

Calling The World To A Day Of Fast, Prayer And Worship

What the King of Nineveh taught the world

God gave the world an example of a King who was not ashamed, as our leaders seem to be, to call on his people to return to God in repentance, fast and worship, to save the nation from God's wrath for their wayward ways.

Jon 1:1 Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, "Arise, go to Nineveh,
Jon 1:2 that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me." But Jonah arose to
Jon 1:3 flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. He went down to Joppa, and found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid the fare, and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD.

Lesson 1. *Jonah did not know of Amos' prophecy which came about a century later, in which he said: "The Lord GOD has spoken! Who can but prophesy? (Amo 3:8). Jonah paid a heavy price for running away from God and refusing to prophesy in His name. Virtually all of God's prophets have suffered grievously at the hands of their contemporaries, because prophets usually brought bad news.*

Jon 1:4 But the LORD sent out a great wind on the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship was about to be broken up.
Jon 1:5 Then the mariners were afraid; and every man cried out to his god, and threw the cargo that was in the ship into the sea, to lighten the load. But Jonah had gone down into the lowest parts of the ship, had lain down, and was fast asleep.

Lesson 2. *Ancient people knew that what is happening in the world are not just "natural events" but divine occurrences designed to reward or punish human beings for their lifestyles.*

Jon 1:6 So the captain came to him, and said to him, "What do you mean, sleeper? Arise, call on your God; perhaps your God will consider us, so that we may not perish."
Jon 1:7 And they said to one another, "Come, let us cast lots, that we may know for whose cause this trouble has come upon us." So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah.

Lesson 3. *When people have strong faith in God, He responds to their request.*

Jon 1:8 Then they said to him, "Please tell us! For whose cause is this trouble upon us? What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?" So he said to them,
Jon 1:9 "I am a Hebrew; and I fear the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land."
Jon 1:10 Then the men were exceedingly afraid, and said to him, "Why have you done this?" For the men knew that he fled from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them.
Jon 1:11 Then they said to him, "What shall we do to you that the sea may be calm for us?"—for the sea was growing more tempestuous.
Jon 1:12 And he said to them, "Pick me up and throw me into the sea; then the sea will become calm for you. For I know that this great tempest is because of me."
Jon 1:13 Nevertheless the men rowed hard to return to land, but they could not, for the sea continued to grow more tempestuous against them.
Jon 1:14 Therefore they cried out to the LORD and said, "We pray, O LORD, please do not let us perish for this man's life, and do not charge us with innocent blood; for You, O LORD, have done as it pleased You."

Lesson 4. *Ancient people, who had neither the Old nor the New Testament, knew that the LORD does as He pleases. That was long before God told the prophet Amos to inscribe that statement in the Scriptures.*

Jon 1:15 So they picked up Jonah and threw him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging.
Jon 1:16 Then the men feared the LORD exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice to the LORD and took vows. Now the LORD
Jon 1:17 had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

Lesson 5. *Jesus Christ used the analogy of Jonah spending three days and three nights in the belly of the earth. How remarkable that "Christian" Churches have cut that time in half, making Him a liar and the Scriptures unreliable. Jesus Christ was born in 6 B.C.; Baptized in 24 A.D.; Had supper with His disciples on Tuesday 26 A.D.; Was crucified on Passover, Wednesday 27 A.D.. Was in the grave on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday and raised Sunday morning, a little over three days and three nights (half a week), not a day and a half as today's fallen Christianity preaches.*

Jon 2:1 Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the fish's belly.
Jon 2:2 And he said: "I cried out to the LORD because of my affliction, And He answered me. "Out of the belly of Sheol I cried, And You heard my voice.
Jon 2:3 For You cast me into the deep, Into the heart of the seas, And the floods surrounded me; All Your billows and Your waves passed over me.
Jon 2:4 Then I said, 'I have been cast out of Your sight; Yet I will look again toward Your holy temple.'
Jon 2:5 The waters surrounded me, even to my soul; The deep closed around me; Weeds were wrapped around
Jon 2:6 my head. I went down to the moorings of the mountains; The earth with its bars closed behind me forever; Yet You have brought up my life from the pit, O LORD, my God.
Jon 2:7 "When my soul fainted within me, I remembered the LORD; And my prayer went up to You, Into
Jon 2:8 Your holy temple. "Those who regard worthless idols Forsake their own Mercy.
Jon 2:9 But I will sacrifice to You With the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay what I have vowed. Salvation is
Jon 2:10 of the LORD." So the LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.

Lesson 6: *A heart felt prayer delivered Jonah from his distress. God shows no partiality; He does the same with all people who fear Him, pray, honour, and worship Him, as Apostle Peter also noted: "In truth I perceive that*

God shows no partiality. But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him” (Act 10:34 -35).

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!" So the people of Nineveh believed God,

Jon 3:5 proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them.

Lesson 7. Who did the people of Nineveh believe . . . Jonah? No they believed God! Once again, ancient people, unlike the 'enlightened' people of today, accepted that when one spoke in the name of God, they considered it as coming from God Himself. Yet they did not have a Bible to check out whether their preachers spoke according to the Scriptures.

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 them eat, or drink water. But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily to God;

Jon 3:8 yes, **let everyone 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

Jon 3:10 perish? 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.**

Lesson 8: What did the people of Nineveh do when they believed God? They did not wait for a preacher (which in most likelihood they did not have, but had priests who conducted services according to fixed rituals): "They proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them." And their king, when he heard of Jonah's preaching, proclaimed a fast for all subjects including their animals. Then he urged them to "turn everyone from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands". And was that effective? Was it ever! "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."

None of our leaders have followed the example of the King of Nineveh to call on their people to go before God in fast, prayer, and worship, so that He may relent from His anger against an exceedingly sinful world, to take away the pandemic that has turned the world upside down, and hastened the threat of nuclear war that is now rising ominously over the horizon.

No one believes that God had anything to do with those things – they are all "natural developments".

No one seems to read the Bible, and those who read it do not believe it, and take pleasure in 'interpreting' it.

What would be more appropriate in today's troubled world than for leaders to call their peoples to a day of fast, prayer and worship, knowing that God listens to their prayers.

1Pe 3:12 For the eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayers; but the face of the LORD is against those who do evil."

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

Zec 1:5 " LORD. 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.' " " "

We live in a world of unrestrained hypocrisy, and relentless efforts by the 'wise' to distance themselves from God. Anyone who upholds the Law of God makes himself a target.

Isa 59:14 Justice is turned back, And righteousness stands afar off; For truth is fallen in the street, And equity cannot enter. So truth fails,

Isa 59:15 **And he *who* departs from evil makes himself a prey. Then the LORD saw it, and it displeased Him That *there* was no justice.**

Isa 59:20 "The Redeemer will come to Zion, And to those who turn from transgression in Jacob," Says the

Isa 59:21 LORD. "As for Me," says the LORD, "this is My covenant with them: My Spirit who is upon you, and My words which I have put in your mouth, shall not depart from your mouth, nor from the mouth of your descendants, nor from the mouth of your descendants' descendants," says the LORD, "**from this time and forevermore.**"

The world wonders that God strikes it with so many plagues, floods, droughts, earthquakes and pestilences.

Does anyone have any doubts that Christianity of Jesus Christ has become a fallen "Christianity" which deserves everything it gets from God?

Today's leaders absolve God of any evil, because they say that a good God would not do such things to humans.

Well, He is not just a 'good God', He is their Creator, and as such He has the right to demand that people live by His standards not theirs. And since this world decided that there is no God, and human beings created themselves through evolution, they should have no objections when He proves His existence by obliterating them.

Hear O World, Return To Your Creator, Or You Will Perish

What began as a local virus infection, ended up a worldwide catastrophe! They called it COVID—19, but no one explained why this evil pandemic must be honored with capital letters. Even God is not written in capital letters. This is the last time we write it that way.

Millions of people were infected and thousands died; borders closed, cities and nations in lockdown, air travel grounded, economies devastated, millions of people unemployed, and a new term entered the world vocabulary: social distancing. Yet just as the world thought it was coming out of it, this virus struck again, more virulently than before, some nations being in second and third waves.

Stuff of nightmares, except that it's all too real. Yet no one is asking why God has done this to the world.

God has done this to the world, you say, when everybody knows that it came from China?

Yes, we do know that it came from China, but we also know that nothing happens in this world without God's knowledge and approval.

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.**

Yes we 'prophesy', because God has told us to, and because someone had to tell the world what the meaning of all this is, and the news is very good or very bad, depending where one stands in relation to God.

God is using the Devil for punishment and correction of wayward peoples, as He had always done.

He allowed him to use the Chinese this time, as He allowed him to use other peoples at other times.

This has been the Devil's role from the very beginning. That is why God created him in the first place.

Pro 16:4 The LORD has made all for Himself, Yes, even the wicked for the day of doom.

Remember, the Devil was already in the Garden of Eden when the first humans were put there, and they fell for his wicked charms. Human beings are supposed to resist him, as Jesus Christ did, and he departed.

The lesson from the Scriptures is that if we resist the Devil, he will flee from us. Here are Scriptures that speak louder to us now than they did two thousand years ago when they were written.

Jas 4:1 Where do wars and fights *come* from among you? *Do they not come* from your *desires* for pleasure that

Jas 4:2 war in your members? You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war.

Yet you do not have because you do not ask.

Jas 4:3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend *it* on your pleasures.

Jas 4:4 Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that **friendship with the world is enmity with God?** Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

Jas 4:5 Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, "The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously"?

Jas 4:6 But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God Resists The Proud, But Gives Grace To The Humble."

Jas 4:7 **Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.**

The easiest work for the Devil is to use atheists for his wicked deeds. People who do not believe in God, do not believe in the Devil either. And unbelievers fall easy prey to its devices.

At this point, news flashed around the world that another one of Vladimir Putin's adversaries was poisoned and was in a coma. He was not allowed to be treated in the West for days until the effect of the poison wore off.

The man is shameless and fears no God. The whole world knows his character, except the Russian Orthodox Church, for whom he has become their beloved "Father of the Nation". They supported him when he asked the Russian peoples in a referendum whether they want him to become dictator for life. And surprise, surprise, they overwhelmingly voted for it. Not by 99.9 per cent as dictators used to be "elected" in Soviet times, but by a much lower percentage. In a democracy, even Russian style, percentages don't count much, winning does. And when you have a paragon of truth, righteousness, and humility, like the KGB, renamed FSB, behind you, you can order any winning percentage you want. One wonders, if he is so popular with his people, why is Vladimir Putin still killing his adversaries after just being voted dictator for life?

Poor Russians; after enduring the burden of an "atheist communist paradise" for seventy years – a biblical term – they still have to put up with its kicking carcass. But not for long, for big changes are in the making in the world.

Trust in God, friends, and do not lose your faith in the triumph of good over evil, for you will see it shortly.

The judgment for this world's evil rulers, even those who sneak in 'democratically', and we speak from experience, is at hand. Remember the ancient Greek proverb: "Whom the Gods want to destroy, they imbue with power".

No such concern for Russia's 'saint' in the making. With a massive nuclear arsenal in his hands, and with comrades in arms like the 'democrats' Xi Jinping of China and Kim Jong-un of North Korea (don't laugh, they are also 'elected' by 'democratic' means), they don't fear any God, let alone human beings. Just ask them.

Recent leaders of China are aghast of what Xi Jinping is doing to their nascent democracy. All their efforts to stir China away from Mao's system, are in tatters. All it took was just one hungry man for power, and all is ruined. A lesson for the world that when a root of evil is left in the ground, evil eventually springs up.

You can see that in China's Tiananmen Square. A huge effigy of Mao is watching over it. Have they not had enough of that man that it must stain the conscience of all future generations? Have the lessons of the 'cultural' revolution been forgotten when one man's shaky hold on power led him to unleash the largest and most murderous wave of human purging in history? No one was safe from the rage of that crazed man, friend and foe alike. Is that a legacy to be proud of? Don't his victims deserve a little respect? Get rid of the spirit of the dead, for it is destroying the nation—any and every nation that worships the dead.

Jesus Christ brought a new religion and God to the world – the God of the living, to replace the god of the dead.

Mat 22:31 But concerning the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God, saying,

Mat 22:32 'I Am The God Of Abraham, The God Of Isaac, And The God Of Jacob' ? God is not the God of the

Mat 22:33 dead, but of the living." And when the multitudes heard *this*, they were astonished at His teaching.

The multitudes were astonished at Jesus' teaching, but not today's multitudes. Leaders of religions, and unfortunately also of Christianity, are teaching the doctrines of the god of the dead, such as life after death, going to heaven after death, worship of the dead, dead people turned into saints, etc. – all contrary to the teachings of Jesus Christ and His Apostles.

Since ancient times, the god of the dead had given rise to megalomaniacs, all of which brought catastrophe to their nations – Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon in ancient times, Soviet leaders in recent times, and many more dictators in-between. In the new age, however, which the world is being prepared for now, the age of megalomaniacs will be over and never come back. Might will never be right again!

A new world is dawning in which there is no place for blood thirsty men of cruelty and iniquity.

All those dictators are leading their nations to catastrophe. Unfortunately, on their way they are leaving behind a devastated world. The world needs to beware of this evil trinity: Putin, Xi, Kim, for it will have to stand up to their aggressive expansionism whether it likes it or not, and sooner than anyone imagines.

A nuclear conflict between East and West is written in the stars, and in the Bible.

Jesus Christ, who came from heaven and went back to heaven, said this:

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

What were His words about that will never pass away?

Mat 24:3 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?**"

The words that would never pass away were about His return to this world and **the end of the age**.

Perhaps we should complete that statement by pointing out that the end of this age occurs in a Great Tribulation the likes of which this world had never seen, nor ever shall see again. These are Jesus' words too.

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.

Unfortunately this is where the world stands at present, brought to us courtesy of the trinity of evil. Perhaps we should add Iran and make that a quad of evil. They do not consider what Jesus Christ said: God will intervene to save His elect and let the Great Tribulation wipe out the evil of this planet. Even Satan will disappear from the world, how much more his acolytes.

When speaking about it, Jesus Christ gave a number of signs that would precede that event:

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.

First sign: religious deception. Plenty of it in the world. The whole world has been enveloped by a veil of deception, including Christianity. The world has a new god now – the god of evolution and of death.

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

Second sign: wars and rumors of wars. Throughout history, the greatest technological innovations were made in preparations of war. Our own world was born in two World Wars whose effect is still being felt.

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

Third sign: famine. Entire nations are starving, while help from the West is diverted to feed armies that are killing each other mostly in internecine wars.

Furth sign: pestilences. The world has been brought to its knees by the worst pestilence in living memory: Covid– 19 virus, gifted to the world by a pillar of the evil quad, China.

Fifth sign: earthquakes. Plenty of them, but these are mere playthings compared to what is coming:

Rev 16:17 Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the Rev 16:18 throne, saying, "It is done!" And there were noises and thunders and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great **earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth**.

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

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

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

An earthquake such as had not occurred since men were on the earth – fitting end to a world that would rather blaspheme God than pray and worship Him to allay their misery. So God gives them more of it. [Beware island nations, Britain included. Turn to God now for He alone could save you this time]

And how do men blaspheme their Creator God? Many ways, but the worst is to deny even His existence, and teach and preach that human beings and everything else in the world appeared out of nowhere, then evolved into what we see now. God, however, speaks to us loud and clear through His book, the Bible:

Isa 40:1 "Comfort, yes, comfort My people!" Says your God.

Isa 40:2 "Speak comfort to Jerusalem, and cry out to her, That her warfare is ended, That her iniquity is pardoned; For she has received from the LORD's hand Double for all her sins."

Isa 40:3 The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the LORD; Make straight in the desert A highway

Isa 40:4 for our God. Every valley shall be exalted And every mountain and hill brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight And the rough places smooth;

Isa 40:5 The glory of the LORD shall be revealed, And all flesh shall see it together; For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

Isa 40:6 The voice said, "Cry out!" And he said, "What shall I cry?" "All flesh is grass, And all its loveliness is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades,

Isa 40:7 Because the breath of the LORD blows upon it; Surely the people are grass.

Isa 40:8 The grass withers, the flower fades, But **the word of our God [the Bible] stands forever.**"

Isa 40:9 O Zion, You who bring good tidings, Get up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, You who bring good tidings, Lift up your voice with strength, Lift *it* up, be not afraid; Say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!"

Isa 40:10 Behold, the Lord GOD shall come with a strong *hand*, And His arm shall rule for Him; Behold, His

Isa 40:11 reward *is* with Him, And His work before Him. He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, And carry *them* in His bosom, *And* gently lead those who are with young.

Isa 40:12 Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, Measured heaven with a span And calculated the dust of the earth in a measure? Weighed the mountains in scales And the hills in a balance?

Isa 40:13 Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD, Or as His counselor has taught Him?

Isa 40:14 With whom did He take counsel, and *who* instructed Him, And taught Him in the path of justice? Who taught Him knowledge, And showed Him the way of understanding?

Isa 40:15 Behold, the nations *are* as a drop in a bucket, And are counted as the small dust on the scales; Look, He lifts up the isles as a very little thing.

Isa 40:16 And Lebanon *is* not sufficient to burn, Nor its beasts sufficient for a burnt offering.

Isa 40:17 All nations before Him *are* as nothing, And they are counted by Him less than nothing and worthless.

Isa 40:18 To whom then will you liken God? Or what likeness will you compare to Him?

Isa 40:19 The workman molds an image, The goldsmith overspreads it with gold, And the silversmith casts silver

Isa 40:20 chains. Whoever *is* too impoverished for *such* a contribution Chooses a tree *that* will not rot; He seeks for himself a skillful workman To prepare a carved image *that* will not totter.

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

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

Isa 40:23 He brings the princes to nothing; He makes the judges of the earth useless.

Isa 40:24 Scarcely shall they be planted, Scarcely shall they be sown, Scarcely shall their stock take root in the earth, When He will also blow on them, And they will wither, And the whirlwind will take them away like

Isa 40:25 stubble. "To whom then will you liken Me, Or to *whom* shall I be equal?" says the Holy One.

Isa 40:26 Lift up your eyes on high, And see who has created these *things*, Who brings out their host by number; He calls them all by name, By the greatness of His might And the strength of *His* power; Not one is missing.

Isa 40:27 Why do you say, O Jacob, And speak, O Israel: "My way is hidden from the LORD, And my just claim is passed over by

Isa 40:28 my God"? Have you not known? Have you not heard? **The everlasting God, the LORD, The Creator of the ends of the earth**, Neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable.

Isa 40:29 He gives power to the weak, And to *those who have* no might He increases strength.

Isa 40:30 Even the youths shall faint and be weary, And the young men shall utterly fall,

Isa 40:31 But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew *their* strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.

2Pe 3:1 Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in *both of* which I stir up your pure minds by way of

2Pe 3:2 reminder), that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior,

2Pe 3:3 knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts,

2Pe 3:4 and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as *they were* from the beginning of creation."

2Pe 3:5 For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out

2Pe 3:6 of water and in the water, by which the world *that* then existed perished, being flooded with water.

2Pe 3:7 But the heavens and the earth *which* are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the **day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men**.

2Pe 3:8 But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day *is* as a thousand years, and a thousand years as

2Pe 3:9 one day. The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord

2Pe 3:10 will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

2Pe 3:11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner *of persons* ought you to be in holy conduct and

2Pe 3:12 godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise,

2Pe 3:13 **look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.**

Yes, this world was created for a purpose, and when that purpose is achieved, it will be dissolved and replaced with a new earth and new heavens that will last forever.

Thousand years old prophecies tell us that this is a time of major changes in the world, though not a complete end of the world, but a transition to the so-called Millennium Kingdom of peace and prosperity [a 'Sabbath' of rest and prosperity for the whole world] that will last a thousand years.

Therefore, what the world calls "natural events" are heavenly signs that portend catastrophe that will cleans the world of overwhelming physical, moral and spiritual pollutions, in preparations of the new age.

Mat 24:8 All these *are* the beginning of sorrows. "Then they will deliver you up to tribulation

Mat 24:9 and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake.

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

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

False prophets again. Every Church has them. Yet if one asked a 'Christian' if he knows any, he will certainly tell you that there aren't any in his Church, only in other Churches.

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. **And this gospel of the kingdom will be**

Mat 24:14 **preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.**

Of all the signs that Jesus Christ gave, all could have happened any time in history, and most did to various degrees, but there is one sign that could not have happened any other time except at the very end of this age, and that is the preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom in all the world as a witness to all the nations. Does anybody know what that is?

Today's Christians say that it is the Gospel preached in their Churches, but if that were the case, why hasn't anyone accepted the work of the Two Witnesses of God, whose Gospel does not deviate one iota from the Scriptures?

And if that Gospel had already been preached as a witness to all the nations, as some Churches claim, why hasn't the end come and Jesus not returned?

Today's preachers do not preach their gospel as a witness, but as a means of making converts and an income. That is why their gospels are false: the Holy Spirit would never open the mind to the mysteries of the Bible to anyone who would turn the Gospel of the Kingdom into a money-making venture.

We have done what God required of us: preach the Gospel of the Kingdom free of charge, and done so for no less than three decades. Yet we have not requested anything from anyone, certainly not from strangers, for that is un-Christian, even though millions of people from every corner of the world and every nation have availed themselves of our services.

We could have done with voluntary help, because we grappled with unrelenting poverty, but this "Me" generation has no concerns with how it achieves its goals. What it does not know, because no one tells it and because its preachers are chief exponents of this age, is that no one will ever achieve spiritual growth through greed, stealing and plagiarising, and without a high degree of spirituality and righteousness no one will ever be saved.

This is the very purpose for which this world was created: a masterful step for God, to help human beings learn and acquire the values, knowledge and perfect character that will stay with them forever in His eternal Kingdom.

2Pe 3:14 Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and

2Pe 3:15 blameless; and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you,

2Pe 3:16 as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.

2Pe 3:17 You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being

2Pe 3:18 led away with the error of the wicked; but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.

Countless people come to us to read our magazines for spiritual enlightenment, then go to their Churches where they pay tithes and offerings in order to get material blessings as in Old Testament times. They cannot support those who preach trials, tribulations and suffering, necessary for developing the right character for the Kingdom of God, as Jesus Christ and His Apostles preached. They set their minds on this world, and this is what they will get.

Not one of those who pay tithes and offerings in order to get blessings in this world will be part of the Kingdom of God, least of all the impostors who preach such falsehoods in the New Testament. So where does the world stand right now? On the edge of precipice, because no one believes that things are as bad as they really are. No one believes biblical prophecies and the words of Jesus Christ, who identified this as the critical period before the Great Tribulation and His return, so they will all be taken by surprise by that devastating event as the people of Noah's time were taken by the Flood.

Throughout history, God allowed a period of grace after sending warnings through His prophets to wayward peoples about their ways, before unleashing His wrath on them, lest they claim that He is not fair by not giving them enough time to repent and change. Well, how many editions of *The Christian Herald* do they want before they make up their mind whether they go God's way or their way? No less than 34 editions have been published in the last three decades. Now do you know what the bona fides of this work is?

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.

After three decades and 34 editions of *The Christian Herald* – a magazine that is read in every nation of this world – not a single person who "dwells on the earth" has accepted the preaching of God's end-time Two Witnesses. Why? Because Satan's ministers have so twisted the Gospel of the Kingdom of God that no one recognises it as the true Gospel of life, and they all cling on to the gospel preached in their Churches, the gospel of Satan, the gospel of death.

This is where the world stands right now – in the period of grace before the worldwide catastrophe falls on them.

This period is not designed to lull people into a false sense of security, which seems to be the case now, so that they may wallow in their morass a little longer, but to turn to God to a holy and righteous life, the consequences for not doing so being nothing less than death – eternal death.

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),

This has remained a mystery for millennia, until we came along and revealed his identity: The one who asked the members of his Church to apologise to homosexuals for their suffering. He thinks he is greater than God; he thinks that he is the Holy Father, not God. Any wonder that the Scriptures refers to him as the 'Abomination of Desolation'.

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.**

Christians, and especially their leaders, are not happy that we put them all in the same basket of disobedience to Jesus Christ. Well, those who think that they are not deceived, or not deceiving their people, let them explain why the flight of Jesus' followers from the invading armies of the Great Tribulation, must not occur on the Sabbath.

So sacrosanct is the Sabbath in the eyes of God and of our Savior Jesus Christ that even in the face of mortal danger they must not defile it. If they die because of it, it is to their credit and advantage. How many Churches keep the Sabbath holy? We found some who say they do, but they also keep the pagan holy days of Easter, Christmas, Halloween, Saints Days, etc., and none keep God's true Holy Days and the Sabbath as they should.

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.

Unless you become an elect of God, You will not be given a place in God's eternal Kingdom. Amen!

Those who wanted to be God's Witnesses weren't, And the one who didn't ask for it was

In early 1970s, as a member of the Worldwide Church of God, I was invited to attend a Feast of Tabernacles with that Church. I had been a member of that Church for about two years, long enough to have been assessed faithful and worthy of taking part in the celebrations of that highly regarded Feast.

