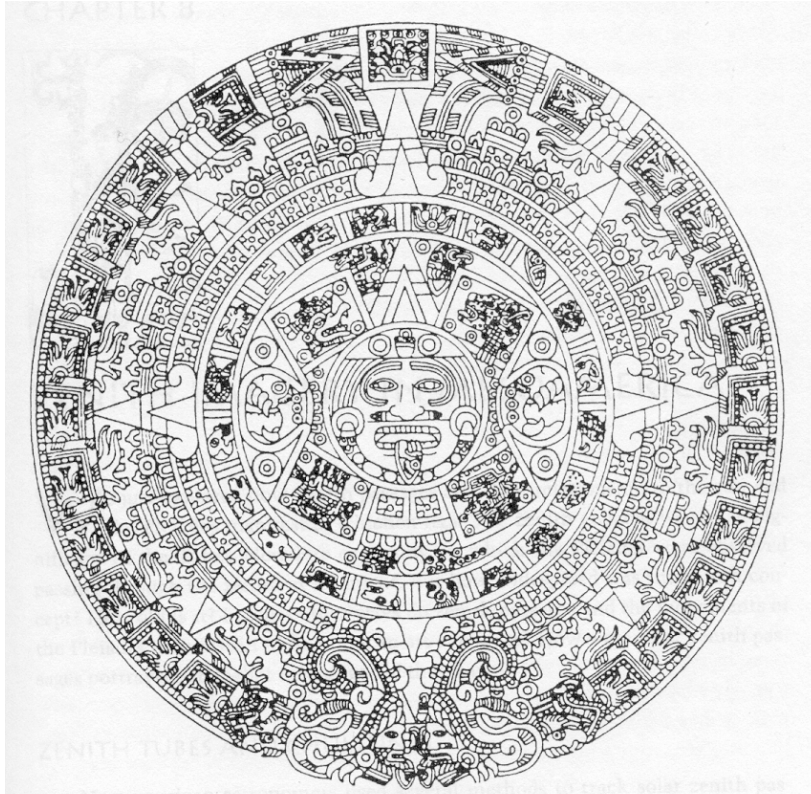


PROPHECY FLASH!

A magazine of insight and understanding of Biblical truth and prophecy for our time.

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The Fifth World Age, the one we are currently in, is depicted in the center of the sunstone by the seventeenth day sign which means “movement” or “earthquake”— meaning the current world age will be destroyed by earthquakes.

2012 – the Return of Quetzalcoatl, Satan’s Wrath and the End of the Age

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A Voice in the Wilderness

God tells His servants in His Word, “Cry aloud, spare not. Lift up your voice like a trumpet and declare to My people their transgression and to the house of Jacob their sins!” (Isa.58:1, Parallel Amplified Bible).

God also declares: “Comfort, comfort My people, says your God. Speak tenderly to the heart of Jerusalem, and cry to her that her time of service and her warfare are ended, that [her punishment is accepted and] her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received [punishment] from the Lord’s hand double for all her sins.”

We are living in a world gone berserk with anger and rage. “Why do the nations rage?” (Psalm 2:1). Answer – because they don’t know the true God, and are in rebellion against His laws and teachings and the true way of life and peace!

Isaiah wrote: “A voice of one who cries: *Prepare in the wilderness the way of the Lord* [clear away the obstacles]; make straight and smooth a highway for our God. . . . And the glory (majesty and splendor) of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken it” (Isaiah 40:3-5).

The Messiah is coming very SOON! Its time to prepare to MEET Him! “Surely the Lord will do nothing without revealing His secret to His servants the prophets” (Amos 3:7). The purpose of this magazine is to warn the world of what lies ahead, and to help prepare people to get ready to meet the Messiah, when He returns to restore all things (Acts 3:19-21), put an end to wars, and usher in the Kingdom of God! The prophet Amos declared, “*Prepare to meet your God, O Israel*” (Amos 4:12). No matter is more urgent, today!

Table of Contents

2012, Return of Quetzalcoatl, and the Wrath of Satan	3
Contact Us	18
Prophecy Briefs	19
The Secret and Prayer of Jabez	30
Tithing Matters More Than You Might Think!	35
Bible Questions and Answers	40
Triumph Articles and Literature	45
Letters from Our Readers	48
It’s Time to Move Forward!	55

The Year 2012

The year 2012 promises to be one of incredible changes, such as the world has never seen before – the beginning of the great tribulation and awesome portents in the heavens and on the earth, nations raging, and nature convulsing, and world troubles increasing everywhere. Bible prophecy lays it all out – the timetable for the future – the gateway to hell on earth – the dramatic results of universal hatred and worldwide anger and violence among nations. We are bringing it upon ourselves, by giving heed to the devices of Satan the devil, who is stepping up his persecution on the people of God, and inspiring men to acts of unbelievable cruelty, horror, violence and hatred. It’s time to batten down the hatches, and draw closer to God in Bible Study, prayer and our thoughts.

-- William F. Dankenbring

2012 – Return of Quetzalcoatl, and the Wrath of Satan

The year 2012-2013 looks to be a “humdinger” of a year of mounting world troubles, government collapses, war and destruction on a global scale. Why? What is going on? What does Bible prophecy say about it? How do ancient Mayan prophecies and the calendar help explain the mystery and holocaust facing the nations today?

William F. Dankenbring

According to the Chinese calendar, 2012 is the “year of the dragon.” It began on January 23, 2012. Is there significance to the “year of the Dragon”?

What will the year 2012 bring? Science fiction movies have been trumpeting the end-of-the-world scenarios of the year 2012, and the apocalypse – but others claim there is no significance at all to this year – it is just another meaningless calendar date.

What is the truth?

Is there more to these end-time prophecies than most people, politicians and pundits think about?

With all the hype about the ancient Mayan calendar suggesting the demise of human civilization taking place in 2012, an American author wants everyone to know that other calendars predict the same outcome, and he claims a demonic plot bringing about the end date could be hiding in plain sight inside the U.S. Capitol and your wallet right now.

Tom Horn, a Bible-believing Christian and author of *"Apollyon Rising 2012,"* says he never actually had an interest in the Mayan calendar, which comes to a cyclical end on Dec. 21, 2012. But then he became aware of numerous unrelated calendars and prophecies spanning many centuries, all predicting the end of the current human age at this year's winter solstice. His book makes for fascinating reading.

Says Tom Horn, prolific author, in an interview with World Net Daily, "I started finding that it wasn't just the Maya," but in his book he also notes prognostications from Jewish mystics, as well as the ancient Chinese, Hindus, Cherokee Indians, and even artwork among famous American symbols that all point to the same time frame.

Despite not having telescopes, the Mayan people of Central America were extremely accurate observers of celestial movements, with the zenith of their civilization occurring between A.D. 250 and 900. The year 2012 has been foretold to be a very pivotal year, but not just in the Bible. According to Don Alehendro, an elder of the Mayas, December 20, 2012, mother earth will pass inside the center of a magnetic axis and a great cloud will darken it for 60-70 hours but it will pass. But when it does, he said that there will be great and serious events, such as earthquakes, tsunamis, floods, volcanic eruptions, and great illness on planet earth with few survivors left.

