

‘War is in the air’

They danced in the streets, in restaurants, everywhere, to the tune of “Love is in the air” at the news that the majority of Australians voted for “marriage equality” for homosexuals.

This is the latest in a chain of countries that have gone this way, all of them western nations, and all of them nominally Judeo-Christian.

How has it come to this? How have the countries that benefitted from God’s greatest blessings turned against Him and gone to His Adversary’s way of life so remorselessly, and uncaring for the consequences? Even God is asking this question.

Jer 2:4 Hear the word of the LORD, O house of Jacob and all the families of the house of Israel.

Jer 2:5 Thus says the LORD: "What injustice have your fathers found in Me, That they have gone far from Me, Have followed idols, And have become idolaters?"

Jer 2:6 Neither did they say, 'Where is the LORD, Who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, Who led us through the wilderness, Through a land of deserts and pits, Through a land of drought and the shadow of death, Through a land that no one crossed And where no one dwelt?'

Jer 2:7 **I brought you into a bountiful country, To eat its fruit and its goodness. But when you entered, you defiled My land And made My heritage an abomination.**

Jer 2:8 The priests did not say, 'Where is the LORD?' And those who handle the law did not know Me; The rulers also transgressed against Me; The prophets prophesied by Baal [*Satan*], And walked after

Jer 2:9 things that do not profit. "Therefore, I will yet bring charges against you," says the LORD, "And against your children's children I will bring charges.

Jer 2:10 For pass beyond the coasts of Cyprus and see, Send to Kedar and consider diligently, And see if there has been such a thing.

Jer 2:11 **Has a nation changed its gods, Which are not gods? But My people have changed**

Jer 2:12 **their Glory For what does not profit. Be astonished, O heavens, at this, And be horribly afraid; Be very desolate," says the LORD.**

Jer 2:13 "For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, And hewn themselves cisterns – broken cisterns that can hold no water.

Jer 2:14 "Is Israel a servant? Is he a homeborn slave? Why is he plundered?"

Jer 2:15 The young lions roared at him, and growled; They made his land waste; His cities are burned, without inhabitant.

Jer 2:16 Also the people of Noph and Tahpanhes Have broken the crown of your head.

Jer 2:17 **Have you not brought this on yourself, In that you have forsaken the LORD your God When He led you in the way?**

Jer 2:18 And now why take the road to Egypt [*the way of idolatry, debauchery and rebellion*], to drink the waters of Sihor? Or why take the road to Assyria, To drink the waters of the River?

Jer 2:19 **Your own wickedness will correct you, And your backslidings will rebuke you. Know therefore and see that it is an evil and bitter thing That you have forsaken the LORD your God, And the fear of Me is not in you,"** Says the Lord GOD of hosts.

Jer 2:20 "For of old I have broken your yoke and burst your bonds; And you said, 'I will not transgress,' When on every high hill and under every green tree You lay down, playing the harlot.

Jer 2:21 **Yet I had planted you a noble vine, a seed of highest quality. How then have you turned before Me Into the degenerate plant of an alien vine?**

Jer 2:22 For though you wash yourself with lye, and use much soap, Yet your iniquity is marked before Me," says the Lord GOD.

Jer 2:23 "How can you say, 'I am not polluted, I have not gone after the Baals'? See your way in the valley; Know what you have done: You are a swift dromedary breaking loose in her ways,

Jer 2:24 A wild donkey used to the wilderness, That sniffs at the wind in her desire; In her time of mating, who can turn her away? All those who seek her will not weary themselves;

Jer 2:25 In her month they will find her. Withhold your foot from being unshod, and your throat from thirst. But you said, 'There is no hope. No! For I have loved aliens, and after them I will go.'

Jer 2:26 "As the thief is ashamed when he is found out, So is the house of Israel ashamed; **They and their kings and their princes, and their priests and their prophets,** Saying to a tree,

Jer 2:27 'You are my father,' And to a stone, 'You gave birth to me.' For they have turned their back to Me, and not their face. But in the time of their trouble They will say, 'Arise and save us.'

Jer 2:28 But **where are your gods that you have made for yourselves?** Let them arise, If they can save you in the time of your trouble; For according to the number of your cities Are your gods, O Judah.

Jer 2:29 "Why will you plead with Me? You all have transgressed against Me," says the LORD.

Jer 2:30 "In vain I have chastened your children; They received no correction. Your sword has devoured your prophets Like a destroying lion.

Jer 2:31 "O generation, see the word of the LORD! Have I been a wilderness to Israel, Or a land of darkness? Why do My people say, 'We are lords; We will come no more to You'?

Jer 2:32 Can a virgin forget her ornaments, Or a bride her attire? Yet My people have forgotten Me days without number.

Jer 2:33 "Why do you beautify your way to seek love? Therefore you have also taught the wicked

Jer 2:34 women your ways. Also on your skirts is found The blood of the lives of the poor innocents. I have not found it by secret search, But plainly on all these things.

Jer 2:35 Yet you say, 'Because I am innocent, Surely His anger shall turn from me.' Behold, I will plead My case against you, Because you say, 'I have not sinned.' Why do you gad about so much to

Jer 2:36 change your way? Also you shall be ashamed of Egypt as you were ashamed of Assyria.

Jer 2:37 Indeed you will go forth from him With your hands on your head; For **the LORD has rejected your trusted allies, And you will not prosper by them.**

When President Donald Trump of the USA addressed the United Nations Assembly, on September 20, 2017, he told that august gathering that if the UN cannot stop North Korea from acquiring nuclear weapons and continues to threaten its neighbours and the USA, America will have no choice but to destroy that nation.

When asked by reporters whether he was willing to sit down and talk with the Korean leader to solve that conflict diplomatically, he answered, "Why not?" He emphasized that statement by repeating it, "Why not?"

But Kim Jong-un was not interested in negotiations; he wanted American troops out of the Korean peninsula and nothing else in order to unify the two nations under his communist rule.

With a nuclear arsenal and ballistic missiles at his disposal, who could stand in his way? He even declared that North Korea is at war with America after Donald Trump made that statement.

The question is, will this be the war that will end all wars that the prophets have talked about, or the one that could end humanity itself that Jesus Christ spoke about?

Isa 2:2 Now it shall come to pass **in the latter days** that the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it. Many people shall come and say,

Isa 2:3 "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

Isa 2:4 He shall judge between the nations, and rebuke many people; **They shall beat their swords into plowshares, And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, Neither shall they learn war anymore.**

Or will it be this war?

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

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

Kim Jong-un sent two ballistic missiles over Japan, causing that nation to run in panic to nuclear shelters, showing that he is not joking about going to war with those who interfere with his plans for the two Korean nations. He warned Donald Trump that he could strike American cities too if it does not remove its troops from South Korea.

Were these the ravings of a mad man as so many people seem to think, considering that his rockets could barely reach a few American islands at present, knowing that a retaliatory strike from America

would destroy his nation, or has he got something else in mind and down his sleeve that the world does not know about, and he cannot reveal? What could that be? What else other than submarines. American coastal waters, both in the East and West, are crawling with enemy submarines.

A search through world media reveals that North Korea has as many as 90 (that is ninety) submarines in the Pacific waters. China has about 70, and Russia about sixty, but their submarines are bigger, deadlier and nuclear armed with multiple ballistic missiles.

So when Kim Jong-un speaks of striking American cities, he does not have in mind his nuclear arsenal that is still in developing stages, but an armada of submarines that even with conventional weapons can strike many American cities and paralyse that nation.

And if he has the backing of Russia and China, without whose approval he would never dare create such a dangerous situation, you can see how close the world is to Armageddon.

Putin has threatened war with the West ever since he came to power in Russia, if the West keeps encroaching upon Russia's "spheres of influence". By that he means the Soviet Union's 'spheres of influence', which he claims Russia has inherited.

The problem is that the West no longer recognises 'spheres of influence', saying that these are things of the past, of the Cold War era.

Putin, however, does not see it that way. He has been speaking not as the leader of a weakened Russia, but as if he were the leader of the Soviet Union. He has been treating Mikhail Gorbachev like a pariah personality for initiating perestroika and glasnost that led to the fall of that moribund atheist empire, and for not demanding from the West respect for Russia's interests. He is determined to raise Russia to the greatness the Soviet Union enjoyed briefly in the early stages of the cosmic race, and the greatness of Russia's past glories.

Russian Orthodox priests cannot stop singing praises to Putin, even calling him, "Father of the Nation", closing their eyes to his odious crimes and ongoing vendetta against political opponents and investigative journalists. He has already entered the Russian folklore as the greatest of their tsars, ahead of many renowned historical figures. And that bodes ill for the West for he does not want to appear weak to his people after instilling in them notions of greatness after the catastrophic fall of the Soviet Union.

Putin unashamedly follows the Soviet policy of embracing petty dictators like Kim Jong-un and Bashar al-Assad of Syria. He never misses a chance to remind the West what they did to his other acolyte, Libya's Muammar Qaddafi. That is why Bashar al-Assad has given him free reign to do to his nation what he did to Chechnya if need be as long as it keeps him in power. Putin did not disappoint.

Western nations spent three years fighting a 'civilised' war against the Islamic State without getting anywhere. The terrorists kept expanding and butchering more and more people until the Russians and the Iranians came and decided to teach westerners a lesson on how to conduct a war Russian style. And teach they did, by remorselessly destroying Syria.

Bashir al-Assad is now safely cocooned in Damascus, and the Russians have two additional military bases in Syria with airports and barracks fully equipped to cater for thousands of military personnel. And the Iranians, who have been talking for decades of wiping Israel off the map, are making their own military arrangements in Syria.

No more media frenzy about Israel striking Iran's underground nuclear installations; the enemy is now at Israel's door step.

When we said that according to Bible prophecies it is Iran that will strike Israel, not the other way around, no one believed it. They will believe it when they see it soon; very soon.

Who could have imagined that things would turn against that nation so dramatically in such a short period of time. But as the Bible says: with God everything is possible. The question is, why would God do such things to what were once His 'chosen people'? Yes, it is God who does these things, as we've said many times, and no one believed this either.

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?

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

God is doing these things to His people because they have turned their backs on Him. They abandoned their God and plunged themselves into Satanism with their theory of evolution and lust for homosexuality. The wonder is that He has put up with these abominations for so long.

But God's patience has a limit too, and this time it has run its course. Now for the consequences; now the time for "Jacob's trouble".

Jer 30:4 Now these are the words that the Lord spoke concerning Israel (Samaria) and Judah.

Jer 30:5 "For thus says the LORD: 'We have heard a voice of trembling, Of fear, and not of peace.

Jer 30:6 Ask now, and see, Whether a man is ever in labor with child? So why do I see every man with his hands on his loins Like a woman in labor, And all faces turned pale?

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

Jer 30:8 'For it shall come to pass in that day,' Says the LORD of hosts, 'That I will break his yoke from your neck, And will burst your bonds; Foreigners shall no more enslave them.

Jer 30:9 But they shall serve the LORD their God, And David their king, Whom I will raise up for them.

Jer 30:10 'Therefore do not fear, O My servant Jacob,' says the LORD, 'Nor be dismayed, O Israel; For behold, I will save you from afar, And your seed from the land of their captivity. Jacob shall return, have rest and be quiet, And no one shall make him afraid.

Jer 30:11 For I am with you,' says the LORD, 'to save you; Though I make a full end of all nations where I have scattered you, Yet I will not make a complete end of you. But I will correct you in justice, And will not let you go altogether unpunished.'

Jer 30:12 "For thus says the LORD: 'Your affliction is incurable, Your wound is severe.

Jer 30:13 There is no one to plead your cause, That you may be bound up; You have no healing medicines.

Jer 30:14 **All your lovers have forgotten you; They do not seek you; For I have wounded you with the wound of an enemy, With the chastisement of a cruel one, For the multitude of your iniquities, Because your sins have increased.** *[America's allies, who enjoyed protection from its nuclear umbrella, and the third world nations who had benefitted from its generosity, are shamelessly voting against it at the United Nations. Britain and Israel are largely in America's camp].*

Jer 30:15 Why do you cry about your affliction? Your sorrow is incurable. Because of the multitude of your iniquities, Because your sins have increased, I have done these things to you.

Jer 30:16 'Therefore all those who devour you shall be devoured; And all your adversaries, every one of them, shall go into captivity; Those who plunder you shall become plunder, And all who prey upon you I will make a prey.

Jer 30:17 For I will restore health to you And heal you of your wounds,' says the LORD, 'Because they called you an outcast saying: "This is Zion; No one seeks her." '

Jer 30:18 "Thus says the LORD: 'Behold, I will bring back the captivity of Jacob's tents, And have mercy on his dwelling places; The city shall be built upon its own mound, And the palace shall remain according

Jer 30:19 to its own plan. Then out of them shall proceed thanksgiving And the voice of those who make merry; I will multiply them, and they shall not diminish; I will also glorify them, and they shall not be small. Their children also shall be as before,

Jer 30:20 And their congregation shall be established before Me; And I will punish all who oppress

Jer 30:21 them. Their nobles shall be from among them, And their governor shall come from their midst; Then I will cause him to draw near, And he shall approach Me; For who is this who pledged his heart to approach Me?' says the LORD.

Jer 30:22 'You shall be My people, And I will be your God.' " Behold, the whirlwind of the LORD –

Jer 30:23 Goes forth with fury, A continuing whirlwind; It will fall violently on the head of the wicked.

Jer 30:24 The fierce anger of the LORD will not return until He has done it, And until He has performed the intents of His heart. **In the latter days** you will consider it.

Now what do you want to take from this passage, the good or the bad news. Can one separate them? The problem is that this chapter covers different times and different events, and they do not follow each other chronologically. Let us put some of them in their context.

Jer 30:3 For behold, the days are coming,' says the LORD, 'that I will bring back from captivity My people Israel and Judah,' says the LORD. 'And I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it.' "

Our nemeses have been preaching for decades that this refers to Germany and her allies taking the Anglo-Saxons captive and removing them to their ancestral land in the Middle East.

We have just two words for that: utter bunkum.

Even if we include France, a nuclear power among Germany's allies, how long would it take that European coalition to become such a mighty power as to "trample under feet" the Anglo-Saxons?

Our nemeses forget that the word 'Jacob' includes all Twelve Tribes of Israel, meaning the British, the Americans, the white Anglo-Saxon dominions of Britain, most of Europe, including France and much of Germany, and of course Judah (today's Israel).

Assyria is finished as a power, and does not feature in any of the end-time prophetic developments. Jacob Tribes come back to the Middle East after the Great Tribulation, when very few of them survive that calamity.

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

In a world in which few people believe in God, talking about God's prophecies sets us apart as "God's fools". We gladly wear that badge, especially now that we see the dark clouds of the Apocalypse rising over the horizon. In the end-time Great Tribulation, western nations are fighting against an invasion of forces from the north, from the furthest parts of the earth. Does it take a genius to know where the north is and what forces these might be?

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 [*Rosh = Russia; Meshech = Moscow; Tubal = Tobolsk; etc.*],

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

Eze 38:4 **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.

[It is not a question of maybe or if these nations come against Jacob's descendants (the Anglo-Saxons, the USA, and the Europeans), but when. If they do not fulfil their destiny willingly, God will put hooks in their jaws and bring them against Jacob]

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

Eze 38:8 **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. You will ascend, coming like a storm, covering the land like a cloud,**

Eze 38:9 **you and all your troops and many peoples with you."**

Eze 39:4 You shall fall upon the mountains of Israel, you and all your troops and the peoples who are with you; I will give you to birds of prey of every sort and to the beasts of the field to be devoured.

*[They do much destruction to 'Jacob', but they also fall on the 'mountains of Israel'.
However, back home, Gog will suffer little devastation by comparison, as we shall see]*

Eze 39:5 You shall fall on the open field; for I have spoken," says the Lord GOD. "And I will send

Eze 39:6 fire on Magog and on those who live in security in the coastlands. Then they shall know that I am the LORD.

Eze 39:7 So I will make My holy name known in the midst of My people Israel, and I will not let them profane My holy name anymore. Then the nations shall know that I am the LORD, the Holy

Eze 39:8 One in Israel. Surely it is coming, and it shall be done," says the Lord GOD.

"This is the day of which I have spoken.

Israel is firmly rooted in the Western World. Any major war against it would bring in the USA, Britain and Europe, not only because they are allied democracies, but because genetically speaking they all belong to the Twelve Tribes of Israel, otherwise known as Judah and Samaria. This is why this conflict is called the Great Tribulation, for it will spread over the entire world.

Vladimir Putin must have rubbed his hands with glee at the news of Brexit, and at Donald Trump's berating the Europeans for not doing enough for their own defence.

Catholic, Protestant and Evangelical Churches have taken the fall of Gog and Magog on the mountains of Israel to mean that western nations will win that war while Gog, Magog and their allies are virtually eliminated.

Nothing could be further from the truth. God has hidden the truth of the outcome of the Great Tribulation, because in their euphoria of good life they had forgotten who gave them the blessings and protection throughout their history. In their ignominy, they have turned against their God with gusto. In the western world, wisdom now means being an atheist, evolutionist and homosexual, or tolerant of these vices that have defiled every corner of their lands. Far reaching consequences are not far behind.

Lev 18:22 You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination. Nor shall you mate with any animal, to defile yourself with it.

Lev 18:23 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. You shall therefore keep My statutes**

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

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

Lev 18:28 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.' "

Are preachers raising these issues in their Churches in order to save their nations, or are they following a certain world leader who is preaching love, tolerance and acceptance of those who defile the land?

Do they care that the earth is poised to vomit not merely the sinners but every living thing?

Let us look at the Mini Tribulation that takes place at the end of the Millennium Kingdom and see the extraordinary consequences of what is happening in the world at present.

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

Rev 20:8 and will go out to **deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog**, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea.

[Not only have Gog and Magog survived the slaughter of the Great Tribulation in the Middle East, and on the 'mountains of Israel', but back home they suffered little damage. So much so that over the next thousand years they multiplied and filled the earth to its four corners.

Where is Jacob and his descendants in all this? Nowhere! They are completely missing from the face of the earth, except a handful of them in the camp of the saints around Jerusalem]

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

[This is not merely the end of Gog and Magog; it is the end of this world, of the earth and the universe, and the beginning of a brand new world and universe that will remain forever]

Rev 20:10 The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet [were]. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

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

Rev 20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.

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

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

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

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

Gog and Magog were coming out not against a vast array of western powers as in the Great Tribulation, but against the 'camp of the saints and the beloved city'. This is all that was left of Israel, of the USA, Britain and Europe - the nations that fought against Gog and Magog in the Great Tribulation.

What does this mean? It means that the Great Tribulation was won not by western powers, but by Gog and Magog and their allies.

God help us!

The end is in sight

Some welcome it, but the vast majority of people dread the end of this age.

Now who could possibly welcome their end, for this is what the end of this age would entail?

People who have seen enough iniquity and misery in this world, for whom life has become a burden rather than a joy!

Human beings are social beings, so it is natural that when one rejoices all rejoice, and when one suffers all suffer. As the Scriptures put it:

Rom 12:15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.

Rom 12:16 Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.

Rom 12:17 Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men.

Rom 12:18 If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.

Yes, if it is possible, as much as it depends on you, live peaceably with all men, but unfortunately we live in a world in which this is less and less possible. People are a lot quicker to fight and insult each other than to be kind and helpful to one another.

I was on the way to hospital recently with a sick person in the car when I came to a T junction on the road. It was a narrow street of two lanes only and a car was stopped about three or four meters from the junction in front of me. I assumed that he was waiting for a break in the traffic, but when he did not move and no traffic was holding him back, I beeped my horn very slightly, just to get him moving, thinking that he was perhaps on his mobile phone, as so many people are these days. But instead of moving, he stuck his head out the window and said something threateningly. He did not care that he was hampering the traffic and was parked illegally. I drove around him, hoping that no car would turn into that street from the main road, for we could have had a head on collision. As I was passing him I could hear him swearing at me loudly. Had another person like him been in my place that would have been a sure case of road rage, but we Christians have to bottle up our anger inside, move on and never reply in kind!

These days you never know where danger might come from, or that it could arise in most unexpected times and places.

No one seems to teach the younger generation the virtues of humility, respect for the age and kindness. More often than not, it is the macho image that is being nurtured and encouraged, and that is not surprising since from an early age they are being told that this is how human beings have survived and 'evolved'. But we, the true believers, know that these virtues enhance life and make it worthwhile.

Mat 11:28 Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Mat 11:29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Mat 11:30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light," *[said Jesus Christ]*.

We are getting our satisfaction in the same way that Jesus Christ got His – serving God.

Joh 4:32 But He said to them, "I have food to eat of which you do not know."

Joh 4:33 Therefore the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought Him anything to eat?"

Joh 4:34 Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.

Anyone who spends time with the Bible knows that it provides food for the soul that cannot be explained and cannot be obtained anywhere else. It does not take long for one to discover what a treasurable book that is. As Jesus Christ said:

Mat 13:44 "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

I did not choose this path when I was young, but circumstances thrust it upon me. I did not sell all that I had for this treasure; I lost everything that I had in the pursuit of it, and I do not regret it.

It is the nature of God's work that when He gives you something, you cannot keep it to yourself. We put in the service of the whole world what God has given us, and millions of people have availed themselves of our services. A few have expressed gratitude, but most have remained silent. Prophecy told us that this would be a lonely work. We did not make it that way, the world made it.

Eze 22:23 And the word of the LORD came to me, saying, "Son of man, say to her:

Eze 22:24 'You are a land that is not cleansed or rained on in the day of indignation.'

Eze 22:25 The conspiracy of her prophets in her midst is like a roaring lion tearing the prey; they have devoured people; they have taken treasure and precious things; they have made many widows in her

Eze 22:26 midst. Her priests have violated My law and profaned My holy things; they have not distinguished between the holy and unholy, nor have they made known the difference between the unclean and the clean; **and they have hidden their eyes from My Sabbaths, so that I am profaned among them.**

Eze 22:27 Her princes in her midst are like wolves tearing the prey, to shed blood, to destroy people, and to get dishonest gain.

Eze 22:28 Her prophets plastered them with untempered mortar, seeing false visions, and divining lies for them, saying, 'Thus says the Lord GOD,' when the LORD had not spoken.

Eze 22:29 The people of the land have used oppressions, committed robbery, and mistreated the poor and needy; and they wrongfully oppress the stranger.

Eze 22:30 **So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one.**

Eze 22:31 Therefore I have poured out My indignation on them; I have consumed them with the fire of My wrath; and I have recompensed their deeds on their own heads," says the Lord GOD.

Five decades ago, shortly after escaping from the Iron Curtain and migrating to Canada, I encountered people who spoke on radio about God, prophecy, and the Bible, who offered free literature to anyone who asked for it. Thinking that they were godly people, as they projected themselves, I asked for their literature, and when I received it I made what I thought would be a suitable donation to cover their expenses. Although I was indoctrinated in an atheist communist system, the education I received in my family prior to that, of being fair, just, and kind to people and animals, remained more firmly inscribed in my heart than the much longer communist indoctrination.

I immediately received a reply from those people, profusely thanking me for helping them with their 'end-time work of God'. Very few people who receive their publications make such donations, they said. I was stunned by that. How could people be so insensitive to such generous people, especially if they are engaged in the 'end-time work of God'?