Churches from North East USA and Eastern Canada were coming together in a beautiful mountainous tourist area in eastern USA for that Feast. *[Sorry, we do not have that address, but if anyone has it please send it to us and we will publish it, as there is interest in it].*

Everything was prearranged, and I was given a place in a two story hotel, situated near a lake surrounded by thick green forests. One evening, I could not sleep, so I got down from my room, I took a little boat (of a number that were there for the visitors), and paddled about 20 or 30 metres on the lake, then I stopped and meditated, enjoying the silence, the beautiful skies, and the sounds of the night. About an hour or so later, thoughts and visions came into my head that I could not explain. They could not have surfaced from the deep recesses of my mind, as "specialists" in the field might explain, because they were new and on subjects that I had never thought of before.

I got back to my room, I settled my mind, and wondered about the meaning of all that. One particular thought that would not go away was that I will be one of the Two Witnesses of God spoken of in the Book of Revelation.

I thought, if I told anyone about this, especially the preachers, they would think I was mad and expel me from the Church immediately. I did not want that to happen, because I was enjoying my membership into that Church even though it was not easy keeping up with incessant demands for donations, on top of a tithing system (three tithes not one as in Old Testament times) and mandatory Holy Days offerings.

If someone had asked me what the Two Witnesses were supposed to do, I would not have known. I might have said, preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ that this Church was already preaching to the whole world.

Two problems with that: One does not become a preacher after two years or so of attending Church services, even with considerable private Bible study, and more importantly, everyone in that Church knew that its two leaders, Herbert W Armstrong and his son Garner Ted Armstrong, were, or going to be shortly, the Two Witnesses of Revelation. For me to become a Witness would have meant that one of them would have had to step aside – insane.

So I said to myself, Grigore, be quiet about this, or you will be out of this Church before you know it. And quiet I was. In fact, this is the first time that I am writing about that experience, even though eventually I have been cast out of the Church because of my belief anyway. I will come to that shortly.

At that time, the hierarchy of that Church used to preach that the Worldwide Church of God was one of the seven Churches mentioned of in the book of Revelation, namely the Philadelphia Church of God. Let us have a look at it.

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

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

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

Rev 3:10 Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. *[Take note: the hour of trial – the Great Tribulation – comes upon this world at the time of the Two Witnesses]*

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

Rev 3:13 down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name. "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." '

There were a few incongruous things about their claims, but no one dared ask about them, for to do so would have put a shade over his devotion to the Church, and a question mark over his membership and therefore over his salvation. Only that Church offered 'real', as opposed to imagined salvation, and members held on to it with their teeth. Why ask questions that would get you into trouble, when no one seemed to be bothered about incongruous things in the Church's preaching. For example: Who formed the "synagogue of Satan" within the ranks of that Church? Who was the man of little strength who did not deny the name of Christ? None of the two leaders quite fit that description, for no one could say they were men of little strength. What was the open door that no one could shut? All these and more were bothering me especially after my lake experience. But I wasn't going to rock the boat.

My problem was that the more I kept those thoughts to myself the more they bothered me, even burning me on the inside, like the thoughts of Jeremiah the prophet burned him when he did not want to speak for God anymore.

Jer 20:7 O LORD, You induced me, and I was persuaded; You are stronger than I, and have prevailed. I am in

Jer 20:8 derision daily; Everyone mocks me. For when I spoke, I cried out; I shouted, "Violence and plunder!" Because the word of the LORD was made to me A reproach and a derision daily.

Jer 20:9 Then I said, "I will not make mention of Him, Nor speak anymore in His name." But **His word was in my heart like a burning fire Shut up in my bones**; I was weary of holding it back, And I could not.

Jer 20:10 For I heard many mocking: "Fear on every side!" "Report," *they say*, "and we will report it!" All my acquaintances watched for my stumbling, *saying*, "Perhaps he can be induced; Then we will prevail against him, And we will take our revenge on him."

Jer 20:11 But the LORD is with me as a mighty, awesome One. Therefore my persecutors will stumble, and will not prevail. They will be greatly ashamed, for they will not prosper. *Their* everlasting confusion will never be

Jer 20:12 forgotten. But, O LORD of hosts, You who test the righteous, **And see the mind and heart**, Let me see Your vengeance on them; For I have pleaded my cause before You.

About ten months after that experience, I was having a discussion with a girl of the Church with which I was developing a close relationship. She was getting slimmer and slimmer, too slim to be healthy. So I directed our discussion towards a point in which I could ask her about it without offending her. Her answer was blunt. She was having difficulty covering her expenses after paying the government tax and the tithes and mandatory offerings the Church was asking for, and the only way she could save some money was by cutting down on her food expenses.

I was outraged, and without telling her what I was going to do, I decided to confront the head preacher.

After a Sabbath service, during a social occasion, I said to the head minister that I would like to have a discussion with him, but that I would prefer some witnesses. I expected that he would expel me from the Church and spread lies about me, as their custom was with people they put out of the Church, and I thought that the presence of witnesses might restrain him. But to no avail. He still portrayed me as a terrible sinner and forbade everyone from ever talking with me again. Anyway, he called two deacons who were chatting nearby and waived at me to speak.

I told him that tithing is not a doctrine under the New Testament, and God had appointed me to be one of the Two Witnesses of Revelation.

If he had asked me why I believed those things, I would have told him, but he did not ask. All he said was, 'If that is what you believe, you are out of this Church'. And out of it I was, but not out of God's sight.

I won't go over what happened afterwards, as I have written about it before. All I would say now is that I left Canada for Australia, so that I could be as far as possible from them, and I carved myself a new career.

I was electrician before, but chose to become a teacher/librarian as I developed an insatiable desire for reading, especially religious - historical books.

About a decade and a half later, I had an encounter with people of my former Church, who were conducting an evangelistic campaign in Australia. I went there, all new speakers, of whom I asked a few questions as if I was interested in joining their Church, without telling them who I was. It was only then I found out that the two leaders had fallen out with each other, H. W. Armstrong was dead, and his son Garner Ted had formed a new Church – the "International Church of God". No one was talking of the Two Witnesses of Revelation anymore.

What angered me the most was that they were still preaching the same old ruinous regime of tithes and offerings!

And as they did with me when I first joined that Church, they were not honest with people about it from the beginning, but trapping them into joining the Church, and only weeks or months later after being baptised and become full members of the Church, were told about those obligations. Too late to get out of the Church, for that would have meant losing the membership into "the one and only true Church of God in the world", and that meant eternal damnation.

I decided to do something about it, but what? What could one man do against a juggernaut? I sounded out a few Churches, but none was interested in what I had in mind. In the end I decided to go about it alone. And so, fifteen years after I left Canada for Australia, the first edition of *The Christian Herald* made its appearance in 1990.

The first few editions were all about combatting the fallacious and ruinous doctrines of the two Churches whose doctrines were similar: the Worldwide Church of God under new leaders, and the International Church of God under Garner Ted Armstrong.

Well, in so doing we seemed to have stirred up a hornet's nest, or two hornets' nests. They have never stopped pursuing us, trying to destroy this work or at least derail it with all their power. I say "we" because by then I was married and had an assistant in this work. However, before long we found ourselves dealing with people from all over the world who had no connection with WCG or ICG. Our surprise came when we discovered that some of our editions, like *The Christian Herald No 6*, were of interest even to students and lecturers of academe.

They loved our writings, not least because they were freely available on our web site, warts and all. We know we made some mistakes, mostly of spelling and syntax, but never of doctrine, because we copiously supported them with the Scriptures. We hope our readers understand and forgive, for English is not the easiest of languages to learn in midlife. Now take a good look at this old prophecy, for it has some very interesting revelations.

Isa 28:1 Woe to the crown of pride, to the drunkards of Ephraim, Whose glorious beauty is a fading flower Which is at the head of the verdant valleys, To those who are overcome with wine!

Who are the 'drunkards of Ephraim'? One day we may dedicate an entire edition to the identity of the Twelve Tribes of Israel, God willing, for it is a large topic, but for now you must take our word for it that Ephraim is England.

I was reading some European newspapers a while back, which showed pictures of inebriated English girls down on the streets of London, the point being made that such a scene would be hard to find in other European cities. I do not know how much truth is in that and whether that was just a fluke or a regular occurrence, but given that even the Bible connects Ephraim with drunkenness may be something that British leaders might want to consider.

Isa 28:2 Behold, the Lord has a mighty and strong one, Like a tempest of hail and a destroying storm, Like a flood of mighty waters overflowing, Who will bring *them* down to the earth with *His* hand.

Isa 28:3 The crown of pride [*Inherited from the famous King of Israel, on divine promise, not on their character and achievements*], the drunkards of Ephraim Will be trampled underfoot;

Drunkards of Ephraim again. This expression is not found in relation to any other tribe or nation in the Bible. However, before anyone gets cocky about it, they should remember that they are also mighty soldiers who did not bend their heads and knees to anyone. If it weren't for the 'drunkards of Ephraim', we might all be speaking German now, if we survived the ravages of Two World Wars.

Isa 28:4 And the glorious beauty is a fading flower Which is at the head of the verdant valley, Like the first fruit before the summer, Which an observer sees; He eats it up while it is still in his hand. In that day

Isa 28:5 the LORD of hosts will be For a crown of glory and a diadem of beauty To the remnant of His people,

"That is the day of the return of Jesus Christ, and resurrection of the kings under Him including David, the King and Prophet of Israel - who will receive the throne kept warm by the monarchs of Ephraim.

Isa 28:6 For a spirit of justice to him who sits in judgment, And for strength to those who turn back the battle at the gate.

Those who had suffered injustice at the hands of those who sit in today's Courts of Justice (and who hasn't, us included), will get their justice in God's eternal Kingdom.

Isa 28:7 But they also have erred through wine, And through intoxicating drink are out of the way; The priest and the prophet have erred through intoxicating drink, They are swallowed up by wine, They are out of the way through intoxicating drink; They err in vision, they stumble in judgment.

Isa 28:8 For all tables are full of vomit and filth; No place is clean.

When we began this work, we used to send out large envelopes with our magazines to about two hundred heads of nations. Very expensive work - we nearly bankrupted ourselves and were saved from it by the appearance of Internet or the World Wide Web as it is also called, which reduced our expenses though did not cut them out altogether. My credit cards have not been out of debt for decades. It's the price of this work to be "clothed in sackcloth" [Rev 11:3] to the very end.

When we shifted our activities to the Internet, the British Monarchs were among the first and few leaders who withdrew their Web Address from public domain so that we could no longer contact them anymore. They have had nothing but problems ever since. Obviously they thought that this is merely the work of misguided humans.

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

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

Isa 28:11 there a little." For with stammering lips and another tongue He will speak to this people,

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

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

How much do the luminaries of the Anglican Church know of this passage? Do they study the Scriptures, 'Here a little, there a little' so that they may understand the great mysteries of life?

God brought someone from another language to teach them the Scriptures and the Gospel of life – the true Gospel of Jesus Christ - which they, and all their ilk all over the world, have rejected. Ominous sign of the time.

Now if they did not listen to one who spoke to them in their language, how much less would they have listened to one who spoke to them in another tongue? We tried hard to learn English, and only when God felt that we mastered it reasonably well did He entrust us with preaching it.

And to think that the man whom God called to do this work spent his formative years, the first 24 years of his life, in intense atheistic, communist ideology, designed to turn him into a left wing revolutionary.

Therefore, another bona fides of this work is being done by a stranger with imperfect language.

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

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

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

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

Zec 4:5 Then the angel who talked with me answered and said to me, "Do you not know what these are?" And I

Zec 4:6 said, "No, my lord." So he answered and said to me: "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: '**Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,**' Says the LORD of hosts.

Zec 4:7 'Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain! And he shall bring forth the capstone With shouts of "Grace, grace to it!" ' "

Zec 4:8 Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying:

Zec 4:9 "The hands of Zerubbabel Have laid the foundation of this temple; His hands shall also finish it. **Then you will know That the LORD of hosts has sent Me to you.**

Zec 4:10 For who has despised the day of small things? For these seven rejoice to see The plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel. They are the eyes of the LORD, Which scan to and fro throughout the whole earth."

Zec 4:11 answered and said to him, "What are these two olive trees—at the right of the lampstand and at its left?"

Zec 4:12 And I further answered and said to him, "What are these two olive branches that drip into the receptacles of the two gold pipes from which the golden oil drains?"

Zec 4:13 Then he answered me and said, "Do you not know what these are?" And I said, "No, my lord."

Zec 4:14 So he said, "These are the two anointed ones, who stand beside the Lord of the whole earth."

Amen!

The mysterious road to becoming a servant of God

I grew up in communist Romania at the time when the atheists were establishing their 'paradise' in that, and half a dozen other countries in Eastern Europe. However, I became one who flew over the cuckoo's nest when I discovered that their 'paradise' was a code name for a sinister nightmare, and I escaped to the West.

I left Romania when communist Eastern Europe was in the midst of feverish preparations for war with the capitalist West. I was radio officer on a ship on the Danube River bound for Germany, and I could hardly wait to reach Vienna and ask for political asylum fearing that the war might start before I could join the armies of the West on their way to free Eastern Europe from communism, and I could see my parents again. I was extremely disappointed when I discovered that the West was not even thinking of war, let alone preparing for it. What they were doing in the East was merely keeping the masses under a war psychosis in order to keep them under control, under a form of undeclared martial law.

My hope of ever going back to be with my parents again were shattered, and I migrated to Canada.

Two years later, while still learning English, I heard Garner Ted Armstrong almost hysterically talking about imminent war, not between the communist East and the capitalist West, but between Germany and the Anglo-Saxons. I thought, either that man is mad or things were happening out there at frightening speed that escaped me, even though I was avidly keeping myself informed of international developments.

I took his address and sent for his "free" booklets, which I received shortly afterwards.

I read them anxiously, only to discover that he was not talking of real geopolitical developments, but of his understanding of "imminent prophetic developments". Not knowing anything about the Bible and its prophecies, I was in quandary what to make of his 'insights'. Nevertheless I sent for more of their booklets, adding a check of what I thought was a fair amount for their materials. They replied thanking me profusely for helping them with the end-time "work of God".

Not many people were doing that, they said. It was a well-oiled entrapping machine, and I fell for it. Before I knew it, I was a "co-worker" in the "one and only true Church of God in the world". I thought, God had blessed me more in my new country than if I had gone back East and freed Romania from communism.

I had to show myself worthy of my call, so I began studying the Bible in earnest. I used to have a Bible in the middle, an English dictionary on the left, and a notebook on the right.

However, it did not take me long to discover cracks in the foundation of their Church. Their notion that members of the WCG were "called and chosen" at the same time, did not make sense. The Bible tells us that the road to salvation begins with a call to repentance, followed by baptism, and laying on of hands for the receiving the Holy Spirit, without whom no one could be saved.

Act 2:36 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."

Act 2:37 Now when they heard *this*, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?"

Act 2:38 Then Peter said to them, "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."

Then, after a life of overcoming temptations and bringing under control carnal impulses, comes the judgment of God. This happens not during this life, but at the end of this world when everyone is resurrected and judged, which means that no one could be called and chosen while still alive and prone to sin again as most people do.

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 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."

So, no judgment and choosing in this life; and no judgment after death, and only after resurrection from the dead at the end of this world.

Another damning doctrine of that Church was that anyone who had not repented in this life, will be brought up and given another life in which to repent and be saved. For this reason, members of their

Church, who were totally isolated from parents, siblings, children and everyone they knew before, were told not to worry about their salvation for they would have their chance to repent and be saved in another life on this earth again. Thus, the people who loved this world, could engage in a life of immorality, iniquity and dissipation in the belief that they will have another chance to repent in a new life on this earth in the future – a doctrine not found anywhere in the Bible.

Can anyone imagine of a more satanic doctrine than that? It became clear to me who were the people who formed the synagogue of Satan in the Philadelphia Church of God. And the following added to my conviction.

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.

You would never get a member of the WCG or of the Churches that arose from its collapse to touch, let alone eat “unclean foods” such as pork, rabbit, prawns, oysters, or any of the foods prohibited by the Old Testament dietary laws.

I myself was convinced of the correctness of their preaching so much so that I wrote to my parents in Romania telling them to stop eating pork, one of the staple foods in that country. Even now I suffer when I think how hurtful that might have been to them, wondering what evil world I ended up in. I could never change that because by the time I left the WCG and visited Romania after the fall of communism, they were all dead.

When I visited Romania a decade and a half after the disintegration of the Soviet Union, I came within a whisker of losing my life. One of my cousins, with which I grew up and was closest to me, used to call me “come, come back, Romania is now a democracy and no one will hurt you anymore”. No, no one will hurt me any more except her.

She insisted that I go and have dinner at her place, so I went. Strangely, she had the table set up for just one person. She and a grandson who was living with her, were sitting there watching me, talking with me occasionally, without eating or drinking anything. Instead of being a joyous coming home sort of occasion, it was a dull and tense atmosphere. Not much talk after dinner either; they seemed to be as comfortable as I was to be going home. So I went to another cousin with which I was lodging and went to bed. About two hours later, I woke up all wet from body sweat, and a shortage of breath such as I have never had in my life. I could barely call on my cousin who was in another room, and when she saw me like that she wanted to call an ambulance immediately.

We were about 20 km away from the city where ambulances were located. So, I said, if I can survive until an ambulance reaches us on these country roads, I will not need an ambulance anymore. Rather, can you make a cup of tea for me with honey and lemon, if you have, please? She made it, and I began a process of recovery that lasted a few hours.

Why did that happen? I do not know, but the more I thought about it, the more convinced I became that it was some kind of poisoning. Throughout that ordeal, I had this promise of Jesus Christ in my mind, and that is why I did not want an ambulance.

Mar 16:15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.

Mar 16:16 He who believes and is 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 will speak

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

Under communism, my cousin and her father, my uncle, had sold their souls to the Devil and served that odious regime, which gave them good jobs. I also knew that the satraps of the Securitate, betrayed the nation and the Revolution that was supposed to put an end to communism, and ensconced themselves in the state's leading institutions including the Church. I also knew that they had a problem with *The Christian Herald* in which we discussed their betrayal. They avenged themselves by assaulting and raping my mother who died of her injuries three months later. However, my cousin insisted for years that things had changed in Romania especially after joining the European Union. Have things really changed or was she still doing Securitate's dirty work? She never contacted me again after I returned to Australia.

No more, “come, come home, things are different now”.

I bet things were different with her too, for the Securitate satraps are not forgiving those who botch their tasks.

The evil workers of this world are on the way out never to be seen or heard of again. These are revolutionary times, a lot more revolutionary than the left-wing revolutions that had taken place in this world previously.

Rev 12:12 Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that **he has a short time.**"

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

Rev 20:2 in his hand. He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is *the* Devil and Satan, and bound

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

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

Rev 20:5 until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

Rev 20:6 Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

Rev 20:7 Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his 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. *[No elect of God will ever be deceived]*

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 *[were]*. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

I warned the leaders of Romania many times to bring to justice the rapists and murderers of my mother, for otherwise the entire nation will pay the ultimate doomsday price for it. The biblical principle is clear: nations pay the price for their leader's evil deeds, not to speak of themselves and their families. Countless examples in the Bible about that; no better example than that of Israel, which lost the land and the nation because of its leaders' evil ways, the consequences of which could be seen in the Middle East to this day. Yet instead of bringing the evil workers to justice, Romanian leaders duped European Union leaders into believing that they had resolved that problem.

The European leaders knew that this was not true, but closed their eyes to Romania's evil deeds because they were happy with Romania's quick embrace of their law that turned Europe into a homosexual playground and Christians into outlaws. One could lose everything if he speaks against homosexuality in Europe.

In Romania, under communism, the priests and preachers of all religions, were informers of the Securitate.

What better way to know who was an 'enemy of the state' than through the 'sacrosanct' confessions to the priests. Hard to believe that things could have been any different in other communist countries.

European Union leaders would not want to know what will become of the hallowed grounds of their capitals and nations. And of themselves for that matter, unless they find the fortitude to turn to the true God now, the God of the living, not the god of the dead that is being preached across the continent by the false preachers of their Churches.

People who turned their backs on God's Law and chose to protect Satan and his "human rights" *[i.e. the right to practice homosexuality undisturbed and uncondemned]*, will have Satan's fate.

Few nations will survive the Great Tribulations. It hurts me to say it, but it is unlikely that Romania will be one of them. No nation that turned so viciously against God's Witnesses can hope to survive God's punishment. No nation that turned its back on God's Law and embraced homosexuality can hope to survive the Great Tribulation.

We have a pretty good idea what nation will inhabit the beautiful lands and granaries of Romania after that catastrophe. It will be one of the Israelite Tribes that will spill over from the Middle East when the new 'Garden of Eden' - from the Nile to the Euphrates - could not accommodate all the saints gathered from around the world.

Eze 36:1 "And you, son of man, prophesy to the mountains of Israel, and say, 'O mountains of Israel, hear the word of the LORD!

This chapter covers all tribes of Israel and the nations that ensued from them in the course of history.

That includes the colonial powers of Europe and the peoples they left behind in all corners of the world.

They started well carrying the Law of God with them, either in Jewish synagogues or in Christian Churches, but in the end they succumbed to Satan's human rights and lost everything: empires, colonies, souls, etc. After the Great Tribulation, all remnants of Israel (the elect of God of all tribes who survived) from around the world, will be brought back to their ancestral lands in the Middle East.

Eze 36:2 Thus says the Lord GOD: "Because the enemy has said of you, 'Aha! The ancient heights have become

Eze 36:3 our possession,' " ' therefore prophesy, and say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Because they made *you* desolate and swallowed you up on every side, so that you became the possession of the nations, and you are taken up by the lips of talkers and slandered by the people" - therefore, O mountains of Israel, hear the word of the Lord GOD!

Eze 36:4 Thus says the Lord GOD to the mountains, the hills, the rivers, the valleys, the desolate wastes, and the cities that have been forsaken, which became plunder and mockery to the rest of the nations all

Eze 36:5 therefore thus says the Lord GOD: "Surely I have spoken in My burning jealousy against the rest of the around—nations and against all Edom, who gave My land to themselves as a possession, with wholehearted joy and spiteful minds, in order to plunder its open country." ' *[Turkey - Edom take note]*

Eze 36:6 "Therefore prophesy concerning the land of Israel, and say to the mountains, the hills, the rivers, and the valleys, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, I have spoken in My jealousy and My fury, because you have

Eze 36:7 borne the shame of the nations." Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: "I have raised My hand in an oath that surely the nations that *are* around you shall bear their own shame.

Eze 36:8 But you, O mountains of Israel, you shall shoot forth your branches and yield your fruit to My people Israel, for they are about to come.

Eze 36:9 For indeed I *am* for you, and I will turn to you, and you shall be tilled and sown.

Eze 36:10 I will multiply men upon you, all the house of Israel, all of it; and the cities shall be inhabited and the ruins rebuilt. I will multiply upon you man and beast;

Eze 36:11 and they shall increase and bear young; I will make you inhabited as in former times, and do better *for you* than at your beginnings. Then you shall know that I *am* the LORD.

All the house of Israel shall multiply and do well, but the Bible tells us that "not all Israel is Israel". At present there are more wicked people among the descendants of Israel, than there are among the Gentiles. Think of the tribes of Ephraim, Manasseh, and Reuben – Britain, America and France respectively – first which turned against God and His Law and made homosexuality the religion of their lands. Do they think they have any chance of surviving God's wrath?

Eze 36:12 Yes, I will cause men to walk on you, My people Israel; they shall take possession of you, and you shall be their inheritance; no more shall you bereave them *of children*." Thus says the Lord GOD:

Eze 36:13 "Because they say to you, 'You devour men and bereave your nation *of children*,'

Eze 36:14 therefore you shall devour men no more, nor bereave your nation anymore," says the Lord GOD.

Eze 36:15 Nor will I let you hear the taunts of the nations anymore, nor bear the reproach of the peoples anymore, nor shall you cause your nation to stumble anymore," says the Lord GOD.' "

Eze 36:16 Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying:

Eze 36:17 "Son of man, when the house of Israel dwelt in their own land, they defiled it by their own ways and deeds; to Me their way was like the uncleanness of a woman in her customary impurity.

Eze 36:18 Therefore I poured out My fury on them for the blood they had shed on the land, and for their idols *with which* they had defiled it.

Eze 36:19 So I scattered them among the nations, and they were dispersed throughout the countries; I judged them according to their ways and their deeds. *[Dispersed from the Middle East long ago]*

Eze 36:20 When they came to the nations, wherever they went, they profaned My holy name—when they said of them, 'These *are* the people of the LORD, *and* yet they have gone out of His land.'

Eze 36:21 But I had concern for My holy name, which the house of Israel had profaned among the nations wherever they went. "Therefore say to the house of Israel,

Eze 36:22 "Thus says the Lord GOD: "I do not do *this* for your sake, O house of Israel, but for My holy name's sake, which you have profaned among the nations wherever you went.

