guardian of the great goddess Diana, and of the *image* which fell down from Zeus?"

Act 19:36 Therefore, since these things cannot be denied, you ought to be quiet and do nothing rashly.

Act 19:37 For you have brought these men here who are neither robbers of temples nor blasphemers of your goddess.

Act 19:38 Therefore, if Demetrius and his fellow craftsmen have a case against anyone, the courts are open and there are proconsuls. Let them bring charges against one another.

Act 19:39 But if you have any other inquiry to make, it shall be determined in the lawful assembly.

Act 19:40 For we are in danger of being called in question for today's uproar, there being no reason which we may give to account for this disorderly gathering."

Act 19:41 And when he had said these things, he dismissed the assembly.

Diana was the Queen of Heaven version of the Ephesians, to whom some of the Jews were now making shrines and statuettes. The Middle East was always a fertile ground for Diana, the Goddess of Fertility. That area is full of statuettes, mosaics and paintings of that Goddess in various poses.

This passage from the Bible tells us that "Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Diana," stirred up the people against Paul because he "persuaded and turned away many people, saying that they are not gods which are made with hands. So not only is this trade of ours in danger of falling into disrepute, but also the temple of the great goddess Diana may be despised and her magnificence destroyed, whom **all Asia and the world worship.**"

Now notice carefully what happened next. "They drew Alexander out of the multitude, the Jews putting him forward. And Alexander motioned with his hand, and wanted to make his defense to the people. But when they found out that he was a Jew, all with one voice cried out for about two hours, "Great is Diana of the Ephesians!" Who was this Alexander?

2Ti 4:14 Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm. May the Lord repay him according to his works.

2Ti 4:15 You also must beware of him, for he has greatly resisted our words.

2Ti 4:16 At my first defense no one stood with me, but all forsook me. May it not be charged against them.

2Ti 4:17 But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that the message might be preached fully through me, and *that* all the Gentiles might hear. Also I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.

2Ti 4:18 And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve *me* for His heavenly kingdom. To Him *be* glory forever and ever. Amen!

The Lord delivered Paul from many evils, but not from this one. Paul was condemned to death by Caesar, and he died in Rome. Why? Because his time had come! As he said:

2Ti 4:7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

2Ti 4:8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

Now how did Alexander the coppersmith do Paul so much harm? Remember, at first the Ephesians were against him, but now his testimony before Caesar caused Paul's death. What did he testify against Paul? That he wanted to turn people away from Diana and 'destroy' her magnificence".

Why then were the Ephesians against Alexander the first time? Because at that time the Christians were seen as just another sect of the Jews, and they thought that Alexander and Paul were in cohort. But when they discovered that he was against Paul they used him very effectively against him. Now let us go back a little in the book of Acts.

Act 18:3 So, because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and worked; for by occupation they were tentmakers.

Act 18:4 And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and persuaded both Jews and Greeks.

Act 18:5 When Silas and Timothy had come from Macedonia, Paul was compelled by the Spirit, and testified to the Jews *that Jesus is the Christ*.

Act 18:6 But when they opposed him and blasphemed, he shook *his* garments and said to them, "Your blood *be* upon your *own* heads; I *am* clean. From now on I will go to the Gentiles."

Act 18:7 And he departed from there and entered the house of a certain *man* named Justus, *one* who worshiped God, whose house was next door to the synagogue.

Act 18:8 Then Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his household. And many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptized.

Act 18:9 Now the Lord spoke to Paul in the night by a vision, "Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent;

Act 18:10 for I am with you, and no one will attack you to hurt you; for I have many people in this city."

Act 18:11 And he continued *there* a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

Act 18:12 When Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews with one accord rose up against Paul and brought him to the judgment seat,

Act 18:13 saying, "This *fellow* persuades men to worship God contrary to the law."

Act 18:14 And when Paul was about to open *his* mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, "If it were a matter of wrongdoing or wicked crimes, O Jews, there would be reason why I should bear with you.

Act 18:15 But if it is a question of words and names and your own law, look *to it* yourselves; for I do not want to be a judge of such *matters*."

Act 18:16 And he drove them from the judgment seat.

Galio, a Roman proconsul who also performed the role of judge, did not want to be a judge in the Jewish Law and drove them from the judgment seat. Why then did Caesar not say the same thing and drove them from his judgment seat too, as Paul in most likelihood expected? Was it because he was less capable than Galio and got enmeshed in matters that did not belong to him? No, the Roman Emperors were not stupid people. To be sure, some of them were real dills, but on the whole Roman Emperors were great men, army generals, consuls, or educated men who were held in high esteem by their compatriots. They had to be for they led what was then by far the most advanced and civilized people in the world, and had to stand in judgment of the most difficult cases of the empire.

Paul's enemies made the case against him sound as if it was one about the Roman religion itself. Diana was not merely honored and worshipped by the Ephesians, but, as the Scriptures say, "all Asia and the world worshiped" her; not necessarily by that name.

In Babylonia she was known as Ishtar, and in Egypt as Isis.

"Ishtar, chief goddess of the Babylonians and the Assyrians and the counterpart of Astarte, the Greek and Roman name of Ashtoreth, Phoenician goddess of love and fruitfulness. The name appeared in different forms in every part of the ancient Semitic world; thus it was Athtar in Arabia, Astar in Abyssinia (now Ethiopia), and Ashtart in Canaan and Israel. The sex of the divinity also varied: Athtar and Astar were male deities. Ishtar of Erech (in Babylonia) was a goddess worshipped in connection with the evening star, but Ishtar of Akkad (also in Babylonia) was a god identified with the morning star. As a goddess, Ishtar was the Great Mother, the goddess of fertility and the queen of heaven. On the other hand, her character had destructive attributes; she was considered, especially by the Assyrians, a goddess of hunting and war and was depicted with sword, bow, and quiver of arrows. Among the Babylonians, Ishtar was distinctly the mother goddess and was portrayed either naked and with prominent breasts or as a mother with a child at her breast. As goddess of love she brought destruction to many of her lovers, of whom the most notable was her consort Tammuz, the Babylonian counterpart of Adonis."

"Isis (mythology), in Egyptian mythology, goddess of fertility and motherhood. According to Egyptian belief, she was the daughter of the god Geb ("Earth") and the goddess Nut ("Sky"), the sister-wife of Osiris, judge of the dead, and mother of Horus,

god of day. After the end of the New Kingdom in the 4th century bc, the centre of the cult of Isis, which was then reaching its greatest peak, was on Philae, an island in the Nile, where a great temple was built to her during the 30th Dynasty. Ancient stories describe Isis as having great magical skill, and she was represented as human in form though she was frequently described as wearing the horns of a cow. Her personality was believed to resemble that of Hathor, the goddess of love and gaiety.

The cult of Isis spread from Alexandria throughout the Hellenistic world after the 4th century bc. It appeared in Greece in combination with the cults of Horus, her son, and Serapis, the Greek name for the sacred bull believed to be an incarnation of Osiris. The Greek historian Herodotus identified Isis with Demeter, the Greek goddess of earth, agriculture, and fertility. In 86 bc, during the consulship of Lucius Cornelius Sulla, the tripartite cult of Isis, Horus, and Serapis was introduced to Rome and became one of the most popular branches of Roman religion. It later gained a bad reputation from the licentiousness of some of its priestly rites, and subsequent consuls made efforts to suppress or limit the cult of Isis. The cult died out in Rome after the institution of Christianity, and the last remaining Egyptian temples to Isis were closed in the mid-6th century ad.” (Encarta Encyclopedia)

Microsoft ‘experts’ of the Encarta Encyclopedia assure us that this cult died out in Rome after the arrival of Christianity. Hmmm! What about this:

“The Queenship of Mary is a Marian feast day in the liturgical calendar of the Roman Catholic Church, created by Pope Pius XII. On October 11, 1954, the Pontiff pronounced her new feast in his encyclical *Ad Caeli Reginam*. The feast was originally celebrated on May 31, the last day the Marian month, but Pope Paul VI moved the feast to August 22 in 1969. The feast is a logical follow-up to the Assumption and is thus on the octave day of that feast.

In his encyclical *To the Queen of Heaven*, Pius XII points out that Mary deserves the title because her Son Jesus Christ is the King of Israel and King of the Universe. Catholic dogma (Apostolic Constitution *Munificentissimus Deus*) states that the Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory. The title **Queen of Heaven** (Latin, *Regina Caeli*) is one of many Queen titles used for the Virgin Mary. **It was a Catholic tradition**, included in prayers and devotional literature, and in Western art from the High Middle Ages, **long before it was given a dogmatic definition status by the Church**. For centuries, Catholics while reciting the Litany of Loreto were already invoking Mary as a “Queen of Heaven.”

In modern times, Pope John Paul II clarified consecration to Mary in his 1987 encyclical, *Mother of the Redeemer*, in which he stated, “Mary’s motherhood ... is a gift which Christ himself makes personally to every individual.” John Paul II suggested Christians could best “entrust” themselves to Mary by becoming her spiritual sons and daughters.

Pope Benedict XVI noted that Mary’s acceptance of divine will is the ultimate reason she is Queen of Heaven. Because of her humble and unconditional acceptance of God’s will, “God exalted her over all other creatures, and Christ crowned her Queen of heaven and earth.” Mary should be called Queen, not only because of her Divine Motherhood of Jesus Christ, her only Son, but also because God the Father has willed her to have an exceptional role in the work of the eternal salvation of humanity.

To her Queen, we entrust our prayers and our salvation and redemption through her intercession.” (Philippine “Tempo”, August 22, 2011).

As usual, Catholic theologians are masters of confusion, obfuscation and double talk. One can write a whole treaty on these statements, but this is not our purpose here. A few observations are sufficient to show the problems with this theology.

First we are told that, “The Queenship of Mary is a Marian feast day in the liturgical calendar of the Roman Catholic Church, created by Pope Pius XII, on October 11, 1954.”

Then they tell us that, "For centuries, Catholics while reciting the Litany of Loreto were already invoking Mary as a "Queen of Heaven."