Before I knew it I was a "co-worker" in their work. But alas, before long I also discovered that they were the most ungodly, unthankful, and vengeful people one could find anywhere. Far from being the work of God, theirs truly was the work of Satan, the consequences of which are yet to be fully

understood. It still rankles them that the one they expelled from their Church ended up doing the true end time work of God, while their Church was taken out of existence.

We have been delighted that people have come to us from more than two hundred nations, but now the world is at a crisis point. Putting it differently, this world has lost its flavour with God, just as Jesus Christ told His disciples.

Mat 5:13 "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.

Mat 5:14 "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.

Mat 5:15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.

Mat 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your

Mat 5:48 Father in heaven. Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.

Not only are His disciples not perfect before God, but they seem to have disappeared from the face of the earth. Let us look at the last two Churches of God from the book of Revelation, which are in existence at the return of Jesus Christ.

Rev 3:7 "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, "These things says He who is holy, He who is true, "He Who Has The Key Of David, He Who Opens And No One Shuts, And Shuts And

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

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

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

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

Rev 3:12 He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more.

I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name.

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

This is the Church that I joined when I made that donation for the booklets I received. The leaders of the Worldwide Church of God claimed that what they preached and what they did proved theirs was none other than the Philadelphia Church of God.

So ingrained and well covered was their deception, that even after they expelled me from their Church and robbed me of everything, I was still convinced that they were whom they claimed to be. That is why I did not go to the police to recover my possessions.

The Scriptures tell us to suffer loss rather than go to law before the unrighteous, and not before the saints.

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

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

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

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

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

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

1Co 6:7 Now therefore, it is already an utter failure for you that you go to law against one another. Why do you not rather accept wrong? Why do you not rather let yourselves be cheated?

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

1Co 6:9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived.

Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves,

1Co 6:10 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.

As believer in the Scriptures and follower of Jesus Christ, I could not go to law before the unrighteous. Yet I could not go before the 'saints' either, because they had robbed me of my possessions. It took me years of in-depth study of the Scriptures, prayer and meditation, to understand the disheartening fact that the 'saints' of the Worldwide Church of God were in fact demons.

During the three years or so that I was member of that Church, I never heard anyone explain the expression 'synagogue of Satan' of Rev 3:9, or the people who were members of it. It was an untouchable topic, so no one discussed it.

Neither did they explain who the man of little strength of Rev 3:8 was. The assumption in the Church was that everything good in this chapter was about Herbert W Armstrong, the Church leader, and everything evil was about his enemies. He was also one of the Two Witnesses of Rev 11, and his son, Garner Ted, the other witness. How they could be 'clothed in sackcloth', like the Two Witnesses, when they were wearing the most expensive clothes money could buy, they never explained.

They shamelessly elevated the Worldwide Church of God to the honourable position of the Church of God in Philadelphia, even though that Church was far more similar to the 'synagogue of Satan' within its ranks than the proper Philadelphia Church of God.

To give you just an example: the WCG shamelessly preached what the New Testament calls 'doctrines of demons'.

1Ti 4:1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,

1Ti 4:2 speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron,

1Ti 4:3 forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.

1Ti 4:4 For every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with

1Ti 4:5 thanksgiving; for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

Could anything be clearer? If you keep the Old Testament dietary laws, you are delving into demonism. And yet, one cannot get a member of the former WCG, or of the myriad of Churches that arose from its collapse, to eat pork, rabbit, prawns, lobsters, and many other animals that were considered unclean in Old Testament times. Now this is what God told Apostle Peter in a vision.

Act 10:9 The next day, as they went on their journey and drew near the city, Peter went up on the housetop to pray, about the sixth hour.

Act 10:10 Then he became very hungry and wanted to eat; but while they made ready, he fell

Act 10:11 into a trance and saw heaven opened and an object like a great sheet bound at the four corners, descending to him and let down to the earth.

Act 10:12 In it were all kinds of four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, creeping things, and

Act 10:13 birds of the air. And a voice came to him, "Rise, Peter; kill and eat."

Act 10:14 But Peter said, "Not so, Lord! For I have never eaten anything common or unclean."

Act 10:15 And a voice *spoke* to him again the second time, "What God has cleansed you must not

Act 10:16 call common." This was done three times. And the object was taken up into heaven again.

'What God has cleansed you must not call common' said the voice from heaven. Apostle Peter accepted it; Apostle Paul accepted it; all Apostles accepted it, but not the apostle of the Worldwide Church of God. This outright twisting of the New Testament Scriptures by the WCG goes to the heart of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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

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

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

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

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

The world is in chaos, lawlessness abounds, people are betraying, offending and terrorising each other, and love seems to have disappeared from the world, yet in the midst of all this pandemonium two people have preached the Gospel of the Kingdom in all the world, **as a witness to all the nations.**

They are the ones 'clothed in sackcloth', not the wealthy impostors of the WCG, and of other Churches, who made similar claims. Let us look now at the last Church of God from Revelation 3.

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

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

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

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

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

Rev 3:19 with eye salve, that you may see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.

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

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

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

At the time the Gospel of the Kingdom is witnessed to all nations by two poor people, not one member of this wealthy Church is willing to help. Wealthy people do not like when God speaks to them through poor people. So God vomits them out of His mouth into the fire of the Great Tribulation. That fire is not only for them, but for all nations.

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

Rev 7:10 saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

Rev 7:11 All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God,

Rev 7:12 saying: "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, Thanksgiving and honor and power and might, Be to our God forever and ever. Amen."

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

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

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

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

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

While the world wallows in spiritual darkness, heading towards the greatest tribulation in its history, there is light at the end of the tunnel for the people of God.

Isa 66:8 Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Shall the earth be made to give birth in one day? Or shall a nation be born at once? For as soon as Zion was in labor, She gave birth to her children.

Isa 66:9 Shall I bring to the time of birth, and not cause delivery?" says the LORD. "Shall I who cause delivery shut up the womb?" says your God.

Isa 66:10 **"Rejoice with Jerusalem, And be glad with her, all you who love her;**

Isa 66:11 **Rejoice for joy with her, all you who mourn for her;** That you may feed and be satisfied With the consolation of her bosom, That you may drink deeply and be delighted With the abundance of her glory."

Isa 66:12 For thus says the LORD: "Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river, And the glory of the Gentiles like a flowing stream. Then you shall feed; On her sides shall you be carried,
 Isa 66:13 And be dandled on her knees. As one whom his mother comforts, So I will comfort you; And you shall be comforted in Jerusalem."
 Isa 66:14 When you see this, your heart shall rejoice, And your bones shall flourish like grass; **The hand of the LORD shall be known to His servants, And His indignation to His enemies.**
 Isa 66:15 For behold, the LORD will come with fire And with His chariots, like a whirlwind, To render His anger with fury, And His rebuke with flames of fire.
 Isa 66:16 **For by fire and by His sword The LORD will judge all flesh; And the slain of the LORD shall be many.**

The Jerusalem that this passage talks about, is not that crowded troubled city in the Middle East, but this Jerusalem.

Rev 21:1 Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.
 Rev 21:2 Then I, John, saw **the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.**
 Rev 21:3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.
 Rev 21:4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."
 Rev 21:5 Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful."
 Rev 21:6 And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts.
 Rev 21:7 He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.
 Rev 21:8 But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

It is an extraordinary fact that as the dark clouds of nuclear annihilation are raising over the horizon, western nations, the beneficiaries of the greatest of God's blessings, have completely plunged themselves into Satan's spiritual darkness. One nation after another, have defiled their lands with the 'love' that God calls an 'abomination'. Here are those Scriptures again, per chance people may take note and consider the consequences.

Lev 18:22 You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination.
 Lev 20:13 If a man lies with a male as he lies with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination. They shall surely be put to death. Their blood *shall be* upon them.
 Lev 18:26 **You shall therefore keep My statutes and My judgments, and shall not commit any of these abominations, either any of your own nation or any stranger who dwells among you**
 Lev 18:27 (for all these abominations the men of the land have done, who were before you, **and thus the land is defiled**), **lest the land vomit you out also when you defile it,**
 Lev 18:28 **as it vomited out the nations that were before you.**

Jud 1:1 Jude, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, To those who are called, sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ:
 Jud 1:2 Mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.
 Jud 1:3 Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.
 Jud 1:4 For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.
 Jud 1:5 But I want to remind you, though you once knew this, that the Lord, having saved the

people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe.

Jud 1:6 And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day;

Jud 1:7 as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

Jud 1:8 Likewise also these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries.

Jud 1:9 Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"

Jud 1:10 But these speak evil of whatever they do not know; and whatever they know naturally, like brute beasts, in these things they corrupt themselves.

Jud 1:11 Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.

Jud 1:12 These are spots in your love feasts, while they feast with you without fear, serving *only* themselves. *They are* clouds without water, carried about by the winds; late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots;

Jud 1:13 raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame; wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.

Jud 1:14 Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints,

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

Jud 1:16 These are grumblers, complainers, walking according to their own lusts; and they mouth great swelling *words*, flattering people to gain advantage.

Jud 1:17 But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ:

Jud 1:18 how they told you that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts.

Jud 1:19 These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit.

Jud 1:20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy

Jud 1:21 Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus

Jud 1:22 Christ unto eternal life. And on some have compassion, making a distinction;

Jud 1:23 but others save with fear, pulling *them* out of the fire, hating even the garment

Jud 1:24 defiled by the flesh. Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present *you* faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,

Jud 1:25 To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, Be glory and majesty, Dominion and power, Both now and forever. Amen.

God did not put people on this earth to debauch themselves and defile the land, but to prove themselves worthy of immortality in His eternal Kingdom. But as Jesus Christ said, God's Kingdom has a narrow gate that few people can find and enter by.

Mat 7:13 "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to

Mat 7:14 destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

Preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom to this 'progressive' world has become a matter of life and death for the people of God, just as it was for Jesus Christ and the first Christians.

However, just as the troubles of Jesus Christ had an end, so do our troubles.

Luk 22:37 For I say to you that this which is written must still be accomplished in Me: 'And He Was Numbered With The Transgressors.' **For the things concerning Me have an end."**

It is not a mere coincidence that as the followers of Jesus Christ are perishing from the world, the world is about to perish too.

2Th 2:1 Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit

2Th 2:2 or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come.

2Th 2:3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling

2Th 2:4 away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

[Or 'Holy Father'. The great falling away has occurred, and the man of sin has been revealed.

When the Gospel of the Kingdom is preached in the whole world as a witness to all the nations, only two people in the world believe the Scriptures and preach them]

2Th 2:11 And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the
2Th 2:12 lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

2Th 2:13 But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the

2Th 2:14 Spirit and belief in the truth, to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2Th 2:15 Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.

2Th 2:16 Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us

2Th 2:17 and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace, comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work.

Amen!

Geopolitics And Prophecy Portend Catastrophe

Tensions firing on Trump's big blast

WASHINGTON DC: US President Donald Trump has hinted there is a strong likelihood of military action against North Korea, saying diplomatic efforts with the rogue nation have consistently failed and adding that "only one thing will work".

Mr Trump has engaged in a war of words with North Korean strongman Kim Jong-un, trading insults amid rising tensions between the two nuclear armed rivals. A pair of tweets from the president yesterday suggested the US was finished with exploring diplomatic avenues to hose down potential conflict.

"Presidents and their administrations have been talking to North Korea for 25 years, agreements made and massive amounts of money paid," Mr Trump tweeted.

It "hasn't worked, agreements violated before the ink was dry, makings fools of US negotiators. Sorry, but only one thing will work!"

The US has not ruled out the use of force to compel Pyongyang to halt missile and nuclear tests, and Mr Trump has threatened to "totally destroy" the country.

Mr Trump also told journalists that this "could be the calm before the storm," declining to clarify his remarks. His comments come hours after North Korea prepared to test a long-range missile that experts feared could reach the west coast of the United States. Announcing their missile developments, influential Russian politician Anton Morozov said: "They are preparing for new tests of a long-range missile. "As far as we understand, they intend to launch one more long-range missile in the near future. "And in general, their mood is rather belligerent."

Last week, as US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson flew home from meeting with top Chinese officials, Mr Trump tweeted that his envoy was “wasting his time” trying to probe North Korea’s willingness to talk.

The message came after Tillerson had revealed there were back channels between US and North Korean officials.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull says the best way to make North Korea come to its senses is to continue to impose strong economic sanctions. He responded to the latest tweets by Mr Trump. Asked by reporters in Sydney what he thought the president meant, Mr Turnbull said: “The best way of ensuring that this reckless, dangerous, criminal regime comes to its senses is to continue to impose strong economic sanctions on North Korea.”

Officials in North Korea have accused the US of using its war on terror as a means to overthrow hostile governments, including an alleged attempt to dethrone Kim Jong-un earlier this year. (*The Daily Telegraph*, Oct. 9, 2017)

The conflict with North Korea must be understood in the context of the end-time Great Tribulation. On his own, Kim Jong-un would never have threatened America and his neighbours with nuclear war, but as a mouthpiece for Russia and China, he has done so in the conviction that they are behind him, even though they may not approve of all his antics.

At the United Nations Security Council, Russia and China voted for sanctions on North Korea, but back home this is what they did.

North Korean fuel ships dodge sanctions on the way back from Russia

Moscow: At least eight North Korean ships that left Russia with a cargo of fuel this year headed for their homeland despite declaring other destinations, a ploy that US officials say is often used to undermine sanctions.

US officials say that changing destination mid-voyage is a hallmark of North Korean state tactics to circumvent the international trade sanctions imposed over Pyongyang’s nuclear weapons program. (Reuters, Sept 22, 2017)

Since he took the reins of Russia, Vladimir Putin has been relentlessly preparing for war with the West, which he holds responsible for the fall of the Soviet Union. It is for this reason that he has put the Russian army through almost non-stop military exercises, the last one in September 2017 in conjunction with Belarus.

There is an agreement between NATO and Russia that if military exercises involve less than 13,000 personnel they do not need to be pre-announced. NATO leaders however, suspect that Putin’s exercises involved a far greater number than that, though they were not announced.

As soon as they were finished, Russia and China held combined navy exercises around Vladivostok.

Putin has been furious with the European Union and NATO, for encroaching upon Russia’s ‘spheres of influence’. But the West does not recognise spheres of influence anymore. That was a thing of the past, of Cold War with the Soviet Union, and since the Soviet Union no longer exists, neither do the old spheres of influence.

Putin however, does not see it that way. He believes that Russia inherited the Soviet Union’s spheres of influence and is determined to reclaim them – by war if necessary. However, he does not want to go down in history as the man who started the war that destroyed much of humanity, and for that he has a willing candidate in Kim Jong-un who takes pride in challenging the USA.

Kim Jong-un threatens to attack America if it does not remove its troops from the Korean peninsula, a goal that coincides with the wishes of both Russia and China. They all remember what happened in the Korean war of the 1950s.

North Korean and Chinese armies overwhelmed those of South Korea and were on the verge of victory when the Americans opened another front behind their lines and turned everything around, forcing armistice on almost identical old borders.

If the American generals had their way they would have advanced on Beijing, but Harry Truman stopped it and dismissed them. Most Americans would wish that Truman had not done that, because now they are dealing with far more powerful adversaries. Russia and China have been working in tandem ever since they signed the Shanghai Cooperation Treaty in 2001.

“The **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** is a Eurasian political, economic, and security organisation, the creation of which was announced on 15 June 2001 in Shanghai, China by the leaders of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan; the *Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Charter* was signed in June 2002 and entered into force on 19 September 2003.

These countries, except for Uzbekistan, had been members of the **Shanghai Five** group, founded on 26 April 1996 in Shanghai. India and Pakistan joined SCO as full members on 9 June 2017 in Astana, Kazakhstan.

On 20 May 1997, presidents of Russia Boris Yeltsin and prime minister of China Jiang Zemin signed a declaration on a "multipolar world".

At the Dushanbe, Tajikistan, summit in 2000, members agreed to "oppose intervention in other countries' internal affairs on the pretexts of 'humanitarianism' and 'protecting human rights,' and support the efforts of one another in safeguarding the five countries' national independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, and social stability."

In 2001, the annual summit returned to Shanghai. There the five member nations first admitted Uzbekistan in the Shanghai Five mechanism (thus transforming it into the Shanghai Six). Then all six heads of state signed on 15 June 2001 the *Declaration of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation*, praising the role played thus far by the Shanghai Five mechanism and aiming to transform it to a higher level of cooperation.

In July 2005, at the summit in Astana, Kazakhstan, with representatives of India, Iran, Mongolia and Pakistan attending a SCO summit for the first time, the president of the host country, Nursultan Nazarbayev, greeted the guests in words that had never been used before in any context: "The leaders of the states sitting at this negotiation table are representatives of half of humanity".

By 2007 the SCO had initiated over twenty large-scale projects related to transportation, energy and telecommunications and **held regular meetings of security, military, defence**, foreign affairs, economic, cultural, banking and other officials from its member states.

In July 2015 in Ufa, Russia, the SCO decided to admit India and Pakistan as full members. India and Pakistan signed the memorandum of obligations in June 2016 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, thereby starting the formal process of joining the SCO as full members. On 9 June 2017, at the historic summit in Astana, India and Pakistan have officially joined SCO as full-fledged members.” (Wikipedia)

Russia and China have been holding combined military exercises ever since they signed the SCO, turning that organization into a de facto military alliance. While NATO is fraying at the seams in the West, the East Asia Shanghai alliance is surging ahead unstoppably.

China's catching US by stealth

China has made significant step forward in its bid to equal – and eventually surpass – US air superiority. According to Beijing's state media, its first stealth fighter has now entered fully operational frontline service.

This puts it in second place. Before now, only the US has had a fully operational “fifth generation” fighter. And its easily the most capable aircraft deployed by any nation in its region – giving it a significant edge over the Japanese, Korean and Indian air force. China declared the J-20 fully functional in May. Beijing's State media yesterday said it is now operational and “officially commissioned into military service”, releasing a video on its capabilities as it celebrates the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China. (*The Daily Telegraph*, Oct 21, 2017)

Now should things calm down, and the danger of nuclear war go away, there would be far reaching realignments in world politics.

Chinese leaders see no reason why they should endanger their nation for other people's imperial ambitions when their future looks so bright. They would rather be at peace with both Russia and America, and let them solve their own differences.

Alas, that will not be possible, because Russia and China have a 'sacred' mission from God to serve a lesson to western democracies for abandoning Him and His Laws and embracing Satan's human rights and homosexuality.

No nation that approves of that life style will ever be protected by God. And no nation without God's support will ever win a war.

Western democracies should not be surprised when the wheels of their war machine will get bogged down in the mire of their own making. They have forgotten God's lessons which He has inscribed in the Bible for all people and for all time.

1Co 10:1 Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud,

1Co 10:2 all passed through the sea, all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,
 1Co 10:3 all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink.
 1Co 10:4 For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.
 1Co 10:5 But with most of them God was not well pleased, for *their bodies* were scattered in the wilderness.
 1Co 10:6 Now **these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted.**
 1Co 10:7 And do not become idolaters as *were* some of them. As it is written, "The People Sat Down To Eat And Drink, And Rose Up To Play."
 1Co 10:8 Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell;
 1Co 10:9 nor let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents;
 1Co 10:10 nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer.
 1Co 10:11 Now **all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.**
 1Co 10:12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

2Pe 2:1 But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, *and* bring on themselves swift destruction.
 2Pe 2:2 And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be
 2Pe 2:3 blasphemed. By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber.
 2Pe 2:4 For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast *them* down to hell and delivered *them* into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment;
 2Pe 2:5 and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, *one of eight people*, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly;
 2Pe 2:6 and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned *them* to destruction, **making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly;**
 2Pe 2:7 and delivered righteous Lot, *who was* oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked
 2Pe 2:8 (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented *his* righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing *their* lawless deeds)—
 2Pe 2:9 then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment,
 2Pe 2:10 and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority. *They are* presumptuous, self-willed. They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries,
 2Pe 2:11 whereas angels, who are greater in power and might, do not bring a reviling accusation against them before the Lord.
 2Pe 2:12 But these, like natural brute beasts made to be caught and destroyed, speak evil of the things they do not understand, and will utterly perish in their own corruption,
 2Pe 2:13 *and* will receive the wages of unrighteousness, as those who count it pleasure to carouse in the daytime. *They are* spots and blemishes, carousing in their own deceptions while they feast with you,
 2Pe 2:14 having eyes full of adultery and that cannot cease from sin, enticing unstable souls. *They have* a heart trained in covetous practices, *and are* accursed children.
 2Pe 2:15 They have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;
 2Pe 2:16 but he was rebuked for his iniquity: a dumb donkey speaking with a man's voice restrained the madness of the prophet.
 2Pe 2:17 These are wells without water, clouds carried by a tempest, for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.
 2Pe 2:18 For when they speak great swelling *words* of emptiness, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness, the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error.
 2Pe 2:19 While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage.
 2Pe 2:20 For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning.
 2Pe 2:21 For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known *it*, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them.

2Pe 2:22 But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: "A Dog Returns To His Own Vomit," and, "A Sow, Having Washed, To Her Wallowing In The Mire."

Is it still possible to turn to God at the last moment in repentance, worship and prayer, and avoid the fate of Sodom and Gomorrah? God says it is possible, but will our Prime Minister urge the people to do so, as he urged them to vote for homosexual 'marriage' in the recent plebiscite?

Zec 1:1 In the eighth month of the second year of Darius, the word of the LORD came to Zechariah

Zec 1:2 the son of Berechiah, the son of Iddo the prophet, saying, "The LORD has been very angry

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

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

Zec 1:5 "Your fathers, where are they? And the prophets, do they live forever?

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

In the USA, President Trump has been making all the right moves in this regard, after the catastrophe of Barrack Obama who gave his nation to the Devil too, for once it is unleashed upon unsuspecting populations it is hard to put the genie back into the bottle.

Our Prime Minister should know that the sins of the leaders fall on their people, and on themselves and their families.

2Sa 24:10 And David's heart condemned him after he had numbered the people. So David said to the LORD, "I have sinned greatly in what I have done; but now, I pray, O LORD, take away the iniquity of Your servant, for I have done very foolishly."

[David numbered the people to know how strong he was. God, who had given him victory against his enemies, got angry with him. Our Prime Minister (a multi-millionaire) and his Government have embarked upon a massive rearmament program, and a huge increase in their own salaries, making them the highest paid politicians in the world. The money had to come from somewhere. And where do Conservative Liberal governments get money from when the Treasury is empty? They squeeze them out of the poor who tend to favour Labour governments. You would not want to be a pensioner in this 'lucky country'. No country that throws more misery on its poor will ever win a war, regardless of how many submarines and bomber/fighter aircrafts may have in its armoury]

2Sa 24:11 Now when David arose in the morning, the word of the LORD came to the prophet Gad,

2Sa 24:12 David's seer, saying, "Go and tell David, 'Thus says the LORD: 'I offer you three things; choose one of them for yourself, that I may do it to you.' " "

2Sa 24:13 So Gad came to David and told him; and he said to him, "Shall seven years of famine come to you in your land? Or shall you flee three months before your enemies, while they pursue you? Or shall there be three days' plague in your land? Now consider and see what answer I should take back to Him who sent me."