Eze 36:23 And I will sanctify My great name, which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst; and the nations shall know that I *am* the LORD," says the Lord GOD, "when I am hallowed in you before their eyes.

Eze 36:24 For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your

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

Those who survive the Great Tribulation and make it into the Millennium Kingdom of Jesus Christ, will be practicing Christianity. No other religion will be allowed in that Kingdom. So get a head start by turning to God now, because those who overcome their trials and tribulations in this world of iniquity and immorality, will receive greater honour in the Kingdom of God than those who become elect of God during the Millennium Kingdom when Satan is locked up and not able to deceive human beings anymore. People will still have to control their carnal nature, but without Satan's deceiving work they will have a much better chance to do so.

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

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

Jesus Christ sends the Holy Spirit to His genuine followers, not to those of fake Christianity or other religions. You can see the effect of a world without the Holy Spirit: not a single person understands and believes the Gospel of the Kingdom preached to the world by Alpha and Omega Christian Foundation. No one believes that the world is on the brink of the end time catastrophe called the Great Tribulation, even though the great armies of the world are being readied for it. Any wonder that only a few people, mostly the elect of God, will survive into the Millennium Kingdom of Jesus Christ.

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

Eze 36:29 your God. I will deliver you from all your uncleannesses. I will call for the grain and multiply it, and bring no famine upon you.

Eze 36:30 And I will multiply the fruit of your trees and the increase of your fields, so that you need never again bear the reproach of famine among the nations.

Eze 36:31 Then you will remember your evil ways and your deeds that *were* not good; and you will loathe yourselves in your own sight, for your iniquities and your abominations.

Eze 36:32 Not for your sake do I do *this*," says the Lord GOD, "let it be known to you. Be ashamed and confounded for your own ways, O house of Israel!"

Eze 36:33 "Thus says the Lord GOD: "On the day that I cleanse you from all your iniquities, I will also enable *you* to dwell in the cities, and the ruins shall be rebuilt.

Eze 36:34 The desolate land shall be tilled instead of lying desolate in the sight of all who pass by.

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

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

Eze 36:37 "Thus says the Lord GOD: "I will also let the house of Israel inquire of Me to do this for them: I will increase their men like a flock.

Eze 36:38 Like a flock *offered as* holy *sacrifices*, like the flock at Jerusalem on its feast days, so shall the ruined cities be filled with flocks of men. Then they shall know that I *am* the LORD." ' ' "

God is telling us that in His eternal Kingdom, there will be people from every nation, tribe and tongue.

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,

Rev 5:2 sealed 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 way to eternal life in God's eternal Kingdom is by willingness to die for it. Or as Apostle Paul put it, present our bodies as living sacrifice to God.

Rom 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which* is your reasonable service.

Rom 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

And Apostle John said this:

1Jn 2:15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in
1Jn 2:16 him. For all that *is* in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of
1Jn 2:17 the Father but *is* of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

Better yet, consider the words of Jesus Christ:

Joh 12:25 He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

Joh 12:26 If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him *My* Father will honor.

And this passage from the book of Revelation:

Rev 6:7 When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come and see."

Rev 6:8 So I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth.

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

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

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

Now turning back briefly to the Worldwide Church of God, another question that no one dared ask in that Church is how was it possible that two very wealthy men, dressed in the most expensive clothes money could buy, fit the description of the Witnesses of God who were supposed to be "clothed in sackcloth", an euphemism for poverty.

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.

Being 'devoured' by fire from the mouth of the Two Witnesses means being put under a curse in the names of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Those who are 'killed' this way bypasses the judgment of God and go straight into the lake of fire prepared for Satan and his acolytes.

And where do we get this formula from? From this passage about the Church of Philadelphia:

*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. [*My God = the Father; the New Jerusalem = the Holy Spirit and bride of Christ; and 'My new name' = Jesus Christ Himself*]. Only heavenly Father encompasses all three personalities. Yet, here, Jesus Christ was speaking about one of the Two Witnesses of Revelation.*

All these things are happening before our eyes – as they are supposed to in the time of the two witnesses.

But because human beings no longer believe in the God of creation, and think that what happens in the world are just “natural disasters” that come and go as they always had, they do not believe in the work of the Two Witnesses.

Terrible disasters, but are you clothed in sackcloth as the Two Witnesses are supposed to be, if you are doing their work, someone may say? Well, yes, but they are not called ‘sackcloth’ anymore; they are called polyester nowadays.

God bless the Chinese for they filled the world with it. They scorch you in summer, and freeze you in winter, but they are cheap and look good.

So if you see a good looking man in flashy clothes walking down the street, it's probably me.

Regarding disasters, if you do not see any in the world at present, even as the world is being torn apart and turned up-side down by fires, floods, earthquakes and cyclones like never before, you are living in fool's paradise.

Now coming back briefly to my unexplainable visions on that American lake during my attendance to the Feast of Tabernacles with the Worldwide Church of God, Apostle Paul told us that he had a similar experience.

2Co 12:1 It is doubtless not profitable for me to boast. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord:

2Co 12:2 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a one was caught up to the third heaven.

2Co 12:3 And I know such a man—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows—

2Co 12:4 how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to

2Co 12:5 utter. Of such a one I will boast; yet of myself I will not boast, except in my infirmities.

2Co 12:6 For though I might desire to boast, I will not be a fool; for I will speak the truth. But I refrain, lest anyone should think of me above what he sees me *to be* or hears from me.

2Co 12:7 And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure.

2Co 12:8 Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me.

2Co 12:9 And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness."

Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

2Co 12:10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

I had no infirmities that I could speak of, I was not caught up to heaven, and I heard no inexpressive words that I could not utter, but I had thoughts and visions that I could not explain, and I knew that they would get me into trouble if I confessed them to the preachers of the Church. And so it happened when God pressed on me to do it.

It was not enough for the brigands of the Worldwide Church of God to expel me from their Church, they locked me out of my own flat, and confiscated everything I possessed, including personal documents and family memorabilia that were of no values to anyone else. They did that on the pretext that I had abandoned them when I took a flight to the headquarters of the Church in Pasadena, California, to tell the leaders of my visions and show them serious errors in their preaching.

But they did not receive me, and when I returned home I was received with unbelievable hatred, so much so that they put me out in the street in the Canadian winter with nothing more than what I was wearing at that time and what I had in my suitcase. They would have killed me if they could.

Well, they can do it now, because the work of Jesus Christ has been completed, and the end is at hand.

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.

People had been saying, if you are God's witness why did He not prevent those disasters from falling on you? This is why:

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**."

Being a witness of God means doing that work in poverty. This prophecy is two thousand years old, so everyone who aspired to do that work, or expected to receive God's call for it, would have known exactly what that job entailed.

When God said “clothed in sackcloth”, He meant just that. One day the world will know the sacrifices and suffering we endured in doing this work, but not yet until we are putting the finishing touches to this work.

Why did this work had to be done out of poverty? Because by the time of the end, the world is full of not only heartrending poverty, but also wealthy Churches and mega-Churches that preach nothing but falsehoods.

God provided proof that one does not have to be wealthy to preach the true Gospel of Kingdom to the whole world as a witness to all the nations. We have done it via the Internet. Thousands upon thousands of readers still come from around the world to our web site, even though we have slowed down the rate of publication of our magazines.

We've done it because God helped us, for the Scriptures are clear: this is the work of Holy Spirit.

Remarkably, the very last Church of the seven mentioned in the book of Revelation is a Church of wealthy people, during which time the Two Witnesses are doing their work, yet they are completely unaware of it. Notice what Jesus Christ said about this Church.

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

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

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

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

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

Rev 3:19 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.

Yes, Jesus Christ is getting ready to return and receive His inheritance – the Millennium Kingdom – and to dine with those who hear His voice and open their door to Him.

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." ' ' "

Now if you still wander that the world is in such a deplorable condition in the eyes of God at this time, have a look at what Apostle Paul wrote about it even in his time.

2Th 2:1 Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him,

2Th 2:2 we ask you, not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if

2Th 2:3 from us, as though the day of Christ had come. Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,

2Th 2:4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as

2Th 2:5 God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God [*Holy Father*]. Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things?

2Th 2:6 And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time.

2Th 2:7 For the **mystery of lawlessness is already at work**; only He who now restrains *will do so* until

2Th 2:8 He is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.

2Th 2:9 The coming of the *lawless one* is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying

2Th 2:10 wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

2Th 2:11 And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie,

2Th 2:12 that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

The extraordinary fact is that in robbing me of everything, and making me destitute, those brigands prepared me, and created conditions of poverty required for the role of the Two Witnesses. As the Bible says:

Rom 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the

Rom 8:29 called according to *His* purpose. For **whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be**

Rom 8:30 conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

Remember the discussion Jesus Christ had with the mother of two of his disciples?

Mat 20:20 Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Him with her sons, kneeling down and asking something from Him.

Mat 20:21 And He said to her, "What do you wish?" She said to Him, "Grant that these two sons of mine may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on the left, in Your kingdom.

Here was a woman of the world who understood what salvation and the Gospel of the Kingdom were all about, something that even the Apostles did not understand until they received the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost.

Mat 20:22 But Jesus answered and said, "You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" They said to Him, "We are able."

Mat 20:23 So He said to them, "You will indeed drink My cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with; but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but *it is for those* for whom it is prepared by My Father"

The position of the Two Witnesses, who will sit on His right and left in His Kingdom, was not His to give but it is for those for whom it is prepared by God the Father.

Do you understand now why it is costly even to think of harming the Two Witnesses, let alone doing it?

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.

Amen!

Towards Reconciliation With Our Creator God

The world is in desperate need for reconciliation with our Creator God – it's a matter of life and death for humanity.

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

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

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

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

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

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

That day is 'at hand', to use a well-known biblical term, used by John the Baptist and Jesus Christ, except that they used it to indicate repentance for the Kingdom of God was at hand, whereas this time it indicates that the end of this world is at hand. Either the world reforms itself to make it into the next age, or it will suffer 'utter destruction'.

God's book to the world, the Bible, tells us that the next age will be a relatively short one – one thousand years – compared to the one that is closing down now after six thousand years, that is if God's Word has any meaning for you.

If it doesn't, you can do two things: One, set your house in order for the day of your reckoning is at hand, and Two, if you created yourself through evolution you have no business reading our magazines, for we speak for God, and know that He created us, and the age of men like you is at an end.

The age of men lasted six thousand years, enough to bring the world to its current sorry state. They made a mess of this world, and will not be given another. The Millennium Kingdom is for Jesus' disciples and the elect of God.

The new age will be remarked by a universal return to the Law of Moses. No other law will be practiced in the Millennium Kingdom, and no person who does not embrace that Law will have any part in it.

The world is at crossroads: humanity will be sifted through a godly sieve that will separate wheat from chaff, sheep from goats, and the elect from the unjust. Unfortunately, this sifting will take place through a "Great Tribulation" the likes of which this world had never seen, nor ever shall see again.

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.

Can you see now why God warned the world of utter destruction if it does not return to the Law of Moses, and to love between parents and children?

But how do you know that this prophecy applies to our time, someone may ask. This is how we know:

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 Gospel of the Kingdom has been preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, yet just as prophecies had foretold, not a single person, preacher or Church, had recognized and accepted it.

Rev 11:7 When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war

Rev 11:10 against them, overcome them, and kill them. 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.

Those who dwell on the earth are tormented by the Gospel preached by the Two Witnesses, so they hate them and kill them, which begs the question, what are they preaching in the Churches these days?

Why hasn't anyone recognized and accepted the Gospel based on the Scriptures, not on tradition or anything else? The answer is in the Bible: Because a great falling away from the truth of God had occurred.

2Th 2:1 Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together

2Th 2:2 to Him, we ask you, not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word

2Th 2:3 or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. Let no one deceive you by any means; for **that Day will not come unless the falling 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. *[Having taken God's title of Holy Father].*

2Th 2:5 Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things?

2Th 2:6 And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time.

2Th 2:7 For the **mystery of lawlessness is already at work**; only He who now restrains *will*

2Th 2:8 *do so* until He is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.

The Christian Herald had revealed the lawless one long ago. He will shortly be consumed by Jesus Christ, whom he does not want to return, because he wants his earthly throne and arrangements to last forever, or at least until the end of the evolutionary time span, in which he believes and preach, to his own infamous destruction.

2Th 2:9 The coming of the *lawless one* is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

2Th 2:11 And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie,

2Th 2:12 that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

Do you understand now why the world will be taken by surprise by this end-time catastrophe?

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

Mat 24:37 But as the days of Noah *were*, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

Mat 24:38 For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away,

Mat 24:39 so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

The world has to be taken by surprise by its catastrophic end, otherwise the unscrupulous would cause havoc taking advantage of the unwary.

In the same chapter, Jesus Christ gave many signs that lead to the Great Tribulation which precedes His return, telling us that we may know the season, though not the day and hour of His return. Yet, if you ask the Christians of today about it, invariably they will say that no one knows the day and the hour, forgetting that we may know the season, even as it is blindingly obvious that we are in the midst of it.

We cannot emphasize hard enough that Malachi chapter 4, Mathew chapter 24, and 2 Thessalonians chapter 2, are pointing to our time as their fulfilment, but we are in a 'wilderness' full of false prophets who never want to hear of their end. And so humanity will pay a heavy price for their "insights".

No one wants to hear of a return to the Law of Moses either because that would mean abandonment of their pagan beliefs and practices, and the utter lawlessness that has crept into Christianity in the course of history. This is why the true Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Gospel of the Kingdom of God, had to be preached as a **witness** to this fallen world so that humanity may know what it had departed from, and what it will return to in the Millennium Kingdom.

The question is, what did the Law of Moses contain? It contained what God gave Moses:

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

God did not repeat everything He gave Moses in Horeb *[Which is quite a lot – the first five books of the Bible]*, but generally speaking He gave the Laws, the Ten Commandments and detailed statutes and judgments; the Calendar and the Holy Days; and the dietary laws – everything the nation needed to become an example to the whole world.

Now there is a good reason why God singled out the 'statutes and judgments' in His Malachi prophecy.

That prophecy is about the end of an age and the beginning of another – the end of the age of man and the beginning of the age of Christ. During the age of man, God allowed them to do pretty much what they wanted, and among the first things they did was to do away with the statutes and judgments and create their own laws, statutes and judgments. That brought the world to its current sorry state.

In the new age, no other Law will be practiced other than what God gave Moses in Mount Horeb.

Speaking about the Law of Moses, there are some people who claim that they keep the Commandments and the Holy Days *[demonstrably a false claim]*, but no one claims, even falsely that they keep the statutes and judgments that God gave Moses. That is because both Jewish and Christian societies have completely abandoned them and created gargantuan Law libraries of statutes and judgments that no one fully knows, and everyone turns whichever way they want. Everyone who has been through the human Courts of Law can tell you two things: it's an extremely expensive exercise, and it works like a lottery. Generally speaking, lawyers are interested in winning at all costs to show off a good record, not in delivering justice.

By contrast, God's statutes and judgments cannot be turned whichever way people want: they are written in stone, and cover every aspect of Law in simple and precise terms that everyone can understand, keep and remember.

This is why in the Millennium Kingdom of Jesus Christ, and in the Kingdom of God forever thereafter, the Kings will also play the role of Priests and adjudicators of the Law. No need for separate Law Courts.

People will have the law of God written in their hearts and minds, and instinctively keep it.

Now let us have a look at the Ten Commandments and the Holy Days that God gave Moses in Horeb.

The First Commandment:

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

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

Exo 20:3 "You shall have no other gods before Me.

The Second Commandment:

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

Exo 20:5 you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, *am* a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth *generations* of those who hate

Exo 20:6 Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

The Third Commandment:

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

The Fourth Commandment:

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

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

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

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

The Fifth Commandment:

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

The Sixth Commandment:

Exo 20:13 "You shall not murder.

The Seventh Commandment:

Exo 20:14 "You shall not commit adultery.

The Eight Commandment:

Exo 20:15 "You shall not steal.

The Ninth Commandment:

Exo 20:16 "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

The Tenth Commandment:

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

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

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

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

Now do traditional Churches keep these Commandments? Do Evangelicals and other Churches keep them? Do they have no images which they kiss and prostrate before? And do they keep the Sabbath as they should, and as required?

They all trash the Sabbath and keep instead the pagan Day of the Sun, inherited from ancient Egypt.

They may have had excuses in the past for not keeping all of God's Commandments, but they will have none in the future. *The Christian Herald* has witnessed the Law of Moses and the full Gospel of the Kingdom that Jesus Christ brought to this world, therefore no one will have any excuse in the Day of Judgment.

All these will be kept, and kept properly, in the Millennium Kingdom of Jesus Christ, and forever thereafter in the Kingdom of God.

Amen!

A Short Work Upon The Earth

Rom 9:28 For God will finish the work and cut it short in righteousness, because the Lord will make a short work upon the Earth."

How short will God's work be upon this Earth? The life and prophecies of Jesus Christ tell us about it.

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?"

The disciples of Jesus Christ knew that this "age" has an end, but did not know when that end would come. Remarkably, Jesus Christ gave them the signs that would precede it, but not the exact time. He wanted them to be on guard at all times, because falling 'asleep' or into carelessness would be deadly.

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

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

Mat 24:45 "Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season?

Mat 24:46 Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing.

Mat 24:47 Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods.

Mat 24:48 But if that evil servant says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,'

Mat 24:49 and begins to beat *his* fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunkards,

Mat 24:50 the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for *him* and at an hour that he

Mat 24:51 is not aware of, and will cut him in two and appoint *him* his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Failure to prepare for the return of Jesus Christ means sure death – eternal death. We see no such preparations in the world at present, even though the dark clouds of the Great Tribulation are not merely over the horizon, but over the whole of humanity. The world wallows in a false Christianity that has lost all links with its Savior and His Gospel, and lost any awareness of God's biblical timeline.

Jesus Christ revealed the time of His return and of the end of this age in the Book of Revelation, which He gave to Apostle John, the youngest Apostle, when all the other Apostles had disappeared from the scene.

They all believed that He would return in their lifetime, and Jesus wanted them to believe it so that none of them, or any of His followers down through the centuries, may be taken by surprise by that event.

They needed to be on guard and alert about His return at all times. Yet what we see in the world at present is worse than anything seen in the world before. People can see that the world is headed towards calamity, but would not accept that there is an end to this age, or that God would make a "short work upon the earth".

They believe instead in an evolutionary time scale of billions of years, not in God's biblical timeline that is measured in thousands of years.

The book of Revelation tells us that after Jesus Christ returns to this world, humanity will continue to live on this planet for another thousand years in a vastly reduced number. The Great Tribulation will cleanse it of pollutions and polluters, and of sins and sinners. Then comes the judgment of every human being, followed by God's Eternal Kingdom that will be established on a new earth and new heaven and last forever.

Now we know how long this world will last after Jesus Christ returns to it, but still do not know when He will return. There are four places that tell us when that will happen.

- First: We have the unmistakable signs that precede Jesus' return, signs that are ravaging this planet at present.
- Second: Two specific statements from both the Old and the New Testaments tell us of an important pattern about God's creation.

Psa 90:4 For a thousand years in Your sight *Are* like yesterday when it is past, And *like* a watch in the night.

2Pe 3:8 But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day *is* as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

A day is like a thousand years with God, and a thousand years like one day. What does this tell us? By itself not much, but when you put it in the biblical timeline context, it has enormous implications.

According to the biblical chronology, the world was created about six thousand years ago. We say about because there are some minor differences among biblical scholars regarding that date. The chronology of the Irish Bishop Ussher, largely accepted as the most accurate, places creation of the world at 4004 B.C.

Other scholars have reached different conclusions, but they are all within half a century of each other.

We spent a lot of time looking into this matter too, and concluded that if Ussher is not right, he could not be wrong by more than a decade or so. Incredibly, there are no problems calculating with precision the age of the world from creation to the exodus of Israel from Egypt. The ages of the patriarchs before and after the Flood of Noah are precisely recorded in the Bible, but things go awry in the history of Israel.

Some scholars maintain that Jewish scribes have distorted their history in order to place a question mark on the prophecies that point to Jesus Christ being the promised Messiah. Not surprisingly, they are still waiting for their Messiah. He will arrive soon for sure, but we don't think they will be too happy when they discover who the Messiah really is. Willing ignorance will never save anyone.

Jesus Christ gave a strong warning to those who do not welcome Him at His return: "Bring here those enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, and slay *them* before me.'" (Luk 19:27).

This is also true of Christian preachers, who do not even know what the Gospel of the Kingdom is, let alone preach it to their followers to prepare them for the return of their Saviour.

The Scriptures tell us that in their ignorance of the Scriptures they kill God's end time Witnesses who preach the Gospel of the Kingdom to the whole world as a witness to all the nations (before the return of Jesus Christ), in order to expose the falsehoods and hypocrisy of false preachers.

It is not a mere coincidence that the world is experiencing calamitous events at this time, this being the transition period from the age of man to the age of Jesus Christ, and the time of the Two Witnesses.

God's "short work upon the earth" equates with the creation week of seven days and seven thousand years for the world. Six working days for man mean six thousand years for the age of man, and the weekly Sabbath of rest equates with the thousand years Millennium Kingdom during which time the earth will have its rest.

God allowed human beings to engage in all sorts of social experiments to learn that they could not govern themselves and brought catastrophe on their own heads.

The elect of God who are kept alive miraculously during the Great Tribulation, will be congregated in and around Jerusalem, which will become the capital of the whole world. During that period, Jesus Christ's will show the world what it is like when people obey God by recreating the Garden of Eden in the Middle East.

- The Third sign is the work of the Two Witnesses. When they do their work, the age of man is virtually at an end, and the Millennium Kingdom knocking at the door. You will know then by their works, or as Jesus put it to His disciples: you will know by their fruits.

Mat 7:15 "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.

Mat 7:16 You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles?

Mat 7:17 Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.

Mat 7:18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor *can* a bad tree bear good fruit.

Mat 7:19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

Mat 7:20 Therefore **by their fruits you will know them.**

Now if you know Jesus' servants and God's Witnesses by their fruits, how do you know Satan's servants? How else than by their fruits too. And what more damning a fruit could there be than the trashing of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Gospel of the Kingdom as He put it, that the Two Witnesses are preaching to the whole world, for which they are intensely hated and eventually killed.

Among the signs that Jesus Christ gave as preceding His return, all could have happened any time, and generally speaking they did to a degree, but the sign of the Two Witnesses could not have happened any other time except just prior to His return.

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 24:30 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.**

How extraordinary that six thousand years after creation, and two thousand years after Jesus' ministry, the world does not know what the true Gospel of the Kingdom is. Every single Church, denomination, cult, and religion preach

the satanic doctrine of life after death and the paraphernalia associated with it: worship of the dead, making 'saints' of the dead, worship of ancestors, etc.

They will get what they wish, though they won't know about it because the dead know nothing anymore.

Ecc 9:3 This is an evil in all that is done under the sun: that one thing *happens* to all. Truly the hearts of the sons of men are full of evil; madness is in their hearts while they live, and after that *they go* to the dead.

Ecc 9:4 But for him who is joined to all the living there is hope, for a living dog is better than a dead lion.

Ecc 9:5 For the living know that they will die; **But the dead know nothing, And they have no more reward, For the memory of them is forgotten.**

Ecc 9:6 Also their love, their hatred, and their envy have now perished; **Nevermore will they have a share In anything done under the sun.**

- Fourth: The sign of the great falling away.

2Th 2:1 Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him,
2Th 2:2 we ask you, not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit 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 away comes first**, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,

2Th 2:4 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.

When the Roman Empire collapsed, it did not disappear from the world but continued as a spiritual identity called Universal Roman Catholic Church. The emperors gave way to the spiritual leaders of the new spiritual empire, who duly took upon themselves God's title of 'Holy Father'.

Under them, the Catholic Church became the cruellest and most murderous idolatrous institution in the history of the world, with no less than 33 million victims. And they did that thinking they offered God a service.

Joh 16:1 "These things I have spoken to you, that you should not be made to stumble.

Joh 16:2 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.

Joh 16:3 And these things they will do to you because they have not known the Father nor Me.

Incredibly, this is still the largest religious institution in the world, with millions, if not billions, of followers worshipping and prostrating themselves before its idols.

God's Commandments mean nothing to the leaders and members of this 'Universal Church'.

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

Exo 20:5 you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, *am* a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth *generations* of those who hate

Exo 20:6 Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

Now given the fact that today's Churches are almost identical clones of the Catholic Church, from which they ensued at various times – preaching its religious tenets without the Pope – is it so hard to understand that a great falling away had occurred and the world is in the midst of the darkest spiritual age in history?

How is it then that even when they are given God's truth on a platter, not one of the millions of readers from around the world who had availed themselves of our writings, had the Spirit and the heart to understand what is at stake, and leave behind idolatry and falsehood and embrace the true Gospel of Jesus Christ? Have they all forgotten the warning Jesus Christ gave to His followers?

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.