The final day of the Mayan calendar ends on December 21, 2012, and Mayans consider this date as the end of time and possibly the end of the world at which point human history could come to a close. The period just prior to this is called the time of trial—Judgment Day and the time of great purification. It is also a day where tumultuous changes are expected to take place. In their concept of cycles, one is called the precession that we call the precession of the Equinox. It is a 26,000 year period through which the earth transits through each one of the twelve signs of the Zodiac.

Says Horn, in an interview with WorldNetDaily, "The Maya understood this precession of the equinox, basically not to end, but to roll over, to start over," in December 2012.

He says their prophets coupled that date "with prophecies of unrest on Earth after which a new form of man appears on Earth, plus the return of their dragon god, a flying serpent who has the power of air."

Other Calendars and Predictions

"The Aztec saw the same thing, a flying serpent, Quetzalcoatl," Horn said, adding, "their calendar ends in 2012."

He says the Kali Yuga calendar of the Hindus forecasts global changes around 2012.

Horn says 38 years ago, when scientists Terrence and Dennis McKenna created a stock-market-like linear graph based on the "I-Ching," the timeline abruptly plunged off the graph into infinity on precisely Dec. 21, 2012.

"This finding is all the more astonishing given that McKenna's research was published in 1973 independent of any knowledge of the ending date in the Mayan calendar," Horn declared.

Meanwhile, the Zohar, a collection of books in the mystical Jewish Kabbalah that first debuted in Spain in the 13th century, talks about the coming of the Messiah at the same general time the other calendars forecast the end.

It predicts in late 2012, “All the kings of the world will assemble in the great city of Rome, and the Holy One will shower on them fire and hail and meteoric stones until they are all destroyed, with the exception of those who will not yet have arrived there. These will commence anew to make other wars. From that time the Mashiach (Messiah) will begin to declare himself, and round him there will be gathered many nations and many hosts from the uttermost ends of the Earth.”

Horn says, “Given the rejection of Jesus by orthodox Jews as Messiah, this coming could herald the coming of Antichrist in 2012.”

Pagan Sun Worship and America

What's perhaps most fascinating is Horn's discussion of what could be the mother of all conspiracy theories, dating back to the Bible's Book of Genesis, involving Noah's great grandson Nimrod, who not only built the famous Tower of Babel, but is the “mighty hunter” who scholars believe became worshipped as the sun god, with names such as Osiris in Egypt and Apollo in Greece.

Horn says from deepest antiquity, a plot involving pagan sun-worshippers, America's Founding Fathers, Masons and Freemasons has apparently been in the works, culminating in the end time with the return or resurrection of an evil, supernatural being. That character may actually be pictured as the all-seeing eye on top of the uncapped pyramid on the Great Seal of the United States, found on the back of a \$1 bill.

Others have speculated the eye on top of the pyramid could be a representation of Jesus Christ, since the Bible notes, “The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone.” (Psalm 118:22 New International Version).

The date at the base of the pyramid is 1776, which is not only the year the Declaration of Independence was signed, but also the beginning of a new Mayan “katun,” a time period of 19.7 years. If each of the 13 levels of the pyramid on the Great Seal represents one of these time periods, the top level would mark the year 2012.

The Latin phrase “Novus ordo seclorum” is part of the American seal, and translates to “New order of the ages,” which some fear is what many U.S. presidents, including George Herbert Walker Bush, allude to when they use the phrase, “New World Order.”

Other strange connections to the United States include *the Frieze of American History*, a painted panorama at the U.S. Capitol. Among the artwork is “Cortez and Montezuma at Mexican Temple” by Italian artist Constantino Brumidi.



Montezuma is shown gesturing to the sacred fire with a serpent wrapped around it. According to the Aztec calendar, the fire is predicted to burn out on Dec. 21, 2012.

It depicts Spanish explorer Hernando Cortez, the conqueror of Mexico, entering the Aztec temple in 1519. He's welcomed by Emperor Montezuma II, who thought Cortez was a god.

“Montezuma's hand is pointing directly down at the sacred fire, which, in point of fact, goes out ... Dec. 21, 2012, the end of the calendar,” Horn noted.

Also featured in the frieze is the Aztec calendar stone, and the sun god Tonatiuh, to whom pagan priests had 80,000 people sacrificed in the year of 1487 alone.

“Hiding in plain sight is the god who demands human sacrifice,” said Horn.

The Mayan Calendar

Does the Mayan calendar also predict the “end of the age” in the year 2012?

According to the Mayan calendar, we are living in the Mayan “end times.” The Great Cycle of the Mayan Long Count calendar ends at the winter solstice in 2012 A.D., just *literally a few MONTHS from now!!!*

In Mayan mythology, the winter solstice sun corresponds to the deity known as One Hunahpu, or “First Father.” The dark rift of the Milky Way, in Mayan cosmology, is known as the “Black Road,” the mouth of the Cosmic Monster, and the birth canal of the Cosmic Mother.

The Mayan calendar has a Great Cycle, ending 13 “bactuns” or a period of 5,125 years. To the ancient Mayans, this conjunction of the sun and Milky Way center or mid-point occurring on the winter solstice, December 21, in 2012 A.D. is a major transition point, *the creation of a new World Age.*

The Mayan Long Count calendar is strikingly different from the Roman calendar, or any other for that matter. A “month” is 20 days, and 18 months is a year of 360 days.

Twenty 360 day years comprise a “katun,” and a “baktun” is 20 katun, equaling 144,000 days.

These numbers are surely interesting. In the days of Noah the year was one of 360 days (5 months were 150 days, so 12 months were 360 days – see Genesis 7:11, 8:3-4). The number 144,000 is also interesting, as it is the number of the “firstfruits” redeemed to God at the coming of the Messiah (Rev.14:1-4).

Authorities agree that the Mayan Long Count calendar began August 11, 3114 B.C. (Gregorian calendar). Why it begins at this date is anybody’s guess. This would have been during the life of the prophet Enoch, who was born in 3545 B.C. He lived for 365 years before he “was taken,” in 3180 B.C. Methuselah was born in 3480 B.C. and lived for 969 years. So the Mayan calendar begins 66 years after Enoch disappeared (was taken to a place of safety from his many enemies), and 366 years after Methuselah was born.

Quetzalcoatl was the “plumed serpent” of the Aztec mythology, the “god” of learning and of the priesthood. He was an ancient ruler who was subsequently deified and identified with the planet Venus – the morning and evening star – and as a “god” of vegetation. He was a benign figure, a teacher, and his name became the title for Mexican high priests. The name became frequent in early Mexican history, like Roosevelt or Adams. There are many traditions about his arrival, and departure. He taught the way of peace. He was noted as “the bringer of civilization and good ways of life, who was frequently locked in conflict with gods of evil” (*The Indian Heritage of America*, Alvin M. Josephy, Jr., p.201). Aztec legends say he sailed across the sea, but would one day return.

Immanuel Velikovsky points out that during the time of Quetzalcoatl, according to ancient Mexican records, many people died, that “the sun refused to show itself and during four days the world was deprived of light” (quoting Brasseur; see *Worlds in Collision*, page 157). At that time, according to legends from Polynesian peoples, “the earth was battered by countless fragments,” says Velikovsky (p.160).

During that time the sequence of seasons and the duration of days and nights became disarranged.

In Mayan chronology, 3,113 B.C. is written as 13.0.0.0.0. When the cycle or age is complete, in December 2012 A.D., the date will once again be written 13.0.0.0.0 – a complete cycle of 13 baktuns. That date will also complete the end of a katun cycle (of 20 years). The last katun of this Age began in 1992 and will finish in 2012. The Mayan “glyph” of this katun is “storm” followed by “sun” – a period of darkness, followed by one of light.