2Sa 24:14 And David said to Gad, "I am in great distress. Please let us fall into the hand of the LORD, for His mercies are great; but do not let me fall into the hand of man."

2Sa 24:15 So the LORD sent a plague upon Israel from the morning till the appointed time. From Dan to Beersheba seventy thousand men of the people died.

2Sa 24:16 And when the angel stretched out His hand over Jerusalem to destroy it, the LORD relented from the destruction, and said to the angel who was destroying the people, "It is enough; now restrain your hand." And the angel of the LORD was by the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.

2Sa 24:17 Then David spoke to the LORD when he saw the angel who was striking the people, and said, "Surely I have sinned, and I have done wickedly; but these sheep, what have they done? Let Your hand, I pray, be against me and against my father's house."

Now here is an example of a wise leader, who by his actions saved his nation from disaster.

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, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!"

Jon 3:5 **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

Jon 3:8 them eat, or drink water. 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.

Jon 3:9 Who can tell if God 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.**

Jesus Christ also made mention of this good example.

Mat 12:41 The men of Nineveh will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and indeed a greater than Jonah is here.

The men of Nineveh will rise up in the judgment and condemn this generation too, because they repented at the words of Jonah; and indeed a greater than Jonah is here also.

It is no longer a question of whether a major conflict ensues in East Asia, or in the Middle East, or somewhere else in the world. The certainty is that it will come soon, because this world has reached its nadir and it cannot get any worse. This is obvious as much from today's geopolitical realities, as from biblical prophecies. Geopolitics change with the time, but biblical prophecies are written in stone, or as Jesus Christ put it, "the Scriptures cannot be broken".

Joh 10:33 The Jews answered Him, saying, "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God."

Joh 10:34 Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your law, 'I Said, "You Are Gods' '?

Joh 10:35 If He called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and **the Scripture cannot be**

Joh 10:36 **broken**), do you say of Him whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming,' because I said, 'I am the Son of God'? If I do not do the works of My Father,

Joh 10:37 do not believe Me; but if I do, though you do not believe Me, believe the works,

Joh 10:38 that you may know and believe that the Father is in Me, and I in Him."

The much talked about Two Witnesses of Revelation, who portend the end of this age, could say the same thing. If you do not believe us, believe the work that we are doing, a work that could not have been done at any other time in history.

Now here is a prophetic development that will come to pass shortly after the Two Witnesses complete their job.

Zec 14:1 Behold, **the day of the LORD** is coming, And your spoil will be divided in your midst.

Zec 14:2 For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; The city shall be taken, The houses rifled, And the women ravished. Half of the city shall go into captivity, But the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city.

Zec 14:3 Then the LORD will go forth And fight against those nations, As He fights in the day of battle.

Zec 14:4 **And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives**, Which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, From east to west, Making a very large valley; Half of the mountain shall move toward the north And half of it toward the south.

[This is the purpose of the devastation that takes place in the Middle East at present, in Syria and Iraq. That area is being levelled in preparation for a complete reshaping of the land, for the building of a massive Temple of God according to the writings of Ezekiel, and for the expansion of Israel from the Nile to the Euphrates, as God promised to Abraham: "On the same day the LORD made a covenant with

Abram, saying: "To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates." (Gen 15:18)]

Zec 14:6 It shall come to pass in that day that there will be no light; The lights will diminish. It shall be
Zec 14:7 one day Which is known to the LORD Neither day nor night. But at evening time it shall happen That it will be light.

Zec 14:8 And in that day it shall be—That living waters shall flow from Jerusalem, Half of them toward the eastern sea And half of them toward the western sea; In both summer and winter it shall occur.

[The Garden of Eden shall be recreated in the Middle East, and Jerusalem will be world capital]

Zec 14:9 And the LORD shall be King over all the earth. In that day it shall be "The LORD is one," And His name one.

Zec 14:10 All the land shall be turned into a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem. Jerusalem shall be raised up and inhabited in her place from Benjamin's Gate to the place of the First Gate and the Corner Gate, and from the Tower of Hananel to the king's winepresses. The people shall dwell in it;

Zec 14:11 And no longer shall there be utter destruction, But Jerusalem shall be safely inhabited.

Zec 14:12 And this shall be the plague with which the LORD will strike all the people who fought against Jerusalem: Their flesh shall dissolve while they stand on their feet, Their eyes shall dissolve in their sockets, And their tongues shall dissolve in their mouths.

[Dissolving people's flesh while standing on their feet was not possible before the development of nuclear and neutron bombs, of which Israel is reported to have both]

Zec 14:13 It shall come to pass in that day That a great panic from the LORD will be among them. Everyone will seize the hand of his neighbor, And raise his hand against his neighbor's hand;

Zec 14:14 Judah also will fight at Jerusalem. And the wealth of all the surrounding nations Shall be gathered together: Gold, silver, and apparel in great abundance.

[Notice, it is Judah who fights at Jerusalem in the Great Tribulation, not Israel. The nation that bears the name Israel in the Middle East should more correctly have been named Judah. Where then is Israel these days? Israel (Samaria) migrated to Europe when it was taken captive by the Assyrians. They are the United Kingdom, the USA, the white Anglo-Saxon dominions of Britain, and most European nations. They will all suffer grievously in the Great Tribulation]

Zec 14:15 Such also shall be the plague On the horse and the mule, On the camel and the donkey, And on all the cattle that will be in those camps. So shall this plague be. *[Nuclear and neutron bombs make no distinction between humans and animals]*

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

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

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

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

Zec 14:20 In that day "HOLINESS TO THE LORD" shall be engraved on the bells of the horses. The pots in the LORD's house shall be like the bowls before the altar.

Zec 14:21 Yes, every pot in Jerusalem and Judah shall be holiness to the LORD of hosts. Everyone who sacrifices shall come and take them and cook in them. In that day there shall no longer be a Canaanite in the house of the LORD of hosts.

All religions of this world will be annulled and only the religion of Jesus Christ, the LORD of Lords, will be practiced in the entire world. Nations that will not accept it will perish.

This is the religion that the Two Witnesses have restored and preached to all the nations as a witness. Here is a brief look at a few prophecies that are related to, and have a direct bearing upon, the work of the Two Witnesses.

Rev 11:3 And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, **clothed in sackcloth.**"

Rev 11:4 These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth.
 Rev 11:5 And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner.
 Rev 11:6 These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire.
 Rev 11:7 When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will **make war against them, overcome them, and kill them.**
 Rev 11:8 And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.
 Rev 11:9 Then those from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three-and-a-half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves.
 Rev 11:10 And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another, because **these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth.**
 Rev 11:11 Now after the three-and-a-half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them.
 Rev 11:12 And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here."
 Rev 11:13 And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them. In the same hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. In the earthquake seven thousand people were killed, and the rest were afraid and gave glory to the God of heaven.

Here are two people who are hated by every human being that 'dwells on the earth' for preaching the Gospel that Jesus Christ brought to this world. Ask yourself, why are they hated even by those who call themselves 'Christians'? Because they are false Christians, otherwise there would have been no need for Elijah to come and restore 'all things', in particular the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and witness it to all nations. This is what happens when the Two Witnesses are killed for their work.

Mat 24:3 Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of **the end of the age?**"
 Mat 24:4 And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you.
 Mat 24:5 For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many.
 Mat 24:12 And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.
 Mat 24:13 But he who endures to the end shall be saved.
 Mat 24:14 **And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.**
 Mat 24:21 **For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.**
 Mat 24:22 **And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.**
 Mat 24:29 "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.
 Mat 24:30 Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.
 Mat 24:31 And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.
 Mat 24:34 Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things
 Mat 24:35 take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.
 Mat 24:37 But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in
 Mat 24:38 the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in
 Mat 24:39 marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.
 Mat 24:42 Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.

How is it possible that two people can torment the whole world? Jesus Christ gave the answer: 'this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.'

In a world that wallows in iniquity and falsehood, people cannot bear to hear the truth and are tormented by it. But how could two people that are 'clothed in sackcloth' (humble and poor), preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the whole world, when that is neither an easy job, nor a cheap one?

Here is the answer from God Himself:

Zec 4:1 Now the angel who talked with me came back and wakened me, as a man who is

Zec 4:2 wakened out of his sleep. And he said to me, "What do you see?" So I said, "I am looking, and there is a lampstand of solid gold with a bowl on top of it, and on the stand seven lamps with seven pipes to the seven lamps.

Zec 4:3 **Two olive trees are by it, one at the right of the bowl and the other at its left."**

Zec 4:4 So I answered and spoke to the angel who talked with me, saying, "What are

Zec 4:5 these, my lord?" Then the angel who talked with me answered and said to me, "Do you not know what these are?" And I said, "No, my lord."

Zec 4:6 So he answered and said to me: "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: '**Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' Says the LORD of hosts.**

It is the Spirit of God that created conditions for the Gospel of the Kingdom to be preached as a witness to all the nations. This had been done via the World Wide Web, otherwise known as the Internet.

The Christian Herald is now being read by millions of people from more than 200 nations. (We have stopped counting at 206. The work has been done, and if there are still other nations that have not heard of *The Christian Herald*, the Holy Spirit will bring them to us.)

I did not know what the Gospel of the Kingdom was when I grew up in communist Romania. The Orthodox Church, like the Catholic and Protestant Churches, do not talk much of the Kingdom of God after resurrection, but of Heaven and Hell after death.

I had only scant knowledge of religion from the few times that my parents took me to Church services as a little boy. But after I left the family home at the age of 14, I was indoctrinated in atheism until I escaped from the Iron Curtain at the age of 24.

I spent five months in a refugee camp in Austria, after which I immigrated to Canada in February 1968, where I lived for the next eight years. Then in 1975 I immigrated to Australia where I've lived ever since.

In Canada, I became member of one of the most Fundamentalist Churches – the Worldwide Church of God. They attracted me to their brand of Christianity because they were speaking feverishly about an impending world war.

My curiosity was stirred by the fact that they saw this world war not between the communist East and the capitalist West, as I was led to believe when I was in Romania, but between an alliance of ten nations led by Germany and the Anglo-Saxons.

I spent more than two years studying their publications and comparing them with the Bible's prophecies, but the more I studied, the more I realised that they were wrong; very wrong.

The problem then became how to tell them about it. They would not accept correction from anybody, let alone from a relatively new member of the Church. But when I could not hold it any longer, I decided to tell them anyway. The outcome was never in doubt: they instantly expelled me from their Church. For good measure, in true fundamentalist 'brotherly love', they robbed me of everything I had and locked me out of my own apartment. Now the hypocrites are clamouring to send me their publications so I that can assess them and tell them whether their preaching is right or not. All while they receive heavy tithes and offerings, and we receive nothing from anyone.

Such was their brainwashing in Herbert W. Armstrong's doctrines and hatred of Germany that even now the preachers who have roots in the Worldwide Church of God still preach that Germany will destroy the Anglo-Saxons and take them captive soon. (See *TCH No 30*)

After parting company with the Worldwide Church of God, I moved to Australia, where I had peace of mind for the next decade. But then I encountered them again during one of their evangelistic campaign in which they preached the same old false doctrines.

God put it in my heart to do something about it, and in 1990 the first edition of *The Christian Herald* made its appearance.

The first edition brought us good news and bad news. The good news was that we received about \$100 in donations even though we did not ask for them (the only donations we ever received for this work). The bad news came in an anonymous telephone call from Romania, which informed me that my mother had been assaulted and left for dead near her home.

In that edition we had an article in which we discussed how Ceausescu's Securitate had betrayed the Romanian Revolution of 1989, which was supposed to put an end to communism in that country. When we reedited and republished that edition a decade later, we found that article so badly written that we could not improve on it, and so we discarded it altogether.

A Romanian academic working in the USA, published a similar article about the Securitate, and was murdered. A diplomatic incident with America followed, but not wanting to damage relations with the countries of Eastern Europe, recently freed from communism, the American Administration stopped that investigation. And so, the murderers of that academic, like the murderers of my mother, have never been brought to justice by those who practice 'original democracy' in Romania.

Having ensconced themselves in state institutions, banks, media, political parties and the Orthodox Church, the Securitate murderers are still pulling the strings of that nation's policies and politics through a bloated bureaucracy.

Foreigners who visit or work in the country do not feel it, or not as much, but the locals feel suffocated by it. Unable to do anything about it, they have taken to the roads of Europe and the world. Romania ranks second in the world, after Syria, in terms of migrants that have left the country per head of population.

The assault and murder of my mother shook us severely. We questioned ourselves whether we were doing the right thing. The Scriptures, however, left us in no doubt as to why things happened the way they did, and what we were to do next.

Isa 57:1 **The righteous perishes, And no man takes it to heart; Merciful men are taken away, While no one considers That the righteous is taken away from evil.**

Isa 57:2 He shall enter into peace; They shall rest in their beds, Each one walking in his uprightness.

Isa 57:3 "But come here, You sons of the sorceress, You offspring of the adulterer and the harlot!

Isa 57:4 Whom do you ridicule? Against whom do you make a wide mouth and stick out the tongue? Are you not children of transgression, offspring of falsehood . . .?

My gentle, hardworking, and long suffering mother was 'taken away from evil'. Also to lessen our burden, because as we would discover, this work required total dedication, total concentration, and total sacrifices. I have put everything in the service of this work. Remarkably, God has timed it perfectly. Our resources had been exhausted just as this work reaches its conclusion.

It will not be long now before my poor mother will see her assailants and their families cast into a lake of fire, while she receives eternal life in the Kingdom of God. The acts of evil parents lead not only to their own destruction, but also that of their own children.

Num 14:18 'The LORD is longsuffering and abundant in mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression; but He by no means clears the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation.'

Satan and his servants avenged themselves on us for doing the work of God; God will avenge Himself on them in due course.

Deu 32:33 Their wine is the poison of serpents, And the cruel venom of cobras.

Deu 32:34 'Is this not laid up in store with Me, Sealed up among My treasures?

Deu 32:35 **Vengeance is Mine, and recompense; Their foot shall slip in due time; For the day of their calamity is at hand, And the things to come hasten upon them.'**

Deu 32:36 "For the LORD will judge His people And have compassion on His servants, When He sees that their power is gone, And there is no one remaining, bond or free.

Deu 32:37 He will say: 'Where are their gods, The rock in which they sought refuge? Who ate the fat of their sacrifices, And drank the wine of their drink offering?

Deu 32:38 Let them rise and help you, And be your refuge.

Deu 32:39 **'Now see that I, even I, am He, And there is no God besides Me; I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal; Nor is there any who can deliver from My hand.'**

Deu 32:40 For I raise My hand to heaven, And say, "As I live forever, If I whet My glittering sword,

Deu 32:41 And My hand takes hold on judgment, **I will render vengeance to My enemies, And repay those who hate Me.**

The Apostles of Jesus Christ endured grievous tribulations in the course of their work, and we are no different.

Act 14:19 Then Jews from Antioch and Iconium came there; and having persuaded the multitudes, they stoned Paul *and* dragged *him* out of the city, supposing him to be dead.

Act 14:20 However, when the disciples gathered around him, he rose up and went into the city. And the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe. And when they had preached the gospel

Act 14:21 to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch,

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

Act 14:23 So when they had appointed elders in every church, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

Yes, we must accept that 'through many tribulations we enter the kingdom of God.'

And as Jesus Christ also said:

Luk 17:1 "It is impossible that no offenses should come, but woe to him through whom they do come!

Luk 17:2 It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones.

Luk 9:57 Now it happened as they journeyed on the road, that someone said to Him, "Lord, I will follow You wherever You go."

Luk 9:58 And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head."

Luk 9:59 Then He said to another, "Follow Me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." Jesus said to him,

Luk 9:60 **"Let the dead bury their own dead,** but you go and preach the kingdom of God."

Luk 9:61 And another also said, "Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go and bid them farewell who

Luk 9:62 are at my house." But Jesus said to him, **"No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."**

That sealed our fate and left us in no doubt as to what we had to do. Having started this work we could not turn back, because 'No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.' Besides:

Rom 8:28 All things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

We did not volunteer to do this work, as virtually all our nemeses have done. It was thrust upon us in circumstances not of our making, in exact fashion that God has dealt with His people and prophets in times past.

Although it required painful sacrifices, we will forever be grateful to God and Jesus Christ for calling us to do this work, and for helping us through the many tribulations that came our way from those who are enemies of the cross of Christ. Apostle Paul made this comment when he perceived that the Roman emperor was about to condemn him to death.

2Ti 4:6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand.

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.**

Amen!

The Sons of Zion against the Sons of Greece

Few people would imagine that the end-time Great Tribulation is a conflict between the sons of Zion and the Sons of Greece, yet this is exactly what God is telling us.

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

Modern day biblical scholars, prophets, preachers, and the like, have given up on this prophecy because it is inconceivable to them that Greece would ever be in the position to take on the heavily armed Judah (today's Israel) and Ephraim (The Anglo-Saxons). But when God inscribed something in the Bible, you better believe that it's true. How then do we explain this prophecy? The secret lies in seeing the world with God's eyes. If the mind that was in Christ Jesus is in you, you can certainly do it.

Php 2:5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,

Php 2:6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God.

The problem is in identifying these nations, for clearly appearances are deceiving. Something isn't right. Greece could hardly face Judah alone, let alone it in an alliance with the Anglo-Saxons.

When Israel split into the nations of Judah and Samaria, Judah ended up with three tribes: Judah, Benjamin and Levy, and Samaria with nine tribes (ten if we count Joseph as two tribes: Ephraim and Manasseh, as God does from then on).

About two centuries after that split, Samaria was taken captive by Assyria, and together they migrated to the fertile lands of Europe. Most European nations descend from Samaria, England being the tribe of Ephraim, and the USA the tribe of Manasseh. Greece is not one of them, and never was, although there is strong historical evidence that Sparta was populated by Samaritans.

Since their split, the Jews were regarded as the leading tribe of Judah, and Ephraim as the leading tribe of Samaria. God often uses the term 'king' to mean kingdom, and kingdom to mean a conglomeration of nations, such a Babylon.

So when Ephraim is mentioned after the split, it almost always refers to the Samaritans (the British Isles, the USA, the white Anglo-Saxon former colonies of Britain, and most European nations).

The question is, what does God mean by "sons of Greece", for clearly today's Greeks are in no position to take on Ephraim. Few people realise that just as Rome transformed itself from a military power into a spiritual empire - the Roman Catholic Church - that would last till the end of the world, the Greeks had their own metamorphosis from military power to spiritual empire - the Greek Orthodox Church.

When God looks on the earth, He does not regard physical borders, but spiritual beliefs and descent, which transcend boundaries. Greece in prophecy is not the Greek nation, though that does not exclude it, but the lands in which the Greek Orthodox Church, or as it is also often called, Eastern Orthodox Church, have spiritual dominions.

Since Constantinople fell to the Ottoman Turks in 1453, Moscow has been the centre and leader of the Greek Orthodox Church. It is in Russia's hands that God has put 'the sword of a mighty man', not in the hands of the small Greek nation.

Interestingly enough, after Brexit European leaders have been talking of reconciliation not with Russia, but with "Great" Russia.

Geopolitics and fear of annihilation quickly brought together strange bed fellows. Britain has only itself to blame if it finds itself facing a mighty force that no one thought possible just months earlier. And that comes at the time when they abandoned God, and God abandoned the Anglo-Saxons.

And America? What more can one say that has not already been said since Donald Trump became its President. Perhaps we should remind them and the British of articles we published about them.

- 'America, America, what have you done to yourself?' (TCH 21, 2010)
- 'Britannia, Britannia, what have you done to yourself?' (TCH 26, 2012)

As the saying goes, those who do not learn from history are going to repeat it. Or, what people learn from history is that they do not learn from history.

The British rushed to Brexit, forgetting the difficulties they had to enter the European Union, and that in the years prior to that they were the sick man of Europe.

It is an extraordinary fact that the people who inherited the blessings that God gave to the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, have abandoned the Laws of their God and went after Satan's 'human rights', and the 'love' that God calls an 'abomination'.

Here are the blessings that God promised to Abraham's descendants.

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

Gen 12:3 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."**

That '**great nation**' became the Roman Empire and the Empires that have arisen and spread out of Europe ever since. Here are the blessings that God promised to Isaac's descendants:

Gen 27:28 Therefore may God give you of the dew of heaven, of the fatness of the earth, and plenty of grain and wine. Let peoples serve you, and nations bow down to you.

Gen 27:29 Be master over your brethren, and let your mother's sons bow down to you. **Cursed be everyone who curses you, And blessed be those who bless you!"**

And still more, here are the blessings that God promised to Jacob's descendants:

Deu 33:27 The eternal God is your refuge, And underneath are the everlasting arms; He will thrust out the enemy from before you, And will say, 'Destroy!' Then Israel shall dwell in safety,

Deu 33:28 The fountain of Jacob alone, In a land of grain and new wine; His heavens shall also drop

Deu 33:29 dew. Happy are you, O Israel! Who is like you, a people saved by the LORD, The shield of your help And the sword of your majesty! **Your enemies shall submit to you, And you shall tread down their high places."**

And what have they done with those extraordinary blessings? He answer is obvious: they turned away from God and went after Satan. Consequently, God turned away from them to the detriment of the entire world. They will now face the wrath of the Gentiles.

Eze 7:1 Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

Eze 7:2 "And you, son of man, thus says the Lord GOD to the land of Israel: 'An end! The end has come upon the four corners of the land.

[When Ezekiel received this prophecy, only Judah was in the Middle East. Samaria had long been removed from there. By using the term Israel, and not Judah or Samaria, God showed us two things. One: This is a prophecy for both Judah and Samaria, and Two: It is a prophecy for a long time into the future – in the latter days, or the end time – when the two nations are brought together again in an alliance against the Gentiles. Alas, it would be a war which they will lose and suffer heavy losses, almost to extinction. Only the 'elect' of God, such as could be found in their midst, enough to fill the "camp of the saints" around Jerusalem, will survive]

Eze 7:3 Now the end has come upon you, And I will send My anger against you; I will judge you according to your ways, And I will repay you for all your abominations.

Eze 7:4 My eye will not spare you, Nor will I have pity; But I will repay your ways, And your abominations will be in your midst; Then you shall know that I am the LORD!"

Eze 7:5 "Thus says the Lord GOD: 'A disaster, a singular disaster; Behold, it has come!

Eze 7:6 An end has come, The end has come; It has dawned for you; Behold, it has come!

Eze 7:7 Doom has come to you, you who dwell in the land; The time has come, A day of trouble is near, And not of rejoicing in the mountains.

Eze 7:8 **Now upon you I will soon pour out My fury, And spend My anger upon you; I will judge you according to your ways, And I will repay you for all your abominations.**

Eze 7:9 'My eye will not spare, Nor will I have pity; I will repay you according to your ways, And your abominations will be in your midst. **Then you shall know that I am the LORD who strikes.**

Eze 7:10 'Behold, the day! Behold, it has come! Doom has gone out; The rod has blossomed, Pride has

Eze 7:11 budded. Violence has risen up into a rod of wickedness; **None of them shall remain, None of their multitude, None of them; Nor shall there be wailing for them.**

[There will be none to wail, for they are all in the same boat, all under the same wrath of God]

Eze 7:12 The time has come, The day draws near. 'Let not the buyer rejoice, Nor the seller mourn, For wrath is on their whole multitude. For the seller shall not return to what has been sold,

Eze 7:13 Though he may still be alive; For the vision concerns the whole multitude, And it shall not turn back; **No one will strengthen himself who lives in iniquity.**

Eze 7:14 'They have blown the trumpet and made everyone ready, But no one goes to battle; For My wrath is on all their multitude.