Now how was this feast created by Pope Pius XII in 1954, if the Catholics were already invoking her for centuries before that? The truth is, they did not invoke the Queen of Heaven for centuries, but for more than two millennia, long before the time of Virgin Mary and Jesus Christ. It is the characteristic of the Catholic Church to incorporate local beliefs and practices into its vernacular, regardless of how pagan or how little they have in common with Christian traditions. Such was the case with the Queen of Heaven, which the Romans imported from the Middle East and which they transformed into a fest of Mary when 'Christianity' became the religion of the Empire.

Pope John Paul II said that, "Mary's motherhood ... is a gift which Christ himself makes personally to every individual." He was a great populist, but scripturally and intellectually he was one of the most challenged of recent Popes. I had no idea that Christ had granted me the 'gift of motherhood', and I do not think any male in the world would agree with that either.

As for Mary's ascension to heaven, which the Catholics believe so strongly, this is what Jesus Christ had to say:

Joh 3:13 No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, *that is*, the Son of Man who is in heaven.

And this is what the Apostles have said too:

Act 2:34 "For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself: 'THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND. . .

Remember, David was a man after God's own heart (1Sam. 13:14, Acts 13:22).

Now if a man after God's own heart did not ascend to heaven after death, and Christ says that no other human being in history had done so except Himself, from where do the Catholics get this idea? And if they are so wrong in this matter, how much credence should be given to this statement:

"Mary should be called Queen, not only because of her Divine Motherhood of Jesus Christ, her only Son, but also because God the Father has willed her to have an exceptional role in the work of the eternal salvation of humanity."

Jesus Christ was the first born Son, but not the only son of Virgin Mary. Here is proof.

Joh 7:2 Now the Jews' Feast of Tabernacles was at hand.

Joh 7:3 His brothers therefore said to Him, "Depart from here and go into Judea, that Your disciples also may see the works that You are doing.

Joh 7:4 For no one does anything in secret while he himself seeks to be known openly. If You do these things, show Yourself to the world."

Joh 7:5 For even His brothers did not believe in Him.

Mat 13:54 When He had come to His own country, He taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished and said, "Where did this *Man* get this wisdom and *these* mighty works?

Mat 13:55 Is this not the carpenter's son? Is not His mother called Mary? And His brothers James, Joses, Simon, and Judas?

Mat 13:56 And His sisters, are they not all with us? Where then did this *Man* get all these things?"

Jesus Christ had no less than four brothers, and at least two sisters. It would be helpful if Catholic theologians read the Bible before making statements that are demonstrably untrue. And even more helpful if they stopped spreading the farcical cult of the Queen of Heaven in the name of Jesus Christ and His mother.

When Jews and Catholics find common ground, prepare to meet your Maker

In the aftermath of their Babylonian captivity, the Jews said this about the 'daughter of Babylon' in one of their Psalms.

Psa 137:8 O daughter of Babylon, who are to be destroyed, Happy the one who repays you as you have served us!

Psa 137:9 Happy the one who takes and dashes Your little ones against the rock!

Now one assumes that the 'daughter of Babylon' in this context refers to the capital of the Babylonian Empire, called Babylon, except that of the five mentions of this term in the Bible, at least two are in prophecies about the end of this world. Here they are.

Jer 50:41 "Behold, a people shall come from the north, And a great nation and many kings shall be raised up from the ends of the earth.

Jer 50:42 They shall hold the bow and the lance; They *are* cruel and shall not show mercy. Their voice shall roar like the sea; They shall ride on horses, Set in array, like a man for the battle, Against you, O daughter of Babylon.

Jer 51:47 Therefore behold, the days are coming that I will bring judgment on the carved images of Babylon; Her whole land shall be ashamed, And all her slain shall fall in her midst.

Jer 51:48 Then the heavens and the earth and all that *is* in them shall sing joyously over Babylon; For the plunderers shall come to her from the north," says the LORD.

When the Babylonian Empire fell to the Medo-Persians, they did not come from the edge of the earth in the north. Persia (modern day Iran), lay to the east of Babylon (modern day Iraq), while Media lay just north of Persia, none of which could be said to come from the 'ends of the earth'.

Ezekiel's prophecies, on the other hand, tell us that people from the north, from the furthest part of the earth, will invade the Middle East in the **latter days**.

Eze 38:1 Now the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

Eze 38:2 "Son of man, set your face against Gog, of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal, and prophesy against him,

Eze 38:3 and say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, I *am* against you, O Gog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal.

Eze 38:4 I will turn you around, put hooks into your jaws, and lead you out, with all your army, horses, and horsemen, all splendidly clothed, a great company *with* bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords.

Eze 38:5 Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya are with them, all of them *with* shield and helmet;

Eze 38:6 Gomer and all its troops; the house of Togarmah *from* the far north and all its troops—many people *are* with you.

Eze 38:7 "Prepare yourself and be ready, you and all your companies that are gathered about you; and be a guard for them.

Eze 38:8 After many days you will be visited. In the latter years you will come into the land of those brought back from the sword *and* gathered from many people on the mountains of Israel, which had long been desolate; they were brought out of the nations, and now all of them dwell safely.

Eze 38:9 You will ascend, coming like a storm, covering the land like a cloud, you and all your troops and many peoples with you."

Eze 38:10 "Thus says the Lord GOD: "On that day it shall come to pass *that* thoughts will arise in your mind, and you will make an evil plan:

Eze 38:11 You will say, 'I will go up against a land of unwalled villages; I will go to a peaceful people, who dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates'—

Eze 38:12 to take plunder and to take booty, to stretch out your hand against the waste places *that are again* inhabited, and against a people gathered from the nations, who have acquired livestock and goods, who dwell in the midst of the land.

Eze 38:13 Sheba, Dedan, the merchants of Tarshish, and all their young lions will say to you, 'Have you come to take plunder? Have you gathered your army to take booty, to carry away silver and gold, to take away livestock and goods, to take great plunder?' " "

Eze 38:14 "Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say to Gog, "Thus says the Lord GOD: "On that day when My people Israel dwell safely, will you not know *it*?"

Eze 38:15 Then you will come from your place out of the far north, you and many peoples with you, all of them riding on horses, a great company and a mighty army.

Eze 38:16 You will come up against My people Israel like a cloud, to cover the land. It will be in the latter days that I will bring you against My land, so that the nations may know Me, when I am hallowed in you, O Gog, before their eyes."

What Jeremiah, and other prophets, did not understand was that when the 'daughter of Babylon' will see its end, Israel itself will be in mortal danger too. God did not give complete prophecies, their time and execution, to any of His prophets, but gave them in such a way as to cause people throughout history to believe that they could happen in their time. Notice:

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 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.

Now if the 'daughter of Babylon' is to fall in the latter days, where is the 'daughter of Babylon' now? After all, a lot of people believe that we are living in those days. The Babylonian Empire had vanished long ago, and of its capital only ruins remain.

The Babylonians, in coalition with the Medes and Scythians, defeated the Assyrians in 612 bc, sacking Nimrud and Nineveh. They did not establish a new style or iconography; boundary stones, for example, depict old presentation scenes or the images of kings with symbols of the gods. Neo-Babylonian creativity manifested itself architecturally at Babylon, the capital, which reached its greatest size and highest point of development in the period 626 to 539 bc. This huge city, destroyed (689 bc) by Sennacherib, King of Assyria, was restored by Nabopolassar and his son Nebuchadnezzar II. Divided by the Euphrates, it took 88 years to build and was surrounded by outer and inner walls. Its central feature was Esagila, the temple of Marduk, with its associated seven-storey ziggurat Etemenanki, later to be popularly known as the Tower of Babel. The ziggurat reached a height of 91 m (300 ft); on the uppermost stage stood a temple (a shrine) built of sun-dried bricks and faced with baked bricks. Northward from the temple of Marduk ran the processional way, its wall decorated with enamelled lions. Passing through the Ishtar Gate, it led to a small temple outside the city, where ceremonies marking the New Year Festival were held. West of the Ishtar Gate were two palace complexes; east of the processional way lay, since the times of Hammurabi, a residential area. Like its famous Hanging Gardens, one of the Seven Wonders of the World, at the palace of Nebuchadnezzar II, **little of the city remains.** (Encarta)

Now, if the fall of the 'daughter of Babylon' cannot refer to a city that no longer exists, to whom does it refer?

We said that the expression 'daughter of Babylon' appears five times in the Bible, all of them in the Old Testament, and all in a negative context. It does not appear as such in the

New Testament, but the term 'Babylon' appears many times, also in a negative context. Here are some of the prophecies in which they appear.

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

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

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

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

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

Rev 14:6 Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—

Rev 14:7 saying with a loud voice, "Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water."

Rev 14:8 And another angel followed, saying, "Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication."

Rev 14:9 Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives *his* mark on his forehead or on his hand,

Rev 14:10 he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.

Rev 14:11 And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name."

Rev 14:12 Here is the patience of the saints; **here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.**

Rev 14:13 Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Write: 'Blessed *are* the dead who die in the Lord from now on.'" "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them."

Can you see how Jeremiah's and Ezekiel's prophecies compliment this Revelation? And what scenario does this prophecy reveals? None other than the return of Jesus Christ – the Lamb standing on Mount Zion – at which time the daughter of Babylon will see its end. But we still do not know who that it. Perhaps the next prophecy might make it clear for us.

Rev 16:1 Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, "Go and pour out the bowls of the wrath of God on the earth."

Rev 16:2 So the first went and poured out his bowl upon the earth, and a foul and loathsome sore came upon the men who had the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image.

Rev 16:3 Then the second angel poured out his bowl on the sea, and it became blood as of a dead *man*; and every living creature in the sea died.

Rev 16:4 Then the third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood.

Rev 16:5 And I heard the angel of the waters saying: "You are righteous, O Lord, The One who is and who was and who is to be, Because You have judged these things.

Rev 16:6 For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, And You have given them blood to drink. For it is their just due."

Rev 16:7 And I heard another from the altar saying, "Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous *are* Your judgments."

Rev 16:8 Then the fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and power was given to him to scorch men with fire.

Rev 16:9 And men were scorched with great heat, and they blasphemed the name of God who has power over these plagues; and they did not repent and give Him glory.

Rev 16:10 Then the fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom became full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues because of the pain.

Rev 16:11 They blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and did not repent of their deeds.

Rev 16:12 Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared.

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 the mouth of the false prophet.

Rev 16:14 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.

Rev 16:15 "Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame."