The origins of the Mayan calendar are obscured by the mists of time. The Mayas themselves were adept skywatchers. Their classical period is thought to be from 200-900 A.D. However, large ruins with Mayan features have been found dating back to before

the time of Christ, before the common era began. They attributed the origin of their incredibly complex calendar system to another people whose origin was lost in the dim past.

Researchers believe that the Mayan calendar actually hinges upon its calculated end point. What is so important about the winter solstice of 2012? The Milky Way seems to have played an important part in Mayan mythology. The Mayan Sacred Tree appears to be the crossing point of the sun's path, the ecliptic, with the Milky Way. The conjunction of the sun with the Milky Way at the winter solstice in 2012 A.D. appears to have had apocalyptic significance. The crossing of the Milky Way with the ecliptic represents a doorway – pointing both to the sacred source and origin – the finishing of the old and the beginning of a new birth. Thus the world, in 2012, is pictured as being at a celestial “crossroads.”

To the Mesoamerican Mayas, the approach of the end of a World Age – the time when the winter solstice “Doorway” opened up the Sacred Tree to the Center of the Milky Way and the Heart of the Sky – was a very significant and epochal time. The Mayan Long Count was also known to the Yucatan Maya as a “prophecy cycle.”

Students of the Mayan calendar see this as confirmation that we are indeed living in the twilight of this present age and approaching the beginning of a New Age – the end of one prophetic cycle and the beginning of a new cycle. The Mayans stated that “time would collapse” at the end of their calendar cycle.

The “collapsing of time” is a mysterious phrase. How would time itself “collapse”? Could this be a reference to the “time of refreshing” and “restitution of all things” foretold in the Scriptures – when the Calendar itself and the orbit of the earth itself will be changed?

A Matter of Chronology

According to Archbishop Usher's chronology, Adam and Eve were created in 4,004 B.C. Adam and Eve disobeyed God (sinned and cut themselves off from God) in the Garden of Eden exactly seven years after they were created according to the book of Jubilees which would be year 3,997 B.C.

According to ancient Biblical interpretation, God has given mankind 6,000 years to live on the earth, before the Kingdom of God will arrive – a thousand years for each of the six days of creation (see II Peter 3:8-10). Our article, “Does God Have a 6,000 Year Plan?” goes into this subject thoroughly.

If we count 6,000 years from 4004 B.C. we come to 1997 A.D. If we count from 3997 B.C., the year of the transgression, then we come to 2004 A.D. But a strange prophecy in Isaiah 38 seems to indicate that God has given the world an extra “fifteen years” before His day of judgment will arrive! This is based on the 15 additional years God gave king Hezekiah to live, after notifying him he would die (Isaiah 38). See our

article, “Is God Adding 15 Years Till the Coming of the Messiah?” . Counting from Creation in 4,004 B.C., the year 2012 is fifteen years from 1997. Is this then, a year of transition, beginning the transition to the end of this age and the world of tomorrow?

If the Isaiah 38 prophecy about Hezekiah’s added fifteen years refers is based on the 6,000 year period which started from the year of Adam and Eve’s transgression in 3997 B.C., then 15 years added to 2004 A.D. would bring us to 2019 A.D. – exactly seven years from now!

This would make Daniel’s seventieth week, or the final week of years of this age, to be from 2012 to 2019! This means the final Great Tribulation is scheduled to begin *THIS VERY YEAR!* This year is very likely the beginning of Daniel’s 70th week prophecy!

Fifteen years added to 2004 A. D. will be the year 2018-2019 depending whether we count inclusively or exclusively. If 2012 begins the 70th week of Daniel, the seventh inclusive year will be 2018 (beginning with 2012 as year 1). Counting exclusively, the first year of the count would be 2013 and the seventh year would be 2019.

There are many examples in the Bible that are counted inclusively, for example counting the Omer from Passover. The count begins with Nisan 16. Inclusive counting means counting beginning with the first day after Passover on Nisan 16. Beginning with the next day would be called exclusive counting. The time begins with 2012 which is the end point from 1997. It was seven years after Adam and Eve were put in the Garden of Eden that they sinned, as the book of Jubilees says so very plainly. Taking that fact into account then the 6,000 years ended in 2004. Adding fifteen years to 2004 A.D. will come to 2019 seven years from now.

With these things in mind, it is very interesting to me that the Mayan calendar does say that the calendar of time ends on December 21, 2012 which is the winter solstice this very year. Thomas Horn has written a book on this. He says, ‘the Mayans understood the progression of the Equinox basically not to end but to roll over—start over (a new beginning) on December 2012. Their prophets coupled that date with unrest in the earth, after which a new form of man would appear on the earth, plus the return of their dragon god which is a flying serpent who has the *power of the air.*”

The Mystery of Quetzalcoatl

Quetzalcoatl was the primary god of the early central Americans, in Mexico and Central America, among the Mayas, Aztecs, Toltecs, and prior Indian cultures. He was also known as Kulcan. The quetzal was a bird with bright, colorful plumage, and the word “coatl” means “snake.” Thus Quetzalcoatl was the “feathered serpent” god.

Does the Bible, the Holy Scriptures, reveal who this god really was among the bloodthirsty, human-sacrificing Mayas and their cousins in Meso-America?

The Bible says plainly that Lucifer, Satan the devil, is the prince of the power of the air. The apostle Paul says, “You who were dead in trespasses and sins; wherein in time past you walked according to the course of this world, *according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now works in the children of disobedience*: among whom also we all had (lived) our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others” (Eph.2:2). This prince of the power of the air is Satan the devil, the god of this world.

Paul also wrote, “If our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: in whom *the god of this world* has blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God should shine unto them.” (II Corinthians 4:3-4).

The apostle John tells us, “And the great dragon was cast out, *that old serpent, called the Devil and Satan*, which deceiveth the whole world; he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him” (Revelation 12:9). So the devil is a dragon god and a serpent. According to the Mayan prophets, the return of their dragon god, prince of the air would be in the year 2012 when the Mayan calendar ended.

Satan Cast Down to Earth

So this great flying serpent that is going to come down and that is worshipped by the pagans is supposed to come down to the earth this year. Does the Bible speak of a great serpent that is going to come down to this earth that is going to be cast out of heaven in the end time? The Bible does! Revelation 12:7 speaks of the last days—“And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, and prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world; he was *cast out into the earth*, and his angels were cast out with him.” This might be at the end of 2012 or beginning of 2013.

The rebellious angels will be cast out of heaven down to the earth. Revelation 12:4 speaks about a great red dragon and talks about a previous time that this happened when there was a rebellion in heaven and one third of the angels (the reference to one third of the “stars” refers to angels, which are called “stars” in Rev.1:20) rebelled with Satan who ascended to heaven to take over the throne of God. This is recorded in Isaiah 14.

So Revelation 12 then speaks of another time when there is going to be war in heaven. Satan the devil will be cast down to the earth and all his angels with him a final time. “And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman (church) which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.”\

Verse 10—“And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren (Satan) is cast down which accused them before our God day and night. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.”