There are still two people in the world who have fulfilled their duty before God and Jesus Christ, who in the face of murderous attacks and ceaseless tribulations have kept God's Commandments and the faith of Jesus Christ alive.

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

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.

- Fifth: The world has reached a crucial and extremely dangerous time. Not only because a great falling away had occurred, but because the Churches of today compete in dragging their followers back to Old Testament times. There is hardly a Church that does not preach the tithing principle and material blessings in this world if their members give generously to their Church.

That is not the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Neither Him, nor His Apostles, preached such things. On the contrary, they all emphasised the fact that salvation is attained only through tribulations and sufferings.

Luk 17:1 Then He said to the disciples, "It is impossible that no offenses should come, but woe *to him* through whom they do come!

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. For the law of the Spirit of life
 Rom 8:2 in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.
 Rom 8:3 For what the law 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 according to the Spirit.
 Rom 8:5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those *who live* according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.
 Rom 8:6 For to be carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace. Because the carnal
 Rom 8:7 mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.
 Rom 8:8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.
 Rom 8:9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

Here is the definition of a Christin: one who has the Spirit of Jesus Christ – the Holy Spirit. This is acquired through adult repentance, baptism and the laying on of hands of one who has the Holy Spirit. Infant baptism, though recommended for other reasons, does not implant the Holy Spirit.

Rom 8:10 And if Christ *is* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin, but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness.
 Rom 8:11 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.
 Rom 8:12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.
 Rom 8:13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.
 Rom 8:14 For **as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.**
 Rom 8:15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."
 Rom 8:16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,
 Rom 8:17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, **if indeed we suffer with Him**, that we may also be glorified together.
 Rom 8:18 **For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.**

Those who shy away from sufferings and expect blessings for tithing faithfully will forfeit their salvation, because without suffering one cannot attain the character suitable for the Kingdom of God.

Rom 8:19 For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.
 Rom 8:20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected *it* in
 Rom 8:21 hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that
 Rom 8:22 **the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs** together until now.
 Rom 8:23 Not only *that*, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, **even we ourselves groan within ourselves**, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. For we were saved in this hope,
 Rom 8:24 but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees?
 Rom 8:25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for *it* with perseverance.
 Rom 8:26 Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.
 Rom 8:27 Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit *is*, because He makes intercession for the saints according to *the will of God*.
 Rom 8:28 And we know that **all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.**
 Rom 8:29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.
 Rom 8:30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.
 Rom 8:31 What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *can be* against us?
 Rom 8:32 **He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all**, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?
 Rom 8:33 Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? *It is* God who justifies.
 Rom 8:34 Who *is* he who condemns? *It is* Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.
 Rom 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *Shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written:
 Rom 8:36 **"For Your Sake We Are Killed All Day Long; We Are Accounted As Sheep For The Slaughter."**
 Rom 8:37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.
 Rom 8:38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing,
 Rom 8:39 shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen!

The 'Oracles' That God Gave Moses In Mount Horeb

The word 'oracles' has an important connotation in the New Testament, though one would not know it by listening to the preachers of today's Christianity, from whose vernacular it is completely absent.

Largely speaking, the oracles that God gave Moses at Mount Horeb are divided in three parts: the law of animal sacrifices and dietary laws; the Ten Commandments and their associated statutes and judgments; and the Calendar and the Holy Days.

The animal sacrifices and dietary laws were temporary – 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; and above it were

Heb 9:5 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,

Heb 9:10 various 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

Heb 9:14 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

Heb 9:16 inheritance. 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; not that He should offer Himself often,

Heb 9:25 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, so Christ was offered once

Heb 9:28 to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.

[No second life for sinners who do not repent in this life, as some Churches erroneously preach]

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. Then I Said,

Heb 10:7 '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) [*of animal sacrifices, not the Ten Commandments*],

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

Heb 10:12 take away sins. **But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever**, sat down at

Heb 10:13 the right hand of 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.

Therefore, the purpose of animal sacrifices was primarily to offer a temporary atonement 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 there again 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 the right 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 to which they were intrinsically linked, also came to an end.

Gal 3:1 O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified?

Gal 3:2 This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of

Gal 3:3 faith?— Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?

Gal 3:4 Have you suffered so many things in vain—if indeed *it was* in vain?

Gal 3:5 Therefore, He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, *does He do it* by the works of the law [*of animal sacrifices and dietary law, NOT the Ten Commandments*], or by the hearing of faith?

Gal 3:6 just as Abraham "Believed God, And It Was Accounted To Him For Righteousness."

Gal 3:7 Therefore know that *only* those who are of faith are sons of Abraham.

Gal 3:8 And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, *saying, "In you all the nations shall be blessed."*

Gal 3:9 So then those who *are* of faith are blessed with believing Abraham.

Gal 3:10 For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, "Cursed Is Everyone Who Does Not Continue In All Things Which Are Written In The Book Of The Law, To Do Them."

Gal 3:11 But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God *is* evident, for "The Just Shall Live By Faith."

Gal 3:12 Yet the law is not of faith, but "The Man Who Does Them Shall Live By Them."

Gal 3:13 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed Is Everyone Who Hangs On A Tree"),

Gal 3:14 that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Gal 3:15 Brethren, I speak in the manner of men: Though *it is* only a man's covenant, yet *if it is* confirmed, no one annuls or adds to it.

Gal 3:16 Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "And To Your Seed," who is Christ.

Gal 3:17 And this I say, *that* the law, which was four hundred and thirty years later, cannot annul the covenant that was confirmed before by God in Christ, that it should make the promise of no effect.

Gal 3:18 For if the inheritance *is* of the law, *it is* no longer of promise; but God gave *it* to Abraham by promise.

Gal 3:19 What purpose then *does* the law *serve*? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; *and it was* appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator.

Gal 3:20 Now a mediator does not *mediate* for one *only*, but God is one.

Gal 3:21 Is the law then against the promises of God? Certainly not! For if there had been a law given which could have given life, truly righteousness would have been by the law. But the Scripture has confined all under sin,

Gal 3:22 that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. But before faith came,

Gal 3:23 we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed.

Gal 3:24 Therefore **the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ**, that we might be justified by faith.

Gal 3:25 But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. [*The law of animal sacrifices and dietary laws had ceased after Christ sacrificed His own body, and brought faith and the Holy Spirit to the world*].

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

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

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

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

Because the Israelites could not live according to the precepts of the Old Covenant, a New Covenant became a necessity. God's laws were written not on parchments and frontlets as before, but in people's minds and hearts.

Jer 31:31 "Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel
Jer 31:32 and with the house of Judah— not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day
that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I
was a husband to them, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel,
Jer 31:33 after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will
be their God, and they shall be My people.
Jer 31:34 No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for
they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their
iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

Forgiveness of iniquity and sins came through Jesus Christ, and that is why the vestiges of the Old Testament, of animal sacrifices and dietary laws, were done away with. However, the Ten Commandments, the Holy Days, and the statutes and judgements, were not vestiges of the Old Testament, but Laws written on people's minds and hearts, and forever applicable.

Animal sacrifices, which were practiced until Jesus Christ arrived, were superseded with His sacrifice.

The New Covenant, or New Testament, is for the entire world. This is why the New Testament speaks of kings and priests that come from all nations.

Rev 5:5 [Now] 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 lose 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. And they sang a new song, saying:

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

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

Imagine what would have happened if the disciples of Jesus Christ went out to foreign lands and started preaching dietary laws for salvation. On the other hand, the law of animal sacrifices and dietary laws, should never be confused with the Ten Commandments which are forever applicable.

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.

1Ti 4:7 But reject profane and old wives' fables, and exercise yourself toward godliness.

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

1Ti 4:9 This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance. For to this *end* we both labor and suffer reproach,

1Ti 4:10 because we trust in the living God, who is *the* Savior of all men, especially of those who believe.

1Ti 4:11 These things command and teach.

Now compare that with the Commandments of God, which were reinforced even in the last book of the Bible – the book of Revelation.

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, 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.

Rev 14:10 He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of

Rev 14:11 the Lamb. 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.

When the Spirit of truth abides in us, the Commandments are easy to keep. The satanists, who do not have the Holy Spirit and say that the Commandments have been nailed to the cross, want your destruction not your salvation. If they have no place in the Kingdom of God, neither do they want you to have one.

Now if you think of keeping the Commandments, you can begin by keeping the Sabbath.

Your preachers can also start keeping the Commandments, and stop preaching falsehoods.

The Christian Herald is there, available for free to everyone, no matter how sinful they may have been.

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, like the Father, wishes that all human beings should repent and turn to righteousness.

But humans should also remember that there is a limit and a time when that will no longer be possible.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rev 22:20 written in this book. 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.

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 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 have a look now at the other 'oracles' that God gave Moses in Mount Horeb, which are as valid in the New Testament as they were in the Old Testament.

Remember, Jesus Christ said that He came to fulfil the Law of God not to destroy it. Church leaders have much to answer to God for what they had done to His 'oracles', and done it in Jesus' name.

They have abandoned all of God's true Holy Days and observe instead holy days that they shouldn't: Christmas, Easter, and Sundays, none of which are sanctioned as Holy Days by God and Jesus Christ.

God had not given human beings the prerogative of choosing their own Holy Days, because all of His Holy Days have a specific meaning in the process of salvation. Anything else does not come from God but from His Adversary.

Did the Romans Invent Christmas?

This is what *History Today* wrote about 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 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 they were both pagan holy days celebrated 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' 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 wants us to remember His crucifixion, which He undertook on our behalf, not His birthday which all humans have!

And 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

Exo 31:17 generations as a perpetual covenant. 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
Eze 20:12 them.' 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 24:30 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.

When Jesus Christ returns 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 rest of God's Holy Days.

They will not be looking for people who keep the Sabbath and Christmas [*as some people do, because the Sabbath cannot be stained by the stench of pagan holy days*]. 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 23:37 **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—**besides the Sabbaths** of the LORD, besides your gifts, besides all your vows,

Lev 23:38 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. [*This is the Feast of Tabernacles*].

*Therefore, the Seventh day and the annual Holy Days are all Sabbaths of rest before God.
Of course, in the New Testament, God's Sabbaths/Holy Days are kept differently]*

3. It is a sign between God and His people:

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.

Some people observe the Sabbath, but they also observe the Old Testament dietary laws, which have become doctrines of demons in the New Testament [*they represent disobedience to God and Jesus Christ*], and other pagan holy days such as Christmas, Easter, Halloween, Saints' Days, etc.

After four decades of scurrying the world for righteous people who keep God's Commandments and His true Holy Days and the faith of Jesus Christ, we are yet to find one person who fits that norm.

Rev 14:6 And I saw another angel flying in mid-heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those dwelling on the earth, even to every nation and kindred and tongue and people,

Rev 14:7 saying with a great voice, Fear God and give glory to Him! For the hour of His judgment has come. And worship Him who made the heaven and the earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

Rev 14:8 And another angel followed, saying, The great city, Babylon, has fallen, has fallen; because of the wine of the anger of her fornication; she has made all nations to drink.

Rev 14:9 And a third angel followed them, saying with a great voice, If anyone worships the beast and its image, and receives a mark in his forehead or in his hand,

Rev 14:10 he also will drink of the wine of the anger of God, having been mixed undiluted in the cup of His wrath.

And he will be tormented by fire and brimstone before the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb.
 Rev 14:11 And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever. And they have no rest day or night, those who worship the beast and its image, and whoever receives the mark of its name.
 Rev 14:12 **Here is the patience of the saints. Here are the ones who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.**
 Rev 14:13 And I heard a voice from Heaven saying to me, Write, Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on. Yes, says the Spirit, they shall rest from their labors, and their works follow them.

You do not believe in Bible prophecies? Try this:

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.

In the New Testament it is not foods that make humans unclean, but sin.

Eze 22:27 Her princes in her midst are like wolves tearing the prey, to shed blood, to destroy people, and to get
 Eze 22:28 dishonest gain. 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;
 Eze 22:30 and wrongfully oppress the stranger. So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap them 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
 Rev 11:17 God, 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 sins and 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 that He intervenes at the last minute to save His elect.

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
 2Co 4:3 of God. **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 Commandments;
- He defiles one of God's Holy Days;
- And he destroys the sign that identifies the people of God.

Therefore, do you think that a man who breaks the Sabbath, defiles the Holy Days, and disregards the sign that would link him to God, will ever be granted eternal life in His Kingdom? 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 The Tradition Of Easter Eggs

"Eggs occupy a special status during Easter observances. They are 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.

How remarkable that today's Churches observe a 'celebration of fertility and sex' and completely ignore the Passover, a Memorial of Jesus's sacrifice, which He specifically turned into the greatest Christian Holy Day.

Most 'Christians' have not so much as even heard of this Holy Day let alone observe it in the right manner at the right time (See 1Cor 11 - the Last Supper).

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."

God's Holy Days From Both The Old And The New Testaments

After the Roman Empire became 'Christian', the Roman Catholic Church had a new mission – to spread the tenets of its new identity to the far corners of the earth as its presumed Founder commanded.

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 Roman authorities officially adopted Christianity as their religion, they forbade everyone in the Empire from Judaizing (*having anything to do with the Jews anymore*). But the Christians, though separate from the Jews, were nevertheless intrinsically linked with 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 circumcision and dietary laws for the Gentiles, still 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 effect?

Rom 3:4 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.

The leading Apostles of Jesus Christ, one to the Gentiles and the other to the Jews, sent their followers to the Old Testament to find out about the oracles of God. Why? Because those oracles were very much part of the Christian life. There was no New Testament at that time, yet this is what the new Gentile Christians were doing:

Act 17:10 Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews.

Act 17:11 These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, **and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.**

Act 17:12 Therefore many of them believed, and also not a few of the Greeks, prominent women as well as men.

The Gentile Christians of Berea were more fair-minded in that they **searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so**. What Scriptures were they searching? The Old Testament! It would be decades before the New Testament was put together and canonized as such.

Now are today's Christians fair minded to search the Bible to find out whether what they are being preached in Churches is true? How could they when they are being told that the Old Testament was nailed to the cross? If the Old Testament was nailed to the cross, then the oracles of God, the Commandments, the Holy Days and the signs that identify the people of God were also nailed to the cross, and the sacrifice of Jesus Christ is void. And if that were true, there is no New Testament, for this sits, and is justified by, the Old Testament,

There will be much to be answered for in the Day of Judgment, of which the preachers of today seem to care little, for they are 'progressive' people who have abandoned faith in creation and adopted faith in evolution. Their hypocrisy is also manifested in the fact that while they preach that the Old Testament has been nailed to the cross, they are not ashamed to use it to apply the Old Testament law of tithing in their Churches.

Tithing was the 'income tax law' of ancient Israel designed to support the priests and Levites who worked full time in temple of God.

Christians have no temple of God to support because they themselves are the temples of the living God.

2Co 6:16 And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God.

As God has said: "I Will Dwell In Them And Walk Among Them. I Will Be Their God, And They Shall Be My People."

Apostle Paul also wrote this:

Act 20:34 Yes, you yourselves know that **these hands have provided for my necessities**, and for those who were with me.

Can one imagine a preacher of today to work outside his Church to provide for his necessities, and for those who are with him? According to the Scriptures, there is one man who does that at this particular junction in world history: God's end-time Witness, a poor man clothed in sackcloth, who works for himself and for his assistant.

Remember: If you tithe in order to receive the blessings that God promised to Israel of the Old Testament, you are not a Christian of the New Testament, but a Jew of the Old Testament. As such, do not expect salvation from Jesus Christ who said this:

Joh 16:33 These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have *tribulation*; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

Therefore, the option is between material blessings in this life, or tribulation and suffering for eternal life in the Kingdom of God. We have chosen the latter and survived all kinds of tribulations, because Jesus Christ has been with us as he promised:

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

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

Mat 28:20 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.**

The Apostles of Jesus Christ also chose tribulations, even though they also accepted support from the Churches when they were well established and donated voluntarily to their support not as a matter of law or obligation.

Act 14:21 And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Act 14:22 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."

Php 3:17 Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern.

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

Php 3:19 **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 things.**

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.

The Feasts Of The Lord

Here now are the true Holy Days of God – **the Feasts of the Lord** – from both the Old and the New Testament. We did a good job on this topic in *TCH 33*, and since we can hardly improve on that, we reproduce that section with little redacting. Being such an important part of the New Testament and of the Gospel of the Kingdom, and in order to ensure it is safeguarded for future generations, it is safe to publish it in more than one edition.

- **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**

Act 17:3 with them from the 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.

Remember, these were Gentile Christians, to whom Apostle Paul preached on the Sabbath. The notion that Christians observe Sunday to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ is a furphy. Neither Jesus Christ nor His Apostles changed the observance of the Sabbath for Sunday. God had not given peoples the privilege of choosing their own Holy Days. The Sabbath is a sign between God and His peoples forever. If you do not keep the Sabbath, you cannot be an elect of God, and Jesus' angels cannot find you to save you from the Great Tribulation and take you up to heaven to present you before the throne of God.

- **The Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread** (Lev 23:4-7; 1 Co: 7-8; 17-34)

Lev 23:4 'These are the feasts of the LORD, holy convocations which you shall proclaim at their

Lev 23:5 appointed times. 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

1Co 11:19 factions 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.**

You come together to commemorate the sacrifice of Jesus Christ with a piece of unleavened bread and a sip of wine as the relevant sections of the Bible are being read.

1Co 11:21 For in eating, each one takes his own supper ahead of others; and one is hungry and another

1Co 11:22 is 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

1Co 11:24 same night in which He was betrayed took bread; 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**

1Co 11:27 **death till He comes. 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

1Co 11:30 discerning the Lord's body. 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. But when we are judged,

1Co 11:32 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. Count fifty days
Lev 23:16 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. Then there appeared to them divided tongues,
Act 2:3 as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit
Act 2:4 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. You shall do
Lev 23:25 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
Lev 23:31 his people. 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 in the coming Millennium Kingdom, and forever thereafter.

These then are the 'oracles' that God gave to Moses, which the leading Apostles Paul and Peter declared to be for Christians also. 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 could not 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, there is a book by Arthur Spier, a brilliant Jewish scholar, titled, *'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 a 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.

For a couple of centuries, 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, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven;

Mat 5:45 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

Mat 5:47 same? And if you greet your brethren only, what at do you do more *than others*? Do not even the tax

Mat 5:48 collectors do 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

Joh 15:5 in Me. "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. [*One cannot abide in Christ if he does not keep His Commandments and Holy Days, especially the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread*]

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

Joh 15:22 Me. 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 than they had with the Christians. 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 also of interest to the Christians.

Jesus Christ made Christianity the religion of the entire world, for He died for the entire world.

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.

Christians were no longer bound by Jerusalem and its Temple, as were the Jews. Christian missionaries worshipped God and Jesus Christ 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 life and 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 their conviction, many people turned to Christianity until the Romans took the drastic measure of adopting it as the religion of their 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 nations, as Holy Days of the Empire, was out of the question.

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 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.

Yes, the Alpha and the Omega still speaks to the world in our time.

Now in order to prevent Christians from turning back to the biblical Holy Days, the Council of Nicaea 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 by considering all baptized Christians to be a holy priesthood.^[5] [*Sacerdotalism-religious belief emphasizing the powers of priests as essential mediators between God and humankind. (Merriam-Webster)*] 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.

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's 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 only. 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 of

Php 2:16 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,

Php 2:18 I 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 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.

Good works, therefore, are essential for salvation. 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 judgment.

Jas 2:14 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, and one of you says to them,
 Jas 2:16 "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for
 Jas 2:17 the body, what does it profit? 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 works,
 Jas 2:19 and will show you my faith by my works. You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the
 Jas 2:20 demons believe—and tremble! But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is
 Jas 2:21 dead? 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 out another way?
 Jas 2:26 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 caused so much anguish among people who forgot that 'mercy triumphs over judgment', and 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 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 time 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 latter works – his late years – is inexcusable.

The Jews, and 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 the edicts of 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 Orthodox and Protestant Christians 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.

It was not Christianity that became the religion of Roman Empire, it was Roman paganism that became 'Christian'. Here now is a brief comparison between the religious teachings and practices of the Catholic Church, and the teachings of the Bible.

The Catholic Church Or The Bible – You Cannot Have Both

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 done in life, a confession on their death bed absolves them of their sins, and ensures a place in heaven for them *[or so they think]*.

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).

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. And unless those days were shortened,

Mat 24:22 no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened.

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” by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ (Col 2:14, Heb 9 & 10), not the Ten Commandments.

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. The victims of the Inquisition 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, and to Him only, yet the Popes think they should be called “Holy Fathers” too. Catholic priests are also called ‘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, isn’t he supposed to bring sinners back to God?

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 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.

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 and murderers of
1Ti 1:10 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.** [*Willing ignorance and unbelief
will not save anyone, therefore everyone needs repentance*]
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 are
1Ti 1:20 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 - 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/Reuters, June 27, 2016)

The Christians:

The Pope is concerned with the sufferings of homosexuals, women and child labourers, 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 more than the millions of genuine believers who died for their faith? By this Pope's standards, 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. But we leave these for judgment time, lest the Pope and his cardinals and bishops say they have already been judged. Unless people repent of their sins, no judgment in this world is valid and nothing annuls the end-time judgment of God.

Psa 115:1 Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, But to Your name give glory, Because of Your mercy,
Psa 115:2 Because of Your truth. 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; They have
Psa 115:6 ears, but they do not hear; Noses they have, but they do not smell; They have hands, but they
Psa 115:7 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.** [*Dead
while alive*]

Where then are the bona fides of this Church [and all her daughter Churches], that it is Christian when nothing 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. (*The Christian Herald No 33, pp. 43 – 59*)

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 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, that the righteous

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rom 8:10 And if Christ *is* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin, but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness.

Rom 8:11 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.

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

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

Rom 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are **sons of God**. For you did not receive the

Rom 8:15 spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."

Rom 8:33 Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? *It is God who justifies.*

Rom 8:34 Who is he who condemns? **It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.**

Who is your intercessor with God? If it is other than Jesus Christ, you will not make it into the Kingdom of God. Remember, "No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven." (Joh 3:13). If you pray to the dead, you will end up dead forever like them.

Rom 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?*

Rom 8:36 As it is written: "For Your Sake We Are Killed All Day Long; **We Are Accounted As Sheep For The Slaughter.**"

[No one more so these days than the Two Witnesses, who are killed for their work]

Rom 8:37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

Rom 8:38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor

Rom 8:39 things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This then is what Christianity is all about. And this is what Judaism, its old foe, is all about too:

When the Soviet Union was set up, the Jews held the most important positions in that State, having control of the army and, more importantly, of the Security apparatus, which became the most murderous institution in the world, rivalling the Catholic inquisition.

In their commanding position, number one concern for the Jews became the demolition of religion in general and of Christianity in particular, which they blamed for their persecutions during the centuries of their long Diaspora.

Marx foresaw his "paradise" as being set up through a gradual process in which the masses would voluntarily join in after seeing the benefits of it. He saw the abandonment of religion as a gradual process also after people became convinced that this "opium of the masses" served no purpose.

The Jews however had no time for gradual disappearance of God and religion. They wanted quick results. When they came as political commissars in Eastern Europe with the "liberating" armies of the Soviet Union, they inveterately targeted 'the enemies of the people' – priests and Churches. Woe to those who stood in their way. Only the Nazis applied the law of the victors on their victims more ferociously than the Soviet Union's political commissars.

When Lenin died, it was widely expected that Trotsky, a Jew and Lenin's comrade and commander of the army, would succeed him. Moreover, Lenin, who seemed to have had some understanding of human characters, was against Stalin succeeding him. But that fox outfoxed them all. Feigning deep sorrow for Lenin's death, unexpectedly he was elevated to Lenin's position. Almost immediately he started hounding Trotsky.

He pursued him all over the world until his henchmen reached him and killed him in Mexico – another worker's paradise in the making, which became anything but. Stalin then started purging anti-revolutionary elements in the army, KGB, and wherever he could find them. Anti-revolutionary elements or . . . the Jews?

When Hitler saw that he was losing the war, he said, I should have purged those generals like Stalin purged the heads of his army. Well, he did not follow Stalin's example with his army heads, but he followed it with the Jews. Few people know that before Hitler turned against the Jews, Stalin was already pursuing them in the Soviet Union.

It is common knowledge that Stalin cut the heads of his army in the name of purging the Soviet System of anti-revolutionary elements, but no one wants to admit that in fact he purged mostly Jews from those positions, which he feared would turn against him after he killed Trotsky.

Five Jewish Doctors were looking after Stalin, but in his paranoia he became suspicious of them too, and before long, as one might have expected, he "discovered" that they were plotting against him. He sent them all to Siberia, from where they escaped to China, until Mao took over that nation, and they had to escape again, this time to that other Jewish state called the United States of America. More Jews live in America than in Israel, where they make and break people in that 'Mecca' called Hollywood.