Rev 16:16 And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon.

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!"

Rev 16:18 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.

This 'great day of the Lord' is nothing but the Great Tribulation that precedes the return of Jesus Christ. Babylon here is not just another city it is "great Babylon". And when this city falls, the cities of all the nations fall. A mighty devastation, and yet we still do not know who this Babylon is. The next prophecy, however, leaves us in no doubt as to who we are dealing with.

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,

Rev 17:2 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 marveled with great amazement.

Rev 17:7 But the angel said to me, "Why did you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns.

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.

Rev 17:9 "Here is the mind which has wisdom: The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits.

Rev 17:12 "The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast.

Rev 17:13 These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast.

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."

Rev 17:15 Then he said to me, "The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.

Rev 17:16 And the ten horns which you saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire.

Rev 17:17 For God has put it into their hearts to fulfill His purpose, to be of one mind, and to give their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled.

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

'Babylon the Great' has become 'Mystery, the Mother of Harlots.' This is nothing but a Church whose tentacles extend all over the world, a Church that is in cohort with the kings and leaders of the world to fight God and Jesus Christ! Are they aware of it, or are they being deceived with a false gospel? It is theirs, and everyone else's, duty to make sure they are being preached the right Gospel, for there are no second chances, or second choices, as far as the Gospel of salvation is concerned.

This passage gives us unmistakable signs that identify this "Mother of Harlots".

Rev 17:9 "Here is the mind which has wisdom: The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits.

Rev 17:12 "The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast.

Now what great city hosts a worldwide Church that could be said to be 'Mother of Harlots', mother of other Churches, a Church that preaches falsehoods such as worship of the Queen of Heaven and life after death, and stands on seven mountains? Could it be any other than Rome?

What about the ten horns, who or what might these be? Remember, we were told that 'The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast.' This is where the plot becomes even thicker, and where truth becomes stranger than fiction.

In another prophecy we have another set of ten horns which come into play not at the end, but at the beginning and throughout the life of this 'Mother of Harlots'.

For this we must go to one of Daniel's prophecies.

Dan 7:1 In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream and visions of his head *while* on his bed. Then he wrote down the dream, telling the main facts.

Dan 7:2 Daniel spoke, saying, "I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the Great Sea.

Dan 7:3 And four great beasts came up from the sea, each different from the other.

Dan 7:4 The first *was* like a lion, and had eagle's wings. I watched till its wings were plucked off; and it was lifted up from the earth and made to stand on two feet like a man, and a man's heart was given to it.

Dan 7:5 "And suddenly another beast, a second, like a bear. It was raised up on one side, and *had* three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. And they said thus to it: 'Arise, devour much flesh!'

Dan 7:6 "After this I looked, and there was another, like a leopard, which had on its back four wings of a bird. The beast also had four heads, and dominion was given to it.

Dan 7:7 "After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. It *was* different from all the beasts that *were* before it, and **it had ten horns.**

Dan 7:8 I was considering the horns, and there was another horn, a little one, coming up among them, before whom three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots. And there, in this horn, *were* eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words.

Dan 7:9 "I watched till thrones were put in place, And the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment *was* white as snow, And the hair of His head *was* like pure wool. His throne *was* a fiery flame, Its wheels a burning fire;

Dan 7:10 A fiery stream issued And came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; Ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, And the books were opened.

Dan 7:11 "I watched then because of the sound of the pompous words which the horn was speaking; I watched till the beast was slain, and its body destroyed and given to the burning flame.

Dan 7:12 As for the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away, yet their lives were prolonged for a season and a time.

Dan 7:13 "I was watching in the night visions, And behold, *One* like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him.

Dan 7:14 Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion *is* an everlasting dominion, Which shall not pass away, And His kingdom *the one* Which shall not be destroyed.

Dan 7:15 "I, Daniel, was grieved in my spirit within *my* body, and the visions of my head troubled me.

Dan 7:16 I came near to one of those who stood by, and asked him the truth of all this. So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of these things:

Dan 7:17 "Those great beasts, which are four, *are* four kings *which* arise out of the earth.

Dan 7:18 But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom, and possess the kingdom forever, even forever and ever.'

Dan 7:19 "Then I wished to know the truth about the fourth beast, which was different from all the others, exceedingly dreadful, *with* its teeth of iron and its nails of bronze, *which* devoured, broke in pieces, and trampled the residue with its feet;

Dan 7:20 and the ten horns that *were* on its head, and the other *horn* which came up, before which three fell, namely, that horn which had eyes and a mouth which spoke pompous words, whose appearance *was* greater than his fellows.

Dan 7:21 "I was watching; and the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them,

Dan 7:22 until the Ancient of Days came, and a judgment was made *in favor* of the saints of the Most High, and the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom.

Dan 7:23 "Thus he said: 'The fourth beast shall be A fourth kingdom on earth, Which shall be different from all *other* kingdoms, And shall devour the whole earth, Trample it and break it in pieces.

Dan 7:24 **The ten horns *are* ten kings *Who* shall arise from this kingdom. And another shall rise after them; He shall be different from the first *ones*, And shall subdue three kings.**

Dan 7:25 **He shall speak *pompous* words against the Most High, Shall persecute the saints of the Most High, And shall intend to change times and law.** Then *the saints* shall be given into his hand For a time and times and half a time.

Dan 7:26 'But the court shall be seated, And they shall take away his dominion, To consume and destroy *it* forever.

Dan 7:27 Then the kingdom and dominion, And the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, Shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His kingdom *is* an everlasting kingdom, And all dominions shall serve and obey Him.'

Dan 7:28 "This *is* the end of the account. As for me, Daniel, my thoughts greatly troubled me, and my countenance changed; but I kept the matter in my heart."

The little 'horn' that arose in the midst of the 'ten horns', persecuted the saints of the Most High to the end of time, and changed times and the law. This law could be none other than the Law of God, for the Bible does not bother with laws of the nations. But why did this prophecy, this fourth 'beast', trouble Daniel so much more than the previous three?

We covered this mystery at length in an earlier edition and cannot do it again here. But what we will do now is give you an edited version of that article.

“Daniel’s Last Great Mysteries Unveiled”

“There has been no end of speculation as to who, or what, this ‘abomination of desolation’ might be. What is surprising is that even after that prophecy has been fulfilled, when it has become clear to the whole world who was responsible for the crucifixion of the Messiah, they are still wondering about the identity of this ‘beast’.

When talking about the ‘abomination of desolation’ in Matthew chapter 24, Jesus Christ was telling His disciples about His own death. That is why he said, “whoever reads, let him understand”.

Remember, He also told His followers never to call anyone on earth (spiritual) Father. “Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven.” (Mat 23:9). This warning had little to do with the Jewish people, for they were not calling their leaders ‘Father’, but ‘Rabbi’, or ‘Teacher’. In this warning, He was drawing their attention to the one who was already masquerading as “Holy Father”, who was beginning to exercise his authority over the Holy Land, and that was Pontifex Maximus.

Leaders of people are responsible for the actions of their followers. Pontius Pilate was told that Jesus Christ was the Son of God and he believed it for he was afraid when he heard of it. Like all Romans, he also believed that his religious leader, Pontifex Maximus, claimed descent from the gods, and was regarded by his followers as “King Sacrorum” (Sacred or Divine King) and King Sacrificulum” (King of Sacrifices). Pontifex Maximus, who to this day retains the title of King in the Catholic Church, is ultimately responsible for the actions of his subjects, particularly in religious matters. So when Pontius Pilate acceded to the mob’s request to crucify the Son of God, he fulfilled the prophecy about the ‘abomination of desolation’ cutting off Messiah in the middle of the week. Jesus Christ was crucified on Wednesday afternoon, and remained in the grave until Sunday morning, slightly over three days and three nights.

Jesus Christ did not absolve the Jews of the guilt of delivering Him to the Romans, but the context of Daniel’s prophecies make it clear that ultimate responsibility for His death remains with the highest religious authority, and that is the authority that Daniel and Jesus Christ called “abomination of desolation”.

Daniel associated the “abomination that makes desolate” with the fourth beast, and was highly distressed to see the Messiah being killed at his hands. But he was distressed about the fourth beast even before he foresaw the fate of the Messiah. He saw something in chapters 10 about the fourth ‘beast’ that made him sick for three whole weeks. Notice:

Dan 10:1 In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a message was revealed to Daniel, whose name was called Belteshazzar. The message was true, but the appointed time was long; and he understood the message, and had understanding of the vision.

Dan 10:2 In those days I, Daniel, was mourning three full weeks. I ate no pleasant food,

Dan 10:3 no meat or wine came into my mouth, nor did I anoint myself at all, till three whole weeks were fulfilled.

The question is what did he see and understand that made him sick? He perceived that the fourth ‘beast’ represented a kingdom that would be formed by his own people, Israel.

The following verses describe historical developments over a long period of time. They refer to the persecution of Christians by the Roman religious authorities.

Dan 11:32 "Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flattery; but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits."

Dan 11:33 "And those of the people who understand shall instruct many; yet for many days they shall fall by sword and flame, by captivity and plundering.

Dan 11:34 "Now when they fall, they shall be aided with a little help; but many shall join with them by intrigue.

Dan 11:35 "And some of those of understanding shall fall, to refine them, purify them, and make them white, until the time of the end; because it is still for the appointed time.

This language does not apply to Jews by birth, who do not need to be purified and made white in order to be Jews, but to Christians who need to be baptized and continue the process of refinement for the rest of their lives, “until the time of the end”, in order to ensure their salvation – a place in the Kingdom of God.

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

Daniel went on to write:

“Dan 11:36 "Then the king shall do according to his own will: he shall exalt and magnify himself above every god, shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the wrath has been accomplished; for what has been determined shall be done.

The “king” that magnified himself above every god is the one who took the identity of God by claiming to be “Holy Father”. That is a title that belongs to God and to Him alone. Notice who Jesus called Holy Father.

John 17:11 "Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are.”

Jesus Christ called His Father in heaven ‘Holy Father’, not an impostor here on earth. And who claims to be ‘Holy Father’ here on earth? None other than the little ‘horn’ that became “Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots!” Now back to Daniel.

Dan 11:37 "He shall regard neither the God of his fathers nor the desire of women, nor regard any god; for he shall exalt himself above them all.