Revelation 12:12—“Therefore rejoice, you heavens, and you that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea for the devil is come down unto you having great wrath, because he knows that he has but a short time. And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman (church) which brought forth the man child (Jesus Christ).” Christ was born to the Jews of a Jewish family, Joseph and Mary. When the Devil is cast down to earth he is going to intensify persecution against Christians and Jews using the Muslim religion to foment and focus on persecution to the death.

When Satan is cast down to this earth, or when Quetzalcoatl returns, there will be “hell to pay” on the earth! He will be furious – full of wrath, anger, and hatred for God’s people, true Christians!

God’s people will need special protection from the wrath of the serpent. Revelation 12:14 – “To the woman [the church] were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time (3 ½ years), from the face of the serpent.”

Notice! Those who are faithful of God’s church will be spared and taken to a place of safety in the wilderness, not in heaven as mainstream Christianity teaches. They will be protected in a *wilderness area* that God has prepared on the earth.

What about the remainder of God’s people? We read: “The serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood. But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood (armies) which the dragon cast out of his mouth. The dragon was enraged with the woman and he went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep (obey) the commandments of God, and have the testimony (gospel) of Jesus Christ.” (Rev.12:15-17).

It is obviously talking about the church (sealed true believers). The Jews don’t have the testimony (teachings) of Christ, they have the teachings of Moses and the Old Testament, but they don’t understand the teachings and identity of Christ. The woman and her offspring are those who *keep the commandments* AND the *testimony of Jesus Christ*. These are the true Christians who believe that the Law is not done away by God’s grace. These are the ones who OBEY God’s law and do not despise it or teach contrary to it! These are the ones who are genuine, sincere, guileless, and who practice what they preach!

“Sixty Five Years”

An incredible prophecy for the end-time has been overlooked in the book of Isaiah the prophet. We read, speaking in typology of the end-time, God’s warning to the leader of end-time Judah – the nation of Israel, and its Prime Minister, today Bibi Netanyahu. God says, “Take heed, and be quiet; do not fear or be fainthearted for these two stubs of smoking firebrands, for the fierce anger of Rezin and Syria, and the son of Remaliah (a type of President Obama, leader of the United States, the end-time tribe of Ephraim). Because Syria, Ephraim, and the son of Remaliah have plotted evil against you, saying, ‘Let us go up against Judah and trouble it, and let us make a gap in its walls for ourselves, and set a [different] king over them, the son of Tabel’—Thus says the Lord GOD: It shall not stand, nor shall it come to pass. For the head of Syria is Damascus, and the head of Damascus is Rezin. *Within sixty-five years Ephraim shall be broken [lit., shattered], so that it will not be a [united] people. The head of Ephraim is Samaria [America], and the head of Samaria is Remaliah’s son. If you will not believe, surely you will not be established”* (Isaiah 7:4-9).

What is this strange prophecy?

It seems as if many end-time prophecies date from the founding of the state of Israel in 1948, or the United Nations resolution endorsing a state of Israel in 1947. If we count the 65 years till Ephraim – the USA and the companion tribes, including Great Britain and Canada, also sons of Joseph – we come to 2012-2013 – indicating that Ephraim’s “fall” and shattering will take place in the time frame of 2012-2013.

With burgeoning national debt exploding, and America’s debt now exceeding \$15 trillion dollars, the world is becoming rapidly a most unstable and fragile mess. The Greek crisis, and European debt crisis over the Euro, the financial plight of Spain, Portugal, Ireland and Italy, portend increasing pressure on the rest of Europe, and the United States banking structure. Something’s got to give.

War threatens in the Middle East, with the U.S., Great Britain and France sending military naval vessels into the trouble region, to stand against Iran and its allies, while Russia also sends ships, and Russia and China defend Iranian motives and threaten reprisals against any nation which would attack Iran – the situation is increasingly explosive.

Will this year see the re-election of Barack Hussein Obama as President of the United States, and the “shattering” of America’s financial and economic power, and its military establishment around the world? The U.S. is already withdrawing troops from Iraq and Afghanistan. Will it continue pulling in its horns around the world? Is American “power” in the process of being shattered and its global reach nullified?

The Hebrew word translated “broken” or “shattered” here is *chath*, and means “crushed; also, afraid; abstract. Terror—broken, dismayed, dread, fear” (*Strong’s Concordance*, #2844). The *Gesenius Hebrew-English Lexicon* has it, “broken (as a bow),

confounded, fearful, fear, alarm.” *Strong’s Concordance* points out it is from #2845, “terror”. Is this the time period when SHEER TERROR will come upon America, perhaps due to violent acts of terrorism in American and British cities, military bases, including nuclear devices?

The prophecy seems quite explicit, as to the timing – 65 years from a certain pivotal date – and what more likely date than the founding of the state of Israel in 1947-1948?

The Burden of Arabia

Interestingly, Isaiah also says: “The burden against Arabia . . . Bring water to him who is thirsty; with their bread they met him who fled. For they fled from the swords, from the drawn sword, from the bent bow, and from the distress of war.

“For thus the LORD has said to me: ‘Within a year, according to the year of a hired man, all the glory of Kedar will fail; and the remainder of the number of archers, the mighty men of the people of Kedar, will be diminished; for the LORD God of Israel has spoken it’ (Isa.21:13-17).

This is a prophecy against Arabia, including Saudi Arabia, and the people of the Arab world. Within a year, war will come in the Middle East, and upon Arabia, and their military will be diminished. Could this not mean that when Ephraim’s power is shaken and shattered, that Arabia also – our so-called Arab “allies” – will fall, and be overthrown, by spreading war and alien forces – perhaps the Shiite Muslims overthrowing the Sunni governments, and those allied with Iran, including Iraq which has a Shiite government, will “diminish” the power of the Arab gulf states, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, etc.?

The world is approaching the edge of the abyss. Do we dare peer down into it?

Unparalleled Tribulation

World conditions will grow so bad that there is no comparison in all human history – so says the Word of God! Christ Himself prophesied, “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be great earthquakes in various places, and famines and pestilences; and there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven” (Luke 21:10-11).

Christ added, “You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. And you will be hated by all for My name’s sake. But not a hair of your head will be lost. By your patience possess your souls. But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near. . . For those are the days of vengeance, that all things that are written may be fulfilled” (vs.16-22).

The Messiah warned, “For in those days there will be tribulation, *such as has not been since the beginning of the creation* which God created *until this time*, nor ever shall be” (Mark 13:19). The prophet Daniel described it, “And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time” (Dan.12:1).

Jeremiah declared of this period of time, “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? Alas! For that day is great, so that none is like it; and it is the time of Jacob’s trouble, but he shall be saved out of it” (Jer.30:6-7).

God says of our end-time generation of His people, “Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: ‘Because you have *multiplied disobedience* more than the nations that are all around you, have not walked in My statutes nor kept My judgments, nor even done according to the judgments of the nations that are all around you’—therefore thus says the Lord GOD: ‘indeed I, even I, am against you and will execute judgments within your midst in the sight of the nations. And I will do among you what I have never done, and the like of which I will never do again, because of all your abominations. Therefore fathers shall eat their sons in your midst, and sons shall eat their fathers; and I will execute judgments among you, and all of you who remain I will scatter to all the winds.

“. . . ‘One third of you shall die of the pestilence, and be consumed with famine in your midst; and one-third shall fall by the sword all around you; and I will scatter another third to all the winds, and I will draw out a sword after them. Thus shall My anger be spent, and I will cause My fury to rest upon them, and I will be avenged; and they shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken it in My zeal, when I have spent My fury upon them’” (Ezek.5:7-13).