Eze 7:15 The sword is outside, And the pestilence and famine within. Whoever is in the field will die by the sword; And whoever is in the city, famine and pestilence will devour him.

Eze 7:16 'Those who survive will escape and be on the mountains like doves of the valleys, All of them mourning, Each for his iniquity.

*[Remember what Jesus Christ said about this time, about escaping to the mountains? "Therefore when you see the 'Abomination Of Desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand), "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. For then there will be **great tribulation**, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened (Mat 12 :15-22)]*

Eze 7:17 Every hand will be feeble, And every knee will be as weak as water.

Eze 7:18 They will also be girded with sackcloth; Horror will cover them; Shame will be on every face, Baldness on all their heads.

Eze 7:19 'They will throw their silver into the streets, And their gold will be like refuse; Their silver and their gold will not be able to deliver them **In the day of the wrath of the LORD**; They will not satisfy their souls, Nor fill their stomachs, Because it became their stumbling block of iniquity.

Eze 7:20 'As for the beauty of his ornaments, He set it in majesty; But they made from it The images of their abominations— Their detestable things; Therefore I have made it like refuse to them.

[The mention of 'the beauty of his ornaments ... set in majesty' could only refer to Royalty. God promised David, the famous King of Israel that one of his descendants will always sit on the throne of Israel. In the course of time, the Royal House of Israel moved over from Judah to Ephraim. That is why the Jews have no monarchy and the British do. But do they care about God? What are their 'prophets' telling them? It was reported that the Queen, who is also head of the Anglican Church, rejoiced when the British Government legislated in favour of homosexual "marriage"]

Eze 7:21 I will give it as plunder Into the hands of strangers, And to the wicked of the earth as spoil; And they shall defile it.

Eze 7:22 I will turn My face from them, And they will defile My secret place; For robbers shall enter it and defile it.

Eze 7:23 'Make a chain, For the land is filled with crimes of blood, And the city is full of violence.

Eze 7:24 **Therefore I will bring the worst of the Gentiles, And they will possess their houses; I will cause the pomp of the strong to cease, And their holy places shall be defiled.**

Eze 7:25 Destruction comes; They will seek peace, but there shall be none.

Eze 7:26 Disaster will come upon disaster, And rumor will be upon rumor. **Then they will seek a vision from a prophet; But the law will perish from the priest, And counsel from the elders.**

Eze 7:27 'The king will mourn, The prince will be clothed with desolation, And the hands of the common people will tremble. I will do to them according to their way, And according to what they deserve I will judge them; Then they shall know that I am the LORD!" "

[Not a single priest or preacher, and no king or national leader, let alone their followers, have understood and accepted that we preach the unadulterated Gospel of Jesus Christ, even after we unveiled biblical mysteries and prophecies that no one ever did, and fulfilled Jesus' prophecy of Mat 24: 14: "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come". They all cling to false gospels that lead to perdition and not to salvation]

Now just a few geo-political developments that fit well into Ezekiel's prophecy.

Russia [*The Sons of Greece*] Bolsters Its Submarine Fleet, and Tensions With U.S. Rise

NAPLES, Italy — Russian attack submarines, the most in two decades, are prowling the coastlines of Scandinavia and Scotland, the Mediterranean Sea and the North Atlantic in what Western military officials say is a significantly increased presence aimed at contesting American and NATO undersea dominance.

Adm. Mark Ferguson, the United States Navy's top commander in Europe, said last fall that the intensity of Russian submarine patrols had risen by almost 50 percent over the past year, citing public remarks by the Russian Navy chief, Adm. Viktor Chirkov. Analysts say that tempo has not changed since then.

The patrols are the most visible sign of a renewed interest in submarine warfare by President Vladimir V. Putin, whose government has spent billions of dollars for new classes of diesel and nuclear-powered attack submarines that are quieter, better armed and operated by more proficient crews than in the past.

The tensions are part of an expanding rivalry and military buildup, with echoes of the Cold War, between the United States and Russia. Moscow is projecting force not only in the North Atlantic but also in Syria and Ukraine and building up its nuclear arsenal and cyberwarfare capacities in what American military officials say is an attempt to prove its relevance after years of economic decline and retrenchment.

Independent American military analysts see the increased Russian submarine patrols as a legitimate challenge to the United States and NATO. **Even short of tensions, there is the possibility of accidents and miscalculations.**

But whatever the threat, the Pentagon is also using the stepped-up Russian patrols as another argument for bigger budgets for submarines and anti-submarine warfare.

American naval officials say that in the short term, the growing number of Russian submarines, with their ability to shadow Western vessels and European coastlines, will require more ships, planes and subs to monitor them. In the long term, the Defense Department has proposed \$8.1 billion over the next five years for "undersea capabilities," including nine new Virginia-class attack submarines that can carry up to 40 Tomahawk cruise missiles, more than triple the capacity now.

"We're back to the great powers competition," Adm. John M. Richardson, the chief of naval operations, said in an interview. Last week, unarmed Russian warplanes repeatedly buzzed a Navy destroyer in the Baltic Sea and at one point came within 30 feet of the warship, American officials said. Last year some of Russia's new diesel submarines launched four cruise missiles at targets in Syria. Mr. Putin's military modernization program also includes new intercontinental ballistic missiles as well as aircraft, tanks and air defense systems.

To be sure, there is hardly parity between the Russian and American submarine fleets. Russia has about 45 attack submarines — about two dozen are nuclear-powered and 20 are diesel — which are designed to sink other submarines or ships, collect intelligence and conduct patrols. But Western naval analysts say that only about half of those are able to deploy at any given time. Most stay closer to home and maintain an operational tempo far below a Cold War peak.

The United States has 53 attack submarines, all nuclear-powered, as well as four other nuclear-powered submarines that carry cruise missiles and Special Operations forces. At any given time, roughly a third of America's attack submarines are at sea, either on patrols or training, with the others undergoing maintenance. American Navy officials and Western analysts say that American attack submarines, which are made for speed, endurance and stealth to deploy far from American shores, remain superior to their Russian counterparts.

The Pentagon is also developing sophisticated technology to monitor encrypted communications from Russian submarines and new kinds of remotely controlled or autonomous vessels. Members of the NATO alliance, including Britain, Germany and Norway, are at the same time buying or considering buying new submarines in response to the Kremlin's projection of force in the Baltic and Arctic.

But Moscow's recently revised national security and maritime strategies emphasize the need for Russian maritime forces to project power and to have access to the broader Atlantic Ocean as well as the Arctic.

Russian submarines and spy ships now operate near the vital undersea cables that carry almost all global Internet communications, raising concerns among some American military and intelligence officials that the Russians could attack those lines in times of tension or conflict. Russia is also building an undersea unmanned drone capable of carrying a small, tactical nuclear weapon to use against harbors or coastal areas, American military and intelligence analysts said.

And, like the United States, Russia operates larger nuclear-powered submarines that carry long-range nuclear missiles and spend months at a time hiding in the depths of the ocean. Those submarines, although lethal, do not patrol like the attack submarines do, and do not pose the same degree of concern to American Naval officials. [*They should, for they target American cities*]

Analysts say that Moscow's continued investment in attack submarines is in contrast to the quality of many of Russia's land and air forces that frayed in the post-Cold War era.

"In the Russian naval structure, submarines are the crown jewels for naval combat power," said Magnus Nordenman, director of the Atlantic Council's trans-Atlantic security initiative in Washington.

"The U.S. and NATO haven't focused on anti-submarine operations lately, and they've let that skill deteriorate." That has allowed for a rapid Russian resurgence, Western and American officials say, partly in response to what they say is Russia's fear of being hemmed in. *[Europe and America are more hemmed in by Russian, Chinese and North Korean submarines, than they themselves are by western powers. Truly, the hunter has become the hunted]*

"I don't think many people understand the visceral way Russia views NATO and the European Union as an existential threat," said Admiral Ferguson. In Naples, at the headquarters of the United States Navy's European operations, including the Sixth Fleet, commanders for the first time in decades are having to closely monitor Russian submarine movements through the maritime choke points separating Greenland, Iceland and the United Kingdom, the G.I.U.K. Gap, which during the Cold War were crucial to the defense of Europe.

The United States attack submarine Virginia, lead boat of its class, moved up the Clyde en route to the naval base at Faslane, Scotland, last month. That stretch of ocean, hundreds of miles wide, represented the line that Soviet naval forces would have had to cross to reach the Atlantic and to stop United States forces heading across the sea to reinforce America's European allies in time of conflict.

American anti-submarine aircraft were stationed for decades at the Naval Air Station Keflavik in Iceland — in the middle of the gap — but they withdrew in 2006, years after the Cold War. The Navy after that relied on P-3 sub-hunter planes rotating periodically through the base.

Now, the Navy is poised to spend about \$20 million to upgrade hangars and support sites at Keflavik to handle its new, more advanced P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft. That money is part of the Pentagon's new \$3.4 billion European Reassurance Initiative, a quadrupling of funds from last year to deploy heavy weapons, armored vehicles and other equipment to NATO countries in Central and Eastern Europe, to deter Russian aggression.

[It will have the opposite effect. Russia knows that it cannot compete with either the West or with China if another arms race is to take place. This is why a war between East and West will happen sooner rather than later. That war is in prophecy, and what the Bible says, is written in stone]

Navy officials express concern that more Russian submarine patrols will push out beyond the Atlantic into the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. Russia has one Mediterranean port now, in Tartus, Syria, but Navy officials here say Moscow wants to establish others, perhaps in Cyprus, Egypt or even Libya.

"If you have a Russian nuclear attack submarine wandering around the Med, you want to track it," said Dmitry Gorenburg, a Russian military specialist at the Center for Naval Analyses in Washington. *[And what good is that going to do in a sudden attack. And how many can you track given that hundreds of Russian, Chinese and North Korean submarines are prowling their 'enemies' waters?]*

This month, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency christened a 132-foot prototype drone sea craft packed with sensors, the Sea Hunter, which is made with the intention of hunting autonomously for submarines and mines for up to three months at a time. *[You cannot hunt them in peace time, and in a war is too late, because the next war will be one of surprise and lightning speed]*

The allies are also holding half a dozen anti-submarine exercises this year, including a large drill scheduled later this spring called Dynamic Mongoose in the North Sea. The exercise is to include warships and submarines of from Britain, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland and the United States.

"We are not quite back in a Cold War," said James G. Stavridis, a retired admiral and the former supreme allied commander of NATO, who is now dean of the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. "But I sure can see one from where we are standing." (Eric Schmitt, *NY Times*, April 20, 2016) *[An informed observer can see a hot war too]*

Putin boosts nuclear arsenal as US warns of return to Cold War

Vladimir Putin said Russia must defend itself if threatened after Moscow announced plans to boost its nuclear arsenal and the US warned against a return to a "Cold War status".

The declaration from the President came as Russia reacted with fury to reports the US is planning to bulk up military deployments in Eastern Europe, adding to tensions between Russia and the West over Ukraine. Mr Putin said yesterday that NATO — which has accused Russia of backing rebels in eastern Ukraine with weapons and its own troops, a claim Moscow denies — was "coming to our borders".

"If someone puts some of our territories under threat, that means we will have to direct our armed forces and modern strike power at those territories, from where the threat emanates," he said at a meeting with his Finnish

counterpart, Sauli Niinistö. "As soon as some threat comes from an adjoining state, Russia must react appropriately and carry out its defence policy in such a way as to neutralise a threat against it."

Relations between Moscow and the West have plunged to their lowest point since the Cold War over conflict in Ukraine, and Mr Putin once again raised the spectre of the conflict by announcing plans to boost Russia's nuclear arsenal by the end of the year. "This year, the size of our nuclear forces will increase by over 40 new intercontinental ballistic missiles that will be able to overcome any, even the most technologically advanced, missile defence systems," he said at the opening of an exhibition of military hardware outside Moscow. The US slammed the announcement as a retrograde move reminiscent of the Cold War.

"We've had enormous co-operation from the 1990s forward with respect to the destruction of nuclear weapons that were in former territories of the Soviet Union. And nobody wants to see us step backwards," said US Secretary of State John Kerry.

"Nobody should hear that kind of announcement from the leader of a powerful country and not be concerned about what the implications are." He added that "nobody wants to — I think — go back to a kind of Cold War status". Russia has an estimated 7500 nuclear warheads, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, of which about 1780 are deployed on missiles or at military bases. The US has 7300 warheads, of which 2080 are deployed.

NATO head Jens Stoltenberg said Mr Putin's remarks were part of a pattern of aggressive behaviour by Moscow. "This nuclear sabre-rattling by Russia is unjustified, destabilising and it is dangerous," Mr Stoltenberg said. . (AFP, June 18, 2015)

Did you notice the difference on how the two sides see the evolving conflict between them?

Russian leaders, like their Chinese counterparts, talk of real war, while western leaders talk of Cold War. This is not the beginning of another Cold War; this is preparation for a hot war, the end-time Great Tribulation.

God help us, because our leaders seem to be blind to the catastrophe that is stalking western world. And there is nothing that can be done to stop that now, except turn to God in heartfelt repentance, and genuine prayer and worship. But will they turn to the true God now after giving themselves and their nations to the false god?!

Triumph Of The Ungodly Will Be Short Lived

What do you tell the people you've warned for decades that their life style will bring catastrophe upon themselves, upon the nation, and upon the world, who instead of taking note and repenting, made it worse by calling 'love' what God calls and 'abomination', and demanding equality between the God given matrimonial union, and Satan's homosexual union?

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

So confronting and vile was the sin of Sodom and Gomorrah that God came down from heaven to see it for Himself.

Gen 18:20 And the LORD said, "Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because

Gen 18:21 their sin is very grave, I will go down now and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry against it that has come to Me; and if not, I will know."

When God saw that the outcry against those cities was true, and their sin was very grave indeed, this is what He did.

Gen 19:24 Then the LORD rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, from the LORD

Gen 19:25 out of the heavens. So He overthrew those cities, all the plain, all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground.

Gen 19:27 And Abraham went early in the morning to the place where he had stood before the LORD.

Gen 19:28 Then he looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the plain; and he saw, and behold, the smoke of the land which went up like the smoke of a furnace.

The story of Sodom and Gomorrah has been inscribed in both the Old and the New Testaments as an example for us.

2Pe 2:4 For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment;
2Pe 2:5 and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly;
2Pe 2:6 and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, **making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly;**

The ungodly have risen again, now in the end time, in the nations that have enjoyed God's blessings more than any other. They are demanding 'marriage equality' in the name of 'human rights' as if humans have created marriage.

The Governments of the United States of America, Great Britain, France and Canada, were the first to legislate for homosexual 'marriage' in the fanfare of the whole world, then the Irish voted for it by a wide margin. Now the Australians followed suit by a similar margin.

The Australian Prime Minister went before the nation and urged them to vote for homosexual 'marriage', because 'the sky did not fall upon the nations that approved of it before.'

Mr Prime Minister, the sky did not fall, but it will, as sure as day follows night. And when it does, the sky won't fall just on the countries that have gone after Satan, but on the whole world.

This is God's answer to your claim.

Ecc 8:11 Because the sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.

Ecc 8:12 Though a sinner does evil a hundred times, and his days are prolonged, yet I surely know that it will be well with those who fear God, who fear before Him.

Ecc 8:13 But it will not be well with the wicked; nor will he prolong his days, which are as a shadow, because he does not fear before God.

And this:

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?

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

Amo 3:8 A lion has roared! Who will not fear? The Lord GOD has spoken! Who can but prophesy?

Why do you think the Lord God is revealing His secret to His servants the prophets first? What are they supposed to do with it? Obviously to warn people about it.

What have your prophets told you about God's intention, Sir?

Oh, they haven't! And do you know why? Because at this time in history, only two people speak for God, and all Churches take a contrary position to them. They hate the messengers (and eventually kill them), instead of taking note of their message

Members of the Roman Catholic Church cannot tell people that the end is near, because for them Rome is an eternal city. All mainstream Churches hold similar views, because they are all daughters of the Catholic Church, or as the Bible puts it, daughters of the 'Mother of Harlots' (Rev 17:5).

And something else: do you know why Cardinal Pell, Tony Abbot, Rupert Murdoch and the people who work for him vehemently deny climate change and global warming even though the planet is being ravaged by it? Rome being eternal, nothing that would prove otherwise can be accepted.

There is a heavy price for willing ignorance about God and the Bible, through which God communicates with the world. Like Jesus Christ and His Apostles, we stand for God, for His Laws and His Commandments, and for the moral standards that have kept this world alive until now.

We have paid a heavy price for our work, just as Scriptures have foretold.

Psa 69:9 Zeal for Your house has eaten me up, And the reproaches of those who reproach You have fallen on Me.

God did not put man on this earth to debauch himself and turn against his Creator. He gave him the chance to elevate himself to a higher plane of existence and live forever in His eternal Kingdom. But men have decided that they would rather wallow in the cesspool of 'human rights' for a few fleeting moments, than endure the chastening of the Lord that leads to eternal life.

The 'wise' of this world want to create a godless society in which everything goes, a society with no standards and no morals in which carnal impulses have free reign and determine human mores.

This came as no surprise to our heavenly Father, because from the beginning of the world human beings have always gone from bad to worse when left to their own devices. The surprise comes from the fact that men willingly turn away from the path of eternal life and chose eternal death.

Apostle Paul understood that as this creation reaches its conclusion, humanity will be dominated by the ungodly.

1Ti 4:1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to
deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,

1Ti 4:2 speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, . . .

2Ti 3:2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to
parents, unthankful,

2Ti 3:3 unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of

2Ti 3:4 good, 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 *[and men, which was unthinkable in his time]* 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,

2Ti 3:11 love, perseverance, 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**

2Ti 3:14 **deceived.** 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.

The Bible is full of warnings of dire consequences for human beings if they do not bring under control their carnal impulses for the saving of the soul. Only by doing that can they be transformed into children of God.

1Jn 3:1 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!
Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

1Jn 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know
that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

1Jn 3:3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

What an extraordinary potential for human beings: to become children of God just like Jesus Christ. Yet instead of striving to achieve their potential, they did everything in their power to destroy it. Should God be blamed then if He unleashes a Great Tribulation upon this world that will destroy humanity and save only a few 'elect'?

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

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

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

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

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

Only for the elect's sake will those days be shortened, not for a world that has gone wayward.

Is it worth sacrificing everything for a few flitting pleasures of this world when in God's presence there are pleasures forever more?

Psa 16:8 I have set the LORD always before me; Because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved.

Psa 16:9 Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices; My flesh also will rest in hope.

Psa 16:10 For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.

Psa 16:11 **You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**

When people make a decision to turn around and take the narrow and straight path, all their past is wiped out. Although this is a life-long struggle, punctuated by trials and tribulations, it also comes with indescribable innermost glowing satisfaction. Consider what Apostle John said about sin.

1Jn 3:6 Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him.

1Jn 3:7 **Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous.**

1Jn 3:8 He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

1Jn 3:9 Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.

Does this mean that from the moment one repents, is baptised, and receives the Holy Spirit, he will never sin again? Happy are those who never sin, but chances are that they are deceiving themselves. This is what the same Apostle wrote a couple of chapters earlier.

1Jn 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our

1Jn 1:9 sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1Jn 1:10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

Now what sins was Apostle John talking about here, the ones we have made before repentance, or after repentance? It has to be the ones we commit after repentance, because the ones before it were washed out at baptism. Apostle John said something else hard to explain that has surprised many people.

1Jn 5:16 If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin which does not lead to death, he will ask, and He will give him life for those who commit sin not leading to death. There is sin leading to death.

1Jn 5:17 I do not say that he should pray about that. **All unrighteousness is sin, and there is sin not leading to death.**

What sin leads to death that cannot be repented of? Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit! Idolatry comes close to it. And what sins do not lead to death? Sins that can be repented of!

All sins lead to death if they are not repented of. But if someone slips and commits a sin, then feels remorseful about it, that sin does not lead you to death if you repent of it and make a commitment not to do it again. And if you slip again, remember, we have an Advocate with God who speaks for us, as long as you regret of it and wish you had not done it.

1Jn 2:1 My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself

1Jn 2:2 is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also **for the whole world.**

1Jn 2:3 **Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.**

1Jn 2:4 He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not

1Jn 2:5 in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know

1Jn 2:6 that we are in Him. He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

Now consider what Apostle Paul wrote in the epistle to the Hebrews.

Heb 12:1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

Heb 12:2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

We said that Apostle Paul wrote that in his epistle to the Hebrews, even though that book has no listed author. The writing style and several hints in the book clearly indicate that he was its author. But whoever he was, the author admitted weakness in the face of sin. It snared him, he said. That must have occurred a long time in the past when he repented, was baptised, and received the Holy Spirit. How do we know that? Theologically speaking, that is one of the most complex books of the Bible. That book could not have been written by a novice, but by one who was well versed in the Christian doctrine.

That book was written for the Jews, or the Hebrews, but we are yet to find one who has read it, let alone understood it. After two thousand years of Christianity, the Jews still seem to be unaware that a whole book in the New Testament was written specifically for them. Any wonder that they still have no knowledge of the Holy Spirit; that only through repentance, baptism and laying on of hands by one who has the Holy Spirit can He be passed on to other people.

What we want to point out here is that when one repents and accepts the tenets of Christianity, he is still a human being made up of flesh and blood, and as such still prone to fall to temptations.

Gal 5:16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

Gal 5:17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.

Gal 5:18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

Rom 7:7 What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, "You Shall Not Covet."

Rom 7:8 But sin, taking opportunity by the commandment, produced in me all manner of evil desire. For apart from the law sin was dead.

Rom 7:9 I was alive once without the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died.

Rom 7:10 And the commandment, which was to bring life, I found to bring death.

Rom 7:11 For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it killed me.

Rom 7:12 Therefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good.

Rom 7:13 Has then what is good become death to me? Certainly not! But sin, that it might appear sin, was producing death in me through what is good, so that sin through the commandment might become exceedingly sinful.

Rom 7:14 For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin.

Rom 7:15 For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice;

Rom 7:16 but what I hate, that I do. If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that it

Rom 7:17 is good. But now, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.

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

Rom 7:19 For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice.

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

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

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

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

Rom 7:24 O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?

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

Heb 8:1 Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a Minister of the

Heb 8:2 sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man.

Heb 10:23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is

Heb 10:24 faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,

Heb 10:25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

Heb 10:26 **For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation**

Heb 10:27 of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries.

Heb 10:28 Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses.

Heb 10:29 Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?

Heb 10:30 For we know Him who said, "Vengeance Is Mine, I Will Repay," Says The Lord. And Again, "The Lord Will Judge His People."

Heb 10:31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Heb 10:35 Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward.

Homosexual people say they have been born like that and cannot change. Well maybe, but so have heterosexual people. They too have to contend with temptations and carnal impulses, yet many decide to remain celibate and control their behaviour, especially so if they have the Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ Himself implied that there is hope for homosexuals.