His disregard for the “desire of women” is a clear reference to the celibacy rule.

Dan 11:38 "But in their place he shall honor a god of fortresses; and a god which his fathers did not know he shall honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and pleasant things.

Dan 11:39 "Thus he shall act against the strongest fortresses with a foreign god, which he shall acknowledge, and advance its glory; and he shall cause them to rule over many, and divide the land for gain.”

The expression “god of fortresses” is a reference to the military nature of his reign, the Roman Empire being the most successful and powerful military machine in the history of the world. Pontifex Maximus was its head for most of its existence.

Now let us look at two expressions from verses 37 and 38 that no one has been able to explain: “He shall regard neither the God of his fathers”, and “he shall honor . . . a god which his fathers did not know”.

The contexts of these verses indicate that his fathers were in good terms with God. Now the only people of whom the Scriptures would say such a thing are the fathers of Israel, the patriarchs of old. Which raises the question, how could Pontifex Maximus be connected with the fathers of Israel?

Official history books shed no light on this matter. They dismiss the origin of Pontifex Maximus as being “lost in the mist of antiquity”. Well, if we are willing to listen to what the ancients had to say, we find that his origin is not as lost as modern historians would have us believe.

Consider the case of the Trojan War. Homer wrote that story from the point of view of a contemporary person. It was something that happened in his time and he had direct evidence of it. But that does not fit well with modern thinking, which demands that history be stretched out to maximum in order to accommodate evolutionary thinking. The effect of this is that the deeper one delves into history, the further away from truth he gets. Hence we have the so-called “dark ages”, or historical gaps. One of these gaps is supposed to exist between the years of 1200 B.C., when official historians say that the Trojan War took place, and about 800 BC when Homer recorded his story and said that it occurred. Well, if there are any gaps they must be in the heads of those who preach such things, for we know better now.

The ancients believed that the Trojans were Israelites, and upon their defeat by the Greeks they migrated to Europe – some via the Mediterranean Sea, others via the Danube River and the lands north of it.

Priam, the king of Troy, had two sons: Paris and Hector, and a nephew Aeneas. Hector died in the war, but Aeneas became the founder of Lavinium, a religious center 30 km south of Rome, while Paris became the founder of . . . guess what other great European capital?

The people who lived around Troy were called Phrygians, from whom we get the terms “Franks” and “French”. Many maps of the ancient world still mark the area around Troy as Phrygia.

In recent times, some people have postulated that virtually all of Europe, not just the Anglo-Saxons and the northern peoples, are of Hebrew origin. To give you one example, the term ‘Iberia’ comes from ‘Hiberia’, which means the land of the Hebrews. This makes the Spanish and the Portuguese as much children of Abraham as the Anglo-Saxons.

Now if the Trojans were Israelites, it establishes the link between Pontifex Maximus and the Israelite fathers. The question still remains, where did his “kingship” and religious authority come from? This is another amazing mystery. When Israel split into two nations, Judah and Samaria, the king of Samaria changed the law, the calendar, the Holy Days, and the location of the sacrifices in order to prevent his followers from absconding back to Judah and Jerusalem.

The Israelites took to the new religion like ducks to water. One, because it freed them from the strictness of the Mosaic Law, and two, because the new religion resembled that of Egypt for which they had always yearned and wished to go back to. That apostasy, in fact, began with King Solomon.

1 Ki 3:1 “Now Solomon made a treaty with Pharaoh king of Egypt, and married Pharaoh's daughter; then he brought her to the City of David until he had finished building his own house, and the house of the LORD, and the wall all around Jerusalem.

1 Ki 6:37 “In the fourth year the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid, in the month of Ziv.

1 Ki 6:38 And in the eleventh year, in the month of Bul, which is the eighth month, the house was finished in all its details and according to all its plans. So he was seven years in building it.

1 Ki 7:1 “But Solomon took thirteen years to build his own house; so he finished all his house.

1 Ki 7:8 “Solomon also made a house like this hall for Pharaoh's daughter, whom he had taken as wife.

It took Solomon seven years to build the temple of God, and thirteen years to build his own palace (Any wonder that thirteen is associated with the Devil). Then, to top it all, he built a similar palace for Pharaoh's daughter, whom he had taken as wife.

Can you see how the Freemasons trace the roots of their organization and their faith all the way back to Solomon, and through him to the Pharaohs and gods of Egypt? That is how the Romans ended up with a religion that resembles that of Egypt – through the Trojans who migrated to Italy after their defeat by the Greeks and established their capital in Rome.

Solomon however was not satisfied with just the gods of Egypt; he set about to please the pagan gods of all his neighbors. And the best way to do that was through their daughters.

1 Ki 11:1 But King Solomon loved many foreign women, as well as the daughter of Pharaoh: women of the

1 Ki 11:2 Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians, and Hittites; from the nations of whom the LORD had said to the children of Israel, "You shall not intermarry with them, nor they with you. Surely they will turn away your hearts after their gods." Solomon clung to these in love.

1 Ki 11:3 And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines; and his wives turned

1 Ki 11:4 away his heart. For it was so, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned his heart after other gods; and his heart was not loyal to the LORD his God, as was the heart of his father David.

1 Ki 11:5 For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of

1 Ki 11:6 the Ammonites. Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and did not fully follow the LORD, as did

1 Ki 11:7 his father David. Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, on the hill that is east of Jerusalem, and for Molech the abomination of the people of Ammon.

1 Ki 11:8 And he did likewise for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and sacrificed to their gods.

1 Ki 11:9 So the LORD became angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned from the LORD God of

1 Ki 11:10 Israel, who had appeared to him twice, and had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods; but he did not keep what the LORD had commanded. Therefore the LORD said to

1 Ki 11:11 Solomon, "Because you have done this, and have not kept My covenant and My statutes, which I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom away from you and give it to your servant.

1 Ki 11:12 "Nevertheless I will not do it in your days, for the sake of your father David; I will tear it out of the hand

1 Ki 11:13 of your son. "However I will not tear away the whole kingdom; I will give one tribe to your son for the sake of my servant David, and for the sake of Jerusalem which I have chosen."

Solomon had no less than seven hundred wives and three hundred concubines. (By the way, do you know the difference? A wife was married with a wedding, while a concubine was simply taken). Since he reigned for forty years, it means that he had a new wedding or a new woman in his bed every two weeks. This means that no woman spent more than two weeks in his bedchamber as his true wife. Any wonder that no woman clung to him as a wife clings to a faithful husband all her life? At the end of his life, he complained that he found one faithful man in a thousand, but could not find one faithful woman in a thousand. It took him all his life and one thousand women to realize that one wife from youth to death is more valuable than a new woman every two weeks.

Prov 5:15 Drink water from your own cistern, And running water from your own well.

Prov 5:16 Should your fountains be dispersed abroad, Streams of water in the streets?

Prov 5:17 Let them be only your own, And not for strangers with you.

Prov 5:18 Let your fountain be blessed, And rejoice with the wife of your youth. As a loving deer and a graceful

Prov 5:19 doe, Let her breasts satisfy you at all times; And always be enraptured with her love.

Prov 5:20 For why should you, my son, be enraptured by an immoral woman, And be embraced in the arms of a seductress?"

Ecl 7:27 "Here is what I have found," says the Preacher, "Adding one thing to the other to find out the reason,

Ecl 7:28 Which my soul still seeks but I cannot find: One man among a thousand I have found, But a woman among all these I have not found.

Of course he couldn't find a faithful woman among all his wives. What woman would love a man till death after ruining her life by making her his wife for just two weeks? With all his wisdom, Solomon did not seem to realize that women have feelings too. He may forgiven many of his sins and weaknesses, but I doubt that he could be forgiven the unjustified aspersion he placed on women by implying that they were incapable of lifelong love and devotion.

People have quoted Solomon's words to us to justify their hatred of women. They cannot achieve happiness and become victims of self-fulfilled prophecy by having women react to them the way they project themselves towards them in the first place. People forget that the Bible gives plenty of examples of faithful and righteous women, some of whom were among the most devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

Heb 11:11 By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised.

Heb 11:23 By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's command.

Heb 11:31 "By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the

Heb 11:32 spies with peace. And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets:

Heb 11:33 who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths

Heb 11:34 of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.

Heb 11:35 Women received their dead raised to life again. And others were tortured, not accepting deliverance,

Heb 11:36 that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes,

Heb 11:37 and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented;

Heb 11:38 of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of

Heb 11:39 the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise,

Heb 11:40 God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.”

Mat 27:55 And many women who followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to Him, were there looking on from

Mat 27:56 afar, among whom were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joses, and the mother of Zebedee's sons.

1 Pet 3:1 Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they,

1 Pet 3:2 without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear.

1 Pet 3:3 Do not let your adornment be merely outward; arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine

1 Pet 3:4 apparel; rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and

1 Pet 3:5 quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God. For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands, as Sarah obeyed

1 Pet 3:6 Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror.”

Yes, many women were faithful to God, to their husbands, and to the Churches of God, and proved to be worthy companions in the struggles of life and in the tribulations for the Kingdom of God. Even the harlots that turned to God, like Rahab, deserve respect for their courage, the anguish and struggles they must have endured in the process.

Solomon however was just as accommodating with his neighbor's pagan gods as he was with their daughters. He made a collection of their gods, but place of honor undoubtedly must have been held by his first whoring attachment – the Sun god of Egypt, who became the Sun god of the western world, hence the SunDay worship. And who perpetuates the observance of Sundays? None other than the 'Mother of Harlots'!

It appears that the Pharaoh of Egypt was not too happy with the way Solomon treated his daughter in the end, for he harbored, and groomed, many adversaries to Solomon. One of these, an Edomite by the name of Hadad, was treated so well that he became Pharaoh's brother in law by marrying the sister of Pharaoh's wife.

Hadad, however, being an Edomite, could not become king over Israel, so the Pharaoh groomed another adversary to Solomon from the stock of Israel – Jeroboam. This is the man who split Israel in two and became High Priest and King over Samaria upon the death of Solomon.

In order to break the link with Judah and prevent his people from returning to Jerusalem, he recreated the religion of Egypt – Sunday observance, sacrifices to golden calves, worship of the dead, and worship of the Queen of Heaven and her associated heavenly hosts.