Hell on earth is about to erupt! We have been warned! God means what He says! And says exactly, precisely what He means to do!

The War to End All Wars

But the world, and God’s people will be saved out of this excruciating time of horror and terror and woe. Jacob will be saved from utter destruction.

At the last moment, when all seems lost and the game is over, then God will intervene to SAVE His people! As Jeremiah said, “It is the time of Jacob’s trouble, but he shall be saved out of it” (Jer.30:7). As Daniel said, “And at that time your people shall be delivered, every one who is found written in the book” (Dan.12:1).

Then Christ will make war with the nations of the earth bringing all the nations in compliance with the Kingdom of God which we read in Jeremiah 25:29-33: “For, lo, I begin to bring evil (disaster) on the city which is called by my name, and should you be utterly unpunished? You shall not be unpunished: for I will call for a sword upon all the inhabitants of the earth, says the Lord of hosts. Therefore prophesy you against them (mankind) all these words, and say unto them, The Lord shall roar from on high, and utter

his voice from His holy habitation; he shall mightily roar upon his habitation; he shall give a shout, as they that tread the grapes, against all the inhabitants of the earth. A noise shall come even to the ends of the earth; for the Lord has a *controversy with the nations*, he will plead with all flesh; he will give them that are wicked to the sword, says the Lord. Thus says the Lord of hosts. Behold, evil shall *go forth from nation to nation*, and a great whirlwind shall be raised up from the coasts of the earth. And *the slain of the Lord shall be at that day from one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth*; they shall not be lamented, neither gathered, nor buried; they shall be dung upon the ground.” This is what is going to happen when Christ returns to the earth.

John describes this final war to end all wars in Revelation 19:11-21—“And I saw heaven opened, and beheld a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he does judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he has on his vesture (robe) and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS”.

John continues, “And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God. That you may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great. And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. And *the beast* was taken, and with him the *false prophet* that wrought miracles before him, with which he *deceived them* that had *received the mark of the beast*, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.”

God Himself will be full of wrath and fury because of the sin, wickedness, destructiveness and violence in the earth today.

War in Heaven This Year?

Is this cosmic battle in heaven going to happen this year when Satan the devil is going to be cast out of heaven the final time, preparing the way for the Great Tribulation to follow? I am not setting dates. I think it is remarkable how these things do tie in.

It is the Mayan prophecies that talks about the dragon, the flying serpent coming back in the end of 2012. Satan the Devil is called in the Bible that old serpent-- dragon

and prince of the power of the air. He is going to persecute God's people with vehemence and a vengeance never paralleled in the history of mankind. So we need to be ready and prepared.

Jesus Christ, Yeshua the Messiah, warns us: "Take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be weighed down with carousing and drunkenness, [drug addiction and cares and anxieties of this life,] and so that day will not come upon you unawares (unexpectedly). For as a snare it will come on all those that dwell on the face of the earth. Therefore, watch and pray always that you may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man" (Luke 21:34-36).

The Philadelphia Church

God speaks to the Philadelphia church, one of the branches of the church of God in the end times, "To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, HE THAT HATH THE KEY OF DAVID, HE THAT OPENETH, AND NO MAN SHUTTETH; AND SHUTTETH, AND NO MAN OPENETH [David was a prophet, a great king that ruled in humility and in the fear of God]; "I know your works: behold, I have set before you an open door, and no man can shut it: for you have a little strength, and have kept my word, and have not denied my name. Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which *say they are Jews*, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know (realize) that I have loved you. Because you have kept the word of my patience; I also will keep you from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try (test) them that dwell upon the earth. Behold I come quickly: hold fast that which you have, that no man take your crown (of eternal life)" (Revelation 3:7-13).

This branch of God's Church will escape the things to come – they will be protected through the tribulation and calamity that lies ahead. The term "Philadelphia" in the Greek language means "brotherly love", so these people really love each other, and people in general. Their lives display their love and compassion, and they will be counted worthy to escape and have divine protection through the days ahead of us!

Christ says to the Philadelphia church people, "Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God which is new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name. He that has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit say unto the churches."

Hard Times

Hard times are coming on planet earth. They are quickening apace. The Messiah Himself tells us in Matthew 24:13. "But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved."

Christ declared, “There will be mighty and violent earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences (plagues: malignant and contagious or infectious epidemic diseases which are deadly and devastating); and there will be sights of terror and great signs from heaven.

“But previous to all this, they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, turning you over to the synagogues [churches, mosques, assemblies] and prisons, and you will be led away before kings and governors for My name’s sake. This will be a time (an opportunity) for you to bear testimony. Resolve and settle it in your minds not to meditate and prepare beforehand how you are going to make your defense and how you will answer. For I [Myself] will give you a mouth and such utterance and wisdom that all of your foes combined will be unable to stand against and refute” (Luke 21:11-15, Amplified Bible).

In Revelation 21:6-8, He says to us: “He said to me. It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcomes shall inherit all things; and I will be his God and he shall be my son. But the cowardly, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and the sexually immoral, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone; which is *the second death*.”

So what is it going to be?

Are we going to be holding fast, loyal to the truth, hanging on to every word of Christ and every commandment? Are we going to be willing to suffer and die for Christ, or are we going to be with the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters and liars and disobedient that are going to be cast into the lake of Gehenna fire?

Christ warned, “For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect’s sake those days shall be shortened” (Matthew 24:21-22). As the Amplified has it, “For then there will be great tribulation (affliction, distress, and oppression) such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now—no, and never will be [again]. And if those days had not been shortened, no human being would endure or survive, but for the sake of the elect (God’s chosen ones) those days will be shortened.”

Let us be sure to do what Christ says. Watch and pray always. Take heed that no man deceive you. Pray that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the Sabbath day and that you be counted worthy to escape. We do not know what hour our Lord comes. Therefore, be ready for in such an hour as we think not the Son of man will very likely come, suddenly!

May the Almighty and righteous loving God speed that day and may Christ come quickly—and soon. Amen. Even so, come Yeshua.

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Prophecy Briefs

Is Netanyahu's Patience Running Out on US and West?

(Washington, D.C., January 24, 2012) -- Does Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu think the West is taking decisive action to stop Iran from getting the Bomb, or does he think the West is fiddling while Tel Aviv runs the rising risk of burning? That's the Big Question as tensions continue to mount in the epicenter this week. Iran is making new threats to close the Strait of Hormuz to oil shipments, just days after test-firing missiles over the Strait. The U.S., Britain and France are sending additional naval forces into the Gulf. The European Union is taking new steps to impose an oil embargo on Iran. The U.S. is taking steps to sanction Iran's third largest bank, though dragging its feet on actually sanctioning Iran's Central Bank.

Will such Western moves be enough to stop Iran from building an arsenal of nuclear weapons? Personally, I'm not convinced. Such moves would have been good a few years ago. Now they strike me as too little too late, especially after the Obama White House disastrous decision recently to cancel joint military exercises with Israel for fear of being "too provocative" towards Iran. But it doesn't matter what I think. What matters is what Netanyahu thinks. If he decides the West isn't doing enough and Iran is going to get the Bomb, then he is going to hit Iran hard, soon, and without warning.