Mat 11:20 Then He began to rebuke the cities in which most of His mighty works had been done, because they did not repent:

Mat 11:21 "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.

Mat 11:22 But I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment than for

Mat 11:23 you. And you, Capernaum, who are exalted to heaven, will be brought down to Hades; for if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until

Mat 11:24 this day. But I say to you that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment than for you."

This presumes that in the resurrection, when shown their deeds and consequences, they would say, if only we had known these things we would not have done what we did. They did not have a preacher to cry aloud their sins and warn them of the wrath of God. Well, they know now! They know, because some of them had sent us threatening legal letters, and hacked our web site.

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

The people of Sodom were taken by surprise by brimstone from heaven that killed them.

Now where do today's sinners stand in relation to God given that His Scriptures are clear and available for all to see, and that one has 'cried aloud' their sins and sent the message of God's wrath upon the world to every nation in the world, yet those who have done so – God's Witnesses – are hated by every human being that dwells on the earth (Rev 11:3-12).

Prophecy at work before your eyes. Let anyone prove that wrong.

What Preachers Should Never Do

A couple of years ago, we were invited to a special meeting of a Baptist Church that had a visiting family of missionaries from the USA. They wanted to increase their membership for the occasion, so we obliged.

People who invited us knew that we were Christians with different beliefs, but they regarded us as just another Christian denomination. They never questioned us about it, and we never volunteered information. We only

explain or answer questions to people who ask us about it. Occasionally, we hand out magazines or leaflets to those who are interested, and leave it at that.

We've never been to that Church before, and were not planning to go there again. However, two weeks later we decided on the spur of the moment to give them another visit.

As it happened, one of their deacons whom we knew and invited us to their Church in the first place, delivered the main sermon of the day. A few minutes after he started speaking, my partner turned to me and said, "It sounds very much like what you are preaching."

I said, "It is. I gave him a couple of magazines when we were here two weeks ago".

"Oh", she said, and turned back.

I felt sorry for the fellow. He must have cursed us in his thoughts for showing up in his Church unannounced. He did not expect us to be in the audience, but having committed himself to deliver the sermon, he could not pull back. He did his best to appear genuine, lifting his head occasionally and rolling up his eyes as if he was gathering his thoughts and speaking from inspiration, when in fact most of the time he was just reading.

His fellow Church people may have been impressed by his spiritual awakening, and wondered how he got it in such a short time, but for us it was a different story. Had he acknowledged that he got his inspiration, or part of it, from the writings of Mr Sbarcea, who happens to be with us again today, he would have lost nothing, and gained credit for keeping himself informed about goings on in the wider world. It would have given us the chance to congratulate him, and perhaps give him more magazines if he wanted, but he said nothing, and we said nothing. We've never been to that Church again, and they never invited us again either.

We have known for a long time that people plagiarised us, and we discussed some of these cases in our magazines. The chief offenders were the very people who expelled me from their Church four decades earlier. They have a problem now in that their followers can read what we preach and probably ask questions about their lies and half-truths. They are treading a fine line, trying to reconcile their preaching with our writings, without altering the main doctrines of their Churches such as the Old Testament tithing principle which none of the Apostles of Jesus Christ applied in their Churches, and the dietary laws which have become doctrines of demons in the New Testament.

In the last couple of years, we received a larger number of emails and letters than usual, most of them from people of the former Worldwide Church of God and the Churches that have sprung up from its collapse.

Whether they knew of each other or not we do not know, but most had a few things in common. They all contained lists of publications; none told us what they wanted us to do with them; none addressed us by name; none said anything about this work or *The Christian Herald*; none apologised for what they did to me when we parted company; and none said anything about returning to me the value of the things they robbed me of. They just threw their lists on our lap so to speak, and run like brutes.

Is that the behaviour of civilised people, or uncouth creatures who cannot put up with the burden of their stained conscience, seeking help from the man they castigated forty years earlier, without having the decency of an apology and courage to say anything?

We would need years, perhaps decades, to read and assess all the publications on the lists they sent us, as if we had nothing better to do with our time. It takes us weeks and months to do the necessary research and work for our publications, without taking upon us other people's burdens who cannot do their own work.

However, without the Holy Spirit they could spend a life time searching the Bible and the world, and never come to the knowledge of the truth, as the Apostles of Jesus Christ pointed out.

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

2Ti 3:3 to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal,

2Ti 3:4 despisers of good, 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! For of this sort

2Ti 3:6 are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins,

2Ti 3:7 led away by various lusts, **always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.**

One of the letters was different, in that the man addressed me personally, chastening me for not having contacting them for some time. He did not tell me who he was, and what he meant by not contacting them.

He seemed to think that I automatically knew who he was, that he probably came from the stables of the former Worldwide Church of God. They fail to understand that this work has left them behind long ago, that we now operate on a worldwide platform.

This work started as an attempt to expose the false preaching of the Worldwide Church of God, but before we knew it we found ourselves dealing with more people outside that Church than inside it. Without us realising it,

God turned this work into one of witnessing His Gospel of the Kingdom to the whole world as a witness to all the nations.

In our last year's edition (*TCH* 32), we reported how people from 195 nations were frequenting our web site, the same number as were members of the United Nations. God gave us a signal that we had accomplished our mission. But there seem to be a few more nations out there in the world that are not members of the UN, for at the last count people from 206 nations had visited our web site. At that number we stopped counting and put our charts aside. If there are any more nations out there, the Holy Spirit will guide them to us.

God has witnesses now in every nation that the religions of this world are way off the mark, including those which call themselves Christian.

Jesus Christ told His disciples that they were the salt of the earth, and that if they lose their flavour they are good for nothing but to be cast out and be trampled under feet. The main message of this parable being that without His disciples, the world itself is good for nothing but to vanish from existence. This is the precarious condition in which this world finds itself at present. The Great Tribulation that could wipe the life of this planet knocks at the door. If the disciples are still in the world and in full flavour, why did Jesus Christ say that before He returns to this earth, Elijah will come first and restore "all things"?

Ever since we started publishing *The Christian Herald*, we have not taken anything from other Churches, but strictly only from the Bible. Yet our Gospel is strange to every Church and individual that bears the name 'Christian', even though they all claim to follow the Bible. No one cares that the doctrines they believe and preach, and the Holy Days they observe, are not biblical and not Christian.

If we had done this work and been paid for it, as every Church and preacher request of their members, we would be no different. But God had decreed that His end time work must be done by poor people that are not encumbered by false Church doctrines, whose guidance must be the Word of God – the Bible – and the Holy Spirit, and nothing else.

Hypocrites who preach falsehoods, like those of the former Worldwide Church of God, have done everything in their power to destroy or derail this work, but have not succeeded. Now we are ready to meet our destiny. Extraordinary coincidences in the world, tell us that this world is about to meet its destiny too.

The letter of the man who took me to task for not having contacted them for some time, also contained a list of publications. Like the others, he did not say what he wanted us to do with them. But looking at his list, the last publication drew my attention. It was about how to maintain a good health.

Now knowing that they associate good health with keeping the Old Testament dietary laws, I went to his web site and clicked on that title. Sure enough, there he was, behind a lectern, smiling, joking with his audience, and telling them how lucky they were that they eat only what is approved in the Bible. He said nothing about these Scriptures.

1Ti 4:1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to

1Ti 4:2 deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with

1Ti 4:3 a hot iron, forbidding to marry [*people of another race*], and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.

1Ti 4:4 For **every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received**

1Ti 4:5 **with thanksgiving**; for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

1Ti 4:6 If you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine which you have carefully followed.

1Co 10:25 **Eat whatever is sold in the meat market**, asking no questions for conscience' sake;

1Co 10:26 for "The Earth Is The Lord's, And All Its Fullness."

1Co 10:27 If any of those who do not believe invites you to dinner, and you desire to go, **eat whatever is set before you**, asking no question for conscience' sake.

Five years ago, I had a kidney stone operation. Before they scheduled me for the operation, they assessed me and asked about twenty questions about what other diseases I may have.

I ticked 'no' to all except the one about kidneys. When the Doctor read that page he looked at me and said, you have no high blood pressure, no diabetes, none of these diseases listed here?

'No; not that I am aware of'.

How old are you? I said, 69. And you never smoked? No! Any wonder, you look 20 years younger. Oh, thank you. Wait here, he said, I have to go and speak with my superior. He came back smiling, and approved the operation.

Now why am I telling you this? Because for four decades, ever since I parted company with the Worldwide Church of God, I have eaten pork, rabbit, prawns, lobster, everything that was ever set before me. Sometimes I deliberately chose meals that were forbidden by the Old Testament, particularly so when I had to select from a smorgasbord.

I did not know that I was considered a healthy person for my age. On the contrary, I thought of myself as a sick person because kidney stones could be very painful sometimes. But these kinds of operations are routinely matter of course for surgeons these days.

If the meals I had been eating were as bad for health as those misguided people make it, I would have died long ago. Yet five years after that operation, my health is hardly any different and still holding very well.

I drink one or two cups of coffee a day, I have a glass of wine or beer with my dinner, occasionally two glasses. Plenty of fruits; and vegetable salad with virgin olive oil and cider vinegar are seldom missing from my table. I drink a glass or two of pure juice a day, and never a soft drink, except when I have an occasional hamburger, which if it comes with a coke, as they

often do, I drink that. Cheese is also often part of my meals. The main thing is balance, with emphasis on healthy natural foods. These words of Jesus Christ often come into my mind at my table.

Mar 16:15 "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is

Mar 16:16 baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

Mar 16:17 And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they

Mar 16:18 will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; **and if they drink [or eat] anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them;** they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

Mar 16:19 So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and

Mar 16:20 sat down at the right hand of God. And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs.

If you observe the Old Testament dietary laws, which have become 'doctrines of demons' in the New Testament (as that represents rebellion against Jesus Christ and the meaning of His sacrifice), you cannot be a Christian. The Holy Spirit will never dwell in a person in which there are demons. As Jesus Christ said, you cannot serve two masters.

Mat 6:24 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

Or as James put it:

Jas 3:11 Does a spring send forth fresh *water* and bitter from the same opening? Can a fig tree, my brethren,

Jas 3:12 bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Thus no spring yields both salt water and fresh.

Apostle Paul had his own saying on this matter.

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

Rom 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

Rom 8:3 For what the law [*of diets and animal sacrifices*] could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh,

Rom 8:4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but

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

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

Rom 8:7 **Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of**

Rom 8:8 **God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God**

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

If you do not have the Spirit of Christ, you will never know God and His truth. You cannot receive the Holy Spirit through food, but through the mind and the soul, if you repent of your sins and let the mind of God be in you as it was in Christ Jesus.

Php 2:5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God,

Php 2:6 did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation,

Php 2:7 taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.

Php 1:12 But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned

Php 1:13 out for the furtherance of the gospel, so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard,

Php 1:14 and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ; and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

Php 1:15 **Some indeed preach Christ even from envy and strife, and some also from**

Php 1:16 **goodwill: The former preach Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my chains;**

Php 1:17 but the latter out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel.

Php 3:18 **For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping,**

Php 3:19 **that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame—who set their mind on earthly**

Php 3:20 **things.** For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the

Php 3:21 Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

Amen!

How Samaria Became The Mighty Roman Empire

When I grew up in communist Romania, people used to say privately: “Do you know what the definition of a communist historian is?” The answer: “One who predicts the past!”

I told this joke to a group of teachers when I was studying history at Sydney University. They thought it was funny and laughed heartedly.

Little did I know then, and little did they know, that western historians were predicting the past as much as their communist counterparts. The difference being that while communist historians see history in terms of ideological class struggle, western historians see it in evolutionary terms. They both twist history to fit their particular ideologies, though they would never accept this fact.

This prefabrication of history has had dire consequences for the world which are only now becoming visible. Instead of leading the world towards a bright future, it has brought it to the edge of the abyss.

The spectre of nuclear annihilation has never hanged more menacingly over the world.

Now how did it ever come to this? It came when both eastern and western historians discarded the most reliable historical book - the Bible - which provided a moral compass and guidance for a civilised society. The consequence of this departure from reason, freed scientists from any inhibitions, who otherwise gave us extraordinary technological achievements, to declare emphatically that life has no meaning, no Creator, we are alone and travelling aimlessly through a vast, cold and inhospitable Universe.

Any morality that came from a non-existent God had to be replaced with a new human morality that caters for all human needs and desires. Four years ago, we wrote this in *The Christian Herald* No 29:

“The great and dreadful day of the Lord’ did not come at the time of John the Baptist, but now the time is ripe for it. Jesus Christ said that “because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold”. Well, lawlessness abounds now more than ever, and there is hardly any love in families, let alone in the wider world. The generation gap has never been bigger, the elders are marginalized and their voice hardly ever heeded and appreciated. And since the ‘wise’ of this world keep telling us that this world has no God, there is even less love between God and His creation. Add to that the recent comments in a publication like *The Sydney Morning Herald* (August 28, 2013) and you can see why humanity has little chance of being redeemed from the current worldwide morass.

“Prostitution, Polygamy, Incest and Bestiality. I would argue that all of them should be legal.”

They don’t mention homosexuality anymore; this is widely accepted and passé as an issue now; what they advocate now are four new abominations.

Unbelievably, only three weeks later, Australia’s public television network, the ABC, showed graphic bestiality images in prime time television: first supposedly as ‘satire’ (Gruen Planet, Sep. 11), then as ‘critique’ of the satire (Media Watch, Sep.16). The Media Watch reporter made the point that after the first airing of those sickening images the ABC received only one complaint. Not from a church, not from an institution, nor from a Member of Parliament, but from a lone individual. Was it because the public has become so desensitized by the plunge into this unbelievable filth, or because few people are watching this highly criticized network?

Remember how it all began some four decades ago? They wanted ‘basic rights’ for homosexuals. Then they changed that to ‘human rights’; then ‘equal rights’, ‘marriage rights’, and finally ‘brotherly love’; to which Barack Obama dutifully obliged from the pulpit of the White House in the hearing of the whole world. He was quickly followed by Britain’s Prime Minister, Cameroun, and the French President, Hollande. Now they run the risk of being overtaken by others with even more ‘progressive’ views. So let’s hear it, Messrs Obama, Cameroun and Hollande. Those new abominations need their human rights, equal rights, brotherly love and marriage rights too. After all, Satan got them for homosexuals, so why shouldn’t he get them for his new protégées.

Now those who think that God will stand by and let Satan and his cronies plunge this world into such unspeakable depths of depravity without consequences have something coming their way. As on cue, at the time and place that God’s prophecies have foretold thousands of years ago, the end-time Great

Tribulation is hanging over the world, yet few people are aware of it. Those who ought to cry aloud the sins of their people and warn them of the catastrophe that is stalking them, have not only fallen silent, but mounted a massive campaign against us, haunting us for forty years, desperately trying to prevent the Gospel of the Kingdom that Jesus Christ brought to this world from being preached as a witness to all nations as it must be done at this particular time in history.

They have not succeeded, and that Gospel is now being read in all corners of the earth – a sure sign that the end of this age, the Great Tribulation, and the return of our Lord Jesus Christ, are now on the cards. So turn to God friends, turn to Him while He may be found, for the time is shorter than you think.” (*The Christian Herald* No 29, page 8)

It is unbelievable that a mass circulation newspaper could incite “Prostitution, Polygamy, Incest and Bestiality” and get away with it. To this day, *SMH* has remained the mouthpiece of this kind of left wing aberrant (im)morality.

We are going to some ancient sources now to see if we can reverse modern history’s wayward tendencies and corroborate the Romans’ claim that they were descendants of the Samaritans.

The Roman author Virgil, wrote a whole epic on this topic, continuing Homer’s story of the Trojan War. Here is a short quote from Wikipedia.

Aeneas flees burning Troy, Federico Barocci, 1598. Galleria Borghese, Rome.

The national epic of mythical Rome, the *Aeneid* of Virgil, tells the story of how Trojan prince Aeneas came to Italy. The *Aeneid* was written under Augustus, who claimed ancestry through Julius Caesar from the hero and his mother Venus. According to the *Aeneid*, the survivors from the fallen city of Troy banded together under Aeneas and underwent a series of adventures around the Mediterranean Sea, including a stop at newly founded Carthage under the rule of Queen Dido, eventually reaching the Italian coast. The Trojans were thought to have landed in an area between modern Anzio and Fiumicino, southwest of Rome, probably at Laurentum or, in other versions, at Lavinium, a place named for Lavinia, the daughter of King Latinus whom Aeneas married. This started a series of armed conflicts with Turnus over the marriage of Lavinia.^[3] Before the arrival of Aeneas, Turnus was betrothed to Lavinia, who then married Aeneas, starting the war.^[3] Aeneas won the war and killed Turnus.^[3] The Trojans won the right to stay and to assimilate with the local peoples. The young son of Aeneas Ascanius, also known as Iulus, went on to found Alba Longa and the line of Alban kings who filled the chronological gap between the Trojan saga and the traditional founding of Rome in the 8th century BC.

Toward the end of this line, King Procas was the father of Numitor and Amulius. At Procas' death, Numitor became king of Alba Longa, but Amulius captured him and sent him to prison; he also forced Numitor's daughter Rhea Silvia to become a virgin priestess among the Vestals. For many years, Amulius was the king. The tortuous nature of the chronology is indicated by Rhea Silvia's ordination among the Vestals, whose order was traditionally said to have been founded by Romulus's successor Numa Pompilius.

This story however, did not sit well with evolutionists, who say that the Europeans came from Africa, not from the Middle East as the Bible says. Therefore, anything to do with the Bible, had to be expunged from the history books. And everything that corroborated biblical prophecies was declared to be myth and legend. Thus, Homer’s writings are legend; Virgil’s writings are legend, and much of the Greek and Roman histories are myths and legends.

But there is a major problem with that: those myths and legends fit very well into biblical prophecies. The four ‘beasts’ of Daniel’s prophecies are the Empire of Babylon, Media/Persia, Alexander the Great Empire, and the Roman Empire. The first three were clearly identified in Daniel’s visions, but the fourth was not. That was to remain a mystery to the very end of time. As far as we know, we were the first to identify that ‘beast’.

Now because Daniel’s prophecies corroborate historical events, which contemporary historians could not deny, they concluded that they were written after the events, not five hundred years earlier when

Daniel the prophet lived. In so doing, they have blinded themselves and humanity to a great danger, and allowed the Roman Catholic Church to palm the real myth that 'Rome is an eternal city'.

We see this amply manifested in Catholic writings, such as those of Cardinal Pell who never tires denouncing the scientists who insist that global warming is real and poses catastrophic dangers to humanity. Global warming is a precursor to the Great Tribulation, which heralds the end of this world. But an end to this world is anathema to the Catholic Church, for that would mean that Rome is not eternal, and expose Catholic clergy as liars and deceivers. They are trying to do to today's scientists what they had done to medieval scientists, such as Galileo Galilei, whom they forced to deny, under penalty of death, that the earth is moving around the Sun. That would make the Sun the centre of the Universe, and not the earth as they had been preaching hitherto. When he left their room, Galileo is reported to have stuck his head back and said, "E pur si move", or something like that, meaning, "And still [*the earth*] is moving".

It is hard to imagine that Catholic clergy would prevail against today's scientists, and force them to deny global warming. And yet this is exactly what they are trying to do. In effect, they are trying to stop history from following its course.

Far from being eternal, Rome is on its last days, as is the whole of humanity in fact.

For a long time, Rome was a mighty military machine and civilising force. But a massive change occurred in the fifth and sixth centuries A.D, under the onslaught of the "barbarians". We put this word in inverted commas, because far from being 'barbarians', most of those peoples were in fact people of the same stock as the Tribes of Israel, only less civilised. They were not so much interested in destroying Rome, as in joining it.

However, no longer a great military power, Rome took a new identity, becoming a mighty religious Empire that we now call the Roman Catholic Church. Roman emperors gave way to the one who hitherto had been second to them – Pontifex Maximus, otherwise known as 'the Pontiff'.

Historians speak of the Roman Empire as the greatest and most civilising force of the ancient world, and so it was, however its true identity remained a mystery to our time. History of the world cannot be separated from the history of Israel. By Israel we mean all Twelve Tribes, not just the nation that now bears that name in the Middle East, which more correctly should be called Judah.

It should be noted that Israel went into Egypt as Twelve Tribes, and came out as Thirteen Tribes. Joseph's two children, born to him in Egypt of a High Priest's daughter, became two tribes instead of one. This explains why even today Britain and the USA are doing much for Egypt, even though they may not be aware of their ancient links.

About five centuries after their exodus from Egypt, Israel split into two nations: Judah and Samaria. Judah ended up with Three Tribes, and Samaria with Ten.

About the year 721 B.C., Samaria was conquered and taken captive by the Assyrians. Nothing was heard of that nation anymore, as if it had disappeared from the earth. Even today, historians speak of the 'Lost Ten Tribes of Israel'. Well, they may have vanished from history, but not from the world. As we saw, ancient Romans believed that they were Samaritans. We are going to the Bible now to see if we can identify Samaria in Daniel's prophecies.

Daniel lived in the sixth century B.C. His prophecies were written between the years 600 B.C. and 530 B.C. At that time, Samaria was no longer in the Middle East. Only Judah was still there. Judah in turn, fell captive to the Babylonians about the year 604 B.C. We say 'about' because both conquests lasted a few years. Samaria's from about 721 to 717, and Judah's from about 607 to 604.

Interestingly, if the Assyrians were still in the Middle East, the Babylonians would have had to cross them and Samaria in order to reach Judah. But the Babylonians encountered no such resistance, indicating that they were no longer in the Middle East. They weren't, because shortly after the Assyrians conquered Samaria, they migrated together to the mostly empty but fertile fields of Europe.

Here now are the prophecies of Daniel. Of necessity, these are fairly long quotations, but we have no choice if we are to get to the bottom of this problem.

Dan 1:1 In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it.

Dan 1:2 And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with some of the articles of the house of God, which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god; and he brought the articles into the treasure house of his god.

Dan 1:3 Then the king instructed Ashpenaz, the master of his eunuchs, to bring some of the children of Israel and some of the king's descendants and some of the nobles, young men in whom there was no blemish, but good-looking, gifted in all wisdom, possessing knowledge and quick to understand, who had ability to serve in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the language and literature of the Chaldeans.

Dan 1:6 Now from among those of the sons of Judah were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah.

Dan 1:17 As for these four young men, God gave them knowledge and skill in all literature and wisdom; and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.

Dan 1:18 Now at the end of the days, when the king had said that they should be brought in, the chief of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar.

Dan 1:19 Then the king interviewed them, and among them all none was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah; therefore they served before the king.

Dan 1:20 And in all matters of wisdom and understanding about which the king examined them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers who were in all his realm.

Dan 1:21 Thus Daniel continued until the first year of King Cyrus. *[That is, he continued until Babylon fell to Media and Persia, King Cyrus being a Media/Persian King]*

Now we go to chapter 7 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. Daniel spoke, saying,

Dan 7:2 "I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the Great Sea. And four great beasts came up from the sea, each different from the other. The first

Dan 7:4 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 it. "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.

[After moving to Europe, Assyria settled in the area of Germany, and the Tribes of Samaria spread out all over Europe. Some settled in Italy and became the fourth 'beast' of Daniel's prophecies, the mighty Roman Empire. When Aeneas came to Italy with his entourage, he did not go to strangers, but to related people to spoke the Latin language.