Back in the Soviet Union, Stalin discovered that the number two person in the Soviet hierarchy, his right hand man, Foreign Minister Vyacheslav Molotov, was married to a Jewish woman. You guessed it, he ordered him to divorce her. But like any good husband who had a good wife and loved each other, he tried to convince Stalin that she was a faithful supporter of the Soviet Union, which she was, but Stalin had gotten the taste of blood and when he set his eyes on someone, the choice was obedience or death.

Molotov obeyed.

Sending the good Jewish Doctors to Siberia was like cutting the branch on which Stalin was sitting. It did not take long for his health to falter, and he never recovered. He died at 72, choking in his own vomit, alone in his highly guarded unit in the Kremlin.

When he did not get up to open the door and get his breakfast, the guards kept watching wondering what happened. No one dared to look inside; disturbing the monster would have meant sure death.

Then Beria, a Jew, KGB head, and Stalin's confidante from their common origin in the Soviet Republic of Georgia, who retained Stalin's confidence by being harsher on his Jews than on other "enemies of the peoples", came, opened the door and briefly looked inside. Then he closed the door quickly and without saying or doing anything walked away, leaving Stalin to die in his own filth. Stalin saw him, and Beria knew that if Stalin recovered it would have been the end of him for seeing him in that deplorable condition. So he turned around, walked away and let him die.

Stalin died, but his betrayal came to the surface.

A man who had everything any human would desire (except common sense and true wisdom), Stalin could have lived many more years, but he paid the price for his deeds, as God reminds people that their deeds follow them to their grave, and that there is nothing hidden that shall not come to light.

Mat 10:26 "For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known.

Mat 10:27 "Whatever I tell you in the dark, speak in the light; and what you hear in the ear, preach on the housetops.

Mat 10:28 And 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."

Stalin died abandoned by everyone, including by those whom he considered close confidants, because he did not know that friendship through fear and flattery lasts only as long as the good weather lasts.

Beria, who was expected to take Stalin's place, fell on his sword. His betrayal of Stalin came to the surface, and Khrushchev took Stalin's place. Another Jewish hope hit the dust. The fall of Beria ended any Jewish hope that one of their own would one day become leader of the first 'democratic communist paradise' – a supposed Kingdom of God on earth without God.

There has never been a bigger misnomer than the notion of democracy that was practiced in the Soviet "dictatorship of the proletariat". We can see that kind of democracy in China, North Korea, and surprisingly, more and more again in Russia under Putin. The carcass of Stalin's system is still kicking in that unfortunate land. Human nature, being as it is, Putin could not resist using that criminal organization, the KGB aka FSB, to be 'democratically elected' dictator for life.

Stalin had his reasons to turn against the Jews, and now Putin has his reasons – the vastly more numerous and larger territorial lands occupied by the Arabs. Jewish leaders pride themselves on being in very good relations with the leaders of Russia. How wrong they could be.

Putin is after good relations with other nations only in as much as he could bring them under Russia's 'sphere of influence'. He and the Russian Orthodox Church believe that Russia's place is nowhere else but on top of the world, and they will stop at nothing until they achieve that, even by nuclear war if need be.

And that is in the stars too: it will happen. No power on earth can prevent the fulfilment of biblical prophecies.

Only God can, and He will, but not before the world is cleansed of moral, physical, spiritual pollutions. But tell that to a godless world, and you end up like us – haunted by everyone, including your own 'Christian' Government. But we won't go into that here.

We know from prophecy that Putin is the man of destiny, who together with his ilk – comrades in arms, Xi Jinping and Kim Jong-un, and a few like-minded 'democratic' allies – will strike the West.

You can believe us, or you can believe those who oppose us, who filled the world with the notion that a union of ten European nations under Germany will defeat the Anglo-Saxons and remove what is left of them to their ancestral lands in the Middle East. It is a satanic ploy to blind the eyes of the world to where the real danger comes from.

No such scenario is in the Bible. They base their portents on fabricated or weak historical events that have no relations to biblical prophecies about the end time.

In 1948, the Soviet Union strongly supported the establishment of the Jewish state, believing that it would become another 'workers' paradise' like theirs. The Jewish state, however, embraced democracy wholeheartedly, and never looked back. However, in order to allay the yearnings of those who dreamed of a soviet state in their land, the Jews set up Kibbutzim – a communal form of settlement, in which people lived according to the best philosophical and theoretical framework of Marxist communism. But it did not take long before they discovered that children brought up in that communal environment by strangers, without the love and warmth of family unit, grew up maladjusted and with severe psychological problems later in life.

Kibbutzim is now a discredited word, embraced mostly by foreigners who go to Israel to escape city life, connect with nature and enjoy country living for a while away from the hustle and bustle of city life.

Outside the country, the communists who were once best friends with the Jews, are now fierce enemies. They feel betrayed that the people who contributed so much to the establishment of the Soviet Union in the first place are now unlikely to ever support such a concept again.

The Jewish state never did, and never will, become a 'worker's paradise' a-la Soviet Union. Unlike the atheists, who cling on to obsolete notions of paradise on earth, the Jews had woken up to the fact that human nature is not suitable for Lenin's dictum: "from everyone according to his ability, to everyone according to his needs".

The question is, are they ready yet to embrace the Man – Jesus Christ – who preached this exact philosophy, not for this world but for another world, not with carnal human beings, but with people who had undergone a renaissance and changed their nature.

1Pe 1:22 Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the

1Pe 1:23 brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart **having been born again**, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever because,

1Pe 1:24 "All Flesh Is As Grass, And All The Glory Of Man As The Flower Of The Grass. The Grass Withers, And Its Flower Falls Away, But The Word Of The Lord Endures Forever

1pe 1:25 " Now this is the word which by the Gospel was preached to you.

Amen!

Being Born Again

There seem to be no end of controversy about the meaning of being born again. For me, this dilemma began when I was a member of the Worldwide Church of God, but like many other doctrines of that Church, this topic was also taboo.

Faithfull members never asked awkward questions, accepted unquestioningly the wisdom of the elders of that Church, in particular the wisdom of the two leaders, Herbert W Armstrong and his son Garner Ted – whom the Church widely believed to be the end-time Two Witnesses of God spoken of in the book of Revelation. One does not question the wisdom of demi-gods. In hindsight, it would have been more fitting calling them the big end-time Two Demagogues, for that is exactly what they turned out to be.

Now having been freed from their muzzle, we can speak the truth for those who have ears to hear. We have no illusion how welcoming to this world is the Word of God, for God has shown us what to expect from doing His end-time work.

There are two reasons why our work is like preaching in the wilderness, as was the case with John the Baptist. This is what John said of himself, even while preaching repentance of sins and baptizing people:

Joh 1:19 Now this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him,
Joh 1:20 "Who are you?" He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ."
Joh 1:21 And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." Then they said to him,
Joh 1:22 "Who are you, that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?"
Joh 1:23 He said: "I Am 'The Voice Of One Crying In The Wilderness: "Make Straight The Way Of The Lord," '
Joh 1:24 as the prophet Isaiah said." Now those who were sent were from the Pharisees asked him, saying,
Joh 1:25 "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" John answered
Joh 1:26 them, saying, "I baptize with water, but there stands One among you whom you do not know.
Joh 1:27 It is He who, coming after me, is preferred before me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose."
Joh 1:28 These things were done in Bethabara beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Now was John the Baptist in a real wilderness when he was preaching repentance of sins to the Jews and baptizing them with water as a precursor to baptism of the Spirit from Jesus Christ? Of course not, but the metaphor is an indication of what God expected of the Jews at that time, and what He expects of the Christians at the end time when Two Witnesses preach the true Gospel of salvation – the Gospel of the Kingdom as Jesus Christ called it – which, like the Jews, the Christians also have rejected, or better said, have departed from. What then are the two reasons that our preaching to the world is no better than preaching in wilderness?

First, our world is no better, and infinitely worse than Noah's world which was washed away by the Flood. At that time people were debouching themselves as much as they do in our time, but they had no 'wise' men as we do these days who compound those sins with blasphemy against the Creator God by denying even His existence.

How could people believe in a Creator God when they are inculcated with the notion of evolution from kindergarten to the highest educational institutions? Even Churches believe and spread this blasphemous evolutionary theory. The difference between us and other preachers is that while we have learned to accept the wisdom of the Bible - the wisdom of God as it is - none of our contemporary preachers seem to have accepted it. In every case we looked at and analyzed, we concluded that a work like this was sorely needed in the world. However, in an increasingly problematic world in which jobs are difficult to obtain, people find it more convenient to become preachers in existing Churches, because that offers them the prospect of a job for life, rather than challenge the fake doctrines of their Church.

We are yet to find a Church that preaches the Gospel of the Kingdom of God that Jesus Christ brought to this world. I was robbed of everything I possessed by preachers who can only be described as brigands, simply because I wanted to show them from the Bible some serious doctrinal errors in their preaching.

It so happened that as soon as I was outside their Church, I had what can only be described as an explosion of Bible revelations. I kept studying the Bible virtually every day, even when I was undergoing University studies, always wondering what God wanted me to do with the knowledge that He was revealing to me. As years passed by, I had given up the idea that I would become one of the Two Witnesses of Revelation, which God revealed to me through visions while attending the Feast of Tabernacles as member of the Worldwide Church of God.

But He had different plans for me, and it so happened that as soon as the "Apostle" of that Church – Herbert W Armstrong – was dead, God impressed upon me to do something about the false doctrines that he left behind. And when God speaks, you obey. As He says in the Scriptures: "A lion has roared! Who will not fear? The Lord GOD has spoken! Who can but prophesy?" (Amo 3:8). The Scriptures also say: "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God" (Heb 10:31). No one will understand what it is like when the hand of God is pressing on you to do something, until he experiences it.

I always wondered why the Worldwide Church of God tried to harmonize its doctrines with those of the Jews in spite of what Jesus Christ said about them, and what Apostle Peter said about their beliefs.

- Joh 8:39 They answered and said to Him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would do the works of Abraham.
Joh 8:40 But now you seek to kill Me, a Man who has told you the truth which I heard from God. Abraham did
Joh 8:41 not do this. You do the deeds of your father." Then they said to Him, "We were not born of fornication; we have one Father—God."
Joh 8:42 Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me.
Joh 8:43 Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word.
Joh 8:44 **You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do.**
He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *resources*, for he is a liar and the father of it.
Joh 8:45 But because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me.
Joh 8:46 Which of you convicts Me of sin? And if I tell the truth, why do you not believe Me?
Joh 8:47 He who is of God hears God's words; therefore you do not hear, because you are not of God."

The reason H.W. Armstrong made large donations to Israel, and kept a close relationship with the Jewish leaders was that he expected to start preaching from Jerusalem as soon as they rebuilt the Temple and started sacrificing animals on its altar. But as we've said from the very beginning, there will be no new Temple in Jerusalem before the return of Jesus Christ, no animal sacrifices, and no preaching from Jerusalem of the Two Witnesses.

The work of the Two Witnesses is enveloped in mysteries, and the place of their preaching is one of them. We were greatly surprised when we discovered that rather than being one of God's Witnesses, H.W. Armstrong was in fact the "foolish shepherd" of the prophet Zechariah.

- Zec 11:15 And the LORD said to me, "Next, take for yourself the implements of a foolish shepherd.
Zec 11:16 For indeed I will raise up a shepherd in the land *who* will not care for those who are cut off, nor seek the young, nor heal those that are broken, nor feed those that still stand. But he will eat the flesh of the fat and tear their hooves in pieces,
Zec 11:17 "Woe to the worthless shepherd, Who leaves the flock! A sword *shall be* against his arm and against his right eye; His arm shall completely wither, And his right eye shall be totally blinded."

Now a point of clarification here about the statement of Jesus Christ that the Jews were children of the Devil. The truth is that all human beings are under the influence of the Devil from birth until they repent, are baptized and receive Holy Spirit. Here is proof of this fact, again from Jesus Christ.

- Mat 16:13 When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?"
Mat 16:14 So they said, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the
Mat 16:15 prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"
Mat 16:16 Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."
Mat 16:17 Jesus answered and said to him, **"Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.**
Mat 16:18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.
Mat 16:19 And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."
Mat 16:20 Then He commanded His disciples that they should tell no one that He was Jesus the Christ.

People have wondered why Jesus Christ did not want to be revealed to the world, and warned those whom He healed to keep quiet about it, but rather go to the priest to offer what Moses ordered for healing. That was because He knew He came into the world to give His life for the sins of the world, and if people knew who He really was they might not have killed Him, thus nullifying the purpose of His descent into this world.

He did not mind if the priests were told the truth about His miracles, because by His time the Jewish leaders had so departed from God and His Scriptures they were virtually blind and strangers to the Old Testament, let alone to the new teachings of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ knew that only the Holy Spirit could open the eyes of believers to His true identity, and God does not give the Holy Spirit to sinners, unbelievers and unworthy people. One could see this phenomenon in today's Churches whose preachers serve the god of the dead (i.e. life after death, worship of the dead, etc.), instead of the God of the living preached by Jesus Christ).

- Mat 16:21 From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.
Mat 16:22 Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!"
Mat 16:23 **But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."**

Mat 16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

Mat 16:25 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

Mat 16:26 For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a

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

Apostle Peter, later appointed by Jesus Christ to be His Chief Apostle, was speaking for God one moment when He recognised Jesus as the Messiah, and for Satan the next when he tried to dissuade Jesus from carrying out the act that would prove His Messiahship.

That kind of internal struggle is characteristic to all human beings until they receive the Holy Spirit.

When Peter, the Apostles, and other followers of Jesus Christ received the Holy Spirit a few weeks later on the day of Pentecost, they underwent a renaissance and became totally different people.

From then on, Apostle Peter became a new person, and spoke to the public virtually as if he were Jesus Christ, calling on them to repent, be baptised for the remission of their sins, and receiving of the Holy Spirit.

However, from the parables of Jesus Christ, we know that not all people who respond to the call of God, stay on the course of Christianity to the end, but go back to the ways of the world. Astonishingly, preachers are the worst offenders. Like the Pharisees and leaders of the Jews, they fell away from the truth of God, abandoned the Old Testament, and created a new religion called Judaism.

They condemned Jesus Christ to death because, they said, He made himself the Son of God, and our law demands that He dies because of that. No such a law in the Old Testament, on the contrary there are many Scriptures which point out that He was not merely the Son of God, but God Himself.

Isa 7:14 Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

Now how can you see confirmation in that verse that Jesus Christ was God Himself, someone may ask.

A good question. This verse, and this is not alone, proves that even Bible translators did their best to obscure certain biblical truths that were not convenient to them and infuse their own beliefs into the Scriptures.

If you look into a good Bible, you will notice a reference to the centre column at the word 'Immanuel', which tells us that its true meaning is: '*God-With-Us*'.

Interestingly, this is found in Jewish Bibles too. If such a clarification was necessary, it should have been done immediately after the word 'Immanuel', not elsewhere in the Bible. Jewish leaders might have remembered it, and not shown themselves to be ignorant of their own Scriptures.

Now how could one translate 'Go-With-Us' as 'Immanuel', if not for the purpose of hiding the Child's identity? A sleight of hand that caused the Jews to commit a grievous sin, for which they are yet to repent.

God has not granted them repentance, for that also comes from God to those who are worthy of it.

Jewish children however are not responsible for the sins of their fathers. They should have repented, or do so now while that is still possible, for God's patience has a limit.

2Ch 25:1 Amaziah *was* twenty-five years old *when* he became king, and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem. His mother's name *was* Jehoaddan of Jerusalem.

2Ch 25:2 And he did *what was* right in the sight of the LORD, but not with a loyal heart.

2Ch 25:3 Now it happened, as soon as the kingdom was established for him, that he executed his servants who had murdered his father the king.

2Ch 25:4 However he did not execute their children, but *did as it is* written in the Law in the Book of Moses, where the LORD commanded, saying, "The fathers shall not be put to death for their children, nor shall the children be put to death for their fathers; but a person shall die for his own sin."

Deu 24:16 "Fathers shall not be put to death for *their* children, nor shall children be put to death for *their* fathers; a person shall be put to death for his own sin.

The Jews might even have an excuse, for the Holy Spirit was not available to them, but the bona fides of Christian preaching is the Holy Spirit. Unfortunately we are yet to find Christian preachers moved by the Holy Spirit.

The Scriptures are telling us that a great falling away from the truth of God would occur in the world, to the point that no genuine believers will be in the world beside the Two Witnesses of God.

Heb 6:4 For *it is* impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have

Heb 6:5 become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age

Heb 6:6 to come, if they fall away to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put *Him* to an open shame.

NEWS FLASH

As we were writing this, a news flash on television from the Vatican went around the world:

"Pope Francis announced that the Catholic Church recognizes homosexual Civil Unions, but not homosexual marriages. Homosexuals can now be legally accepted into the Church as 'children of God' (22 Oct. 2020).

Children of God or children of the Devil? Has this Pope never heard what God did to the people who turned to that kind of lifestyle? Never heard of Sodom and Gomorrah, or of the Tribe of Benjamin which was nearly wiped out because of it?

Smart and bold this Pope, especially in semantics: 'homosexual Civil Union', but not 'homosexual marriages'. Other Churches will no doubt follow suit. They are all 'progressive' daughters of Mystery, Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots and of the abominations of the earth.

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

Rev 17:5 And on her forehead a name was written: Mystery, Babylon The Great, The Mother Of Harlots And Of The Abominations Of The Earth.

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

How remarkable that we were working on the topic of Born Again through adult baptism by immersion and receiving the Holy Spirit through laying on of hands by Church elders, which this Pope and his Church do not practice, when this News flashed around the world from the Vatican. Expect major developments, including a possible trip to the Holy Land by the Pope to call for peace and harmony in the world.

We return to the topic of Born Again.

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.

1Jn 3:4 Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.

1Jn 3:5 And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no 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

1Jn 3:8 righteous. 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.

One who has been born of God cannot sin because God cannot sin against Himself, for there is no other God in the Universe against whom He could sin.

Isa 40:17 All nations before God *are* as nothing, And they are counted by Him less than nothing and worthless.

Isa 40:18 To whom then will you liken God? Or what likeness will you compare to Him?

Isa 40:19 The workman moulds an image, The goldsmith overspreads it with gold, And the silversmith casts silver chains. *[Christian Churches do not do that, do they?]*

Isa 40:20 Whoever is too impoverished for *such* a contribution chooses a tree *that* will not rot; He seeks for himself a skilful workman To prepare a carved image *that* will not totter.

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

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

Isa 40:23 He brings the princes to nothing; He makes the judges of the earth useless. Scarcely shall they be

Isa 40:24 planted, Scarcely shall they be sown, Scarcely shall their stock take root in the earth, When He will also blow on them, And they will wither, And the whirlwind will take them away like stubble.

Isa 40:25 **"To whom then will you liken Me, Or to whom shall I be equal?" says the Holy One.**

Isa 40:26 Lift up your eyes on high, And **see who has created these things**, Who brings out their host by number; He calls them all by name, By the greatness of His might And the strength of *His* power; Not one

Isa 40:27 is missing. Why do you say, O Jacob, And speak, O Israel: "My way is hidden from the LORD, And my just claim is passed over by my God"?

Isa 40:28 Have you not known? Have you not heard? **The everlasting God, the LORD, The Creator of the ends of the earth, Neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable.**

Isa 40:29 He gives power to the weak, And to *those who have* no might He increases strength.

Isa 40:30 Even the youths shall faint and be weary, And the young men shall utterly fall,

Isa 40:31 But **those who wait on the LORD Shall renew their strength**; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.

Isa 44:6 "Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, And his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: 'I *am* the First and I *am* the Last; **Besides Me there is no God.**

Isa 44:7 And who can proclaim as I do? Then let him declare it and set it in order for Me, Since I appointed the ancient people. And the things that are coming and shall come, Let them show these to them.

Isa 44:8 Do not fear, nor be afraid; Have I not told you from that time, and declared *it*? You *are* My witnesses. **Is there a God besides Me? Indeed there is no other Rock; I know not one.'** "

1Jn 3:10 In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother.

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

1Jn 5:2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and **keep His commandments**. *[His Commandments include the forth – keeping the Sabbath – the sign that identifies God's people]*

1Jn 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not
1Jn 5:4 burdensome. For **whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory
that has overcome the world—our faith.**

Jesus Christ foresaw that by the time of His return, the world will wallow in fake Christianity and a myriad of false preachers.

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.**

Christians know what they need to do to retain the grace of God and the embrace of Jesus Christ, but what about the Jews, where do they stand and what do they need to do, especially now that the dark clouds of annihilation are raising over the horizon more menacing than ever.

Well, like people from every nation, they also know about *The Christian Herald*. A few months ago, we had an extraordinary sudden spike in the readership graph of people from Israel. More than five times the average for that month, but it did not last and it came back to more 'normal' levels.

Well, if anyone wants to talk with me, I would be only too happy to do so.

About two and a half decades ago, I was invited by what appeared to be some Orthodox Jewish leaders, to celebrate a certain Holy Day Feast with them. Initially I was thrilled by their invitation, but as I thought about it, I changed my mind. I thought if they grill me on my beliefs and practices, and I did not answered properly, I was worried not so much of what they might think of me, but what effect that would have on me. I could not afford to have my confidence shattered, for that could have affected this work.

Well, I do not worry about that anymore. Now I could face any audience and answer any questions, and if I cannot answer something directly, I could open my little computer in which I have Bibles, dictionaries, encyclopaedia, and concordances – and I could locate anything in seconds.

Everything one needs to know about **survival** and **salvation** is there. It so happens that for the first time in history these two concepts are close to each other and relevant in the current world developments. People should aim for salvation, which is forever, but which requires a radical change of one's life and character – being born again in other words – rather than just survival, which is temporary and needs reconsideration later on.

In the Millennium Kingdom, which is knocking at the door, people will still be born, grow old and die. The difference being that there will not be a wicked spirit to tempt them to sin and lead to perverted lives, but they will still have to contend with and control their own carnal nature.

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.

Life will be as it was for a few years in the Garden of Eden before Adam and Eve were tempted by the Devil and were cast out. When they sinned, shame, fear, ego-centricity and back passing entered the world. Most likely this will happen again at the end of the Millennium Kingdom when Satan will be released for a short while.

Here is a brief description of life in the Millennium Kingdom.

Zec 8:3 "Thus says the LORD: 'I will return to Zion, And dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. Jerusalem shall be called the City of Truth, The Mountain of the LORD of hosts, The Holy Mountain.'

Zec 8:4 "Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'Old men and old women shall again sit in the streets of Jerusalem, Each one with his staff in his hand Because of great age.

Zec 8:5 The streets of the city Shall be full of boys and girls Playing in its streets.'

Zec 8:6 "Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'If it is marvellous in the eyes of the remnant of this people in these days, Will it also be marvellous in My eyes?' Says the LORD hosts. "Thus says the LORD of hosts:'

Zec 8:7 Behold, I will save My people from the land of the east And from the land of the west;

Zec 8:8 I will bring them *back*, And they shall dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. They shall be My people And I will be their God, In truth and righteousness.'

A new Temple in Jerusalem will be built in the early stages of the Millennium Kingdom according to Ezekiel Chapters 40 – 48. No new temple will be built before the return of Jesus Christ, as the Jews and misguided fundamentalist Christians keep calling for. Now here is how the Millennium Kingdom will see its end.

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

Rev 20:2 chain in his hand. He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is *the* Devil and Satan,

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

Rev 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then *I saw* the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not

worshipped the beast or his image, and had not received *his* mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

Rev 20:5 But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

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

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

Rev 20:10 The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet *[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.

The house of Judah and house of Israel will be formed by followers of Jesus Christ from all tribes of Israel, not from people who have never repented and accepted Christ, no matter what tribe or nation they may have come from. Jesus Christ called His followers Jews not Christians. True Jews are made by faith not by blood inheritance.

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

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

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

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

Zec 8:14 "For thus says the LORD of hosts: 'Just as I determined to punish you When your fathers provoked Me to wrath,' Says the LORD of hosts, 'And I would not relent,

Zec 8:15 So again in these days I am determined to do good To Jerusalem and to the house of Judah. Do not

Zec 8:16 fear. These *are* the things you shall do: **Speak each man the truth to his neighbor; Give judgment in your gates for truth, justice, and peace;**

Zec 8:17 Let none of you think evil in your heart against your neighbor; And do not love a false oath. For all these *are things* that I hate,' Says the LORD."

This then is what life will be like in the aftermath of the Great Tribulation. People will still have to contend with carnal nature, but freed from wicked spirits they will have a much easier task in controlling their impulses, and better chance to develop the right character for the Kingdom of God that follows the Millennium Kingdom.

Rev 21:1 Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away.

Rev 21:2 Also there was no more sea. 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

Rev 21:6 these words are true and faithful." 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."

Therefore it is advisable that people avail themselves of the opportunity to be born again at this time and be saved and taken to heaven at the return of Jesus Christ, and presented before the throne of God, and be taught to be priests and kings over their respective nations during the Millennium Kingdom.

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."

Amen!