In that context, it's worth noting a speech Netanyahu gave Tuesday warning his nation that the world has not internalized the lessons of the Holocaust. "Speaking at the Knesset just days before International Holocaust Remembrance Day (January 27), Netanyahu reasoned that the Jewish people must not put their fate in the hands of the international community," reported the Jerusalem Post. "Posing a rhetorical question, Netanyahu asked, 'How does the world react to the calls for genocide against the Jews today? Seventy years after the shoa [Holocaust], Iran is calling for us to be wiped off the map, Hezbollah is calling for our extinction, as are many in Hamas....The Jerusalem Mufti [Sheikh

Muhammad Hussein] called on Sunday for Jews to be killed wherever they are...echoing his predecessor Haj Amin Al Hussein, who actively helped Hitler and Eichman,' he said. 'I do not hear the international community condemning this. I hear them condemning buildings in the West Bank. But I don't hear them condemning this incitement,' said Netanyahu."

Could Netanyahu be signaling that his patience - and that of the Israeli government and military - is running out? (Flash Traffic, Joel Rosenburg, 1-25-12).

Warning Signs – Prepare for the Worst

The warning signs are all around us. All we have to do is open up our eyes and look at them. Almost every single day there are more prominent voices in the financial world telling us that a massive economic crisis is coming and that we need to prepare for the worst. On Wednesday, it was the World Bank itself that issued a very chilling warning.

In an absolutely startling report, the World Bank revised GDP growth estimates for 2012 downward very sharply, warned that Europe could be on the verge of a devastating financial crisis, and declared that the rest of the world better "prepare for the worst." You would expect to hear this kind of thing on The Economic Collapse Blog, but this is not the kind of language that you would normally expect to hear from the stuffed suits at the World Bank.

Obviously things have gotten bad enough that nobody is even really trying to deny it anymore. Andrew Burns, the lead author of the report, said that if the sovereign debt crisis gets even worse we could be looking at an economic crisis that could be even worse than the last one: "An escalation of the crisis would spare no-one. Developed- and developing-country growth rates could fall by as much or more than in 2008/09."

Burns also stated that the "importance of contingency planning cannot be stressed enough." In other words, Burns is saying that it is time to prepare for the worst. So are you

ready?

But of course it isn't just the World Bank that is warning about these things. The chorus of voices that is warning about the next great financial crisis just seems to grow by the day.

Some of these voices were profiled in a Bloomberg article the other day entitled "Apocalypse How? Dire '12 Forecasts". The following is just a sampling of quotes from that article....

-John Mauldin, president of Millennium Wave Advisors: "We've got a cancer. That cancer is debt"

-Mark Spitznagel of Universal Investments: "Too much malinvestment has been kept alive, and history shows an inevitable wipeout, which started in 2000."

-Michael Panzner of Financial Armageddon: "The fundamental outlook is even worse now than it was a few weeks ago, given (the lack of positive) developments in Europe and growing evidence that the economies of major countries around the world are deteriorating fast."

If you have time, you should go check out the rest of that article. It really is fascinating.

When this crisis is over, all sorts of people are going to be running around claiming that they predicted it. But it does not take a genius to see what is coming. All you have to do is open up your eyes and look at the flashing red warning signs.

So what should we all be looking for next?

March 20th is a key date to keep your eye on. That is the day when Greece will either makes its 14.5 billion euro bond payment or it will default.

Greece does not have a prayer of making that payment without help. If Greece can convince the EU and the IMF to release the next scheduled bailout payment and if Greece can reach a satisfactory deal with private bondholders, then the coming Greek default might be "orderly". But if something goes wrong, the coming Greek default might be quite "disorderly".

At this point, almost everyone in the financial world is anticipating a Greek default of one form

or another....

-Edward Parker, the managing director for Fitch's sovereign and supranational group in Europe, the Middle East and Africa, recently declared that a Greek default is inevitable....

"It is going to happen. Greece is insolvent so it will default."

-Moritz Kraemer, the head of S&P's European sovereign ratings unit, made the following statement on Bloomberg Television on Monday:

"Greece will default very shortly. Whether there will be a solution at the end of the current rocky negotiations I cannot say."

- Richard McGuire, a strategist at Dutch bank Rabobank, was recently quoted by CNBC as saying the following....

"People often ask if Greece is going to default which ... is a misnomer because Greece is (already) defaulting" . . .

But whether there is a default or not, the reality is that Greece is already experiencing a full-blown economic depression. In Greece, 20 percent of all retail stores have already shut down. The unemployment rate for those under the age of 24 is now at 39 percent. Large numbers of Greeks are trying to get themselves and their money out of the country while they still can.

Pessimism regarding Greece is at an all-time high. Michael Fuchs, the deputy leader of Angela Merkel's political party, recently made the following statement

"If you live in Greece, you're in a depression; if you live in Spain, you're in a depression; if you live in Portugal or Ireland, you're in a depression," Celente said. "If you live in Lithuania, you're running to the bank to get your money out of the bank as the bank runs go on. It's a depression. Hungary, there's a depression, and much of Eastern Europe, Romania, Bulgaria. And there are a lot of depressions going on [already]."

The troubling news out of Europe just seems to keep coming in waves. Here are some more recent examples....

-Manufacturing activity in the euro zone has fallen for five months in a row.

-Germany's economy actually contracted during the 4th quarter of 2011.

-It is being reported that the Spanish economy contracted during the 4th quarter of 2011.

-Bad loans in Spain recently hit a 17-year high and the unemployment rate is at a 15-year high.

So will all of this economic trouble eventually spread to the United States?

Of course it will.

The global economy is more interconnected today than ever. Back in 2008 the financial crisis that started on Wall Street ended up devastating economies all over the planet. The same thing will happen during this next great financial crisis.

Only this time the U.S. is in a much weaker position. The U.S. debt problem has gotten much worse since the last crisis.

During 2008, our national debt crossed the 10 trillion dollar mark. Less than 4 years later, we have crossed the 15 trillion dollar mark.

So what are we going to do the next time large numbers of banks fail and unemployment skyrockets?

Where are we going to get the money to bail out all of those banks and to take care of all of those newly unemployed people?

Some people say that socialism is the answer, but the truth is that we are already a socialist welfare state. If you can believe it, nearly half of all Americans live in a household that receives some form of financial benefits from the U.S. government.

During the next great crisis, the number of people that are dependent on the government will go even higher.

If you don't want to end up dependent on the government, you should heed the warning signs and you should use this time to prepare for the hard times that are coming.

When even the World Bank tells us to hope for the best but to prepare for the worst, you know that it is late in the game.

Unfortunately, the vast majority of people out there only believe what they want to believe. They don't want to believe that a great economic crisis is coming, and so when it does happen they are going to be absolutely blindsided by it. (the economic collapse blog.com, Prophecy News Watch, 1-21-12).

“Last Man Standing”

We can ill afford another four years of the misguided ungodly trinity that has taken this nation down the path to Marxism. With God's help we can still turn this nation around to regain the respectability that it once enjoyed, but this may be our last chance. The world doesn't have to *like* us, but they must *respect* us if we are to remain at the top of the heap.

But, what if it is not God's will to give us a leader that respects our Lord? What if He returns to office the same anti-American for the coup de grace? What can we expect based upon his past history? What can we learn from his record of promised change?