In the Orthodox Calendar, with which I am familiar, which has a place of honour in every Orthodox home, every day of the year is associated with a heavenly host. Little do they know that this has nothing to do with Jesus Christ and everything to do with ancient pagan Egyptian religion.

The Pharaoh thought that the royal line of Israel would be established through his daughter, but Solomon gave it instead to Rehoboam, his son by an Ammonite woman (1 Kings 14:31). As one might have expected, Rehoboam turned out to be a bad king. Not surprisingly, five years after he took the throne, the Pharaoh came up against him and took away all the treasures of Judah, including, no doubt, the fabulous dowry he must have given to his daughter when she married Solomon.

It is extraordinary how much damage two bad leaders can do to a nation. In two short generations, the mighty kingdom of David, which stretched from the Euphrates to the Nile, and contained the territory of Troy, was reduced to a mere rump. Syria, which was subject to David, was now taking territories from Israel in the north, and Egypt was plundering Judah from the south.

Jeroboam, however, maintained good terms with the Pharaoh. He was well entrenched in the Egyptian religion, with which he was familiar from the years he spent in exile from Solomon in Egypt. Upon becoming king of Samaria, he released the Levites from their priestly duties and appointed ordinary people as priests of his new religion. The Levites then returned to Judah, who became a nation of three tribes: Judah, Benjamin and Levy. Jeroboam claimed the title of Patriarch (Father) of the Nation and High Priest, hence the Roman 'Padre (Father) of the Nation and 'Holy Father'.

1 Ki 13:33 "After this event Jeroboam did not turn from his evil way, but again he made priests from every class of people for the high places; whoever wished, he consecrated him, and he became one of the priests of the high places."

Jeroboam became the first Pontifex Maximus as it were, a position he passed on to the Romans through the royal house of the Trojans. This also explains why the French fought with the Italians over the custody of the position of Pontifex. At one time, Avignon, was the center of the papacy.

The symbol of the ancient Egyptian religion was two bullhorns pointing upwards in a semicircle with the rising Sun in the middle. But the Egyptians had many anthropomorphic gods. Anubis is a well-known Egyptian god of the underworld with the body of a man and the head of a jackal. The cats, birds, snakes, and other animals, were part of the pantheon of anthropomorphic Egyptian gods. It is interesting to note that Apostle Paul mentioned the Roman attachment to anthropomorphic gods.

Rom 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

Rom 1:19 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown *it* to them.

Rom 1:20 For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,

Rom 1:21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Rom 1:22 Professing to be wise, they became fools,

Rom 1:23 and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

Ancient Egyptians (as in fact all ancient peoples), glorified death and the after-life, and regarded their Pharaoh as a god – the Sun god. These beliefs found their way into the Roman religion through Samaria. The difference being that instead of calling their leader Pharaoh, they called him Pontifex. This is from where the Roman religious leaders drew their beliefs that they were sons of the gods, High Priests and 'Holy Fathers'.

Can you see now why Daniel became sick when he understood the truth about the fourth beast? Who would not become sick when told that his kingdom, the kingdom of the 'chosen people', would trample the world under foot, murder the Messiah, and persecute the holy people to the very end.

The Roman Empire had its roots in the nation of Samaria. The so-called lost Ten Tribes of Israel are not lost anymore. They are Europe. There are only a few pockets of people in Europe that do not belong to the Hebrew stock.

In June 2001, I attended a seminar in Sydney by Professor Terry Marvin Blodgett of the University of Utah on the linguistic similarities between the Indo-European languages and the Hebrew and Germanic languages. Prior to that time I had spent countless hours of search and research through libraries, encyclopedias, history looks, the Internet, and everything I could think of, in an attempt to establish a link between Pontifex Maximus and ancient Israel. I was struggling hard to unveil Daniel's prophecies, but I soon realized that without that link I could not do it. In the end I had to rely on Homer's story of the Trojan War and Virgil's Aeneid for the link between Rome and

Troy, and on bits of information that I had gathered over the years in my own mind from sources that I could not remember and quote anymore. I was convinced that I had the truth, but I wasn't too happy with my supporting evidence, so I held back. Then came Professor Blodgett's seminar, and that was like manna from heaven as far as I was concerned.

He spoke of several Hebrew migrations from the Middle East to Europe, and elsewhere. The first one came about 1500 B.C. – before Moses – and most likely occurred as a result of the Egyptians' harshness towards the multiplying Hebrews. These were the Italic, Hellenic, Indic, and Slavic peoples. Another migration occurred about 1200 B.C. at the time of the Exodus. Many established themselves in the land of Israel, but others went on to Troy, Greece, Rome, Macedonia, even as far away as Spain and Portugal. The next Hebrew migration occurred about 700 B.C. at the time of the Assyrian invasion of Samaria. These went to Italy, France, Germany, Denmark, and the British Isles.

Another Hebrew migration occurred about 600 B.C., when Judah was taken captive by the Babylonians. Professor Blodgett traced the Jews through Italy, Venice, Austria, France, all the way to the Danish peninsula called Juteland, or Jew land. Finally the last Hebrew migration occurred in 70 A.D. at the time of the Roman destruction of Jerusalem.

Professor Blodgett went to a great length to prove a linguistic connection between these peoples and their migratory movements, and I apologize if in any way I may have misquoted him. He said that in a few months time he would publish a book that will spell out all these details. I wish I had the chance to obtain and read that book, but I have not been able to do it so far.

His thesis places on more solid foundation the link that I needed between Pontifex Maximus and Israel. However I believe that in placing the Exodus at 1200 B.C. he is about 250 years too late for that event. I also think that not all of the Germanic peoples come from the Hebrew stock, for that contradicts the notion that Germany is the Assyria of old. If all of Germany is of Hebrew stock, then we need to find another candidate for the "rod of God's anger" (Isa.10:5), and I simply cannot see what nation could possibly usurp that role from Germany (or part of it, most likely Prussia).

In one of his raving speeches, Hitler once said: "Judah must and will be destroyed. That is our holy conviction." Well, that "holy conviction" did not start with him; Or with Wagner, his favored composer, and an avowed anti-Semite. Not even with Martin Luther who said some unquotable things about the Jews. The conflict between Germany and Judah goes way back to ancient times when Assyria tried to conquer Judah. Having taken captive the northern kingdom of Samaria, the Assyrians wanted to do the same to Judah. But notice what happened then.

2 Ki 18:17 Then the king of Assyria sent the Tartan, the Rabsaris, and the Rabshakeh from Lachish, with a great army against Jerusalem, to King Hezekiah. And they went up and came to Jerusalem. When they had come up, they

2 Ki 18:18 went and stood by the aqueduct from the upper pool, which was on the highway to the Fuller's Field. And when they had called to the king, Eliakim the son of Hilkiyah, who was over the household, Shebna the scribe, and Joah the son of Asaph, the recorder, came out to them. Then the Rabshakeh said to them, "Say now to Hezekiah,

2 Ki 18:19 'Thus says the great king, the king of Assyria: "What confidence is this in which you trust?"

2 Ki 18:20 "You speak of having plans and power for war; but they are mere words. And in whom do you trust,

2 Ki 18:21 that you rebel against me? "Now look! You are trusting in the staff of this broken reed, Egypt, on which if a man leans, it will go into his hand and pierce it. So is Pharaoh king of Egypt to all who trust in him.

2 Ki 18:22 "But if you say to me, 'We trust in the LORD our God,' is it not He whose high places and whose altars Hezekiah has taken away, and said to Judah and Jerusalem, 'You shall worship before this altar in Jerusalem?'" "Now therefore I urge you, give a pledge to my master the king of Assyria,

2 Ki 18:23 and I will give you two thousand horses; if you are able on your part to put riders on them!

2 Ki 18:24 "How then will you repel one captain of the least of my master's servants, and put your trust in Egypt

2 Ki 18:25 for chariots and horsemen? "Have I now come up without the LORD against this place to destroy it? The LORD said to me, 'Go up against this land, and destroy it.'"

2 Ki 18:26 Then Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, Shebna, and Joah said to the Rabshakeh, "Please speak to your servants in Aramaic, for we understand it; and do not speak to us in Hebrew in the hearing of the people who are on

2 Ki 18:27 the wall." But the Rabshakeh said to them, "Has my master sent me to your master and to you to speak these words, and not to the men who sit on the wall, who will eat and drink their own waste with you?" Then

2 Ki 18:28 the Rabshakeh stood and called out with a loud voice in Hebrew, and spoke, saying, "Hear the word

2 Ki 18:29 of the great king, the king of Assyria! "Thus says the king: 'Do not let Hezekiah deceive you, for he

2 Ki 18:30 shall not be able to deliver you from his hand; nor let Hezekiah make you trust in the LORD, saying, "The LORD will surely deliver us; this city shall not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria."

2 Ki 18:31 "Do not listen to Hezekiah; for thus says the king of Assyria: 'Make peace with me by a present and come out to me; and every one of you eat from his own vine and every one from his own fig tree, and every one of you

2 Ki 18:32 drink the waters of his own cistern; 'until I come and take you away to a land like your own land, a land of grain and new wine, a land of bread and vineyards, a land of olive groves and honey, that you may live and not die. But do not listen to Hezekiah, lest he persuade you, saying, "The LORD will deliver us."

2 Ki 18:33 'Has any of the gods of the nations at all delivered its land from the hand of the king of Assyria? Where are the gods of Hamath and Arpad?

2 Ki 18:34 Where are the gods of Sepharvaim and Hena and Ivah? Indeed, have they delivered Samaria from

2 Ki 18:35 my hand? 'Who among all the gods of the lands have delivered their countries from my hand, that the LORD should deliver Jerusalem from my hand?"

2 Ki 18:36 But the people held their peace and answered him not a word; for the king's commandment was,

2 Ki 18:37 "Do not answer him." Then Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, who was over the household, Shebna the scribe, and Joah the son of Asaph, the recorder, came to Hezekiah with their clothes torn, and told him the words of

2 Ki 19:1 the Rabshakeh. And so it was, when King Hezekiah heard it, that he tore his clothes, covered himself with sackcloth, and went into the house of the LORD.