All Empires of Europe that had arisen down through history are related to ancient Israel. When the Roman Empire spread over Europe, they were conquering mostly their own kin. But they could never take over the Germans, the Assyrians, who had brought them to Europe]

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.

[The little horn that arose in the midst of the ten horns is the Roman High Priest, Pontifex Maximus, who became the Pope and 'Holy Father' of the Roman Catholic Church later on]

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. *[God the Father on His throne]*

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

Dan 7:11 opened. "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.

[This is the judgment of Pontifex Maximus and of the 'beast' under him, which occur at the end time]

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. *[The dominion of the other 'beasts' ended when the fourth 'beast' arose and grew to world domination]*

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. *[This is Jesus Christ]*

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.

[Daniel was grieved in spirit and body, and his visions troubled him, because he understood that the dreadful fourth 'beast' and its head of 'pompous words' would be his own people of Samaria and its High Priest. But he was not allowed to reveal these facts]

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.

[Without telling him which those kings (or Kingdoms) were, the Angel changed the topic altogether. did not tell Daniel which are those kings, or that the term 'kings' in prophecy often means kingdoms]

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

Dan 7:21 appearance was greater than his fellows. "I was watching; and the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them,

*This is a reflection of the persecution of the Christians by the Roman Catholic Church. The Inquisition, whose victims are estimated to be over thirty million people, fulfilled this prophecy of Jesus Christ: "These things I have spoken to you, that you should not be made to stumble. They will put you out of the synagogues (and churches); yes, **the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service.** And these things they will do to you because they have not known the Father nor Me (Joh 16:1-3)]*

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. *[Any wonder that the Roman Catholic Church would not hear of an end to this world]*

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.

[The three kings that are subdued by the 'pompous horn' are the three tribes of Judah (Judah, Benjamin and Levi) which was conquered by the Romans and spread among the nations. In other words, much of the history of the world was a battle between Samaria and Judah, the Jews being persecuted by their own brothers of Samaria. In the Bible, Ephraim (Great Britain) is regarded as the leading tribe of Samaria. Any wonder that the British have never been particularly friendly to the Jews. Mind you, they have never been quite as hostile as the Prussians (the Assyrians?)]

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.

[Julius Caesar gave the Romans a solar calendar in 46 B.C.. He divided it into twelve months in the manner of the Jewish lunar calendar with which he was familiar. Pope Gregory XIII revised it in 1582.

The words 'intended to change' tells us that the Romans tried to change the time and law of the Jewish calendar, but could not do it. That clash occurred in 325 A.D. when the Romans adopted Christianity as the religion of the Empire. The clash came in regard to the biblical Holy Days, which cannot be set on a solar calendar. The option for the Romans was to either reverse their solar calendar to a lunar one, or discard the Holy Days. Need we say what they chose? More on this later]

Dan 7:26 'But the court shall be seated, And they shall take away his dominion, To consume and
Dan 7:27 destroy it forever. 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.

Daniel chapter 8 speaks of only three beasts, not four as in chapter 7. It leaves out the Babylonians and starts with Media/Persia. It says that the next beast is Greece, but still it leaves out the fourth beast.

Dan 8:1 In the third year of the reign of King Belshazzar a vision appeared to me—to me, Daniel—after the one that appeared to me the first time.
Dan 8:2 I saw in the vision, and it so happened while I was looking, that I was in Shushan, the citadel, which is in the province of Elam; and I saw in the vision that I was by the River Ulai.
Dan 8:3 Then I lifted my eyes and saw, and there, standing beside the river, was a ram which had two horns, and the two horns were high; but one was higher than the other, and the higher one came up last.
Dan 8:4 I saw the ram pushing westward, northward, and southward, so that no animal could withstand him; nor was there any that could deliver from his hand, but he did according to his will and became
Dan 8:5 great. And as I was considering, suddenly a male goat came from the west, across the surface of the whole earth, without touching the ground; and the goat had a notable horn
Dan 8:6 between his eyes. Then he came to the ram that had two horns, which I had seen standing beside the river, and ran at him with furious power.
Dan 8:7 And I saw him confronting the ram; he was moved with rage against him, attacked the ram, and broke his two horns. There was no power in the ram to withstand him, but he cast him down to the ground and trampled him; and there was no one that could deliver the ram from his hand.
Dan 8:8 Therefore the male goat grew very great; but when he became strong, the large horn was broken, and in place of it four notable ones came up toward the four winds of heaven.

[When Alexander the Great died, his Hellenistic Empire was divided into four parts. Out of one of them arose the future head of the Roman Empire – the Pontiff]

Dan 8:9 And out of one of them came a little horn which grew exceedingly great toward the south, toward the east, and toward the Glorious Land.

[Pontifex Maximus and his Roman legions invaded the 'glorious land']

Dan 8:10 And it grew up to the host of heaven; and it cast down some of the host and some of the stars
Dan 8:11 to the ground, and trampled them. He even exalted himself as high as the Prince of the host; and by him the daily sacrifices were taken away, and the place of His sanctuary was cast down.

[The 'Prince of the host' is Jesus Christ. His crucifixion put an end to the animal sacrifices performed in the Jerusalem Temple. That Temple was destroyed by the Roman armies in 70 A.D.]

Dan 8:12 Because of transgression, an army was given over to the horn to oppose the daily sacrifices; and he cast truth down to the ground. He did all this and prospered.

*[What truth did Pontifex Maximus cast down to the ground? That there is no immortality of the soul; no life after death; and no man has ascended to heaven other than the One who came down from heaven - Jesus Christ. See The Christian Herald No 32 for details. He did all this and prospered.
Is there a wealthier institution in the world than the Catholic Church?]*

Dan 8:16 And I heard a man's voice between the banks of the Ulai, who called, and said, "Gabriel, make this man understand the vision."

Dan 8:17 So he came near where I stood, and when he came I was afraid and fell on my face; but he said to me, "Understand, son of man, that the vision refers to the time of the end."

Dan 8:18 Now, as he was speaking with me, I was in a deep sleep with my face to the ground; but he

Dan 8:19 touched me, and stood me upright. And he said, "Look, I am making known to you what shall happen in the latter time of the indignation; for at the appointed time the end shall be. The ram

Dan 8:20 which you saw, having the two horns—they are the kings of Media and Persia. And the

Dan 8:21 male goat is the kingdom of Greece. The large horn that is between its eyes is the first king.

Dan 8:22 As for the broken horn and the four that stood up in its place, four kingdoms shall arise out of that nation, but not with its power.

Dan 8:23 "And in the latter time of their kingdom, When the transgressors have reached their fullness, A king shall arise, Having fierce features, Who understands sinister schemes.

[The western division of Alexander's Empire included southern Italy. It is from this 'kingdom' that Pontifex Maximus arose]

Dan 8:24 His power shall be mighty, but not by his own power; *[Of course not. It is the power of the Devil]*
He shall destroy fearfully, And shall prosper and thrive; He shall destroy the mighty, and also

Dan 8:25 the holy people. "Through his cunning He shall cause deceit to prosper under his rule; And he shall exalt himself in his heart. He shall destroy many in their prosperity. He shall even rise against the Prince of princes; But he shall be broken without human means.

[No power on earth can destroy the Vatican and its supreme King, except Jesus Christ when he returns to this world. Do you see now why the Roman Catholic Church preaches that Rome is an eternal city? It does not want Christ to return, and when He does, it fights Him (See Rev 18 and 19)]

Dan 8:26 "And the vision of the evenings and mornings Which was told is true; Therefore seal up the vision, For it refers to many days in the future."

Dan 8:27 And I, Daniel, fainted and was sick for days; afterward I arose and went about the king's business. I was astonished by the vision, but no one understood it.

[Once again, Daniel fainted and was sick. He understood that the 'beast' that arose from a branch of the Greek Empire was the Roman Empire. However, because the Angel did not reveal its identity, he understood that he could not reveal it either]

Dan 12:1 "At that time Michael shall stand up, The great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; And there shall be a time of trouble, Such as never was since there was a nation, Even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, Everyone who is found written in the book. *[This is the Great Tribulation that Jesus Christ spoke about]*

Dan 12:2 And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, Some to everlasting life,

Dan 12:3 Some to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise shall shine Like the brightness of the firmament, And those who turn many to righteousness Like the stars forever and ever.

Dan 12:4 "But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase."

Dan 12:5 Then I, Daniel, looked; and there stood two others, one on this riverbank and the other on

Dan 12:6 that riverbank. And one said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, "How long shall the fulfillment of these wonders be?"

Dan 12:7 Then I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand to heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever, that it shall be for a time, times, and half a time; and when the power of the holy people has been completely shattered,

Dan 12:8 all these things shall be finished. Although I heard, I did not understand. Then I said, "My lord, what shall be the end of these things?" And he said, "Go your way, Daniel,

Dan 12:9 for **the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.**

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

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

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

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

Amen!

The Catastrophe That Came With The Solar Calendar

The general belief in Christendom is that Christianity received a great boost forward when the Roman Emperor Constantine adopted it as the religion of the Empire in the fourth century A.D.

Nothing could be further from the truth.

The Roman attitude to religion was that people of the Empire could practice their own religion as long as that did not interfere with the Roman religion, and acknowledged the superiority of the Roman gods and religious festivals. The saying, when you are in Rome do as the Romans, known around the world, has more than a kernel of truth in it.

There was however, a group of people who could not compromise their beliefs and customs, and could not do as the Romans when in Rome. They were of course, the Jews, and their cousins, the Christians. This is what happened in 49 A.D.

Act 18:1 After these things Paul departed from Athens and went to Corinth. And he found a certain Jew

Act 18:2 named Aquila, born in Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla (**because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to depart from Rome**); and he came to them.

In the early days of Christianity, the Romans regarded the Christians as just another sect of Judaism, but as time passed they realized that they were dealing with a different and far more powerful and persuasive religion. When they could not deal with it as they did with the Jews, by scattering them out of their country, they tried to do what the Romans have always been good at – assimilating them.

The Christians, however, would have none of it. They would not assimilate or compare their beliefs with any other religion. For them, it was all or nothing. The Romans obliged, but once again they did it their own way. They made Christianity the religion of the Empire, but it was a Christianity unrecognisable by the standards of Jesus Christ and His Apostles.

For true Christians, that was not a step forward, but one that would bring them long term hardship.

Early Christians were observing biblical Holy Days that were based on a lunar calendar. The Romans, however, were observing a solar calendar. God's Holy Days can only be set on a lunar calendar, and that required careful work by Jewish scribes. Here is a quote from the respected work of Arthur Spier: *The Comprehensive Hebrew Calendar* (Feldheim Publishers).

“Since Biblical times the months and years of the Jewish calendar have been established by the cycles of the moon and the sun. The traditional law prescribed that the months shall follow closely the course of the moon, from its *Molad* (birth, conjunction) in the next New Moon. Furthermore, the lunar months must always correspond to the seasons of the year, which are governed by the sun. The month of Nisan with the Passover Festival, for instance, must occur in the Spring and the month of Tishri with the harvest festival of Succoth in Fall.

Thus, the Jewish calendar is LUNI-SOLAR. It is in contrast to our civil calendar, the Gregorian, which is purely solar, and in which the months have completely lost their relation to the moon. But it is also quite different from the Mohammedan calendar, an absolutely lunar system, in which every month follows the moon closely but wanders through all four seasons during the period of 33 years.

Unlike these, which are either altogether solar, or altogether lunar, the Jewish calendar must meet two requirements, both solar and lunar. This accounts for its relatively complicated structure. Since the solar year of about 365 days is approximately 11 days longer than the 12 lunar months, the Jewish calendar is faced with the problem of balancing the solar with the lunar years.” [p. 1]

Up to the time of Julius Caesar, the solar calendar observed by most people of the known world at that time was a haphazard one, inherited that way from the Egyptians, who had set it on the annual inundation of the Nile. Long in their antiquity, the Egyptians had noticed that the Nile was flooding its banks regularly at the same time of the year. They regarded that as a sign from their gods and turned that into an annual solar calendar. They passed that calendar to the Samaritans through Jeroboam, who was familiar with it from his time in Egypt. Samaria, in turn, brought it to Rome. However, as the Roman Republic was heading towards a great empire, they felt the need for a more stable and scientific calendar,

Julius Caesar knew about the lunar calendar of twelve months from the history of cohabitation between Judah and Samaria. So he decided to divide the Roman solar year into twelve months too. He named the months after various gods, one of it being himself. But apparently the gods did not like a human being sitting in their pantheon, and ordered his killing. His calendar however, survived his death and remained in force for more than millennia and a half, until Pope Gregory XIII revised it in 1582.

Some historians have expressed the opinion that Christianity led to the fall of the Roman Empire, and while there may be some truth in that, few people understood that while the Roman Empire as a mighty military force came to an end in the sixth century A.D., a new and far more widespread and powerful spiritual empire took its place: the one we now call the Roman Catholic Church.

It could not be otherwise, because Daniel's prophecies say that the fourth 'beast' and its head of 'pompous words', would last until the end time and the return of Jesus Christ.

The Roman Catholic Church had a new mission: to spread the tenets of its new identity to the far corners of the earth, in accordance to the command of its (presumed) Founder.

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

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

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

Alas, the tenets of the Roman Catholic Church were not based on the true beliefs of Christianity, but were very much against it. After the Council of Nicaea in 325 A.D., in which the Roman authorities officially adopted Christianity as their religion, they forbade everyone in the Empire from Judaizing (having anything to do with the Jews). But the Christians, though separate from the Jews, were nevertheless intrinsically linked to them. The early Churches of God observed the same Holy Days as the Jews. They also kept the Sabbath as a Holy Day, not Sunday. Apostle Paul, though highly critical of the Jews for their insistence on imposing circumcision and dietary laws on Gentile Christians, anointed them as the upholders of God's "oracles".

Rom 3:1 What advantage then has the Jew, or what is the profit of circumcision?

Rom 3:2 Much in every way! Chiefly because to them were committed the oracles of God.

Rom 3:3 For what if some did not believe? Will their unbelief make the faithfulness of God without

Rom 3:4 effect? Certainly not! Indeed, let God be true but every man a liar. As it is written: "That You May Be Justified In Your Words, And May Overcome When You Are Judged."

Apostle Peter also had something to say about the 'oracles' of God.

1Pe 4:11 If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever.

Everything Moses received at Mount Sinai are oracles of God. Largely speaking, these are divided in three parts: the law of animal sacrifices and dietary laws; The Ten Commandments and associated Code of Laws; and the Holy Days and the Calendar.

The animal sacrifices and dietary laws were temporary in nature, designed to bring us to Christ and cease thereafter.

Heb 9:1 Then indeed, even the first covenant had ordinances of divine service and the earthly sanctuary.

Heb 9:2 For a tabernacle was prepared: the first part, in which was the lampstand, the table, and the showbread, which is called the sanctuary;

Heb 9:3 and behind the second veil, the part of the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of All,

Heb 9:4 which had the golden censer and the ark of the covenant overlaid on all sides with gold, in which were the golden pot that had the manna, Aaron's rod that budded, and the tablets of the covenant;

Heb 9:5 and above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail.

Heb 9:6 Now when these things had been thus prepared, the priests always went into the first part of the tabernacle, performing the services.

Heb 9:7 But into the second part the high priest went alone once a year, not without blood, which he offered for himself and for the people's sins committed in ignorance;

Heb 9:8 the Holy Spirit indicating this, that the way into the Holiest of All was not yet made manifest while the first tabernacle was still standing.

Heb 9:9 It was symbolic for the present time in which both gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot make him who performed the service perfect in regard to the conscience— concerned only with foods and drinks, various washings, and fleshly ordinances **imposed until the time of reformation.**
 Heb 9:10 washings, and fleshly ordinances **imposed until the time of reformation.**
 Heb 9:11 But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation.
 Heb 9:12 Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.
 Heb 9:13 For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?
 Heb 9:15 And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.
 Heb 9:16 For where there is a testament, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator.
 Heb 9:17 For a testament is in force after men are dead, since it has no power at all while the testator lives.
 Heb 9:18 Therefore not even the first covenant was dedicated without blood.
 Heb 9:19 For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water, scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people,
 Heb 9:20 saying, "This Is The Blood Of The Covenant Which God Has Commanded You."
 Heb 9:21 Then likewise he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry.
 Heb 9:22 And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.
 Heb 9:23 Therefore it was necessary that the copies of the things in the heavens should be purified with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.
 Heb 9:24 For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us;
 Heb 9:25 not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another—
 Heb 9:26 He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.
 Heb 9:27 And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,
 Heb 9:28 so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.
 Heb 10:1 For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect.
 Heb 10:2 For then **would they not have ceased to be offered?** For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins.
 Heb 10:3 But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year.
 Heb 10:4 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.
 Heb 10:5 Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: "Sacrifice And Offering You Did Not Desire, But A Body You Have Prepared For Me."
 Heb 10:6 In Burnt Offerings And Sacrifices For Sin You Had No Pleasure.
 Heb 10:7 Then I Said, 'Behold, I Have Come—In The Volume Of The Book It Is Written Of Me—To Do Your Will, O God.' "
 Heb 10:8 Previously saying, "Sacrifice And Offering, Burnt Offerings, And Offerings For Sin You Did Not Desire, Nor Had Pleasure In Them" (which are offered according to the law),
 Heb 10:9 then He said, "Behold, I Have Come To Do Your Will, O God." He takes away the first that He may establish the second.
 Heb 10:10 By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.
 Heb 10:11 And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.
 Heb 10:12 But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of
 Heb 10:13 God, from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool.
 Heb 10:14 For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.
 Heb 10:15 But the Holy Spirit also witnesses to us; for after He had said before,
 Heb 10:16 "This Is The Covenant That I Will Make With Them After Those Days, Says The Lord: I Will Put My Laws Into Their Hearts, And In Their Minds I Will Write Them,"
 Heb 10:17 then He adds, "Their Sins And Their Lawless Deeds I Will Remember No More."
 Heb 10:18 Now where there is remission of these, there is no longer an offering for sin.

The purpose of animal sacrifices then was primarily to atone for people's sins. But because animals could not wipe out people's sins forever, they had to be performed annually. Those who insist that a new Temple must be built in Jerusalem in order for animal sacrifices to be performed before the return of Jesus Christ, as certain

Fundamentalist Churches preach, forfeit the salvation of Jesus Christ, whose crucifixion put an end to those sacrifices.

The same is true of the dietary laws. Those laws were designed to set the Israelites apart from the Gentiles. As a chosen generation and a 'holy people' they were to stand out and provide a guide to the Gentiles on their path to God. But when they forfeited that role by their disobedience and attachment to their neighbours' gods, those dietary laws, like the animal sacrifices, also came to an end.

Because of their inability to live according to the precepts of the Old Testament, God enacted a New Covenant in which God's laws were no longer written on parchments and frontlets, but in people's hearts.

The New Covenant, or New Testament, would be for the entire world, and the new kings and priests would come out of all nations.

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

Rev 5:2 with seven seals. Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?"

Rev 5:3 And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it.

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

Rev 5:5 But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals."

Rev 5:6 And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth.

Rev 5:7 Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.

Rev 5:8 Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

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

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

The law of sacrifices and the dietary laws, should not be confused with the Ten Commandments which are permanent and forever applicable.

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.**

The Commandments of God and the faith of Jesus Christ are intrinsically linked and inseparable, as the following Scriptures also confirm.

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

Joh 14:16 And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that **He may abide with you**

Joh 14:17 **forever**— the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.

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

Rom 8:10 **And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of**

Rom 8:11 **righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.**

Jesus Christ dwells in those who have repented, turned to God, and received the Holy Spirit.

Now there are many Churches in the world which preach dietary laws, blatantly disregarding these Scriptures.

1Ti 4:1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,
 1Ti 4:2 speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron,
 1Ti 4:3 forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.
 1Ti 4:4 For every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving;
 1Ti 4:5 for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.
 1Ti 4:6 If you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine which you have carefully followed.

If you preach and observe 'doctrines of demons', you give in to demons, and if you do that you are finished with Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. Neither Jesus Christ nor the Holy Spirit would share you with demons. Remember these Scriptures:

Mat 6:24 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

Who said that? Jesus Christ, the One who also said this.

Joh 15:1 "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.
 Joh 15:2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.
 Joh 15:3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.
 Joh 15:4 **Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.**
 Joh 15:5 **"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.**
 Joh 15:6 If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.
 Joh 15:7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.
 Joh 15:8 By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.
 Joh 15:9 "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.
 Joh 15:10 If you **keep My commandments**, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.
 Joh 17:20 "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word;
 Joh 17:21 that **they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us**, that the world may believe that You sent Me.

No one will ever be one with God the Father and with the Lord Jesus Christ if a demon abides in him.

No one will ever receive the Holy Spirit if he observes and practices 'doctrines of demons'.

No man can have the Holy Spirit and demons dwelling in him at the same time. The moment he gives in to demons, he loses the Holy Spirit.

We move now to the last of the permanent 'oracles' that God gave to Moses at Mt Sinai: the Holy Days.

We look at the three main Holy Days that today's Christianity observes: Christmas, Easter, and Sundays. This is what *History Today* wrote about Christmas.

Did the Romans Invent Christmas?

Did the first Christian Roman emperor appropriate the pagan festival of Saturnalia to celebrate the birth of Christ? Matt Salusbury weighs the evidence.

Saturnalia by Ernesto Biondi (1909), at the Buenos Aires Botanical Gardens.

It was a public holiday celebrated around December 25th in the family home. A time for feasting, goodwill, generosity to the poor, the exchange of gifts and the decoration of trees. But it wasn't Christmas. This was Saturnalia, the pagan Roman winter solstice festival. But was Christmas, Western Christianity's most popular festival, derived from the pagan Saturnalia?

The first-century AD poet Gaius Valerius Catullus described Saturnalia as 'the best of times': dress codes were relaxed, small gifts such as dolls, candles and caged birds were exchanged.

Saturnalia saw the inversion of social roles. The wealthy were expected to pay the month's rent for those who couldn't afford it, masters and slaves to swap clothes. Family households threw dice to determine who would become the temporary Saturnalian monarch. The poet Lucian of Samosata (AD 120-180) has the god Cronos (Saturn) say in his poem, *Saturnalia*:

‘During my week the serious is barred: no business allowed. Drinking and being drunk, noise and games of dice, appointing of kings and feasting of slaves, singing naked, clapping ... an occasional ducking of corked faces in icy water – such are the functions over which I preside.’ ...

From as early as 217 BC there were public Saturnalia banquets. The Roman state cancelled executions and refrained from declaring war during the festival. Pagan Roman authorities tried to curtail Saturnalia; Emperor Caligula (AD 12-41) sought to restrict it to five days, with little success.

Emperor Domitian (AD 51-96) may have changed Saturnalia’s date to December 25th in an attempt to assert his authority. He curbed Saturnalia’s subversive tendencies by marking it with public events under his control. The poet Statius (AD 45- 95), in his poem *Silvae*, describes the lavish banquet and entertainments Domitian presided over, including games which opened with sweets, fruit and nuts showered on the crowd and featuring flights of flamingos released over Rome. Shows with fighting dwarves and female gladiators were illuminated, for the first time, into the night.