Since **Barack Obama** took office in 2008: the price of gasoline has increased over 100 percent; food stamp recipients have jumped 35.1 percent; long-term unemployment has risen over 146 percent; and poverty has risen 9.5 percent (*Sources:* federal offices, the *Wall Street Journal*, Standard and Poors, and the Heritage Foundation). This “change” has taken place in only three years by a president that will not produce a valid birth certificate and has a Social Security number from a state in which he never lived. His contempt for our Constitution is boundless.

He did all this while playing golf 73 different times and winning a Nobel Prize for doing nothing. He is the first president that was not raised in a Christian home, and he has pledged to aid Islam should a confrontation between the U.S. and Muslims develop. In his first three years, he has managed to raise our national debt 27 times faster than in our entire nation's history to over \$14 trillion, while managing 17 extravagant vacations at the tax payers' expense. He is the first president that will not travel with his wife to a Muslim country, and

he provides a special jet just for his dog Bo and Bo's handler, who receives an annual salary of \$102,000. He has appointed some four dozen czars to do an end-run around Congress so that he is not technically responsible.

A look into his past life, and those that influenced him the most, gives us insight into what we can expect in the future. Who molded his thinking? His father, Barack Hussein Obama Sr., was born in Kenya in 1936 and died in 1982. He was an anti-colonial Marxist who thought that all the rich should be taxed 100 percent. Barack only met his father twice in his lifetime, but adopted much of his thinking.

Another man that helped mold Barack's young mind was poet Frank Marshal Davis, born in 1905, who was mentioned in his book *Dreams of My Father*: "In 1944 the FBI had identified Davis as a member of the Communist Party's Dorie Miller Club (Chicago card number 47544) along with involvement in communist front organizations like the National Negro Congress, the League of American Writers, the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties and the Civil Rights Congress. There are some 600 pages in the Frank Davis FBI file, including the fact he was still listed in 1973 as an endorser of a major American Communist Party front organization, American Committee for Protection of Foreign Born" (norcalblogs.com).

Vernon Jarrett (a Chicago journalist with communist connections) was another mentor. He was an Obama family friend who campaigned for Barack. Jarrett interviewed Van Jones, who became Obama's advisor on the Council on Environmental Quality and had ties to communist organizations such as STORM, "Standing Together to Organize Affairs and Public Engagement."

It is not hard to see how Obama became a "community organizer." In 1992, Obama worked for ACORN, another agency for communists and socialists. Obama was also a follower of Saul Alinsky and his blueprint for advancing communism and fascism, written about in his book *Rules for Radicals*. Alinsky is known as the "godfather of community organizing." His goal was to destroy the middle class of America and lead the nation into communism.

For 20 years Barack sat under the venomous teaching of the radical anti-American Rev. Jeremiah Wright, and then claimed that he didn't know what Wright really believed. This is only a short list of those that contributed to Obama's convoluted background.

Some believe that he is a "Manchurian Candidate" and is representing some foreign or international interest. One such person is billionaire George Soros. "The so-called leaderless 'Occupy' movement has just been caught red-handed operating what appears to be a nerve center staffed by professional agitators deeply tied to groups funded by billionaire activist George Soros" (wnd.com).

Who exactly is *George Soros*? Soros was born August 12, 1930, in Budapest, Hungary, to Jewish parents Tivadar and Elizabeth. Tivadar was a Esperantist writer, and taught George the international language from birth. In 1944 he took a job with the Jewish Council to hand out deportation notices to Jewish families under the Nazi regime. In 1947, he immigrated to England to live with his uncle, an orthodox Jew, who sent him to the London School of Economics. In 1956, he immigrated to the U.S., and he became a naturalized American citizen in 1961.

Like Barack Hussein Obama, he may be a citizen of the United States, but he is not an American. Soros' candidate in the 2004 election was John Kerry, who stated publicly that he wished to burst the "bubble of American supremacy." He believes that our position in the world is a threat to global "equilibrium." "And if the economic picture is bleak in this election year, who stands to benefit? Why, the Democrats, of course, the beneficiaries of Soros' 527 largesse" (american-thinker.com). Soros contributes to 527 liberal organizations (IRS, 10/11/2011). (Bob Glaze, "Last Man Standing," *Prophetic Observer*, January 2012).

New State Law? Boys free to use Girls locker rooms?

In California a recently amended bill will soon allow boys to access the girl's locker room, bathrooms as well to play and compete on girl's sports teams.

Assembly Bill 266 has been amended to read: "A pupil shall be permitted to participate in sex-

segregated school programs, activities, and facilities, including athletic teams and competitions, consistent with his or her gender identity, irrespective of the gender listed on the pupil's records."

"The promoters of this legislation are exploiting children's gender confusion with their proposal to let each student choose the bathroom and locker room where they most desire to be," said Karen England, Executive Director of Capitol Resource Institute. "Does anybody really believe it is a good idea for either the troubled or the tempted to be told it is up to them to decide whether they should use the boy's or the girl's bathroom?"

While gays, lesbians, and perverts are pushing this onto elementary school kids in California, there are over 140 Congress men in DC trying to do the same thing in every school across America, both private and public. Senator Al Franken (pictured right-->) and openly Homosexual Congressman Jared Polis have introduced S.555 and H.R. 998 the "Homosexual Classrooms Act" aka Student Non-Discrimination.

The Obama Administration would make it legal for homosexuals to recruit your children starting in the first grade, with mandatory classroom lectures that normalize sin. Educators will be required to ask your children if they are straight or gay starting in the 1st grade, and they will be able to help each child find his or her "chosen" sexuality. At an age when most kids don't even know what sex is, they will be forced to endure pro-homosexual propaganda. Schools that decline will lose their funding.

The Liberals are fighting this battle on every front. Assembly Bill 266 in California started out as a common bill about sports education two years ago. Yet by adding an amendment to a two year bill the legislation avoids many of the hearings and public input requirements and much of the expected public opposition this would generate.

This is also true in DC, where Homosexuals are trying to push pro-gay bills on elementary children very quietly and without spotlight or attention. Your petitions to Congress expose their evil, and deny them any stealth ability. (WorldNetDaily, Jan.30, 2012).

The Most Lipstick on the Biggest Pigs Ever!

We've seen the political and financial elites paint lipstick on a pig before. But never anything like this!

Consider the pig in Washington: Uncle Sam continues to run the worst deficits — and borrow the most money — since America's war for independence.

And yet Congress has virtually given up on any semblance of a long-term solution

In any other world or time, Uncle Sam would be paying through the nose to borrow money, driving interest up all over the U.S., and causing havoc in the stock market.

The lipstick: The Federal Reserve continues to paper over the disaster with the wildest money printing of all time ... PLUS ... the most sustained zero-interest policy in U.S. history.

The result:

- Conservative savers are being squashed, earning a pittance for their hard-earned funds.
- Investors are again being herded into highly speculative deals.
- And nearly the entire American economy is fundamentally destabilized.

Next, take a look at the pig all across America: According to www.shadowstats.com, more than 22% of U.S. workers are now unable to get a regular job — one of the worst unemployment rates in the industrialized world.

The lipstick: In its headline unemployment number — now at 8.5% — the U.S. government conveniently *excludes* any unemployed worker who has given up looking for work or is forced to accept low-paying, part-time jobs.

Heck, even researchers at the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics admit that 8.5% grossly understates the true unemployment in America. So they make a half-hearted attempt to figure out a broader unemployment rate — now at 15.2%.