2 Ki 19:2 Then he sent Eliakim, who was over the household, Shebna the scribe, and the elders of the priests, covered with sackcloth, to Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz.

2 Ki 19:3 And they said to him, "Thus says Hezekiah: 'This day is a day of trouble, and rebuke, and blasphemy; for the children have come to birth, but there is no strength to bring them forth.

2 Ki 19:4 'It may be that the LORD your God will hear all the words of the Rabshakeh, whom his master the king of Assyria has sent to reproach the living God, and will rebuke the words which the LORD your God has heard. Therefore lift up your prayer for the remnant that is left."

2 Ki 19:5 So the servants of King Hezekiah came to Isaiah. And Isaiah said to them,

2 Ki 19:6 "Thus you shall say to your master, 'Thus says the LORD: "Do not be afraid of the words which you have heard, with which the servants of the king of Assyria have blasphemed Me.

2 Ki 19:7 "Surely I will send a spirit upon him, and he shall hear a rumor and return to his own land; and I will cause him to fall by the sword in his own land.'"" Then the Rabshakeh returned

2 Ki 19:8 and found the king of Assyria warring against Libnah, for he heard that he had departed from Lachish.

2 Ki 19:9 And the king heard concerning Tirhakah king of Ethiopia, "Look, he has come out to make war with

2 Ki 19:10 you." So he again sent messengers to Hezekiah, saying, "Thus you shall speak to Hezekiah king of Judah, saying: 'Do not let your God in whom you trust deceive you, saying, "Jerusalem shall not be given into the hand

2 Ki 19:11 of the king of Assyria." 'Look! You have heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all lands by

2 Ki 19:12 utterly destroying them; and you shall be delivered? 'Have the gods of the nations delivered those

2 Ki 19:13 whom my fathers have destroyed, Gozan and Haran and Rezep, and the people of Eden who were in Telassar? 'Where is the king of Hamath, the king of Arpad,

2 Ki 19:14 and the king of the city of Sepharvaim, Hena, and Ivah?" And Hezekiah received the letter from the hand of the messengers, and read it; and Hezekiah went up to the house of the LORD, and spread it before the LORD.

2 Ki 19:15 Then Hezekiah prayed before the LORD, and said: "O LORD God of Israel, the One who dwells between the cherubim, You are God, You alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth.

2 Ki 19:16 "Incline Your ear, O LORD, and hear; open Your eyes, O LORD, and see; and hear the words of Sennacherib, which he has sent to represent the living God.

2 Ki 19:17 "Truly, LORD, the kings of Assyria have laid waste the nations and their lands, and have cast their

2 Ki 19:18 gods into the fire; for they were not gods, but the work of men's hands; wood and stone. Therefore they destroyed them.

2 Ki 19:19 "Now therefore, O LORD our God, I pray, save us from his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth

2 Ki 19:20 may know that You are the LORD God, You alone." Then Isaiah the son of Amoz sent to Hezekiah, saying, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'Because you have prayed to Me against Sennacherib king of Assyria,

2 Ki 19:21 I have heard.' "This is the word which the LORD has spoken concerning him: 'The virgin, the daughter of Zion, Has despised you, laughed you to scorn; The daughter of Jerusalem Has shaken her head behind your back! "Whom have you reproached and blasphemed?

2 Ki 19:22 Against whom have you raised your voice, And lifted up your eyes on high? Against the Holy One of

2 Ki 19:23 Israel. By your messengers you have reproached the Lord, And said: "By the multitude of my chariots I have come up to the height of the mountains, To the limits of Lebanon; I will cut down its tall cedars And its

2 Ki 19:24 choice cypress trees; I will enter the extremity of its borders, To its fruitful forest. I have dug and drunk strange water, And with the soles of my feet I have dried up All the brooks of defense."

2 Ki 19:25 'Did you not hear long ago How I made it, From ancient times that I formed it? Now I have brought it to pass, That you should be for crushing fortified cities into heaps of ruins.

2 Ki 19:26 Therefore their inhabitants had little power; They were dismayed and confounded; They were as the grass of the field And the green herb, As the grass on the housetops And grain blighted before it is grown.

2 Ki 19:27 'But I know your dwelling place, Your going out and your coming in, And your rage against Me.

2 Ki 19:28 Because your rage against Me and your tumult Have come up to My ears, Therefore I will put My hook in your nose And My bridle in your lips, And I will turn you back By the way which you came.

2 Ki 19:29 'This shall be a sign to you: You shall eat this year such as grows of itself, And in the second year what springs from the same; Also in the third year sow and reap, Plant vineyards and eat the fruit of them.

2 Ki 19:30 And the remnant who have escaped of the house of Judah Shall again take root downward, And bear

2 Ki 19:31 fruit upward. For out of Jerusalem shall go a remnant, And those who escape from Mount Zion.

2 Ki 19:32 The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.' "Therefore thus says the LORD concerning the king of Assyria: 'He shall not come into this city, Nor shoot an arrow there, Nor come before it with shield, Nor build a siege mound against it.

2 Ki 19:33 By the way that he came, By the same shall he return; And he shall not come into this city,' Says the

2 Ki 19:34 LORD. 'For I will defend this city, to save it For My own sake and for My servant David's sake.'"

2 Ki 19:35 And it came to pass on a certain night that the angel of the LORD went out, and killed in the camp of the Assyrians one hundred and eighty-five thousand; and when people arose early in the morning, there were the

2 Ki 19:36 corpses; all dead. So Sennacherib king of Assyria departed and went away, returned home, and

2 Ki 19:37 remained at Nineveh. Now it came to pass, as he was worshiping in the temple of Nisroch his god, that his sons Adrammelech and Sharezer struck him down with the sword; and they escaped into the land of Ararat. Then Esarhaddon his son reigned in his place.”

The Assyrians lost the crème of their army in their venture against Judah – one hundred and eighty-five thousand of the most capable, well trained, and valiant soldiers of the ancient world. Not at the hands of human beings, but at the hands of God. Is it any wonder that the Germans (the Assyrians of old), still hold a grudge against the Jews and regard it as their ‘holy conviction’ to destroy them?

Assyria was so weakened by that disaster it was easily pushed out of its lands on the Euphrates River by its southeasterly neighbor, the rising Babylonians. After that, the Assyrians vanished from history in the same way that the Ten Tribes vanished. Well, we know now that they did not really disappear from the face of the earth, but migrated in a northwesterly direction to the highly fertile but sparsely populated fields of Europe. Now, having mingled so closely and for so long, you would expect to find many linguistic links between these peoples. Racially however they are different.

After their disaster in Judah, it is highly likely that the captives became masters, and the masters captives. The Tribes of Israel and the Assyrians cohabited for centuries before the Germans were able to assert themselves again. It is not for nothing that the Romans called the inhabitants of the Germanic lands, Germans, or Men of War, whom they could never quite bring into submission. It was not the same with their neighbors to the west with whom the Romans had more linguistic and cultural similarities, and who took more readily to the Roman rule.

At the beginning of this article I said that the Bible is not altogether critical of the Roman world and the Catholic Church. Well, leaving aside the role of the Pontiff, which cannot be defended by any means, Europe as a whole is seen in a much better light than Judah. Here is a lengthy prophecy that attests to this fact.

Ezek 16:2 "Son of man, cause Jerusalem to know her abominations, and say, "Thus says the Lord GOD to Jerusalem:

Ezek 16:3 "Your birth and your nativity are from the land of Canaan; your father was an Amorite and your mother a Hittite.

Ezek 16:4 "As for your nativity, on the day you were born your navel cord was not cut, nor were you washed in water to cleanse you; you were not rubbed with salt nor wrapped in swaddling clothes.

Ezek 16:5 "No eye pitied you, to do any of these things for you, to have compassion on you; but you were thrown out into the open field, when you yourself were loathed on the day you were born.

Ezek 16:6 "And when I passed by you and saw you struggling in your own blood, I said to you in your blood,

Ezek 16:7 'Live!' Yes, I said to you in your blood, 'Live!' "I made you thrive like a plant in the field; and you grew, matured, and became very beautiful. Your breasts were formed, your hair grew, but you were naked and bare.

Ezek 16:8 "When I passed by you again and looked upon you, indeed your time was the time of love; so I spread My wing over you and covered your nakedness. Yes, I swore an oath to you and entered into a covenant with you, and you became Mine," says the Lord GOD.

Ezek 16:9 "Then I washed you in water; yes, I thoroughly washed off your blood, and I anointed you with oil.

Ezek 16:10 "I clothed you in embroidered cloth and gave you sandals of badger skin; I clothed you with fine linen and covered you with silk.

Ezek 16:11 "I adorned you with ornaments, put bracelets on your wrists, and a chain

Ezek 16:12 on your neck. "And I put a jewel in your nose, earrings in your ears, and a beautiful crown on your head.

Ezek 16:13 "Thus you were adorned with gold and silver, and your clothing was of fine linen, silk, and embroidered cloth. You ate pastry of fine flour, honey, and oil. You were exceedingly beautiful, and succeeded to royalty.

Ezek 16:14 "Your fame went out among the nations because of your beauty, for it was perfect through My splendor which I had bestowed on you," says the Lord GOD.

Ezek 16:15 "But you trusted in your own beauty, played the harlot because of your fame, and poured out your harlotry on everyone passing by who would have it.

Ezek 16:16 "You took some of your garments and adorned multicolored high places for yourself, and played the harlot on them.

Ezek 16:17 Such things should not happen, nor be. "You have also taken your beautiful jewelry from My gold and My silver, which I had given you, and made for yourself male images and played the harlot with them.

Ezek 16:18 "You took your embroidered garments and covered them, and you set My oil and My incense before them.

Ezek 16:19 "Also My food which I gave you; the pastry of fine flour, oil, and honey which

Ezek 16:20 I fed you; you set it before them as sweet incense and so it was", says the Lord GOD. "Moreover you took your sons and your daughters, whom you bore to Me, and these you sacrificed to them to be devoured. Were your acts of harlotry a small matter,

Ezek 16:21 that you have slain My children and offered them up to them by causing them to pass through the fire

Ezek 16:22? "And in all your abominations and acts of harlotry you did not remember the days of your youth, when you were naked and bare, struggling in your blood.