The conversion of Emperor Constantine to Christianity in AD 312 ended Roman persecution of Christians and began imperial patronage of the Christian churches... [*Those were the ‘Christians’ who did not Judaize – fake Christians*]

The earliest known reference to it commemorating the birth of Christ on December 25th is in the Roman Philocalian calendar of AD 354. Provincial schisms soon resulted in different Christian calendars. The Orthodox Church in the Eastern (Byzantine) half of the Roman Empire fixed the date of Christmas at January 6th, commemorating simultaneously Christ’s birth, baptism and first miracle.

Saturnalia has a rival contender as the forerunner of Christmas: the festival of *dies natalis solis invicti*, ‘birthday of the unconquered sun’. The Philocalian calendar also states that December 25th was a Roman civil holiday honouring the cult of *sol invicta*. With its origins in Syria and the monotheistic cult of Mithras, *sol invicta* certainly has similarities to the worship of Jesus. The cult was introduced into the empire in AD 274 by Emperor Aurelian (214-275), who effectively made it a state religion, putting its emblem on Roman coins.

Sol invicta succeeded because of its ability to assimilate aspects of Jupiter and other deities into its figure of the Sun King, reflecting the absolute power of ‘divine’ emperors. But despite efforts by later pagan emperors to control Saturnalia and absorb the festival into the official cult, the *sol invicta* ended up looking very much like the old Saturnalia. Constantine, the first Christian emperor, was brought up in the *sol invicta* cult, in what was by then already a predominantly monotheist empire: ‘It is therefore possible,’ says Dr Gwynn, ‘that Christmas was intended to replace this festival rather than Saturnalia.’ (Matt Salusbury, *History Today*, Vol. 59, Issue 12, Dec 2009)

Now whether Christmas replaced the mid-winter Roman celebrations of Saturnalia or the *Sol invicta* cult of Mithra celebrating the ‘birthday of the unconquered sun’ is a moot point. The important point is that both were pagan holy days celebrated by the Romans for centuries before Christianity was adopted as the religion of the Empire.

Christmas was never a Christian Holy Day. It is not mentioned in the Scriptures; was never observed by Jesus Christ; was never observed by His Apostles; and was never observed by the Churches of God mentioned in the Bible. The day of Jesus Christ’s birth was deliberately kept obscured in the Bible so as to prevent people from turning it into a Holy Day. Why so? Because Jesus Christ did not change the Law, the Holy Days, nor the sign that identifies the people of God. What sign is that?

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

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

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

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

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

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

God did not say that the Sabbath is a sign between Him and the children of Israel until a new prophet like Moses comes and changes it to Sunday, but FOREVER. And to make sure that there is no uncertainty about it, God repeated that statement hundreds of years later.

Eze 20:10 "Therefore I made them go out of the land of Egypt and brought them into the wilderness.

Eze 20:11 And I gave them My statutes and showed them My judgments, 'which, if a man does, he shall live by them.'

Eze 20:12 Moreover I also gave them My Sabbaths, to be **a sign between them and Me**, that they might know that I am the LORD who sanctifies them.

When Jesus Christ returns, He expects to find His disciples observing the Sabbath, not the day of Mithra, the Day of Sol Invicta, or the Day of the Sun.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Now if Jesus Christ returns tomorrow and sends His Angels to gather His elect from the four corners of the earth, what would they be looking for? They will be looking for people who keep the Sabbath, and the other of God's Holy Days. They will not be looking for people who observe the Sabbath and Christmas, for example.

Remember, the Sabbath has triple importance with God:

1. It is one of His Ten Commandments:

Deu 5:12 'Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy, as the LORD your God commanded you.

2. It is one of God's Holy Days.

Lev 23:33 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

Lev 23:34 "Speak to the children of Israel, saying: 'The fifteenth day of this seventh month *shall be* the Feast of Tabernacles *for* seven days to the LORD.

Lev 23:35 On the first day *there shall be* a holy convocation. You shall do no customary work *on it*.

Lev 23:36 For seven days you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD. On the eighth day you shall have a holy convocation, and you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD. It *is* a sacred assembly, *and* you shall do no customary work *on it*.

Lev 23:37 'These *are* the feasts of the LORD which you shall proclaim *to be* holy convocations, to offer an offering made by fire to the LORD, a burnt offering and a grain offering, a sacrifice and drink offerings, everything on its day—

Lev 23:38 besides the Sabbaths of the LORD, besides your gifts, besides all your vows, and besides all your freewill offerings which you give to the LORD.

Lev 23:39 'Also on the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when you have gathered in the fruit of the land, you shall keep the feast of the LORD *for* seven days; on the first day *there shall be* a Sabbath-rest, and on the eighth day a Sabbath-rest.

The seventh day of the week and the annual Holy Days are all Sabbaths of rest before God.

3. It is a sign between God and His people:

Eze 20:19 I *am* the LORD your God: Walk in My statutes, keep My judgments, and do them;

Eze 20:20 hallow My Sabbaths, and they will be a sign between Me and you, that you may know that I *am* the LORD your God.'

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

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

What day of the week do Christians observe as the sign between them and their God these days?

Sunday, the pagan day of the Sun, inherited from Egypt and observed by all ancient peoples. There are some people who observe the Sabbath, but they also observe the Old Testament dietary laws, which have become doctrines of demons in the New Testament, and other pagan holy days such as Christmas and Easter.

After four decades of scurrying the world for righteous people who keep God's Commandments and His Holy Days, we are yet to find one person who would fit that norm.

You do not believe in Bible prophecies? Try this one:

Eze 22:23 And the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

Eze 22:24 "Son of man, say to her: 'You *are* a land that is not cleansed or rained on in the day of indignation.'

Eze 22:25 The conspiracy of her prophets in her midst is like a roaring lion tearing the prey; they have devoured people; they have taken treasure and precious things; they have made many widows in her midst.

Eze 22:26 Her priests have violated My law and profaned My holy things; they have not distinguished between the holy and unholy, nor have they made known *the difference* between the unclean and the clean; and they have hidden their eyes from My Sabbaths, so that I am profaned among them.

Eze 22:27 Her princes in her midst *are* like wolves tearing the prey, to shed blood, to destroy people, and to get dishonest gain.

Eze 22:28 Her prophets plastered them with untempered *mortar*, seeing false visions, and divining lies for them, saying, 'Thus says the Lord GOD,' when the LORD had not spoken.

Eze 22:29 The people of the land have used oppressions, committed robbery, and mistreated the poor and needy; and they wrongfully oppress the stranger.

Eze 22:30 So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one.

Eze 22:31 Therefore I have poured out My indignation on them; I have consumed them with the fire of My wrath; and I have recompensed their deeds on their own heads," says the Lord GOD.

God sought a man to stand before Him on behalf of the land, but found none. He did not look for him from heaven, though He keeps an eye on humanity from heaven too, but in this case He sought a man during one of His visits to the earth. Do not the Scriptures tell us that God 'is and was and is to come'?

Rev 11:16 And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God,

Rev 11:17 saying: "We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, The One who is and who was and who is to come, Because You have taken Your great power and reigned.

It is clear that this visit to the earth occurs just prior to the Great Tribulation. As at the time of Sodom and Gomorrah, when God came personally to see if the report about their homosexuality was true, and ended up destroying them, He comes to this world in the end time to see if the whole world has gone after the sin of Sodom and Gomorrah, hence the Great Tribulation that will cleanse the earth of this and all other pollutions.

If One cannot find a righteous God fearing man in the whole world, what choice does God have but to unleash the greatest tribulation this world has ever seen that would destroy the very life of this planet, except for His intervention at the last minute to save the elect for the camp of the saints in and around Jerusalem in the coming Millennium Kingdom.

The Scriptures do not lie when they say that by this time the whole world would have gone after Satan.

2Co 4:1 Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we do not lose heart.

2Co 4:2 But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness nor handling the word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

2Co 4:3 But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,

2Co 4:4 whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

1Jn 5:19 We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies *under the sway* of the wicked one.

Rev 12:9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

So then, when one breaks the Sabbath, he commits three grievous sins:

- He breaks one of God's Ten Commandments;
- He defiles one of God's Holy Days;
- He destroys the sign that identifies the people of God.

The Sabbath connects people with God's Ten Commandments, with His Holy Days, and with the sign that identifies His people. Therefore, do you think that a man who breaks the Sabbath, defiles the Holy Days, and disregards the sign that would link him with God, will ever be granted eternal life in God's Kingdom?

Remember, Apostle James said that when one breaks one Commandment it is as if he broke them all.

Jas 2:10 For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one *point*, he is guilty of all.

Jas 2:11 For He who said, "Do Not Commit Adultery," also said, "Do Not Murder." Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law.

Jas 2:12 So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty.

Now what about Easter? Here is a quote from the Scientific American:

Beyond Ishtar: The Tradition of Eggs at Easter

"Eggs occupy a special status during Easter observances. They're symbols of rebirth and renewal—life bursts forth from this otherwise plain, inanimate object that gives no hint as to what it contains. In this regard it is a handy symbol for the resurrection of Jesus Christ, but it is a symbol that has held this meaning long before Christianity adopted it.

"Easter was originally the celebration of Ishtar, the Assyrian and Babylonian goddess of fertility and sex. Her symbols (like the egg and bunny) were and still are fertility and sex symbols (or did you actually think eggs and bunnies had anything to do with the resurrection?) After Constantine decided to Christianize the Empire, Easter was changed to represent Jesus. But at its roots, Easter (which is how you pronounce Ishtar) is all about celebrating fertility and sex. (Krystal D'Costa, Scientific American, March 31, 2013)

"There you have it. For centuries before Christianity, Easter (Ishtar) was a celebration of fertility and sex, just as Christmas (Saturnalia) was a celebration of mid-winter debauchery. Both, thoroughly pagan holy days, were turned by the Romans into 'Christian' Holy Days.

"What then are the true Holy Days of God? What Holy Day 'oracles' did the Apostles of Jesus Christ and the early Churches of God observe? Let us go to the only source that can give us that answer – the Bible."

These are the Holy Days of God, or as they are also called in the Bible, the Feasts of the Lord, from both the Old and the New Testaments.

- **The Sabbath** (Lev.23:3; Acts 17:1-4)

Lev 23:3 'Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, a holy convocation. You shall do no work on it; it is the Sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings.

Act 17:1 Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews.

Act 17:2 Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the

Act 17:3 Scriptures, explaining and demonstrating that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ."

Act 17:4 And some of them were persuaded; and a great multitude of the devout Greeks, and not a few of the leading women, joined Paul and Silas.

- **The Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread** (Lev 23:4-7; 1 Co 5:7-8);

Lev 23:4 'These are the feasts of the LORD, holy convocations which you shall proclaim at their appointed times.

Lev 23:5 On the fourteenth day of the first month at twilight is the LORD's Passover.

Lev 23:6 And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the LORD; seven days you must eat unleavened bread.

Lev 23:7 On the first day you shall have a holy convocation; you shall do no customary work on it.

1Co 5:7 Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.

1Co 5:8 Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

1Co 11:17 Now in giving these instructions I do not praise you, since you come together not for the better but for the worse. For first of all, when you come together as a church,

1Co 11:18 I hear that there are divisions among you, and in part I believe. For there must also be factions

1Co 11:19 among you, that those who are approved may be recognized among you.

1Co 11:20 Therefore when you come together in one place, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper.

1Co 11:21 For in eating, each one takes his own supper ahead of others; and one is hungry and another is

1Co 11:22 drunk. What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and shame those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you in this? I do not praise you.

1Co 11:23 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread;

1Co 11:24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

1Co 11:25 In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

1Co 11:26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

1Co 11:27 Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.

1Co 11:28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

1Co 11:29 For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.

1Co 11:30 For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep.

1Co 11:31 For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged.

1Co 11:32 But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.

1Co 11:33 Therefore, my brethren, when you come together to eat, wait for one another.

1Co 11:34 But if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, lest you come together for judgment. And the rest I will set in order when I come.

- **The Pentecost** (Lev 23:16; Acts 2:1);

Lev 23:15 'And you shall count for yourselves from the day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven Sabbaths shall be completed.

Lev 23:16 Count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath; then you shall offer a new grain offering to the LORD.

Act 2:1 When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

Act 2:2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

Act 2:3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them.

Act 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

1Co 16:8 But I will tarry in Ephesus until Pentecost. [*The Gentiles kept the Pentecost and the Passover*]

- **Feast of Trumpets** (Lev 23:24)

Lev 23:23 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

Lev 23:24 "Speak to the children of Israel, saying: 'In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall have a sabbath-rest, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, a holy convocation.

Lev 23:25 You shall do no customary work on it; and you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD.' "

There is no direct mention of the Feast of Trumpets in the New Testament, but since Apostle Paul and the Churches he set up observed the Holy Days before it and after it, Pentecost and Day of Atonement respectively, it is certain that they observed the Feast of Trumpets too.

- **The Day of Atonement** (Lev 23:26-32; Acts 27:9);

Lev 23:26 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

Lev 23:27 "Also the tenth day of this seventh month shall be the Day of Atonement. It shall be a holy convocation for you; you shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire to the LORD.

Lev 23:28 And you shall do no work on that same day, for it is the Day of Atonement, to make atonement for you before the LORD your God.

Lev 23:29 For any person who is not afflicted in soul on that same day shall be cut off from his people.

Lev 23:30 And any person who does any work on that same day, that person I will destroy from among his people.

Lev 23:31 You shall do no manner of work; **it shall be a statute forever throughout your generations** in all your dwellings.

Lev 23:32 It shall be to you a sabbath of solemn rest, and you shall afflict your souls; on the ninth day of the month at evening, from evening to evening, you shall celebrate your sabbath."

Act 27:9 Now when much time had been spent, and sailing was now dangerous because **the Fast was already over**, Paul advised them,

Act 27:10 saying, "Men, I perceive that this voyage will end with disaster and much loss, not only of the cargo and ship, but also our lives."

The Fast meant the Day of Atonement when the Christians, like the Jews, eat nothing for twenty four hours.

- **Feast of Tabernacles** (Lev 23:33-36; Zec 14:16).

Lev 23:33 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

Lev 23:34 "Speak to the children of Israel, saying: 'The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the Feast of Tabernacles for seven days to the LORD.

Lev 23:35 On the first day there shall be a holy convocation. You shall do no customary work on it.

Lev 23:36 For seven days you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD. On the eighth day you shall have a holy convocation, and you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD. It is a sacred assembly, and you shall do no customary work on it.

The Feast of Tabernacles, like the Feast of Trumpets, is not mentioned in the New Testament, but this is what will happen after Jesus Christ returns to this world.

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

The Passover, the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Feast of Trumpets, Day of Atonement and the Feast of Tabernacles, are intrinsically linked. They were observed by Jesus Christ and His Apostles, and will be observed by the whole world in the coming Millennium Kingdom, and forever thereafter.

These then are the 'oracles' that God gave to Moses, which Apostle Paul declared to be for Christians too. Why then did the Romans not adopt them when they made Christianity the religion of the Empire?

For one very good reason: they couldn't. They couldn't because they observed a solar calendar, and the biblical Holy Days cannot be set up on a solar calendar. The twelve months of the lunar calendar, do not correspond with the twelve months of the solar calendar. And unlike the solar months which fall at the same time every year, the lunar months go back and forth by about two weeks or so every year. Only Jewish scholars, who have specific knowledge of the relationship between the lunar and solar movements can set up the biblical Holy Days. For this reason, the Christians are intrinsically linked to the Jews for their Holy Days.

For those who are interested in God's Holy Days these days, there is a book by Arthur Spier, a brilliant Jewish scholar, entitled, '*The Comprehensible Hebrew Calendar, 1900 – 2100*', which we quoted above. We take our Holy Day dates from that book.

The Romans adopted Christianity as the religion of their Empire, not because they repented of their sins and decided to turn to God and Jesus Christ, as true Christianity demands, but because they could not hold back the flood of Christianity at their border anymore.

Emperor Constantine is supposed to have had the vision of a cross and a voice which said, 'under this sign conquer'. So in 325 AD, he ordered the gathering of Roman bishops at the Council of Nicaea, and commanded them to make Christianity the religion of the Empire. And so they did, but it was not a Christianity of conviction, but one of necessity. As such, it was a faulty and fake Christianity. A Christianity in name, not in fact. In truth, it was not Christianity at all.

During the first couple of centuries of the Christ era, the Christians observed the same Holy Days as the Jews, only in a Christian Spirit. The Passover, the greatest Holy Day for both Jews and Christians was observed very differently. While the Jews stuck to their animal sacrifices, for the Christians Jesus Christ was their sacrificial lamb. With His sacrifice, Jesus Christ annulled both animal sacrifices and dietary laws, or as the Scriptures put it, He 'nailed them to the cross'.

As long as the Jews had a state and a temple in which they could congregate and worship God, they remained deadly enemies of the Christians. The Christians however, never turned against the Jews, not only because they depended on them for their Holy Days, but because their Lord, Jesus Christ, told them to love their enemies.

Mat 5:43 "You have heard that it was said, 'You Shall Love Your Neighbor And Hate Your Enemy.'

Mat 5:44 But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those

who spitefully use you and persecute you,
Mat 5:45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

Mat 5:46 For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?

Mat 5:47 And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more *than others*? Do not even the tax collectors do

Mat 5:48 so? Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.

Joh 15:1 "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit

Joh 15:2 He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

Joh 15:3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. Abide in Me, and I in you.

Joh 15:4 As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

Joh 15:5 **"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.**

Joh 15:6 **If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.**

Joh 15:7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done

Joh 15:8 for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

Joh 15:9 **"As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.**

Joh 15:10 **If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.** "These things I have spoken to you,

Joh 15:11 that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.

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

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

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

Joh 15:15 No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.

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

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

Joh 15:18 **"If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you.**

Joh 15:19 **If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.**

Joh 15:20 Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also.

Joh 15:21 **But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me.**

Joh 15:22 If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for

Joh 15:23 their sin. He who hates Me hates My Father also.

Joh 15:24 If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father.

Joh 15:25 But this happened that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law, 'They Hated Me Without A Cause.'

Joh 15:26 **"But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.**

Joh 15:27 And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning.

The Romans had a different problem with the Jews. First, they expelled them from Rome, then, about twenty years later, they expelled them from Judea and Jerusalem and scattered them among the nations of the world. For the Jews this was a catastrophe, but for the Christians it was an unexpected bonanza.

Judaism of the Old Testament was strictly a national religion of Israel, but when that nation split into Judea and Samaria, the Jews remained the sole carriers of the Old Testament and of the 'oracles' of God which included the Holy Days that were of interest to the Christians too.

Jesus Christ made Christianity the religion of the entire world:

"And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and **make disciples of all the nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen. (Mat 28:18 – 20).

Christianity was no longer bound by Jerusalem and its Temple, as were the Jews. Christian missionaries worshipped God and Jesus Christ in spirit wherever they and their disciples found themselves in the world.

That was anathema to the Jews and this is why they remained the Christians' enemies to the present day.

Now while the Jews were forcibly sent out into the world against their will, the Christians went out on their own volition, ready to give up their lives for the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Gospel of salvation.

Reports of Christian martyrdom came from all parts of the known world, but especially so from the lands of the Roman Empire. Impressed by the strength of conviction of those who preached Christianity, many people turned to it until the Romans took the drastic measure of adopting Christianity as the religion of the Empire.

Christianity however, was a pacifist religion, whereas the Romans, though highly civilised by ancient standards, were highly aggressive. They just could not love their enemies and turn the other cheek, for their Empire would have disintegrated before their eyes. Moreover, the idea that they would adopt the Holy Days of the Jews, whom they had scattered among other nations, as Holy Days of the Empire, was out of the question. Besides, the Jewish biblical Holy Days were set according to a Luni-Solar calendar, whereas the Romans observed a strictly solar calendar. Only Jewish scribes well versed in Old Testament Scriptures could set up those Holy Days at their appropriate time, and that was anathema to the Romans.

The price for Christianity becoming the religion of the Empire was that Christians would have to observe not the Jewish Holy Days anymore, but the Roman Holy Days. Thus Saturnalia became Christmas, Ishtar became Easter, and the day of the Egyptian Sun god, (Sunday) became the day of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The fact that none of these were sanctioned as Holy Days in the Bible, and that God and Jesus Christ forbade any and every one from adding or taking anything away from the Bible became irrelevant to the Roman 'Christians'.

Deu 4:2 You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.

Deu 12:32 "Whatever I command you, be careful to observe; you shall not add to it nor take away from it.

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

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

Rev 22:15 But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters,

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

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

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

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

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

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

In order to prevent Christians from turning back to the biblical Holy Days, the Council forbade everyone in the Empire from Judaizing, under penalty of death. That was the birth of Roman Catholic Christianity.

Jews and true Christians had one choice: go underground, observe their religion in secret, or perish. Many perished indeed, but some survived clandestinely until the Protestant Reformation.

Martin Luther is credited with having broken the Catholic stranglehold on religion. He deserves some credit for that, but see if you can notice anything unusual in this quote from Wikipedia.

"Martin Luther, (10 November 1483 – 18 February 1546) was a German professor of theology, composer, priest, and monk, and a seminal figure in the Protestant Reformation.

Luther came to reject several teachings and practices of the Roman Catholic Church. He strongly disputed the Catholic view on indulgences that freedom from God's punishment for sin could be purchased with money. Luther proposed an academic discussion of the practice and efficacy of indulgences in his *Ninety-five Theses* of 1517. His refusal to renounce all of his writings at the demand of Pope Leo X in 1520 and the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V at the Diet of Worms in 1521 resulted in his excommunication by the Pope and condemnation as an outlaw by the Emperor.

Luther taught that salvation and, consequently, eternal life are not earned by good deeds but are received only as the free gift of God's grace through the believer's faith in Jesus Christ as redeemer from sin. His theology challenged the authority and office of the Pope by teaching that the Bible is the only source of divinely revealed knowledge from God^[4] and opposed sacerdotalism [*Religious belief emphasizing the powers of priests as essential mediators between God and humankind (Merriam-Webster Dictionary)*] by considering all baptized Christians to be a holy priesthood.^[5] Those who identify with these, and all of Luther's wider teachings, are called Lutherans, though Luther insisted on *Christian* or *Evangelical* (*evangelisch*) as the only acceptable names for individuals who professed Christ.

His translation of the Bible into the German vernacular (instead of Latin) made it more accessible to the laity, an event that had a tremendous impact on both the church and German culture. It fostered the development of a standard version of the German language, added several principles to the art of translation,^[6] and influenced the writing of an English translation, the Tyndale Bible.^[7] His hymns influenced the development of singing in Protestant churches.^[8] His marriage to Katharina von Bora, a former nun, set a model for the practice of clerical marriage, allowing Protestant clergy to marry.^[9]

In two of his later works, Luther expressed antagonistic views towards Jews, writing that Jewish homes and synagogues should be destroyed, their money confiscated, and liberty curtailed. Condemned by virtually every Lutheran denomination, these statements and their influence on antisemitism have contributed to his controversial status.^[10]

You probably wonder, what you were supposed to notice, for everything is noticeable. Indeed it is, but before we tell you what we are after, let us look briefly at another of Martin Luther blunders. He was very angry with the writings of James to the point of wanting to expunge them from the Bible. Why? Because he advocated salvation through faith and works, whereas Luther accepted unquestioningly the view of Apostle Paul whose writings give the impression of salvation through faith alone. We say, 'give the impression', because Paul did not discount works in the process of salvation.