International tensions set to explode upon the world

“Australia needs to take leadership role in face of US-China contest”

“Labor’s foreign affairs spokeswoman, Penny Wong, has sounded the alarm about China’s growing influence over global bodies and potential ambitions to remake them to suit the interests of authoritarian states. With little evidence tensions between the United States and China will ease, Senator Wong says Australia needs to re-imagine its foreign policy by becoming more self-reliant in protecting and promoting its interests and taking a leadership role in reforming multilateral institutions.

But she says we should reject the wave of economic protectionism and nationalism sweeping the world, as well as counter the escalation in anti-Chinese sentiment within Australia. In an essay for the Australian Foreign Affairs journal, Senator Wong says as the US has pulled out of bodies such as the World Health Organisation, China has been growing its footprint over the global governance system.

Within the United Nations, four of the 15 specialised agencies are headed by Chinese nationals, while many Beijing-backed candidates – including WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus – have been elected to senior positions. Senator Wong says Beijing’s growing influence over the multilateral system is consistent with Chinese President Xi Jinping’s expressed intention in 2017 that “reforming and developing the global governance system” was a major foreign policy priority.

“China’s growing assertiveness is prompting uncertainty about its ambitions, including whether it seeks pre-eminent global leadership and whether it wants a more illiberal form of global governance designed to suit the interests of authoritarian states,” she writes. In the essay titled *The End of Orthodoxy*, Senator Wong calls for Australia to take a leadership role in reforming global bodies and form deeper alliances with other countries in the face of the escalating contest between the US and China.

Australia has “a long history of making international institutions more effective and equitable” and needs to support key candidates and more actively promote the nation’s expertise within global bodies.

She says the US-China relationship was deteriorating before the coronavirus outbreak began, but the pandemic has escalated tensions and brought Australia’s challenges into sharper focus.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison last week revealed a major new defence strategy, including an anti-ballistic missile defence shield for deployed forces, warning the world hasn’t known a time of strategic uncertainty like this since the 1930s and ’40s.

While acknowledging a more robust defence strategy is needed, Senator Wong says Australia now needs to take a similar approach with its foreign policy...” (Anthony Galloway, *Sydney Morning Herald*, July 10, 2020)

“China now ‘Enemy No 1’”

“New cold war escalates as US says Beijing more dangerous than Russia”

“WASHINGTON: China is now the biggest military threat to the US and has been formally promoted to the top list of its most dangerous rivals, according to a new strategic assessment by the Pentagon.

US Defence Secretary Mark Esper has told the country’s military chiefs to recalibrate their training and operations to match Beijing’s capabilities. The military must make China “the pacing threat in all our schools, programs and training.” Mr Esper said in a message to Pentagon staff. “We are now in an era of great power competition and China, then Russia, constitute our top strategic competitors.”

In the 2018 national defence strategy, delivered by his predecessor James Mattis, China and Russia were on an equal footing as the “great power rivals” to the US. Tension between the US and China has been rising in recent months, stoked by competing narratives over trade, intellectual property theft and hacking, as well as Chinese influence campaigns, its counterintelligence and Beijing’s military activities in the Pacific.

Congress has passed sanctions on China over the repression of minority groups in Xinjiang and its crackdown in Hong Kong. And the State Department announced visa bans on Chinese officials involved in abuses in Tibet, prompting reciprocal bans by Beijing. There are also tensions over China’s growing nuclear arsenal, with the Trump administration demanding that Beijing join its talks with Moscow to forge a multilateral arms treaty. Beijing said on Wednesday the demands were a ruse for Washington to abandon the bilateral treaty, but suggested it could take part if the US shrank its arsenal to the size of China’s – an offer that Washington would never accept.

In another sign of the growing co-operation between Russia and China, Beijing said on Wednesday the two powers had agreed to boost joint economic enterprises, including in energy and civilian aircraft manufacture, after President Xi Jinping and President Vladimir Putin spoke by phone. On Tuesday, FBI director Christopher Wray said China was “engaged in a whole-of-state effort to become the world’s only superpower by any means necessary”. (*The Times/Daily Telegraph*, July 10, 2020)

From aggressor to appeaser, China caught out in consulate reprisal game

After years of cyber warfare, intellectual property theft, subversive foreign interference and human rights transgressions at home, Beijing was caught by surprise. A diplomatic conflict that had been percolating away for months, suddenly and viscerally vaulted into the real world after the US ordered the shutdown of China's consulate in Houston on Wednesday evening, Australian time.

The US claimed the Chinese mission had illegally transferred medical research, turned over information to Chinese institutions and coerced fugitive Chinese citizens to return home. Barrels of documents were burned in the Texan courtyard of the consulate before four Chinese researchers were charged by the Department of Justice for allegedly lying about their links to the People's Liberation Army.

China had 72 hours to decide how it would react. It used up nearly 48 in the hope of a diplomatic reversal that never came. Beijing had to appear strong to placate nationalists at home but avoid provoking America into a deeper economic, diplomatic or even military confrontation that neither side is prepared for. The aggressor had become the appeaser.

"It severely damages bilateral relations, a move that undercuts the bond of friendship between Chinese and American people," said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin in response to the Houston decision. China called the demand 'an outrageous and unjustified move which will sabotage China-US relations.' The three consulates the Chinese government had reportedly weighed up closing in retaliation for the Houston shut down tell us something about how China sees the state of this fraught relationship. Expelling the US mission in Wuhan, already enfeebled by the coronavirus pandemic, would not send a strong enough message. Chengdu, a strategically significant outpost that covers Tibet, was seen as a like-for-like trade with Houston. Closing down Hong Kong in an already hyper-sensitive region would escalate tensions further. In the end Beijing chose the middle ground and gave Chengdu the chop.

That middle ground is becoming increasingly narrow for both sides and their allies as tensions fray to their lowest point in a generation. Beijing's public forays over the coronavirus, Hong Kong, the South China Sea and Huawei are starting to match its decades of covert preparation. China's assertive diplomacy is also feeding off a bombastic White House. On Thursday, in the third China set speech in as many days from the Trump administration, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo warned the "old paradigm of blind engagement" had failed and the world was in the middle of a battle between the "free world" and "new tyranny".

"We must induce China to change in more creative and assertive ways, because Beijing's actions threaten our people and our prosperity," he said in a speech delivered at the library of the first US president to open diplomatic relations with China, Richard Nixon. **"Even now, some are insisting we preserve the model of dialogue for dialogue's sake."**

The combination of those words from the US's top diplomat and the events of this week is ominous. **Washington believes the time for talk is over.** (Eryk Bagshaw, *SMH*, July 24, 2020)

"Everyone Knows We're Arming Up Because Of China"

Any responsible government would do the same in our situation.

Take with a large grain of salt the diplomatic denials that the 2020 Strategic Defence Update and commitment to spend \$270bn on defence across the next decade is all about one country. There are other troubling developments in the region but only China's coercive turn can account for the dramatic upgrade of our martial mindset, posture and capabilities.

That Beijing's foreign ministry responded immediately in saying that all countries should void an arms race and refrain from purchasing unnecessary equipment is evidence it knows Canberra's announcement last week were about China – which has caused some to question the Morrison government for poking the Chinese Communist Party in the eye when the bilateral relationship is deeply strained.

These are criticisms moved by a poor sense of history and strategy, and a poor understanding of the principle of negotiation and managing brink. Since the early 1990s, the annual increase in spending on the People's Liberation Army has been growing about twice as fast as the country's gross domestic product and increase in fiscal collected by the regime. It has come to the point where China spends more on its military each year than the combined military outlays of all countries in East Asia, South Asia and Oceania – and the gap is widening. This is accompanied by a shift, which occurred two decades ago, from defending the homeland to developing offensive and power projection capabilities in the sea, air, cyber and space domains.

For what purpose? By its own assessment made during the first decade of this century, the Chinese continent is unthreatened and the country is rising in the most stable external environment it has faced for several hundred years. Apparently hostile powers such as the US and its allies have played enormous roles in helping China succeed.

When Donald Rumsfeld, the US defense secretary at the time, dared ask at the 2006 Shangri La Dialog meeting why China was building its offensive military capabilities so rapidly and opaquely even as its diplomats assured the world its rise would be peaceful, he was pilloried for being provocative.

The point is that China has relentlessly pursued this course regardless of whether the US and others have pursued co-operative and trusting policies, or in more recent times, more confrontational measures. During the past decade, Beijing has used coercive military, economic and/or diplomatic measures against dozens of countries in Asia and Europe at its own whim and choosing. This coercive bent has accelerated since Xi Jinping assumed power in 2012. Remember that Beijing's broken promises over South China Sea preceded Donald Trump and occurred during Barack Obama's more conciliatory presidency.

Besides, the recent record only reaffirms the folly of allowing China to dictate the nature or pace of escalation. For example, Beijing exacerbated matters in the border dispute with India in Ladakh, and a maritime dispute with The Philippines in the past couple of months, even though New Delhi and Manila had just softened their policies towards China. It makes more sense to go ahead and do what is best for one's interest without seeking permission and understanding from China. Beijing does not reward timidity.

This brings us to Morrison government's focus on adjusting to the increased likelihood for war, which includes investing in long-range and hypersonic missiles, unmanned and other weapons that will make it difficult for an enemy to establish dominance in a specific theatre of conflict, building offensive cyber capabilities and improving stockpiles and logistics to support and sustain any campaign.

Being prepared is the duty of any responsible government and a basic principle of good risk management. When considering that the US, Japan, India, Vietnam and others are moving in the same direction as Australia, there is also an important strategic shaping element to the government's announcement. The wicked problem is that China can and will do things that are out of the question for other countries, for example, illegally creating and militarizing enormous artificial islands in disputed territory in the South China Sea. Beijing also has used national resources to gain influence in poor and easily corruptible countries to control civilian infrastructure that can be used later for military purposes.

Changing Beijing's behavior is possible only if we cause it to recalculate. Until recently, the CCP has been emboldened by realizing that the harder it pushes, the more countries tend to retreat. This must change. In hard-power terms, countries need to convince the CCP that its encroaching military capabilities and assets and coercive behaviour are making itself less secure. This can be achieved only through Australia and other countries developing offensive weapons to inflict considerable if not prohibitive costs on China, and to demonstrate the resolve to use these if required. It is why it is good that Beijing knows the countering measures being considered throughout the entire region are very much about China. When probing and meeting steel, all powers pause to reassess.

Finally, Canberra might be at the forefront of this undertaking, but Australia will not be alone. To calm those perennially hypersensitive about what our Southeast Asian neighbours think about us, there is quiet support for the announcement made by the Morrison government just as there is growing support for the Quad arrangement between the US, Japan, India and Australia. Australia is not foolishly stumbling into a US-China rivalry but moving to shape the region to our liking and interests." (John Lee, *The Australian*, July 7, 2020). *Adjunct professor John Lee is a non-resident senior fellow at the US Studies Centre and Hudson Institute in Washington. From 2016 to 2018 he was a senior advisor to the Australian foreign minister.*

The world risks sleepwalking into a space war between Russia/China and the US

... The Russian satellite Kosmos 2542, launched last November, gave birth to a sub-satellite, Kosmos 2543. Baby Kosmos started to stalk an American spy satellite. Then, last month, 2543 released a highspeed projectile in what appeared to the United States and Britain to be something like a weapons test.

The Kremlin says that these manoeuvres are all about inspecting damage to Russia's space fleet. Space, after all, is full of flying debris. But the West is rightly rattled. Suddenly, the prospect of being blinded by aggressive action in space is no longer the stuff of science fiction. GPS satellites, so vital to everyday life but also to winning terrestrial wars, could be knocked out like coconuts at a village fete. Credit card transactions, **nuclear warning**; all this could go. The whole globalised economy is dependent on satellite transmission.

The early thinking about a military operation in space was that it could be the final stage of a great power conflict after a nuclear exchange. That did not bear serious thought since the nuclear bombs on Earth would already have dragged us back into the Stone Age. Now it seems that the weaponisation of space could bring about similar levels of paralysis without the need for nuclear Armageddon at home. The mass of traffic in space - more than 100 states have a presence there, along with non-governmental organisations and commercial operations - no longer just gathers and transmits information. **It is a war fighting domain.**

... Now though there is a pressing need to establish basic codes of conduct in outer space. What happens up there has an immediate impact down here. It is too crowded a place for Russia and China to charge around as if it's an extension of the Wild East. There are talks in Vienna and Russia has put forward the idea of a treaty on "the prevention of placement of weapons in outer space". And it wants a ban on the "first placement" of weapons. That has been couched to sound reasonable. But it overlooks that Vladimir Putin's regime has been developing ground-based anti-satellite technology. It has mobile lasers that can dazzle the satellites of other states. **The fact is that Russia and China are only interested in creating new norms if they serve to bind and contain the US, which remains the dominant force in space.**

For the US and Britain the antics of Kosmos 2543 demonstrate that Russia is actively trying out warfighting techniques. It does not require much, certainly not nuclear arms, to send a western satellite spinning out of its orbit. A celestial car crash is quite enough. The Kremlin's diplomatic efforts are thus a diversion from the real task: managing outer space. It can certainly build on the Outer Space treaty but it has to be clear what constitutes an unacceptable act of aggression. An attack on a satellite that harms the civilian infrastructure of another state has to be seen as a hostile act. There should be an immediate moratorium on testing weapons in space ... All sides should recognise that a kinetic war in space is unwinnable; that high-tech military equipment is uniquely vulnerable to low-cost attack; that the terrestrial implications of celestial combat are, well, Earth-shattering. **Russia has to understand that its space provocations will carry a heavy cost.** (Roger Boyes, *The Times*, Aug 6, 2020)

Putin Is The Poison Flowing From Russia's Rotten Core

This president-for-life created evil system in which his rivals are in constant danger

German, French and Swedish medical experts all agree: Alexei Navalny, Russian President Vladimir Putin's highest-profile domestic critic and founder of the Anti-Corruption Foundation, was poisoned with the Soviet-era nerve agent novichok. He has survived. Russia's relationship with Europe may not — which is not necessarily a bad outcome.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel has declared Navalny to be the “victim of a crime intended to silence him”. The case, in her view, raises “very serious questions” that “only the Russian government” can — and must — answer. “The world will wait for an answer.”

Merkel has called on Russia to launch an independent, transparent investigation into Navalny's poisoning. Britain and the EU have echoed that call. If such an investigation were to expose the Russian state as the culprit, the European Commission suggests, new sanctions may be in order. After all, according to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the poisoning qualifies as use of a banned weapon.

This is not the first time Russia's government has been implicated in the use of novichok against Putin's supposed enemies. In 2018, former double agent Sergei Skripal and his daughter, Yulia, were poisoned in Salisbury in Britain. Both survived the attempt and are in hiding.

The Kremlin denies involvement in either case. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov insists there are “no grounds to accuse the Russian state” of being involved in the Navalny case. Sergei Naryshkin, the head of Russia's foreign intelligence agency, argued that Western intelligence agencies may have poisoned him to discredit Russia.

That's far-fetched, even if the attack on Navalny does Russia more harm than good. The decision to poison a high-profile political opponent immediately before local elections — with a Soviet-developed nerve agent, no less — defies political logic. And with protests against August's fraudulent presidential election engulfing neighbouring Belarus, the timing is odd. Moreover, the Kremlin's initial response was confused. There was no solid cover story, and any plot appears to have been a spectacular failure.

Putin has been presented as a kind of Darth Vader of global politics, capable of meddling in US elections, organising protests in France, coaxing Brexit along and propping up dictators including Syria's Bashar alAssad. A former KGB man, he is savvy, strategic and cunning. So why couldn't he manage to have the Skripals or Navalny killed? And why would Russia hand Navalny over to Germany, where novichok would be detected?

Now Putin faces an international outcry and the threat of sanctions, including the potential cancellation of lucrative international projects such as the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline to Germany...

Other failed poisonings — such as those of Vladimir Kara-Murza, a journalist and co-ordinator of Mikhail Khodorkovsky's Open Russia organisation, in 2015 and 2017, and Pyotr Verzilov, publisher of MediaZona, a news site chronicling abuse in Russia's justice system, in 2018 — may have similar origins. The same may be true of the deadly poisoning in 2006 of Alexander Litvinenko, a former KGB officer and regular critic of the Russian security services.

Like the Navalny poisoning, these attacks have often been counter-productive. In 2004, Anna Politkovskaya, a columnist for liberal newspaper Novaya Gazeta, was sickened by toxins aboard an aeroplane travelling from Moscow to Beslan. She survived, but was shot to death in the elevator of her apartment building two years later. As Putin noted at the time, her “death brought greater damage to the Russian image than her reports”.

This is not to absolve the Kremlin of any of these attacks. Whether or not Putin directly ordered each hit, he created the system that allowed them to happen — one that is ineffective, unaccountable and prone to destabilisation by rogue actors.

Navalny's death could have been seen as something the master of the Kremlin wanted, and pleasing the master is the siloviki's ultimate objective. In an unstable and Putin-centric system, they have few legitimate options for ensuring stability. And even if their efforts to settle personal and political scores backfire, they will not be punished. They were, they can always claim, trying to defend the President's interests.

Those now accusing the Kremlin in Navalny's poisoning are unlikely to find any “smoking gun”. No matter: ultimately, the Kremlin is to blame. The West should be consistent and united in holding it accountable, even if that means implementing sanctions or other policies running counter to its own economic interests. Putin created a system that places him at its centre. In Russia, that is where all responsibility — and blame — is to be found. (Nina L. Khrushcheva (the columnist) is professor of international affairs at The New School. She is the author (with Jeffrey Tayler), most recently, of *In Putin's Footsteps: Searching for the Soul of an Empire Across Russia's Eleven Time Zones*).

Has War Already Begun?

It's a question we need to ask as China rumps up the pressure and the US is harder for us to count upon.

Are we already at war? This headline alone is enough to make brows wet from sweat in Canberra.

There is nothing the foreign policy community wants less than a public discussion of possible conflict.

If you talk about it, their argument goes, you are more likely to cause it to happen. You'll create enemies, they say, where there are none. But our prime minister has now gone closer to it than anyone for generations. Elsewhere though, others are thinking about nothing else. What will the next war look like?

What will be involved? Will we be ready? What do we need to do?

These questions are vital for all of us and we should discuss them. We, as a community, need to consider whether competition between the United States and China can be contained without fighting, and what impact that would have on us. We need to ask whether the 270bn for defence equipment over the next 10 years is enough. One of the biggest questions is: Do we have ten years? But we need to do everything in our power to stop war from becoming a reality, and you do by being strong.

Taking the 'don't mention the war' approach, did not work for Basil Fawlt, and it will not work for us.

Leaving defence policy to a few means the public cannot judge how important military spending is when compared to other needs. As you can only be polite to possible enemies for so long. An informed public, who understands the risk, is the best defence.

Putting China's recent actions in a context can help to understand that risk.

It's no coincidence that Australia is being hit with economic punishments by China. Nor that the Australian Government has needed to establish a foreign interference task force. Or that foreign investment into Australia needs a national security test now.

Australians need to ask whether we might actually be at war now. Is this what the PM and defence minister mean by the "Gray Zone", where conflict and competition between nations overlap?

Is it possible that all these moves by China – ranging across economic coercion, fights with India, creeping conquests in the South China Sea – are just the start of something larger?

Military strategists talk about 'shaping'. Shaping means you take actions that make it difficult for your adversary to achieve their aims, or respond to your moves. Shaping actions might include creating alliances, undermining other's decision-making or creating distant bases.

But if we are going to be effective in our shaping, we must aim at the mind of our opponent, and the most effective way of doing that is by being really strong that an opponent will not even consider having a go. Being strong as a nation, as it takes a nation to defend a nation.

China's recent actions against Australia are also a threat to others – these actions say stand up for yourselves, and we will punish you too. But shaping may not be enough to win the day, and fighting might follow. Should that happen, the consequences are always violent and costly. And please don't think that the US will come to our aid. The US armed forces have not been able to come to the aid of all their allies since the end of the Cold War. We must assume that we are on our own...

We cannot deter a war between China and the US, a war they rehearse every day. What we can deter is a collateral attack on Australia related to that war. So how do we stop shaping from becoming violent?

Indeed, how do we stop the shaping that is bad for Australia? It will take many different efforts.

Diplomacy is one of those.

We need China to understand that provocation is being seen for what it is. And our diplomacy must produce effective alliances of all like-minded countries to stand up against China. If everyone is strong in themselves, then the alliance is strong, and deterrence might just work. The government has made a very good start on doing exactly that.

The Australian Defence Force needs to be able to strike out against military action directed at us, or our friends. This requires the ability to destroy targets with long-range weapons, the ability to defend our cyber and trade networks, and to keep others guessing about the whereabouts of our submarines.

We need to have systems to protect us from missiles strikes, and to anticipate trouble.

We need an army that can quickly support others should they be threatened. And the ADF needs a strong nation behind it.

This is not a call to actually use these weapons. No-one wants violence or conflict. It's hard to imagine what path any war might take. But we must show that military action against Australia will have costs – costs that are simply not worth the gains. Right now, as a nation, we have far too many vulnerabilities. (Jim Molan, Dailytelegraph.com.au, Sept. 8, 2020). *Jim Molan AD is an Australian Senator for NSW and a former major general in the Australian Army.*

What Homosexuals Are Concerned About Now

“Jury still out: Does Scott Morrison love gays” asked Michael Kirby a former homosexual judge of the High Court of Australia.’ The man who got his High Court position by lying about his lifestyle when homosexuality was illegal in Australia, is not happy that he could practice it at will now without consequences, and wants to be loved for it too.

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.

Remember how it all began about half a century ago? They had crusades demanding basic rights (couldn't get any baser than that), human rights, equal rights, “marriage rights” and now “love” rights. Will they stop at this? No! Because this life style never brings more than flitting contentment, after which they always want more, until God ends their agony.

In my days as a School Librarian, the Deputy Principal, a lesbian, brought a movie to school that she wanted all students to see. Nothing unusual in that, our students often saw movies, mostly documentaries, usually through the library, but not this time. No one knew what was on the tape, no one vetted it, or suspected what she was aiming at.

The movie was about the joyous life of homosexuals – the beautiful world that awaits them in the afterlife.

Extraordinarily beautiful scenes, flowery gardens, colourful low flying birds, clear skies, happy, chanting, dancing, people in garden allays, and on beaches – an incredibly blissful make believe homosexual Nirvana.

By comparison Worldwide Church of God, which I attended for a while, used to portray heaven as happy workers in heavy labour. One particular scene that has remained in my mind portrayed half a dozen muscular men, carrying a big log on their shoulders with broad smiles and brimming faces. I thought, these people have no idea what the Kingdom of God is like, nor what it is like carrying heavy logs on your shoulders day after day. Any wonder that people have lost faith in God and in His Kingdom.

Homosexuals always see the word in colourful terms. You can still see them during the world famous Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Grass marching out with holes cut out on their pants exposing their buttocks, or as in earlier days when they used to march in scanty underwear. In-your-face vulgarities, and they want us to love them for that.

Well, the United Nations, the European Union, and the Pope love them, but God and His people never will, for just as God wiped out ancient peoples, cities and nations that gave themselves to that kind of ‘love’, He is about to do the same to today's world, which, due to the protection and encouragement of those august bodies, has become a theatre of the absurd, for which it will face the wrath of God again, who will wipe out this pigsty of homosexuality forever. And sooner than people think.

2Ch 19:1 Then Jehoshaphat the king of Judah returned safely to his house in Jerusalem.

2Ch 19:2 And Jehu the son of Hanani the seer went out to meet him, and said to King Jehoshaphat, **"Should you help the wicked and love those who hate the LORD?** Therefore the wrath of the LORD is upon you.

2Ch 19:3 Nevertheless good things are found in you, in that you have removed the wooden images from the land, and have prepared your heart to seek God."

Idolatry is hardly any better in the eyes of God than the sin that God hates the most – homosexuality. How remarkable that the Pope – whose forbears introduced idolatry in Christianity, and he became the defender of homosexuality – announced that he will meet the head of the United Nations to urge him to introduce worldwide reforms to save humanity from the devastation of global warming. This is what God's people have to contend with, for while we preach God's prophecies which tell us that the world is coming out of the age of man (during which time God allowed human beings to prove their worth and they did so by abandoning themselves to the most vile of human passions), and about to enter the Millennium Kingdom of Jesus Christ (after a Great Tribulation that will wipe out sins and sinners, pollutions and polluters), the Pope wants this world to continue as is forever, hence the need for the United Nations to do something about the natural upheavals that are ravaging this planet.

2Ch 19:4 So Jehoshaphat dwelt at Jerusalem; and he went out again among the people from Beersheba to the mountains of Ephraim, and brought them back to the LORD God of their fathers.

2Ch 19:5 Then he set judges in the land throughout all the fortified cities of Judah, city by city, and said to the judges,

2Ch 19:6 **"Take heed to what you are doing, for you do not judge for man but for the LORD, who is with you**

2Ch 19:7 **in the judgment.** Now therefore, let the fear of the LORD be upon you; take care and do it, for there is no iniquity with the LORD our God, no partiality, nor taking of bribes."