Ezek 16:23 "Then it was so, after all your wickedness;

Ezek 16:24 'Woe, woe to you!' says the Lord GOD; that you also built for yourself a shrine, and made a high place for yourself in every street.

Ezek 16:25 "You built your high places at the head of every road, and made your beauty to be abhorred. You offered yourself to everyone who passed by, and multiplied your acts of

Ezek 16:26 harlotry. "You also committed harlotry with the Egyptians, your very fleshly neighbors, and increased your acts of harlotry to provoke Me to anger.

Ezek 16:27 "Behold, therefore, I stretched out My hand against you, diminished your allotment, and gave you up to the will of those who hate you, the daughters of the Philistines, who were ashamed of your lewd behavior. "You also played the harlot with the Assyrians,

Ezek 16:28 because you were insatiable; indeed you played the harlot with them and still were not satisfied.

Ezek 16:29 "Moreover you multiplied your acts of harlotry as far as the land of the trader, Chaldea; and even then you were not satisfied.

Ezek 16:30 "How degenerate is your heart!" says the Lord GOD, "seeing you do all these things, the deeds of a brazen harlot.

Ezek 16:31 "You erected your shrine at the head of every road, and built your high place in every street. Yet you were not like a harlot, because you scorned payment.

Ezek 16:32 "You are an adulterous wife, who takes strangers instead of her husband.

Ezek 16:33 "Men make payment to all harlots, but you made your payments to all your lovers, and hired them to come to you from all around for your harlotry.

Ezek 16:34 "You are the opposite of other women in your harlotry, because no one solicited you to be a harlot. In that you gave payment but no payment was given you, therefore you are the opposite."

Ezek 16:35 'Now then, O harlot, hear the word of the LORD!

Ezek 16:36 "Thus says the Lord GOD: "Because your filthiness was poured out and your nakedness uncovered in your harlotry with your lovers, and with all your abominable idols, and because of the blood of your children which you gave to them, surely,

Ezek 16:37 therefore, I will gather all your lovers with whom you took pleasure, all those you loved, and all those you hated; I will gather them from all around against you and will uncover your nakedness to them, that they may see all your nakedness.

Ezek 16:38 "And I will judge you as women who break wedlock or shed blood are judged;

Ezek 16:39 I will bring blood upon you in fury and jealousy. "I will also give you into their hand, and they shall throw down your shrines and break down your high places. They shall also strip you of your clothes, take your beautiful jewelry, and leave you naked and bare.

Ezek 16:40 "They shall also bring up an assembly against you, and they shall stone you with stones and thrust you through with their swords.

Ezek 16:41 "They shall burn your houses with fire, and execute judgments on you in the sight of many women; and I will make you cease playing the harlot, and you shall no longer hire

Ezek 16:42 lovers. "So I will lay to rest My fury toward you, and My jealousy shall depart from you. I will be quiet, and be angry no more.

Ezek 16:43 "Because you did not remember the days of your youth, but agitated Me with all these things, surely I will also recompense your deeds on your own head," says the Lord GOD. "And you shall not commit lewdness in addition to all your abominations.

Ezek 16:44 "Indeed everyone who quotes proverbs will use this proverb against you: 'Like mother, like daughter!'"

Ezek 16:45 "You are your mother's daughter, loathing husband and children; and you are the sister of your sisters, who loathed their husbands and children; your mother was a Hittite and your father an Amorite.

Ezek 16:46 "Your elder sister is Samaria, who dwells with her daughters to the north of you; and your younger sister, who dwells to the south of you, is Sodom and her daughters.

Ezek 16:47 "You did not walk in their ways nor act according to their abominations; but, as if that were too little, **you became more corrupt than they in all your ways.**

Ezek 16:48 "As I live," says the Lord GOD, "neither your sister Sodom nor her daughters have done as you and your daughters have done.

Ezek 16:49 "Look, this was the iniquity of your sister Sodom: She and her daughter had pride, fullness of food, and abundance of idleness; neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy.

Ezek 16:50 "And they were haughty and committed abomination before Me; therefore I took them away as I saw fit.

Ezek 16:51 "Samaria did not commit half of your sins; but you have multiplied your abominations more than they, and have justified your sisters by all the abominations which you have done.

Ezek 16:52 "You who judged your sisters, bear your own shame also, because the sins which you committed were more abominable than theirs; they are more righteous than you. Yes, be disgraced also, and bear your own shame, because you justified your sisters.

Ezek 16:53 "When I bring back their captives, the captives of Sodom and her daughters, and the captives of Samaria and her daughters, then I will also bring back the captives of your captivity among them, that you may bear your

Ezek 16:54 own shame and be disgraced by all that you did when you comforted them.

Ezek 16:55 "When your sisters, Sodom and her daughters, return to their former state, and Samaria and her daughters return to their former state, then you and your daughters will return to your former state.

Ezek 16:56 "For your sister Sodom was not a byword in your mouth in the days of your

Ezek 16:57 "pride, before your wickedness was uncovered. It was like the time of the reproach of the daughters of Syria and all those around her, and of the daughters of the Philistines, who despise you everywhere.

Ezek 16:58 "You have paid for your lewdness and your abominations," says the LORD. 'For thus says the Lord GOD:

Ezek 16:59 "I will deal with you as you have done, who despised the oath by breaking the covenant.

Ezek 16:60 "Nevertheless I will remember My covenant with you in the days of your youth,

Ezek 16:61 and I will establish an everlasting covenant with you. "Then you will remember your ways and be ashamed, when you receive your older and your younger sisters; for I will give them to you for daughters, but not because of My covenant with you.

Ezek 16:62 "And I will establish My covenant with you. Then you shall know that I am the LORD, that you may remember and be ashamed,

Ezek 16:63 "and never open your mouth anymore because of your shame, when I provide you an atonement for all you have done," says the Lord GOD."

Another prophecy that speaks of these two sisters and the peoples they represent is found in Ezekiel 23:1-49. You can read that in your own Bible. Now we have to clarify one other point. In the book of Genesis God promised Abraham, Isaac and Jacob that in them all the families of the earth would be blessed.

Gen 12:1 Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family

Gen 12:2 And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your

Gen 12:3 name great; And you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Gen 28:10 Now Jacob went out from Beersheba and went toward Haran.

Gen 28:11 So he came to a certain place and stayed there all night, because the sun had set. And he took one of the stones of that place and put it at his head, and he lay down in that place to

Gen 28:12 sleep. Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven;

Gen 28:13 and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And behold, the LORD stood above it and said: "I am the LORD God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendents.

Gen 28:14 "Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.

Herbert W. Armstrong and his followers have always maintained that this promise was fulfilled in the empires and blessings of the British Commonwealth and the United States of America. But these nations have gained prominence only in the last three centuries or so, which is a fraction of the time since God made those promises.

The truth is that the Roman Empire, the Holy Roman Empire, and the empires of Europe that have followed since – of Charlemagne, of France, Portugal, Spain, Holland, Sweden, Germany, Denmark, Austria, Poland, Russia, etc. – all empires of Europe down through the centuries are part of Abraham's promise and legacy. All nations of Europe have belonged to a great empire at one time or another. And all of them collectively form the dreadful fourth kingdom of Nebuchadnezzar and Daniel's dreams.

That kingdom was said to conquer the world and trample under foot all other kingdoms. Well, in the course of history it did just that. And continues to do it! Yes, it trampled underfoot the other kingdoms, but it also blessed those that accommodated it. Remember, God said that the world would not only be trampled underfoot by Abraham's seed, but be blessed by it too. It is not for nothing that none of the nations that freed themselves from the "yoke of colonialism" are better off now. That is not to say that they should not have fought to improve their lot, because they certainly deserved better treatment, but cutting off all their links with their "colonial masters" did not advantage them. By setting themselves adrift from Abraham's descendants, they set themselves adrift from their blessings too.

Now both Nebuchadnezzar and Daniel foresaw the fourth kingdom as being made of ten nations. So if all of Europe represents the fourth kingdom, which exactly are those ten nations? Well, number ten in this case does not refer to specific nations, but to the Ten Tribes of Samaria. These are both the ten toes of Nebuchadnezzar's figure, and the ten horns of Daniel's 'beast'. In regard to the little horn that rose from among the ten heads and grew to dominate the world, that is Pontifex Maximus. The three horns that fell before him are the three tribes that formed the nation of Judah. As we said, Judah contained not two, but three tribes: Judah, Benjamin and Levy, while Israel, or Samaria, contained the remaining Ten Tribes. Before the split, Israel had not twelve, but thirteen tribes when Joseph became Ephraim and Manasseh. The three tribes that formed Judah fell before the advancing armies of the Romans when they conquered the Middle East and Egypt.

So then, it is the people of Pontifex Maximus, the symbolic 'daughter of Babylon', and 'Babylon the Great and Mother of Harlots', that conquered the 'Glorious Land', crucified the Messiah, scattered Judah among the nations, and persecuted the people of God for keeping the Commandments of God down through the centuries.

How could Daniel not become sick when seeing what this dreadful 'beast' and 'abomination of desolation' would be doing to the faithful people? (*The Christian Herald* No 10, p 29f).

This pretty well resolves the identity of the 'daughter of Babylon' and 'Babylon the Great and Mother of Harlots'. However, we have not explained why the world should prepare to

meet its Creator when Judah and the Vatican find common ground. Have a look at the following prophecy and consider its implications.