Php 2:12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;**

Php 2:13 for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

Php 2:14 **Do all things without complaining and disputing,**

Php 2:15 that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast the word

Php 2:16 of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

Php 2:17 Yes, and if I am being poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I

Php 2:18 am glad and rejoice with you all. For the same reason you also be glad and rejoice with me.

Now if you 'work out your own salvation, and do things without complaining', your salvation does not just land up in your lap without you having to do anything. In his epistle to Titus, Apostle Paul wrote:

Tit 2:6 Likewise, exhort the young men to be sober-minded,

Tit 2:7 **in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works;** in doctrine showing

Tit 2:8 integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you.

Tit 3:8 This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that **those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works.** These things are good and profitable to men.

Even Jesus' call to, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Mat 4:17), requires one to do something to prove his repentance, such as baptism, prayer, worship, and good works, of the kind that James, Jesus' brother, wrote about.

Jas 2:13 For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over

Jas 2:14 judgment. What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can

Jas 2:15 faith save him? If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food,

Jas 2:16 and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit?

Jas 2:17 Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

Jas 2:18 But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your

Jas 2:19 works, and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!

Jas 2:20 But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?

Jas 2:21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar?

Jas 2:22 Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect?

Jas 2:23 And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham Believed God, And It Was Accounted To Him For Righteousness." And he was called the friend of God.

Jas 2:24 You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only. Likewise, was not Rahab

Jas 2:25 the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them

Jas 2:26 out another way? For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

In the resurrection, when both Paul and James are brought to life, they will wonder that their writings had caused so much angst among rigid people who forgot that 'mercy triumphs over judgment', and that one must apply the Scriptures righteously.

Joh 7:23 If a man receives circumcision on the Sabbath, so that the law of Moses should not be broken, are you angry with Me because I made a man completely well on the Sabbath?

Joh 7:24 **Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment."**

Now we wanted you to pay particular attention to Martin Luther's last paragraph in the above passage. Let us have a look at it again.

"In two of his later works, Luther expressed antagonistic views towards Jews, writing that Jewish homes and synagogues should be destroyed, their money confiscated, and liberty curtailed. Condemned by virtually every Lutheran denomination, these statements and their influence on antisemitism have contributed to his controversial status."

If Luther had expressed those views as priest of the Catholic Church, or shortly afterwards, before he had the chance to reform his mind in the light of the Bible, away from Catholic dogma, he might have been excused for being so hostile towards the Jews. But that his views were expressed in his later works, is inexcusable.

The Jews, and by implication, the true Christians, suffered pogrom after pogrom for centuries afterwards through most of Europe, until the NAZI Holocaust nearly wiped them all out. Where was his love for his 'enemies' as Jesus taught His disciples? How could he advocate destruction of Jewish homes and synagogues, confiscation of their money, and curtailing their liberty, and still call himself a Christian bishop and priest?

What Luther did in effect was to take the Jews and true Christians back to the time of the Council of Nicaea. Their life was not any easier after the Protestant Reformation than it was after that Council.

When the Roman Empire collapsed under the waves of 'barbarian' invasions in the fifth and sixth centuries AD, the emperors gave way to Pontifex Maximus. Under him, the Roman Empire became the fiefdom of the Roman Catholic Church. The interdiction against Judaizing was maintained, and the penalty of death was imposed even for possessing a Bible, let alone for trying to live according to its precepts.

When the Protestants split with Rome, not a single Church returned to the Christianity of Jesus Christ and of His Apostles. They all returned to ... Roman paganism without the Pope. **Not one of the Roman pagan holy days was repudiated, and not one of God's Holy Days was adopted by them.**

It was not Christianity that became the religion of the Roman Empire; it was Roman paganism that became 'Christian'. Here is a brief comparison between the religious teachings and practices of the Catholic Church, and the teachings of the Bible.

The Catholic Church:

Human beings have immortality in themselves. No matter what they do in life, they all live forever: those who have done evil will be tormented for ever in a lake of fire, while those who had confessed their sins, even at the last moment of their life, will go to heaven. This is why errant priests, Mafia dons, and other evil creatures, love this Church. They know that no matter how much evil they may have committed in their life, a confession on their death bed absolves them of their sins, and ensures a place in heaven for them.

The Bible:

No human being has immortality in himself. "*Jesus Christ*, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who **alone has immortality**, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power" (1Ti 6:15 – 16).

The Catholic Church:

Human souls are immortal.

The Bible:

"Behold, all souls are Mine; The soul of the father As well as the soul of the son is Mine; **The soul who sins shall die.** (Eze 18:4)

"The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself" (Eze 18:20).

"Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell" (Mat 10:28).

The Catholic Church:

People are baptised in infancy. There is no need for adult baptism.

The Bible:

People need a conscious adult baptism as a sign of repentance and desire to begin a new life. "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Act 2:38). No one can receive the Holy Spirit without repentance and baptism, and without the Holy Spirit no one can be saved.

The Catholic Church:

Sunday is the Day of the Lord.

The Bible:

The Sabbath is the Day of the Lord (Ex 20:8; Lev 23:34). At His return, Jesus Christ expects to find His followers observing the Sabbath, not Sunday. (Mat 24: 20).

The Catholic Church:

The Ten Commandments have been done away with – ‘nailed to the cross’.

The Bible:

The Commandments are essential for salvation (Mat 19:17; Joh 14:15; Rev:14:12; 22:14). It is the laws of animal sacrifices, and dietary laws that had been “nailed to the cross” (Col 2:14, Heb 9 & 10).

The Catholic Church:

Apostle Peter was its first Pope.

The Bible:

Peter was Apostle to the ‘circumcision’ – that is, to the tribes of Israel, while Paul was Apostle to the uncircumcision’ – to the Gentiles (Gal 2:7). When Apostle Paul was brought to Rome in chains in the year 63 AD, Apostle Peter was not there. Yet the Catholic Church says that Peter was its Pope since the year 32 AD. The Jews of Rome knew nothing of Christianity, except that it was a sect “spoken against everywhere.” (Act 28:22). Could Peter have been in Rome for decades and never spoken to the Jews, whose Apostle he was?

His two epistles, dated 60 and 66 A.D., were written from Babylon, not from Rome.

The Catholic Church:

Calls its leader, “Holy Father.”

The Bible:

Jesus Christ said: “Call no one on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven” (Mat 23:9)

The Catholic Church:

Has forbidden the people in its domains from owning and reading the Bible. Those who disobeyed paid with their lives. Its victims are estimated to be in excess of 30 million.

The Bible:

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” (2Ti 3:16 - 17).

The Catholic Church:

The Bible cannot be trusted; the edicts of the Pope are more important.

The Bible:

Both the Old and the New Testaments say that the Word of God is truth.

“**The entirety of Your word is truth**, And every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever. (Psa 119:160);

“**Your word is truth** (Joh 17:17).

The Catholic Church:

Rome is eternal, therefore the Catholic Church is eternal.

The Bible:

This world is of a short duration (Rom 9:28), after which it will be destroyed (Rev 20:11), and replaced with a new heaven and a new earth (Rev 21:1).

The Catholic Church:

Pontifex Maximus, is leader of the Catholic Church, otherwise known as the Pontiff, the Pope, and “Holy Father”. The title “Holy Father” belongs to God, yet the Popes think they should be called by that title. Catholic priests are also ‘Fathers’, though not ‘Holy’.

The Bible:

Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. (Mat 23:9)
And do not be called teachers; for One is your Teacher, the Christ. (Mat 23:10)

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. (Joh 17:11)

The Pope:

‘Who am I to judge homosexuals?’.

As the ‘Vicar of Christ on earth’, is this not what people would expect from him?

The Apostles of Jesus Christ did not hesitate exposing and condemning sinners.

The Bible:

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**, nor

1Co 6:10 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.

1Ti 1:5 Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience,

1Ti 1:6 and from sincere faith, from which some, having strayed, have turned aside to idle talk,

1Ti 1:7 **desiring to be teachers of the law, understanding neither what they say nor the things**

1Ti 1:8 **which they affirm**. But we know that the law is good if one uses it lawfully, knowing this:

1Ti 1:9 that the law is not made for a righteous person, but for the lawless and insubordinate, for the ungodly and for sinners, for the unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers

1Ti 1:10 and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, for fornicators, **for sodomites**, for kidnappers, for liars, for perjurers, and if there is any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine,

1Ti 1:11 according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God which was committed to my trust.

1Ti 1:12 And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful,

1Ti 1:13 putting me into the ministry, although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because **I did it ignorantly in unbelief**. *[However, willing ignorance and unbelief will not save anyone]*

1Ti 1:14 And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ

1Ti 1:15 Jesus. This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.

1Ti 1:16 However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life.

1Ti 1:17 Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

1Ti 1:18 This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made

1Ti 1:19 concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck, of whom

1Ti 1:20 are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I delivered to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.

The Pope:

The Church should ask forgiveness from gays for past treatment.

ABOARD THE PAPAL PLANE (Reuters) - Pope Francis said on Sunday that Christians and the Roman Catholic Church should seek forgiveness from homosexuals for the way they had treated them. Speaking to reporters aboard the plane taking him back to Rome from Armenia, he also said the Church should ask forgiveness for the way it has treated women, for turning a blind eye to child labor and for “blessing so many weapons” in the past. (Philip Pullella; World News, June 27, 2016)

The Christians:

The Pope is concerned with the sufferings of homosexuals, women and child laborers, but forgot to mention the Judaizers who were condemned to death by the Roman Catholic hierarchy when the Roman Empire became ‘Christian’, and the victims of the Catholic Inquisition whose number exceeded thirty

million. Are homosexuals worthier of Papal apology than the millions of genuine believers who died for their faith? By this Pope's reckoning, God should apologize for destroying the homosexuals of Sodom and Gomorrah when they are resurrected for judgment.

Many more things could be said about the Pope and the Catholic Church, not least their infatuation with idols, and the catastrophic abuse of children in their parishes around the world.

Psa 115:1 Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, But to Your name give glory, Because of Your mercy, Because of Your truth.

Psa 115:2 Why should the Gentiles say, "So where is their God?"

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

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

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

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

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

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

Where then are the bona fides of this Church that it is Christian, when nothing that it preaches and practices is Christian, and everything it does is contrary to the Bible and the teachings of Jesus Christ?

Throughout its existence it has been a deadly enemy to the people of God, who wanted nothing more than to live according to the teachings of their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Letters

We have seldom published letters from our readers, not because we do not receive enough of them, but because we have always had too many materials to publish. Every time we publish a new edition of The Christian Herald we leave out enough articles to fill several more editions. We call them spare editions. Because most of our articles do not date, we can publish them any time. There are at least a dozen spare editions in our computers. The reasons we have not published more of them are mostly financial. It is not cheap to maintain a work that is being read around the world. And since we have had such generous readership that has donated nothing for twenty five years, we had to adjust this work to our possibilities. Nevertheless, the command of Jesus Christ, to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom to all the world as a witness to all the nations, has been done.

Recently we had correspondence from two sources that we feel deserved to be published.

Case one: Letter from the Salvation Army.

Dear Mr Sbarcea

What would you do if you came across a woman sitting on her doorstep crying her eyes out?

Would you stop and ask her if she was okay – or would you walk away?

This time last Christmas, Susie found herself struggling. As a single mother of two, and sole guardian of her two young grandchildren, each with their own disabilities as a result of their parent's heaving (sic) drinking, Susie was barely getting by. Already strained, she had no money for food or rent. No money for Christmas. No hope.

One day, she broke down, sat on her front step and sobbed helplessly.

Please will you help someone like Susie right now? [Click here to donate.](#)

As Susie sat there, a neighbour she had never talked to before passed by. She could have walked away. But she didn't. Instead, she knelt down by Susie's side and asked her what was wrong. Susie looked up at her and said: "I have nothing. I don't know what I'm going to do." And that's why I'm sending you this email today Friend - because I believe you would do exactly the same thing. Susie's neighbour could see the hurt she was in and knew exactly what to do to help. She took Susie to her local Salvos, where hope is never in short supply.

Through the support of kind people like you, Susie received food, presents for her children and life changing support. This practical support helped carry her load, and helped give the little ones some genuine Christmas joy and hope.

Right now thousands of single grandmothers like Susie are struggling to raise children and grandchildren alone. Many surviving on less than \$70 a day. You can make a real difference in their lives at Christmas, if you can make an online gift of \$43, \$78, or \$150 today.

Please do all that you can. Thank you so much. God Bless you, and Happy Christmas.

Bruce Harmer (Major)
On behalf of The Salvation Army

This is our edited reply.

Dear Sir,

It would be good if you got down from your ivory tower to see how poor people live down below.

How charming that you do not know that millions of pensioners in this country live on \$57 per day, yet you are asking them to support the poor who live on \$70 per day.

Out of \$57 a day, we must cover personal and household expenses, and support a worldwide work that keeps this world alive.

You knew our situation, for we have spoken with people from the hierarchy of the Salvation Army not long ago, yet you still requested donations from us. Why don't you believe the Scriptures? Have you ever read this?

Rev 11:3 And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, **clothed in sackcloth.**"

'Clothed in sackcloth' means poor; very poor. God has chosen His elect from the poor to do His end-time work of witnessing the true Gospel to the world, not from among those who sit in ivory towers, who have no idea how poor people live, have made a mess of the Gospel and turned it into a money making venture.

In the two years since we received that letter and sent our reply, we received more than half a dozen new requests for donations from this Church. We say 'at least' half a dozen because we lost track and are not reading them anymore, and put them straight into the rubbish bin.

Clearly, they are determined to rub salt in our wounds. God will do the same to them soon.

Case two: Correspondence with Messianic Jews.

About two years ago, we came across an offer of a new and 'free' translation of the Bible by Messianic Jews. We already have two Jewish translations of the Bible, but we are not happy with either. One is too archaic in language, and the other too 'progressive'.

Thinking that Messianic Jews were Christians, we thought they might come up with a more 'Christian' version of the Bible. So we told them that we would be interested in a copy of their new translation. But instead of a Bible, we received an interminable chain of emails, every second day, each about thirty pages in length, and each containing long explanations of Jewish theology. On every page they also had requests for donations like this:

Grigore, click here on this Special First Night of Hanukkah with a gift of \$250, \$500, \$1000.

And this:

Grigore, your Special Tenth of Tevet Gift will bring Eternal Life to the Jewish People.

Please click now with your gift of \$1,000, \$500, \$250, or \$100.

How my 'Special Tenth of Tevet Gift' would bring 'Eternal Life' to the Jewish people, they never explained. Presumably, with donations like these one could buy anything. We wish they had explained it, for a lot of rich people would be interested in that.

Pity us, the poor, who have to struggle with trials and tribulations in order to gain eternal life.

Act 14:19 Then Jews from Antioch and Iconium came there; and having persuaded the multitudes, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead.

Act 14:20 However, when the disciples gathered around him, he rose up and went into the city. And the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe.

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

Act 14:22 to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, "**We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.**" So when they had appointed elders in every church, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

2Th 1:3 We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other, so that we

2Th 1:4 ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your **persecutions and tribulations** that you endure,

2Th 1:5 which is manifest evidence of the righteous judgment of God, **that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you also suffer;**

[There is no entering the Kingdom of God without suffering, persecutions and tribulations. These are needed for developing the right character for the Kingdom of God]

2Th 1:6 since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, and to

2Th 1:7 give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His

2Th 1:8 mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2Th 1:9 These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and

2Th 1:10 from the glory of His power, when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.

2Th 1:11 Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness and the work of faith with power,

2Th 1:12 that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

And if anyone wants more, these Scriptures might also be of interest.

Joh 5:30 I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.

Joh 5:31 "If I bear witness of Myself, My witness is not true.

Joh 5:32 There is another who bears witness of Me, and I know that the witness which He witnesses of

Joh 5:33 Me is true. You have sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth.

Joh 5:34 Yet I do not receive testimony from man, but I say these things that you may be saved.

Joh 5:35 He was the burning and shining lamp, and you were willing for a time to rejoice in his light.

Joh 5:36 But I have a greater witness than John's; for the works which the Father has given Me to finish—the very works that I do—bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me.

Joh 5:37 And the Father Himself, who sent Me, has testified of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His form.

Joh 5:38 But you do not have His word abiding in you, because whom He sent, Him you do not

Joh 5:39 believe. **You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life;** and these are they which testify of Me.

Joh 5:40 **But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have [eternal] life.**

Joh 5:41 "I do not receive honor from men.

Joh 5:42 But I know you, that you do not have the love of God in you.

Joh 5:43 I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive. How can you believe, who receive honor from one another,

Joh 5:44 and do not seek the honor that comes from the only God? Do not think that I shall accuse

Joh 5:45 you to the Father; there is one who accuses you—Moses, in whom you trust.

Joh 5:46 For **if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me.**

Joh 5:47 **But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?"**

1Ti 6:3 If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness, he is proud, knowing nothing,

1Ti 6:4 but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions, useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth,

1Ti 6:5 who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. From such withdraw yourself.

1Ti 6:6 Now godliness with contentment is great gain.

1Ti 6:7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.
 1Ti 6:8 And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.
 1Ti 6:9 **But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition.**
 1Ti 6:10 **For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.** But you, O man of God,
 1Ti 6:11 flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.
 1Ti 6:12 **Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life,** to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.
 1Ti 6:13 I urge you in the sight of God who gives life to all things, and before Christ Jesus who
 1Ti 6:14 witnessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate, that you keep this commandment
 1Ti 6:15 without spot, blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ's appearing, which He will manifest in His own time, He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone
 1Ti 6:16 has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen.
 1Ti 6:17 Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy.
 1Ti 6:18 Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, storing up
 1Ti 6:19 for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

The Messianic Jews were trying to convince us that the Holy Spirit is not a gift from heaven, but an invention of Jewish sages during their Babylonian exile. They reject even their own Scriptures which show that special men and God's prophets received the Holy Spirit long before their Babylonian exile.

King David, a mighty prophet of God, was one of them. This is how he prayed when he sinned with Bathsheba, and was forgiven, which proves that even people who commit grievous sins are forgiven when they are genuinely sorry for their sins.

Psa 51:10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me.
 Psa 51:11 Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.

Another Messianic theology point was that the Jews do not need to repent for the crucifixion of Jesus Christ because He caused it and expected it. By their reckoning even Judas Iscariot is free of guilt.

If they had not rejected the New Testament and read the following Scriptures they might know better.

Mat 26:1 Now it came to pass, when Jesus had finished all these sayings, that He said to His disciples,
 Mat 26:2 "You know that after two days is the Passover, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified."

Mat 26:3 Then the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders of the people assembled at the palace of
 Mat 26:4 the high priest, who was called Caiaphas, and plotted to take Jesus by trickery and kill Him.
 Mat 26:5 But they said, "Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar among the people."

Mat 26:20 When evening had come, Jesus sat down with the twelve.

Mat 26:21 Now as they were eating, He said, "Assuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me."

Mat 26:22 And they were exceedingly sorrowful, and each of them began to say to Him, "Lord, is it I?"

Mat 26:23 He answered and said, "He who dipped his hand with Me in the dish will betray Me.

Mat 26:24 **The Son of Man indeed goes just as it is written of Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not**

Mat 26:25 **been born."** Then Judas, who was betraying Him, answered and said, "Rabbi, is it I?" He said to him, "You have said it."

Was Judas absolved of sin because it is written that Jesus Christ had to die for the sin of the world?

If so, why would it have been good for him if he had not been born? And what about these Scriptures:

Mat 27:24 When Pilate saw that he could not prevail at all, but rather that a tumult was rising, he took water and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, "I am innocent of the blood of this just Person. You see to it." And all the people answered and said,

Mat 27:25 **"His blood be on us and on our children."**

Mat 27:26 Then he released Barabbas to them; and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered Him to be crucified.

Have the Jews learned nothing during the two thousand years of persecutions, pogroms and the Holocaust, that they still find it hard to accept that the blood of Jesus Christ has been on them, as their forefathers had asked for? Is it all that difficult to say sorry, and repent of their sin, as David did of his and was forgiven, and remained a mighty prophet of God? Don't they know that in the coming new world only the elect, the saints of God will live in Jerusalem and its surrounds, and no person who is not a Christian would have a place in it?

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

[The Jews have been singing the song of Moses for a long time, but not the song of the Lamb. They better learn that song too, and quickly]

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

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

Rev 20:8 and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea.

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

Rev 20:10 The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

The ungodly under Satan do not go out against Israel, Britain, America, Europe and their allies, as in the Great Tribulation before the Millennium Kingdom, but against the 'camp of the saints and the beloved city'.

All nations were wiped out in the Great Tribulation, except some remnants of Gog and Magog, who went on to multiply and fill the earth to the four corners. This is why God has given Russia and China such vast territories. They spread out and escaped nuclear devastation. God had everything well planned in advance.

Remember, so great was end-time Great Tribulation that no flesh would be saved alive if it weren't for God's intervention.

Mat 24:21 For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world

Mat 24:22 until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.

At the end of the Millennium Kingdom, Satan and his cronies go out against God's elect, because there are no other nations that had not submitted to him. If he could wipe out the camp of the saints, Satan would have the entire world to himself, and Jesus Christ would have no one to return to and be saved.

God however will cast him and his followers into the great lake of fire and finished forever more.

No Jew or Gentile who has not repented and been forgiven of his sins will have a place in the 'camp of the saints'. The Great Tribulation will ensure that people are either washed of their sins and saved, or wiped out of existence altogether.

Finally, in regard to the promise of a 'free' Messianic Bible', we never heard another word of it.

The Christian Holy Days for the years 2017 - 2019

| | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
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| The Passover (Pesach – Nissan 14) Unlike the Jews, who used to kill the Passover lamb "at twilight" of Nissan 14 (meaning in the evening towards | 10 April | 30 Mar | 19 April |

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| Nissan 15), we, Christians, observe the Passover when our “Lamb” – Jesus Christ – was sacrificed for us. That happened on the afternoon of Nissan 14, before the twilight of Nissan 14, meaning that we observe it a little earlier than the Jews. We commemorate His death, not His supper, which occurred the previous evening, as some churches do. The time when His body was broken, not when He broke the symbolic bread. | | | |
| Days of Unleavened Bread (Nissan 15 – 21) On the first and seventh days there shall be holy convocations. No customary work done on these days. | 11 April – 17 April | 31 Mar – 6 April | 20 April – 26 April |
| Pentecost (Shavuot – Sivan 6) Holy convocation with prayers and worship. | 31 May | 20 May | 9 June |
| Feast of Trumpets (Rosh Hashanah – Tishri 1) Holy convocation with prayers and worship. | 21 Sept | 10 Sept | 30 Sept |
| Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur – Tishri 10) Holy convocation with fast, prayers and worship. No food and no drinks from previous sunset to sunset. | 30 Sept. | 19 Sept | 9 Oct |
| Feast of Tabernacles (Succoth – Tishri 15- 22) On the first and the eighth days there shall be holy convocations with prayers and worship. No customary work shall be done on these days. | 5 Oct – 12 Oct | 24 Sept – 1 Oct | 14 Oct – 21 Oct |

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