Now do you think that a homosexual judge, who sneaked furtively into the highest Court of Law in the land, judged impartially with the fear of God while he practiced a lifestyle that was forbidden by God?

All High Court decisions that were passed by a majority of one during his tenure should be reviewed.

2Ch 19:8 Moreover in Jerusalem, for the judgment of the LORD and for controversies, Jehoshaphat appointed some of the Levites and priests, and some of the chief fathers of Israel, when they returned to Jerusalem. And he commanded them,

2Ch 19:9 saying, **"Thus you shall act in the fear of the LORD, faithfully and with a loyal heart:**

2Ch 19:10-11 Whatever case comes to you from your brethren who dwell in their cities, whether of bloodshed or offenses against law or commandment, against statutes or ordinances, you shall warn them, lest they trespass against the LORD and wrath come upon you and your brethren. Do this, and you will not be guilty... **Behave courageously, and the LORD will be with the good."**

Today's world leaders do not care that God destroyed ancient cities and peoples that engaged in that kind of 'blissful life style', as an example to future generations of what must never be done among human beings. Future generations will find it hard to believe that by the end of the age of man, homosexuality was not only practiced openly in the nations that were once God's chosen people, but under protection and encouragement by the leading institutions of their time including the Pastor of the “Universal Church”.

Jesus Christ spoke favourably of Sodom, indicating that there **is hope for homosexuals just as there is hope for any sinner that repents and returns to a wholesome righteous life.**

Mat 10:14 And whoever will not receive you nor hear your words, when you depart from that house or city, shake off the

Mat 10:15 dust from your feet. Assuredly, I say to you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city!

Our retired homosexual judge can do the same in the remaining years of his life and enjoy pleasures forever more in the Kingdom of God, in the company of God, Jesus Christ and their people, not in a never-ever make-belief Nirvana.

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

No one talks of the Law of God and the Gospel of His Kingdom, the Gospel of Jesus Christ – the Gospel of life as it is – because the world wallows in a false Christianity that has nothing to do with the teachings of Jesus Christ and of His Apostles.

Anatomy Of Two Very Similar And Very Different E-mails

A conundrum you say? Similar and different at the same time? Well, yes, similar in form but different in message.

“Excellent work!” said the first e-mail. Nothing more was added; nothing more was needed.

It came from Germany; highly appreciated. We need some good feedback from time to time too.

May we say you are also doing an excellent work; pity it comes at wee hours of the night, but it suits us, for we work late hours, and need to relax a little before bed.

Your fine and informative program helps us do that. Keep up the good work, friends.

“Don’t laugh!” said the second email. Nothing more was added, though a lot more was needed.

Friend, you sent an anonymous email to someone in the other side of the world and expect him to stand to your attention, and stop ‘laughing’ because you don’t like it?

Why is the thought of us laughing bothering you? I supposed you would be happy to see us crying, or just perish.

You tried that unsuccessfully for so long, now you cannot bear the thought that we are still laughing.

And why are you afraid to reveal your identity? This is not the first time that we have received anonymous emails.

The signature of our nemesis is all over your email.

How do you know that we are laughing? Why are you watching us? Wouldn’t be wiser for you to do something else, forget about us, and leave us alone?

Or are the pangs of death dawning on you? What else could you expect after preaching and practicing evil all your life, and done it to people you should never have touched.

Zec 2:8 For thus says the LORD of hosts: "He sent Me after glory, to the nations which plunder you; for **he who touches you touches the apple of His eye.**

Zec 2:9 For surely I will shake My hand against them, and they shall become spoil for their servants. **Then you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent Me.**

Even Mafia dons give up after years of unsuccessful pursuit of their enemies, but you are still at it after four and half decades.

Has it not dawned on you that you are fighting God; that He has been behind this work from the very beginning?

Maybe it has dawned on you, and that is why you are now sending us your anonymous anguished cry “Don’t laugh.” Is that meant to solicit our mercy? I could say I will show you as much mercy as you showed me when you robbed me, locked me out of my own flat, and put me in the street empty handed.

That was exceedingly wicked of you, but you know what, I forgive you, because your deed put me in the position you did not want me to be in – God’s Witness of Revelation.

One could not be a Witness of God unless he/she was poor, or as the Scriptures put it, ‘clothed in sackcloth’.

Are you waking up to the fact that my words have proven true and you have shown your nakedness?

In His agonizing words up on that cross, Jesus Christ prayed: "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." (Luk 23:34).

He forgave the Jews, because He understood that God sacrificed them so that He could become the Savior of the entire world. I also forgive you, the ‘Jews’ of the ‘Synagogue of Satan’ (aka Philadelphia Church of God (Rev 3:9)), for making me destitute, thus fulfilling the condition required for being a Witnesses of God. For that I say, thank you. But you must give up pursuing me, and fulfil the law of restitution required of brigands, because the Law of God cannot be changed – forgiveness cannot be achieved without fulfilling that Law, and only if both sides agree to it.

2Ch 6:22 "If anyone sins against his neighbour, and is forced to take an oath, and comes *and* takes an oath before Your altar in this temple, then hear from heaven, and act,

2Ch 6:23 and judge Your servants, bringing retribution on the wicked by bringing his way on his own head, and justifying the righteous by giving him according to his righteousness.

Num 5:5 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to the children of Israel:

Num 5:6 'When a man or woman commits any sin that men commit in unfaithfulness against the LORD, and that person is guilty [*sins are always committed against the Lord*],

Num 5:7 then **he shall confess the sin** which he has committed. **He shall make restitution for his trespass in full**, plus one-fifth of it, and give *it* to the one he has wronged.

If not for yourself, do it for the sake of your family. You are leading them all to a very unpleasant place.

Add to the value of the items you defrauded me of (about \$14,000, not all that much, for a recently arrived bachelor refugee), and interest of about 3 percent a year, and that will go a long way towards lessening the burden of perennial poverty that you plunged me into. It is only right that you have some contribution in getting me out of it.

You would not want to come before me in the Day of Judgment in your present condition.

Unless, of course, you want to face the judgment of God as you are now. God will love you for what you did to His Witnesses, and your refusal to amend for it.

And of course, you will accompany that with an apology, which will be published in *The Christian Herald* so that our readers may know that what we have been telling them about the chicaneries of the preachers of the “One And Only True Church Of God In The World” were true.

Letter to Harvey Norman

Dear Mr Norman,

The reason we are publishing this letter in our magazine is because we could not find any other way of contacting you. For although your face and the advertising of your products are on our screens and the media virtually non-stop, we were surprised to discover that it is virtually impossible to contact you.

The people who sold us a computer in your Lake Haven store could not help us; an email, a postal address or a telephone number not available anywhere. And the only thing a Google search told us was that your wealth is measured in the billions – a vital information, I suppose, for people like us who want to do business with you.

Interesting that you would put your wealth in the media but not your address. You have buttressed yourself well, Sir, befitting a billionaire. As the saying goes, to each its own.

No doubt, there are good reasons for billionaires to isolate themselves like that – they would never have peace from the 'riffraff', to use the term favoured by a certain Monarchy.

Well, we don't want your money, Sir. Not a cent of it. We want our money.

Our hope is that someone from your entourage might read this letter and bring it to your attention, because although this may be a trifling matter for you, it is a very serious matter for us.

We are the publishers of *The Christian Herald*, a theological magazine that is being read in every nation of the world. We are pleased to say that after languishing in mid charts for years, Australia has risen to be among the top half a dozen giants of our readership, such as China, Russia, France and Ukraine. A few times, it has been in second place, behind only the USA, which had dominated our charts from the very beginning, and still does.

Our magazines have always been in the public domain, free of charge for readers from every nation. Moreover, unless someone contacted us first, we never followed up and never asked questions of our readers.

Naturally, a work like this required a fair amount of expenditure, which we gladly covered from our limited resources, until we reached a serious impediment. Our two computers, both Lenovo, broke down in quick succession, just months after coming out of warranty. None were bought from your shop.

Unbelievably, we were told that neither of them was worth repairing – one cost us almost two thousand dollars, and the other, a backup computer, cost us about five hundred dollars.

None worth fixing? You must be joking, we said to the serviceman. No, I am not, they have a new design inside that would cost so much to fix you would be better off buying new computers.

So we bought a new computer from your shop, which gave us a new and unexpected problem.

The computer had a Trent antivirus software preinstalled (\$139.00), which we did not want because we had an ongoing arrangement with another company. Your salesman said, 'no worries', just don't activate it, and send the disc back to the Trent Company, and they will get your money back. Are you sure about that? Absolutely!

Well, we did that and it wasn't 'absolutely'. Trent people told us that that they will refund us the money, but first they wanted to know a few things, like why we didn't want to use their software, and other similar questions.

For six months they gave us the runaround: do this, do that, answer this, answer that, until in the end they said, if you want your money back go to the company that sold you the computer. They wanted their anti-virus software back, they promised to refund the money, and then they reneged on their promise and sent us to you.

It does you no honour, Sir, to have these kind of business associates.

Now we come to you the only way we could, via *The Christian Herald*. It is in your interest, Sir, to solve this problem without delay, because the Scriptures make it clear that as soon as the Gospel of the Kingdom is being preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, major developments will occur in the world. Notice:

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

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

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

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

Mat 24:7 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. [*The world is in the midst of a terrible*

pestilence – a pandemic that keeps refreshing itself, all while the world groans under floods, fires, droughts, earthquakes, etc. like never before]

Mat 24:8 All these *are* the beginning of sorrows.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Three years ago, we had confirmation that *The Christian Herald* was being read in every nation of the world. The Gospel of the Kingdom has been preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, just as Jesus Christ said this must be done at this particular time in world history.

Sure enough, after a series of unprecedented worldwide disasters – fires, floods, tornadoes, droughts, famines, pestilences, pandemics, etc. – the first shots of the Great Tribulation were fired in Eastern Europe among the very people that God's prophecies tell us will be involved in the end-time Great Tribulation. However, as usual, after giving people warning of impending catastrophe, God allows a period of grace, so that they may repent, change, turn around and make peace with their Creator God. Unfortunately, we do not see any sign of that, which means that the full force of God's wrath will be unleashed upon this godless, immoral, iniquitous, rotten to the core, fallen world.

Jer 6:10 To whom shall I speak and give warning, That they may hear? Indeed their ear is uncircumcised, And they cannot give heed.

Behold, the word of the LORD is a reproach to them; They have no delight in it. Therefore I am full of the fury of the LORD. I am weary of holding *it* in.

Jer 6:11 "I will pour it out on the children outside, And on the assembly of young men together; For even the husband shall be taken with the wife, The aged with *him who is* full of days.

Jer 6:12 And their houses shall be turned over to others, Fields and wives together; For I will stretch out My hand against the inhabitants of the land," says the LORD.

Jer 6:13 "Because from the least of them even to the greatest of them, Everyone is given to covetousness; And from the prophet even to the priest, Everyone deals falsely.

Jer 6:14 They have also healed the hurt of My people slightly, Saying, '**Peace, peace!**' **When there is no peace.**

Jer 6:15 Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? No! They were not at all ashamed; Nor did they know how to blush. Therefore they shall fall among those who fall; At the time I punish them, They shall be cast down," says the LORD.

You would not want to face God owing money to the poor, Sir. Besides, we are under command to burn with the fire of our mouth anyone who even thinks of doing us harm, let alone doing it.

This is a redacted version of an edition published two years ago. We have not seen any attempt on your part to return our money to us during this time.

Therefore, if you let this to be the case again, consider this also to be the case.

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.

Farewell!

Solving The Energy Crisis The Biblical Way

The world is in a quandary about the worldwide energy crisis. Fossil fuels and nuclear energy have gone out of favor, being, supposedly, the primary cause of global warming and climate change. We say 'supposedly' because the primary cause of the world's upheavals are sins and blasphemies, not fuels.

Rev 6:1 Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, "Come and see."
Rev 6:2 And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.
Rev 6:3 When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come and see."
Rev 6:4 Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that *people* should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword.
Rev 6:5 When He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come and see." So I looked, and behold, a black horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand.
Rev 6:6 And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine."
Rev 6:7 When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come and see."
Rev 6:8 So I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth.
Rev 6:9 When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held.
Rev 6:10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"
Rev 6:11 Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both *the number of* their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they *were*, was completed.
Rev 6:12 I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood.
Rev 6:13 And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind.
Rev 6:14 Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place.
Rev 6:15 And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains,
Rev 6:16 and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!"
Rev 6:17 For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

The need for alternative sources of energy is becoming more acute by the day. Polar ice caps are melting, sea levels are rising, coastal communities are in trouble, shrinking glaciers are causing shortages of fresh water for millions, and the melting Siberian permafrost is releasing more gasses that are accelerating global warming and climate change.

In short, humanity is on shaky ground, literally, and crying out loud for new sources of energy.

And yet, a new source of energy has been available for a long time, but human beings have always had scant regard for God's word. He has given them a manual on how to live and solve their problems, but humans thought they know better.

While going to work by train in my working days, I noticed that some people were leaving behind unusually warm seats even in winter time. Sydney region could get quite cold in winter, so I decided to keep an eye to see who was warming those seats. I thought, if they have a mini heater, I'd like to know what it is and where I could get one.

Great was my surprise when I discovered how those seats were getting warm. I was embarrassed within myself for knowing so little about the opposite sex, which shows that not all people are as clue as they might be.

The warmest seats were being left behind by young women; the younger the hotter. As a private student of the Bible, my mind went to a biblical example of people who knew how to harness that energy.

1Ki 1:1 Now King David was old, advanced in years; and they put covers on him, but he could not get warm.

The Jews, enterprising as they are by nature, found a novel way to keep King David warm.

1Ki 1:2 Therefore his servants said to him, "**Let a young woman, a virgin, be sought for our lord the king,** and let her stand before the king, and let her care for him; and let her lie in your bosom, that our lord the king may be warm."

1Ki 1:3 So they sought for a lovely young woman throughout all the territory of Israel, and found Abishag the Shunammite, and brought her to the king. The young woman *was* very lovely;

1Ki 1:4 and she cared for the king, and served him; but the king did not know her.

Unfortunately, David was beyond recovery from his 'cold'. We can imagine him cursing his servants in his mind for not thinking of warming him up that way when he was younger.

An inexhaustible source of clean, abundant energy was there in his kingdom just ready to be used.

Now if your neighbour cannot get warm by other means, would you deny him your virgin to warm him up? You wouldn't, if you love your neighbour as yourself!

No, I wouldn't if my neighbour was a king! So there!

Now if virgins are a rarity in this highly permissive society, any young hot-blooded maiden would do.

And you thought that the Bible is boring. It has many gems like this hidden in its pages.

It is just a matter of searching diligently and you'll find them.

Remember, the Apostles of Jesus Christ said that the Old Testament was written to serve as example for the people of the New Testament.

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

1Co 10:2 all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,

1Co 10:3 all ate the same spiritual food,

1Co 10:4 and all drank the same spiritual drink. 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

1Co 10:9 fell; 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.**

Can't think of a better example that would solve the energy crisis at a local level.

Another reason to be in good terms with your neighbours.

Yeah, solving the energy crisis the biblical way.

O what a feeling. The Bible!

How Two Beautiful Women Derailed The Destiny Of Israel

1Ki 2:1 Now the days of David drew near that he should die, and he charged Solomon his son, saying:

1Ki 2:2 "I go the way of all the earth; be strong, therefore, and prove yourself a man.

1Ki 2:3 **And keep the charge of the LORD your God: to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His commandments, His judgments, and His testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn;**

1Ki 2:4 that the LORD may fulfill His word which He spoke concerning me, saying, '**If your sons take heed to their way, to walk before Me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul,' He said, 'you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.'**

A conditional promise, little noticed by biblical scholars and preachers, who do not realize why the monarchy moved from Judah to Ephraim. It's still there, but new change is in the offing. Watch out for new revelations in the next edition of The Christian Herald, God willing.

1Ki 2:10 So David rested with his fathers, and was buried in the City of David.

1Ki 2:11 The period that David reigned over Israel was forty years; seven years he reigned in Hebron, and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty-three years.

1Ki 2:12 Then Solomon sat on the throne of his father David; and his kingdom was firmly established.

Far from it; Solomon caused Israel to split and lose Judah's kingship by his intemperate whoring. God recorded in the Bible good and bad aspects of human behavior and unless one looks with critical eyes in the light of God's Law he could reach misleading conclusions – amply demonstrated by the example of Solomon.

1Ki 2:13 Now Adonijah the son of Haggith came to Bathsheba the mother of Solomon. So she said, "Do you come peaceably?" And he said, "Peaceably."

1Ki 2:14 Moreover he said, "I have something *to say* to you." And she said, "Say it."

1Ki 2:15 Then he said, "You know that the kingdom was mine, and all Israel had set their expectations on me, that I should reign. However, the kingdom has been turned over, and has become my brother's; **for it was his from the LORD.**

How remarkable that Adonijah, who according to the law of primogeniture should have inherited the kingship of Israel (parents' wishes takes precedence), accepted David's choice as being approved by God, and recognised Solomon as the King. He had faith in God, which Solomon, for all his trumpeted wisdom, did not show.

1Ki 2:16 Now I ask one petition of you; do not deny me." And she said to him, "Say it."

1Ki 2:17 Then he said, "Please speak to King Solomon, for **he will not refuse you**, that he may give me Abishag the Shunammite as wife."

1Ki 2:18 So Bathsheba said, "Very well, I will speak for you to the king."

1Ki 2:19 Bathsheba therefore went to King Solomon, to speak to him for Adonijah. And the king rose up to meet her and bowed down to her, and sat down on his throne and had a throne set for the king's mother; so

1Ki 2:20 she sat at his right hand. Then she said, "I desire **one small petition of you; do not refuse me.**" And the king said to her, "Ask it, my mother, for **I will not refuse you.**"

1Ki 2:21 So she said, "Let Abishag the Shunammite be given to Adonijah your brother as wife."

1Ki 2:22 And King Solomon answered and said to his mother, "Now why do you ask Abishag the Shunammite for Adonijah? Ask for him the kingdom also—for he is my older brother—for him, and for Abiathar the priest, and for Joab the son of Zeruiah."

1Ki 2:23 Then King Solomon swore by the LORD, saying, "May God do so to me, and more also, if Adonijah has not spoken this word against his own life!

Solomon's first act on the throne was to break his promise to his mother, and to his father to rule Israel with regard to the Law of God. Not even a passing thought on the part of Solomon in regard to that Law. His second act was to unjustifiably murder his brother. Obviously he had his eyes on the Shunammite too. God saw it, and did not like it. He gave him more women than any man should ever want. The result was inevitable, he lost his head over women and any sense of proportion – with a new woman in his life every two weeks. The "wise" man of Israel gave an example that no one should ever want to emulate. Unlike the writings of his father David, which show deep spiritual and prophetic insights, Solomon's writings are very much about the wisdom of this world. In the end he despaired that life had no meaning and all is vanity, not the sort of thoughts that would grant one a place in the eternal Kingdom of God.

1Ki 2:24 Now therefore, as the LORD lives, who has confirmed me and set me on the throne of David my father, and who has established a house for me, as He promised, Adonijah shall be put to death today!"

1Ki 2:25 So King Solomon sent by the hand of Benaiah the son of Jehoiada; and he struck him down, and he died.

1Ki 2:28 Then news came to Joab, for Joab had defected to Adonijah, though he had not defected to Absalom. So Joab fled to the tabernacle of the LORD, and took hold of the horns of the altar.

1Ki 2:29 And King Solomon was told, "Joab has fled to the tabernacle of the LORD; there *he is*, by the altar." Then Solomon sent Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, saying, "Go, strike him down."

1Ki 2:30 So Benaiah went to the tabernacle of the LORD, and said to him, "Thus says the king, 'Come out!' " And he said, "No, but I will die here." And Benaiah brought back word to the king, saying, "Thus said Joab, and thus he answered me."

1Ki 2:31 Then the king said to him, "Do as he has said, and strike him down and bury him, that you may take away from me and from the house of my father the innocent blood which Joab shed.

"Take away from him and from the house of his father innocent blood? Or rather put innocent blood on him and on his father's house! Did he think much when he made that statement, or was that another distinguishing characteristic on his rulership? After showing scant regard for the Law of God, dishonoring his parents, and committing unwarranted fratricide, Solomon moved quickly to commit another sin that can only be described as unpardonable: desecrating the Tabernacle and the altar of God.

So impatient was he for instant results that he could not wait until Joab came out of the Tabernacle, for he could not stay there forever, and judge him before a Council of Elders as the Law of Moses required, and as he promised his father to observe. He had no notion of sacred and profane, which is inseparable from God's meeting place with humans. He cared nothing about defiling the Tabernacle and the items inside it, yet so sacred were the Tabernacle and the articles inside it that any unauthorized person who touched them, even inadvertently, was killed on the spot not by humans but by God. Notice:

2Sa 6:1 Again David gathered all the choice men of Israel, thirty thousand.

2Sa 6:2 And David arose and went with all the people who *were* with him from Baale Judah to bring up from there the ark of God, whose name is called by the Name, the LORD of Hosts, who dwells *between* the cherubim.

2Sa 6:3 So they set the ark of God on a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which *was* on the hill; and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, drove the new cart.

2Sa 6:4 And they brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which *was* on the hill, accompanying the ark of God; and Ahio went before the ark.

2Sa 6:5 Then David and all the house of Israel played *music* before the LORD on all kinds of *instruments* of fir wood, on harps, on stringed instruments, on tambourines, on sistrums, and on cymbals.

2Sa 6:6 And when they came to Nachon's threshing floor, Uzzah put out *his hand* to the ark of God and took hold of it, for the oxen stumbled.

2Sa 6:7 **Then the anger of the LORD was aroused against Uzzah, and God struck him there for his error; and he died there by the ark of God.**

A man died simply for touching the ark of God in an attempt to save it from falling to the ground and possibly being smashed. Only the Levites could touch the sacred objects, but where were they?

2Sa 6:8 And David became angry because of the LORD's outbreak against Uzzah; and he called the name of the place Perez Uzzah to this day.

Typical of ordinary humans, David became angry until he understood why God killed the man who touched the ark. Next time, he and his entourage moved the ark properly and no one died anymore.

2Sa 6:9 David was afraid of the LORD that day; and he said, "How can the ark of the LORD come to me?"

2Sa 6:10 So David would not move the ark of the LORD with him into the City of David; but David took it aside into the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite.

2Sa 6:11 The ark of the LORD remained in the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite three months. And the LORD blessed Obed-Edom and all his household.

2Sa 6:12 Now it was told King David, saying, "The LORD has blessed the house of Obed-Edom and all that belongs to him, because of the ark of God." So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-Edom to the City of David with gladness.

Consider also what Jesus Christ said about the Temple of God and the holy things inside.

Mat 23:16 "Woe to you, blind guides, who say, 'Whoever swears by the temple, it is nothing; but whoever swears by the gold of the temple, he is obliged to perform it.'

Mat 23:17 Fools and blind! For which is greater, the gold or the temple that sanctifies the gold?

Mat 23:18 And, 'Whoever swears by the altar, it is nothing; but whoever swears by the gift that is on it, he is obliged to perform it.'

Mat 23:19 Fools and blind! For which is greater, the gift or the altar that sanctifies the gift?

Mat 23:20 Therefore he who swears by the altar, swears by it and by all things on it.

Mat 23:21 He who swears by the temple, swears by it and by Him who dwells in it.

Mat 23:22 And he who swears by heaven, swears by the throne of God and by Him who sits on it.

Now how much regard did Solomon have for the Tabernacle of God (later Temple of God) and the things in it? How much regard did he have for the promise he made to his father, "to keep the charge of the LORD your God: to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His commandments, His judgments, and His testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses"? As much, one may say, as he had for the promise he made to his mother, before he killed his brother who meant him no harm after he became king.

Solomon was a vengeful man. Yet everything he did after he became king he ascribed to God. In his own eyes, he became and behaved like God himself – a characteristic that remained with him throughout his rulership.

Now why do you think Joab went into the Tabernacle and took hold of the horns of the altar?

He knew, or suspected, that Solomon would have no qualms about killing him inside the Tabernacle.

Joab wanted to show Israel what kind of King Solomon would be, and that his choice, Adonijah, could have been far better.

Now in view of what transpired with Solomon, will his father David be proud of him in the resurrection when they both face the judgment of God? Will David be proud of his behaviour and achievements? It was because of Solomon's departure from the Law and the Covenant of God that Israel was split into two nations. Instead of sitting on top of the world as an example to other nations of the benefits, prosperity and peace that come from obedience to God, Judah and Samaria were set adrift, each one having to mend for itself in a hostile and godless world. The effect of that is much too obvious now, as the world sits on a volcano ready to explode.

How extraordinary that the nations which received most of God's blessings down through the history, are now at the forefront of iniquity and godlessness, having fallen completely under the spell of the god of this world (Luk 4:6; Joh 12:31; 14:30; 16:11), and the sin that God hates the most (Gen 18: 20-21).