- Eze 37:1 The hand of the LORD came upon me and brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley; and it *was* full of bones.
- Eze 37:2 Then He caused me to pass by them all around, and behold, *there were* very many in the open valley; and indeed *they were* very dry.
- Eze 37:3 And He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" So I answered, "O Lord GOD, You know."
- Eze 37:4 Again He said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them, 'O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD!
- Eze 37:5 Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: "Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live.
- Eze 37:6 I will put sinews on you and bring flesh upon you, cover you with skin and put breath in you; and you shall live. Then you shall know that I *am* the LORD." ' ' "
- Eze 37:7 So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and suddenly a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to bone.
- Eze 37:8 Indeed, as I looked, the sinews and the flesh came upon them, and the skin covered them over; but *there was* no breath in them.
- Eze 37:9 Also He said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, son of man, and say to the breath, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live." ' ' "
- Eze 37:10 So I prophesied as He commanded me, and breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great army.
- Eze 37:11 Then He said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They indeed say, 'Our bones are dry, our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut off!'
- Eze 37:12 Therefore prophecy and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, O My people, I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves,
- Eze 37:13 and bring you into the land of Israel. Then you shall know that I *am* the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O My people, and brought you up from your graves.
- Eze 37:14 I will put My Spirit in you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken *it* and performed *it*," says the LORD.' "
- Eze 37:15 Again the word of the LORD came to me, saying,
- Eze 37:16 "As for you, son of man, take a stick for yourself and write on it: 'For Judah and for the children of Israel, his companions.' Then take another stick and write on it, 'For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim, and *for* all the house of Israel, his companions.'
- Eze 37:17 Then join them one to another for yourself into one stick, and they will become one in your hand.
- Eze 37:18 "And when the children of your people speak to you, saying, 'Will you not show us what you *mean* by these?'—
- Eze 37:19 say to them, "Thus says the Lord GOD: "Surely I will take the stick of Joseph, which *is* in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel, his companions; and I will join them with it, with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they will be one in My hand." ' "
- Eze 37:20 And the sticks on which you write will be in your hand before their eyes.
- Eze 37:21 "Then say to them, "Thus says the Lord GOD: "Surely I will take the children of Israel from among the nations, wherever they have gone, and will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land;
- Eze 37:22 and I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king over them all; they shall no longer be two nations, nor shall they ever be divided into two kingdoms again.
- Eze 37:23 They shall not defile themselves anymore with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions; but I will deliver them from all their dwelling places in which they have sinned, and will cleanse them. Then they shall be My people, and I will be their God.
- Eze 37:24 "David My servant *shall be* king over them, and they shall all have one shepherd; they shall also walk in My judgments and observe My statutes, and do them.

Eze 37:25 Then they shall dwell in the land that I have given to Jacob My servant, where your fathers dwelt; and they shall dwell there, they, their children, and their children's children, forever; and My servant David *shall be* their prince forever.

Eze 37:26 Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them, and it shall be an everlasting covenant with them; I will establish them and multiply them, and I will set My sanctuary in their midst forevermore.

Eze 37:27 My tabernacle also shall be with them; indeed I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

Eze 37:28 The nations also will know that I, the LORD, sanctify Israel, when My sanctuary is in their midst forevermore." ' "

This chapter describes the resurrection to everlasting life of those who are found worthy of it at the end of this world. It is at that time that the two nations of Israel are joined together, and David is resurrected to become their King.

Of course, in the larger scheme of things, David stands for Jesus Christ, who will become King over the whole world.

This reunification cannot take place in this world, as H.W. Armstrong used to preach, and his disciples and a lot of other people continue to do so, for we cannot have another Ten Tribes added to the Middle East when that troubled land can hardly accommodate half of the Jews of this world.

There is something else about this prophecy that needs to be understood. As with virtually all of God's major prophecies, there is a minor and a major fulfillment of it. The minor fulfillment occurs after the Great Tribulation, at the beginning of the Millennium Kingdom of Jesus Christ, when a mere handful of people survive that catastrophic upheaval. The world will continue to exist for another thousand years, after which the major fulfillment takes place. All the nations of the world will be resurrected and judged at that time. The 'sheep' will go on to eternal life, and the 'goats' to eternal damnation. Israel of God – all tribes of Israel – will then be reunited into one nation.

Mat 25:31 "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory.

Mat 25:32 All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides *his* sheep from the goats.

Mat 25:33 And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.

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:

Mat 25:35 for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I *was* naked and you clothed Me;

Mat 25:36 I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.'

Mat 25:37 "Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed *You*, or thirsty and give *You* drink?

Mat 25:38 When did we see You a stranger and take *You* in, or naked and clothe *You*?

Mat 25:39 Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?'

Mat 25:40 And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did *it* to one of the least of these My brethren, you did *it* to Me.'

Mat 25:41 "Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels:

Mat 25:42 for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink;

Mat 25:43 I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.'

Mat 25:44 "Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?'

Mat 25:45 Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do *it* to one of the least of these, you did not do *it* to Me.' And these

Mat 25:46 will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

The question is why should there be a danger to the world when Judah and the Vatican find common ground. Because this is not meant to happen in this world! It is not the time

for it, and by forcing events along this line they are merely hastening the Great Tribulation. This is how the Jewish nation will come out of the Great Tribulation.

Jer 6:9 Thus says the LORD of hosts: "They shall thoroughly glean as a vine the remnant of Israel; As a grape-gatherer, put your hand back into the branches."

Jer 6:10 To whom shall I speak and give warning, That they may hear? Indeed their ear is uncircumcised, And they cannot give heed. Behold, the word of the LORD is a reproach to them; They have no delight in it.

So few of them will survive, it will be like when one gleans a few grapes after gathering. Other nations however will fare even worse, for many will be wiped out of the face of the earth altogether.

Judah, (current Israel) and Samaria (Europe, represented by the Roman Head, the Pontiff), are not meant to make peace and be reunited at this time. No prophecy speaks of such reconciliation. On the contrary, there are prophecies which say that when Pontifex Maximus puts his feet on the Holy Land the world will explode into the Great Tribulation.

This is what the prophecies of Daniel chapter 12 are all about. The problem is that these prophecies are notoriously difficult to unravel. We have done so with most of them, but have also made mistakes along the way. Our mistakes came in misunderstanding their order, timing, and the people for whom they were meant to be revealed. Those prophecies hide the fact that there will be more than one visit of the 'abomination of desolation' to the Holy Land; more than one profanation as it is. The task is to know which profanation will trigger the Great Tribulation. Well, stay tune!

The test seems to be that there must be not only the knowledge of who the 'abomination of desolation' is, but the proofs of why it is so. I don't think anyone would have any doubt about it now.

Originally, we made the mistake of accepting other people's ideas, and, as usual, we ended up with mistakes. We care about our mistakes; we want to know why we make them, we correct them, and do not hide them, as our nemesis do. From the beginning of this work, our Father in heaven made it clear to us that we are to rely on our own efforts and on no one else's. We did not quite understand it why, as we thought that that would make our job all that much more difficult, but we know now. The world is so steeply embedded in false doctrines and false religions that all their commentaries and 'revelations' do nothing but confuse and hide the truth. What did Jesus Christ say?

Mat 7:6 "Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you in pieces.

Strong words, but true nevertheless. We paid handsomely for ignoring this advise. Our nemesis, who understood more than they will ever admit, took note of our work, and took swift vengeance. And what vengeance! I lost my mother, and came close to losing my life, not to speak of how many times I lost my possessions. Our consolation comes from the knowledge that our life is no different from that of God's prophets and Jesus' apostles and disciples. They all had problems, but none wavered from their tasks; and neither will we.

One can only imagine their astonishment at resurrection time of seeing what has become of their legacy. The prophets put a curse on the 'daughter of Babylon', yet their descendants, modern day Jews, invite her to their capital and seek her blessings.

The apostles laid down their lives for the Gospel of Jesus Christ, yet today's 'Christianity' propagates the cult of the 'Queen of Heaven'.

Watch out for extraordinary developments in the world, and remember that:

Rev 10:7 "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."



“This Gospel of the Kingdom will be preached to all the world as a witness to all nations, and then the end will come.”

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Newsletter 22 (04/11)

Friends and leaders around the world, greetings!

What is going on in the world asked a distraught survivor of Japan’s massive earthquake and tsunami. The answer could be provided by that nation’s leader, if he had paid attention to our messages.

Every year, for two decades, we have warned world leaders of exactly these kinds of developments, and that these are precursors to a worldwide tribulation that will change the face of the earth. The world is truly in a struggle for survival, but there is hope for those who are not too proud to listen to reason and common sense.

Since the beginning of the world, God has always had witnesses through whom He spoke to the world; it is no different in our time. Here is a brief quote of what we wrote in our last year’s newsletter.

“It is time for some good news in the midst of the current world turmoil. It is time to lessen the grief and perplexity that have gripped humanity from the recent spate of natural and man-made disasters.

The Scriptures say that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose (Rom 8:28). Why not take advantage of God’s promise and turn misfortune around into a blessing.

If you bow your head and bend your knees in humility, repentance, and genuine worship of our heavenly Father, you have His promise that whatever is happening in the world could turn out for your good.

You do not need to do this in a church, but in the privacy of your own room. And if you want to expand it to the whole family, you can find guidance in the article ‘House Churches’ in *The Christian Herald No 7*.

It has become obvious that traditional churches have lost their compass and become a nest of falsehood, iniquity and sin. They have become a hindrance rather than a help on the path of spiritual enlightenment and reconciliation with our heavenly Father. What is happening in the Catholic, and other churches, is only the beginning. The end time devastation and cleansing have already begun. There will never be a return to the old status-quo; the world is in transition to a brand new age in which hypocrisy, iniquity and deception will have no place.

Stay tune for more prophetic revelations in *The Christian Herald*. Our record over the two decades since we commenced this work is proof of where the Holy Spirit could be found these days. Even the most hardened cynics, if they are honest with themselves, could see that we have God’s support and inspiration.”

The fact that the spate of natural and man-made disasters have multiplied since last year is further proof that God is serious about bringing this world to a crushing end unless human beings turn back from their wayward ways.

Mal 4:4 "Remember the Law of Moses, My servant, which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments.

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

Mal 4:6 And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with utter destruction (Tanach).

The Law that God gave Moses at Mount Horeb is the Ten Commandments. It is through this Law that we restore our relationship with our heavenly Father, and maintain proper relationship between parents and children.

The first four Commandments show us how to honour our heavenly Father, while the fifth, which deals with our human parents, has a direct effect upon our life here on earth: "Honor your father and your mother that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you." There is nothing that this world needs more at present than love, truth, peace, prosperity and faith, without which the world has no future. These can be obtained only if we 'Remember the Law of Moses.' More information in *The Christian Herald No 23*, now on line at this web site:

www.thechristianherald.info. Here are some of the articles you will find in this edition:

- . The feet of those who bring good news are not so beautiful these days;
- . Why Convert to a Dying Religion?
- . The surprising solution to the world's refugee problem;
- . Humanity's Fateful Decade.

In the service of Jesus Christ!

Grigore Sbarcea

Coordinator AOCF