Now have a look at these proverbs:

Pro 14:12 There is a way *that seems* right to a man, But its end is the way of death.

Pro 16:2 All the ways of a man *are* pure in his own eyes, But the LORD weighs the spirits.

Pro 16:3 Commit your works to the LORD, And your thoughts will be established.

Pro 16:4 The LORD has made all for Himself, Yes, even the wicked for the day of doom. Everyone

Pro 16:5 proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD; *Though they join* forces, none will go unpunished.

Pro 16:6 In mercy and truth Atonement is provided for iniquity; And by the fear of the LORD *one* departs from evil.

Who wrote those proverbs? One who did not practice what he preached. Clearly, in the years before his kingship, Solomon had moments of brilliance, but by the time he was put on the throne of Israel all that changed.

He forgot that "In mercy and truth Atonement is provided for iniquity; And by the fear of the LORD *one* departs from evil". He had no mercy on his brother and on Joab who posed no danger to him anymore. And he had no fear of the LORD when he desecrated the Tabernacle and the altar of God.

Jesus Christ once said:

Mat 23:2 "The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat.

Mat 23:3 Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, *that* observe and do, but do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not do.

What applies to scribes and Pharisees, applies to kings, and to all who hold positions of responsibility in this world.

God could not overlook the fact that Solomon started his kingship on a bad note by dishonouring the promise to his parents, by committing fratricide, and by desecrating the tabernacle and the altar – all for the sake of a woman and of power. So God gave him women until he lost his head over them. By the end of his life, instead of reminiscing over a life well spent, he felt sorry for himself, hated his life, and sought solace not in the God of his father and of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, but in the abominations of his pagan wives. Here is God's command to Israel:

Exo 34:12 Take heed to yourself, lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land where you are going, lest it be a snare in your midst.

Exo 34:13 But you shall destroy their altars, break their *sacred* pillars, and cut down their wooden images

Exo 34:14 (for you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name *is* Jealous, *is* a jealous God),

Exo 34:15 lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and they play the harlot with their gods and make sacrifice to their gods, and *one of them* invites you and you eat of his sacrifice,

Exo 34:16 and you take of his daughters for your sons, and his daughters play the harlot with their gods and make your sons play the harlot with their gods.

And this is how much respect Solomon had for God's command:

1Ki 11:1 King Solomon loved many foreign women, as well as the daughter of Pharaoh: women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians, *and* Hittites— from the nations of whom the LORD had said

1Ki 11:2 to the children of Israel, "You shall not intermarry with them, nor they with you. Surely they will turn away your hearts after their gods." Solomon clung to these in love.

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

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

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

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

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

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

1Ki 11:9 So the LORD became angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned from the LORD God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice,

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

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

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

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

Many biblical scholars have wondered whether God will give Solomon a place in His eternal Kingdom given his fall from the brilliance of the Proverbs to his impulsive and dishonourable behaviour as king, and especially his slide into paganism by the end of his life.

We won't pass judgment on him, but certainly we don't like his chances. Not when one considers this:

Eze 18:26 When a righteous *man* turns away from his righteousness, commits iniquity, and dies in it, it is because of the iniquity which he has done that he dies.

Eze 18:27 Again, when a wicked *man* turns away from the wickedness which he committed, and does what is lawful and right, he preserves himself alive.

Eze 18:28 Because he considers and turns away from all the transgressions which he committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die.

God speaks of eternal death and eternal life here. In other words, He speaks of salvation.

Eze 18:29 Yet the house of Israel says, 'The way of the Lord is not fair.' O house of Israel, is it not My ways which are fair, and your ways which are not fair?

Eze 18:30 "Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways," says the Lord GOD.

"Repent, and turn from all your transgressions, so that iniquity will not be your ruin. Cast away from you

Eze 18:31 all the transgressions which you have committed, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. For why should you die, O house of Israel?

A new heart and a new Spirit became available to the general population only in the New Testament through Jesus Christ.

Eze 18:32 For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies," says the Lord GOD. "Therefore turn and live!"

The Patriarchs and the Prophets understood the need and meaning of getting a new heart and a new spirit, but not Solomon. And yet for all that, the world remembers all the good things about Solomon, and none of the bad ones. If you ask anyone, even Christians, who was the wisest and greatest man who ever lived, invariably they say Solomon.

The Worldwide Church of God, which I attended for a few years, used to have a Spokesmen Club for Church members. I became a member of that Club too, and when my turn came to give a speech, I began with a quiz.

The first question: who was the first man who ever lived? Everyone answered it right: Adam.

No one suspected that that was a leading question designed to set their minds on a false progress.

That second question was: Who was the wisest and greatest man who ever lived?

As I expected, everyone got it wrong: they all answered: Solomon.

And the third question: Who was the first man who received the Holy Spirit?

Also as I expected, everyone got this one wrong too. They all answered Jesus Christ.

What then are the right answers to questions two and three?

Could a man who started life so well and ended it so badly be the wisest and greatest man who ever lived? Could a created person be wiser and greater than the Creator Himself? What do the Scriptures say?

Mat 12:42 The queen of the South will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and indeed **a greater than Solomon is here.**

The wisest and greatest Man who ever lived, or ever shall live, is Jesus Christ!

Regarding the third question, 'Who was the first man who received the Holy Spirit?'

Everyone answered Jesus Christ, and we said that everyone got it wrong.

Jesus Christ was the only Man who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, but He was not the first to receive the Holy Spirit. King David of Israel was the first to mention the Holy Spirit, even though all prophets before him had the Holy Spirit. God cannot communicate with human beings who do not have the Holy Spirit.

Psa 51:1 . A Psalm of David When Nathan the Prophet Went to Him, After He Had Gone in to Bathsheba.

Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions.

Psa 51:2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin.

Psa 51:3 For I acknowledge my transgressions, And my sin is always before me.

Psa 51:4 *Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done this evil in Your sight*—That You may be found just when You speak, *And blameless when You judge.* [*When one sins against a human being, as David did, he sins against God*]

Psa 51:5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me. Behold,

Psa 51:6 You desire truth in the inward parts, And in the hidden *part* You will make me to know wisdom.

Psa 51:7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Psa 51:8 Make me hear joy and gladness, *That* the bones You have broken may rejoice.

Psa 51:9 Hide Your face from my sins, And blot out all my iniquities.

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.**

Psa 51:12 Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And uphold me *by Your* generous Spirit.

Psa 51:13 *Then* I will teach transgressors Your ways, And sinners shall be converted to You.

Psa 51:14 Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, The God of my salvation, *And* my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness.

'Do not take the Holy Spirit from me', cried David in his agonizing shame of adultery and murder.

And God did not take the Holy Spirit away from him, because he repented and vowed not to do it again. He atoned for his sin, which Solomon never did.

God allowed David to commit those atrocious sins because He wanted to pass on an important lesson to other human beings, especially to those of the coming New Testament. No matter how grievous ones sins may be, they are forgiven upon repentance and atonement, except blasphemies against the Holy Spirit.

Solomon may have been a wise man according to the wisdom of this world, but Jesus Christ came with the wisdom of God, the wisdom of the Holy Spirit. This is how they compare.

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

1Co 1:19 For it is written: "I Will Destroy The Wisdom Of The Wise, And Bring To Nothing The Understanding Of The Prudent."

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

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

The wisdom of this world is worse than foolishness with God; it is an unforgivable blasphemy. How can it be otherwise when the wisest men of this world have spread the notion that there is no God, that humanity had created

itself through evolution, and that the laws that gave rise to the Universe and maintain it on its course, just appeared out of nowhere.

Well done, you wise of science and academe. Prepare to meet your Creator, now that this world, this age, is about to reach its nadir. A lot shorter than your estimate of at least seven billion more years for the evolution to carry out this universe to its natural death. Or is it its natural crunch – “a hypothetical cosmological event in which all matter in the universe collapses to a singularity and which is posited to be a possible fate of the universe if the density of matter in it is sufficiently high” (Merriam Webster). Evolutionary crunch, or is it God’s crunch.

Hag 2:6 "For thus says the LORD of hosts: 'Once more (it is a little while) I will shake heaven and earth, the sea and dry land; and I will shake all nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations, and I will fill this temple with glory,' says the LORD of hosts.

2Pe 3:7 But the heavens and the earth *which* are now preserved by the same word, **are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.**

2Pe 3:8 But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

2Pe 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, **not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.**

2Pe 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which **the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.**

2Pe 3:11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner *of persons* ought you to be in holy

2Pe 3:12 conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we,

2Pe 3:13 according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

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.

Coming back to Solomon, at the end of his life, instead of reminiscing on a fulfilled life and looking forward to eternal life in the presence of his Creator, as did David his father and all prophets of God who had the Holy Spirit, Solomon despaired of his life in the end, saying that life is nothing but vanity.

Ecc 1:1 The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem.

Ecc 1:2 "Vanity of vanities," says the Preacher; "Vanity of vanities, all is vanity."

Ecc 1:3 What profit has a man from all his labor In which he toils under the sun?

Ecc 1:4 *One* generation passes away, and *another* generation comes; But the earth abides forever.

Well, not exactly. The earth will not abide forever, for as Apostle Peter said, the earth and the Universe will be burned up and vanish forever, and a new earth and a new heaven set up which will last forever (Rev 21).

Ecc 1:10 Is there anything of which it may be said, "See, this is new"? It has already been in ancient times

Ecc 1:11 before us. *There is no remembrance of former things, Nor will there be any remembrance of things that are to come By those who will come after.*

No, not all life is vanity. It is vanity for those who have closed their eyes to the truth of God, and cast themselves adrift from Him.

Solomon said: “*One* generation passes away, and *another* generation comes; But the earth abides forever.”

Wrong: it’s the other way around: “the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up” and vanish forever, while the generation of believers who repented and made peace with God will enjoy eternity forever more. T

he earth abides only until the plan of God is fulfilled, and the number of those who are to be saved has been attained. And Yes, there is something new under the sun, a New Testament, the likes of which has never been before nor ever shall be another like it. This world and the Two Testaments, particularly the New, are the matrix and workshop by which God is reproducing Himself.

2Co 6:14 Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?

2Co 6:15 And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?

2Co 6:16 And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I Will Dwell In Them And Walk Among Them. I Will Be Their God, And They Shall Be My

2Co 6:17 People." Therefore "Come Out From Among Them And Be Separate, Says The Lord. Do Not Touch What Is Unclean, And I Will Receive You."

2Co 6:18 **"I Will Be A Father To You, And You Shall Be My Sons And Daughters,** Says The Lord Almighty."

Isa 29:13 Therefore the Lord said: "Inasmuch as these people draw near with their mouths And honor Me with their lips, But have removed their hearts far from Me, And their fear toward Me is taught by the

Isa 29:14 commandment of men, Therefore, behold, I will again do a marvelous work Among this people, A marvelous work and a wonder; For **the wisdom of their wise men shall perish**, And the understanding of their prudent *men* shall be hidden."

Isa 29:15 Woe to those who seek deep to hide their counsel far from the LORD, And their works are in the dark; They say, "Who sees us?" and, "Who knows us?"

Isa 29:16 Surely you have things turned around! Shall the potter be esteemed as the clay; For shall the thing made say of him who made it, "He did not make me"? Or shall the thing formed say of him who formed it, "He has no understanding"?

This is exactly what evolutionists say of God and His people, but not for long.

Isa 29:17 Is it not yet a very little while Till Lebanon shall be turned into a fruitful field, And the fruitful field be esteemed as a forest?

The Garden of Eden will be reproduced in the Middle East during the Millennium Kingdom. This is why the Middle East is in turmoil at present, being turned into ruins and desolations in preparation for cleaning up after the Great Tribulation.

Unlike Solomon, whom God does not mention any more after his demise, David retained God's favor and will hold an honored position in the Kingdom of God.

Jer 23:5 "Behold, *the* days are coming," says the LORD, "That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; A King shall reign and prosper, And execute judgment and righteousness in the earth [*This is Jesus Christ*].

Jer 23:6 In His days Judah will be saved, And Israel will dwell safely; Now this is His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

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.' "

Ever since they were removed from their lands in the Middle East – Samaria by the Assyrians, and Judah first by the Babylonians then by the Romans, God has considered both Israel (Samaria) and Judah to be in captivity, even though the Ten Tribes of Samaria became mighty European colonial Kingdoms. After the Great Tribulation, during which time they the remnant will be scattered again from Europe, God will bring them back to their ancestral land in the Middle East.

Jer 30:4 Now these *are* the words that the Lord spoke concerning Israel 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. [*Expect to see this 'day of trouble' shortly*]

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 [*Satan's yoke, which keeps the whole world enslaved*], 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.

I mentioned earlier my brief membership into the Worldwide Church of God and attendance to their Spokesmen Club. Members of that Church went to its services with a Bible in their hand. Moreover, those who attended their Spokesmen Club were, generally speaking, on a higher plane of enlightenment than other members of the Church.

And yet, in my quiz, every member of that Club said that Solomon was the wisest and greatest man who ever lived, putting him ahead of Jesus Christ. That was a common belief in that Church (as in fact in every Church), and that is why I came up with the quiz, to draw attention to their erroneous beliefs.

Unwittingly I began my preaching/witnessing the Gospel of Jesus Christ at that early stage.

Apparently that caused quite a stir in the Church; I had queries from people about where in the Bible they could find the statement that Jesus Christ was greater than Solomon.

Interestingly, they did not go to the preachers of the Church, but came to me. And yet, when the head preacher expelled me from the Church (for reasons that I have no idea to this day, other than that could have been nothing but lies), the whole Church turned against me ferociously.

The hypocrites got a shock when *The Christian Herald* made its appearance, and never relented in trying to derail and destroy us. They even committed blasphemy against God at one time trying to engage us in a discussion that by voicing their sin we would have become guilty of it too.

Now if a Church whose members opened the Bible every week, supposedly to discover the truth of God, could not recognize their Saviour as the wisest and greatest Man who ever lived, even though that statement is clearly spelled out in the Bible, and put a wretched wicked man ahead of Him, what chance do members of traditional mainstream

Churches have of discovering the truth of God when most of them do not even own a Bible, let alone wear it searching for the truth of God.

Can you see now why Jesus Christ said that before His return, Elijah will come and: 1. Restore all things (Mat.17:11), and 2. Preach the Gospel of the Kingdom to all the world as a witness to all nations (Mat.24:14).

A witness to all nations that the world had gone astray, Christianity had fallen away, and humanity lost its way.

Did you notice how Jesus Christ finished verse Mat 24:14? This is how: "And then the end will come"!

In the same chapter, He also said: "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away" (Mat 24:35). And again, He said: "Unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for **the elect's sake** those days will be shortened" (Mat 24:22).

For millennia, believers have put these statements to an indefinite future. There is nothing indefinite anymore about what is happening before our very eyes. However, preparation for the Great Tribulation is not by digging underground bunkers, or escaping to the mountains, as so many misinformed people are doing these days, but reconciling with our Creator God and Savior Jesus Christ, turning to Them in genuine repentance, prayer and worship, as God Himself is calling on His people to do.

Zec 1:1 In the eighth month of the second year of Darius, the word of the LORD came to Zechariah the son of Berechiah, the son of Iddo the prophet, saying,

Zec 1:2 "The LORD has been very angry with your fathers.

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

Zec 1:5 LORD. "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.' " " "

Isa 55:1 "Ho! Everyone who thirsts, Come to the waters; And you who have no money, Come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk Without money and without price.

Isa 55:2 Why do you spend money for *what* is not bread, And your wages for *what* does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat *what* is good, And let your soul delight itself in abundance.

Isa 55:3 Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live; And I will make an everlasting covenant with you—The sure mercies of David.

Isa 55:4 Indeed I have given him *as* a witness to the people, A leader and commander for the people.

Isa 55:5 Surely you shall call a nation you do not know, And nations *who* do not know you shall run to you, Because of the LORD your God, And the Holy One of Israel; For He has glorified you."

Isa 55:6 Seek the LORD while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near.

Isa 55:7 **Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the LORD, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly**

Isa 55:8 **pardon.** "For My thoughts *are* not your thoughts, Nor *are* your ways My ways," says the LORD.

Isa 55:9 "For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts. "For as the rain comes down,

Isa 55:10 and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater,

Isa 55:11 So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper *in the thing* for which I sent it.

Isa 55:12 "For you shall go out with joy, And be led out with peace; The mountains and the hills Shall break forth into singing before you, And all the trees of the field shall clap *their*

Isa 55:13 hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress tree, And instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree; And it shall be to the LORD for a name, For an everlasting sign *that* shall not be cut off."

Amen!

HOW TO SET UP A HOUSE CHURCH

When there are too few people to form an official church, or if they are unable to attend a church service because of distance, illness, or other legitimate reasons, they can form a small church in their own home. Jesus Christ said: "Where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them" (Matt. 18:20). So if you want Him to come into your home and be in your midst, worship Him and the Father in truth and in spirit.

What follows are general guidelines for setting up house Churches. In the devastation of the Great Tribulation, until things are organised nationally, and the new Temple is built according to Ezekiel's prophecies (Ch. 40 to 48), or even while temporary Tabernacles are set up, people may need to worship at home with family, friends and neighbours. Many of the early Churches of God in the Gentile world were House Churches. Here are some examples.

Rom 16:5 Likewise **greet the church that is in their house.**

1Co 16:19 Aquila and Priscilla greet you heartily in the Lord, with **the church that is in their house.**

Col 4:15 Greet the brethren who are in Laodicea, and Nymphas and the **church that is in his house.**

Phm 1:2 To the beloved Apphia, Archippus our fellow soldier, and to **the church in your house:**

Phm 1:3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Here now are some general guidelines on how to conduct a house Church service.

1. Begin by playing or singing a hymn or two.
2. Recite the Lord's Prayer with the whole house.
3. Play or sing another hymn.
4. Read the PRAYER AND BLESSINGS (1) AND (2)
Engage the audience by asking them to confirm their approval with Amen or Alleluia as recommended.
5. Read from the Bible such length as you are comfortable with. Comment on it if you want.
6. Play or sing another hymn.
7. General sermon and the closing prayer.
8. Play or sing the final hymn.

When you have family and guests around, it is not wrong to write down what you want to say, or at least have some written guidelines. Look through *The Christian Herald*s if you want to find topics to talk about.

Preachers around the world are plagiarising us all the time, never thinking that there will be a day of reckoning. You are released from this obligation in the devastation of the Great Tribulation.

Whatever you say, do not rush. And remember, you are not there to show off - how good you may be - but to do a temporary job in bringing people to God and maintaining a connection with Him and Jesus Christ in difficult times.

The time for proving one's worth will come later when normality is established.

Do your work with gentleness, humility and consideration, as Jesus Christ gave us example.

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

Mat 11:30 you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

This home worship formula is not written in stone. You can make your own arrangements.

Regarding hymns for the service, you can make your own choice too, not necessarily religious music (some of which is quite awful). Light soothing music, even some classic music would be suitable. Our God and our Lord love good music. Avoid music that praises and portrays Mary and other 'saints' as mediators between God and humans.

That is idolatry. Neither Mary, nor anyone else has gone to heaven, other than Jesus Christ who came from heaven, and there is no Mediator between God and human beings other than Jesus Christ.

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

1Ti 2:5 For *there is* one God and one Mediator between God and men, *the* Man Christ Jesus,

1Ti 2:6 who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

If there are no males to conduct the service, capable women can do it. In the Millennium Kingdom, men will be at a premium because of war, and women will have ascendancy.

Isa 4:1 And in that day seven women shall take hold of one man, saying, "We will eat our own food and wear our own apparel; Only let us be called by your name, To take away our reproach."

Isa 4:2 In that day the Branch of the LORD [*Jesus Christ*] shall be beautiful and glorious; And the fruit of the earth *shall be* excellent and appealing for those of Israel who have escaped.

[*Prosperity in the Millennium Kingdom for survivors of the Great Tribulation*]

Isa 4:3 And it shall come to pass that **he who is left in Zion and remains in Jerusalem will be called holy**— everyone who is recorded among the living in Jerusalem. [*This is why people should avail themselves of the opportunity to become elect of God now, for no one could be holy without being an elect of God*].

Isa 4:4 When the Lord **has washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and purged the blood of Jerusalem from her midst**, by the spirit of judgment and by the spirit of burning,

[*Purification through suffering. "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God" (Act 14:22)*]

Isa 4:5 Then the LORD will create above every dwelling place of Mount Zion, and above her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day and the shining of a flaming fire by night. For over all the glory there *will be* a covering.

Amen!



PRAYER AND BLESSINGS (1)

Almighty Father, we come before You in humble worship, knowing full well that we are unworthy of the love and mercy You have shown us!

Amen!

Lord God Almighty, we thank You that through the sacrifice of Your Son Jesus Christ You redeemed us from our sins and gave us the hope of eternal life!

Amen!

Heavenly Father, we thank You that through Your Son Jesus Christ You made the Holy Spirit available to us that we may become Your children too!

Amen!

O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world, receive our prayer and grant us Your peace and blessings!

Amen!

Eternal God, we pray that You fill us with Your Holy Spirit that He may keep us in remembrance of You and our Lord Jesus Christ, and help us to overcome the trials and temptations of this world always!

Amen!

Our loving Father, forgive our sins, purify our soul, and heal our sicknesses, that we may serve and worship You and our Lord Jesus Christ with a pure heart always!

Amen!

Almighty God, place Your love and fear in our hearts that we may never depart from Your ways!

Amen!

Lord God and Saviour, we beseech You take our heart in Your hand and lead us to Your heavenly Kingdom where there will be no more pain and suffering!

Amen!

Our Father, help us grow in grace and knowledge, and fulfil the command of our Lord Jesus Christ to become holy and perfect as You are holy and perfect!

Amen!

Everlasting Father, we pray that You place our names in Your Book of Life, that at the resurrection of the just You may grant us a place in Your Kingdom and be with You and our Lord Jesus Christ forever!

Amen!

Wonderful Father, we bless You, praise You, honour, worship, and glorify You and our Lord Jesus Christ for Your greatness and goodness, and Your wondrous creation!

Amen!

Eternal Father, we love You and our Lord Jesus Christ with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength, and shall continue to do so for the rest of our lives and for eternity!

Amen!

Holy Father, we now humble ourselves before You, that we may receive Your blessings:

- The Lord God bless us and keep us!
- The Lord let His light shine upon us and pardon us!
- The Lord grant us His peace and blessings!

Amen! Alleluia!



PRAYER AND BLESSINGS (2)

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

Alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

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

Amen! Alleluia!

The Christian Holy Days For The Years 2020 – 2022

	2020	2021	2022
The Passover (Pesah - Nissan 14) Unlike the Jews, who used to kill the Passover lamb “at twilight” of Nissan 14 (meaning in the evening towards Nissan 15), we, Christians, observe the Passover when our “Lamb” – Jesus Christ – was sacrificed. That happened on the afternoon of Nissan 14, before the twilight of Nissan 14, meaning that we keep it a little earlier than the Jews. We commemorate His death, not His supper, which occurred the previous evening, as some churches do. The time when His body was broken for us, not when He broke the symbolic bread.	8 April	27 Mar	15 April
Days of Unleavened Bread (Nissan 15-21) On the first and seventh days there shall be holy convocations with prayers and worship. No customary work shall be done on these days.	9 April - 15 April	28 Mar – 3 April	16 April - 22 April
Pentecost (Shavuot – Sivan 6) Holy convocation with prayers and worship.	29 May	17 May	5 June
Feast of Trumpets (Rosh Hashanah - Tishri 1) Holy convocation with prayers and worship.	19 Sept	7 Sept	26 Sept
Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur – Tishri 10) Holy convocation with fast , prayers and worship. No food and no drinks from sunset to sunset.	28 Sept	16 Sept	5 Oct
Feast of Tabernacles (Succoth -- Tishri 15 – 22) On the first and eighth days there shall be holy convocations with prayers and worship. No customary work shall be done on these days.	3 Oct – 10 Oct	21 Sept - 28 Sept	10 Oct – 17 Oct

Your genuine worship, prayers and fast, work not only for your own salvation, but for the salvation of your family, the nation and the world. Humanity is on the brink of the Great Tribulation that will reduce it to a trickle, and from which only the elect, or those whose heart predisposes them to become elect of God, will make it into the Millennium Kingdom of Jesus Christ that follows this age of man.

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.

Now anyone who desires it, has an opportunity to become an elect of God while this world is still standing. This is how Christianity began, and how Jesus Christ would like this age to end.

Act 2:36 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."

Act 2:37 Now when they heard *this*, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?" Then Peter said to them,

Act 2:38 "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins;

Act 2:39 and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

Act 2:40 And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation."

Act 2:41 Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added *to them*.

Bear in mind that no sinful person, who is not willing to repent and change, will enter the Millennium Kingdom of Jesus Christ. This is the last chance for human beings to reconcile with their Creator God and Saviour Jesus Christ, and join the ranks of the elect, before the end-time catastrophe falls upon this world and brings an end to the age of unworthy and unrepentant people.

Amen!

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