But they're STILL sweeping at least half of the dirt under the rug! How? They deliberately avoid counting all those who have given up looking for work after a year's time — a huge group of discouraged workers who, in the real world outside the Beltway, still want and need a job.

The result: While Washington and Wall Street take credit for an "improving recovery," the majority of Americans continue to suffer from a Great Recession!

And don't forget the PIIGS in Europe: Everyone knows that the sovereign debt disasters in Europe have spread to all five of the PIIGS countries — Portugal, Ireland, Italy, Greece, and Spain.

Everyone knows that France, Belgium, and even Germany are also extremely vulnerable.

Plus, nearly everyone — even at the highest echelons of euro officialdom — recognizes that the only solution is going to be many years of austerity, hard work, and saving.

The lipstick: Late last year, the European Central Bank (ECB) began running its own printing presses at breakneck speed to "save" the banks and avert a total collapse.

The folks at the ECB themselves admit that it's not a solution to the debt crisis, that it's prone to backfire. *Yet they're doing it anyhow.*

The result: The extra cash pouring into the global economy is helping to levitate stock markets to some degree and could continue to do so for a while longer.

But at best, it will backfire in a matter of weeks. And at worst, it will create a new dangerous bubble of mammoth dimensions, this time mostly in government bonds.

Rampant Official Hypocrisy

In the past, the world's leaders and elites typically had the backing of economists at major universities and governmental organizations:

If Washington, London, Berlin, or Brussels declared the global economy was mending, then

it was because they were in synch with mainstream economists.

But now, hypocrisy in high places is so rampant — and so obvious — that even Establishment economists have rebelled.

They don't buy the official line. They don't even tone down their language like they used to.

Quite the contrary, they're now beginning to speak out about precisely the same danger we've been warning you about for months: a global recession — or worse!

Here are just a few prime examples ...

- Among mainstream economists, a whopping 93% now predict a major recession all over Europe! And it's widely recognized that, since the European Union represents the largest economy in the world, any European recession must mean a *global* recession.

- Economists at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) warn of a series of financial shocks ... fresh market turbulence emanating from the euro area periphery ... major credit downgrades ... and signs of an economic slowdown.

- Economists at the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development say that Europe *already* appears to be in a recession, stressing how the problem of massive long-term unemployment has become increasingly common.

- And economists for the World Bank make even more strident warnings. Their own words ...

"The financial turmoil generated by the intensification of the fiscal crisis in Europe has spread to both developing and high-income countries ...

"Capital flows to developing countries have declined by almost half as compared with last year, Europe appears to have entered recession, and growth in several major developing countries (Brazil, India, and to a lesser extent Russia, South Africa and Turkey) has slowed partly in reaction to domestic policy tightening."

My view: This statement alone should make investors everywhere stand up and pay attention. But there's much more ...

"Meanwhile," continue the World Bank economists, "the medium-term challenges represented by high deficits and debts in Japan and the United States ... have not been resolved and could trigger sudden adverse shocks."

My comment: See? Like us, the World Bank is warning that, although the sovereign debt crisis hit Europe first, Europeans are certainly not the only ones who have committed financial sins. If anything, the "sudden adverse shocks" that the World Bank is referring to could easily be *larger* than the shocks felt so far in Europe.

"Additional risks to the outlook," they write, "include the possibility that political tensions in the Middle-East and North Africa disrupt oil supply, and the possibility of a hard landing in one or more economically important middle-income countries."

This is what Weiss resource specialist Sean Brodrick has been warning us about. And the danger is now greater than ever!

What About the Massive European Money Printing to Turn This Situation Around?

At best, the folks at the World Bank see the ECB's efforts as a temporary patch:

"While contained for the moment," they write, "the risk of a much broader freezing up of capital markets and a global crisis similar in magnitude to the Lehman crisis remains.

"In particular, the willingness of markets to finance the deficits and maturing debt of high-income countries cannot be assured.

"Should more countries find themselves denied such financing, a much wider financial crisis that could engulf private banks and other financial institutions on both sides of the Atlantic cannot be ruled out. The world could be thrown into a recession as large as or even larger than that of 2008/09." (*Money and Markets*, Martin D. Weiss, Jan.30, 2012).

War Against Iran Coming Soon?

Israel has maintained secret about its nuclear weapons program. Officially, the Israeli government had maintained a policy of "deliberate ambiguity," saying only that Israel will not be the first country to introduce nuclear weapons into a Middle Eastern war. This carefully worded statement was designed to avoid having to deny that Israel actually possesses nuclear weapons.

Still, along with India and Pakistan, Israel is one of the three sovereign states possessing nuclear weapons that has not signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Israel made this decision, simply to avoid lying about the nuclear program the world knows it has.

The existence of the Israeli nuclear weapons program was first disclosed by Mordechai Vanunu in the London-based *Sunday Times*, on 5 October 1986. At that time, Vanunu was a thirty-one-year-old Israeli who had worked for ten years in a top secret underground bunker at Dimona in the Negev Desert, the site of Israel's nuclear reactor and the country's nuclear research establishment.

Vanunu published a series of photographs in the *Sunday Times*, which permitted international nuclear weapons experts to determine that Israel possessed a sophisticated nuclear arsenal, estimated to rank as the sixth most powerful in the world, behind America, Russia, Britain, France, and China, but ahead of India and Pakistan.

Since the 1950s, the United States had refused requests from Israel to help build the country's nuclear capabilities. Israel got the assistance required from France, which built the Dimona reactor and supplied Israel with the plutonium-extracting technology, which was required to transform the Dimona reactor from civilian purposes into nuclear weapons capability.

Studying Vanunu's photographs, nuclear experts in 1986 estimated that Israel might have as many as 100 to 200 nuclear weapons of varying capacities. This was more than ten times what experts had estimated prior to Vanunu's revelations. For smuggling a camera into the Dimona secret facility and taking more than sixty

photographs, Vanunu was convicted of treason. In April 2004, Vanunu was finally released, after serving eighteen years in prison, including eleven years in solitary confinement. Estimates in 1997 placed the number of Israeli nuclear weapons at some 400 thermonuclear and nuclear weapons.

Before her death in 1978, Prime Minister Golda Meir told friends that suicidal thoughts had plagued her during the Yom Kippur War. Yom Kippur is the Day of Atonement for the *Jewish* people. It is *the* year's holiest day. Prime Minister Meir referred to the surprise attack by Egypt and Syria. The initial forays by Israel's two enemies were disastrous. Moshe Dayan, the Minister of Defense, is said to have called for nuclear bombs to be put aboard fighter planes and nuclear warheads placed on Israel's Jericho missiles. He wanted to be ready should the attacking Arab states reach the point-of-no-return in endangering the State of Israel.

Dayan was gravely fearful that the attack would result in the destruction of what he referred to as the "third Commonwealth." The first had been destroyed by the Babylonians and the second by the Romans.

US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger prevailed on President Richard Nixon to assist the Israelis by providing weapons and ammunition in the most massive airlift since the Berlin Airlift following World War II.

Israel's nuclear weapons have always been considered the core of what has commonly been known as the *Samson Option*. The strategy is named after the biblical story of Samson using his great strength to bring down a temple, killing a great number of enemy Philistines, as well as himself, in the process. Israel has sworn "never again" in relation to the possibility of another Holocaust.

Given this determination, the *Samson Option* postulates that Israel would be willing to use extreme measures if the country's survival were at stake.

In the crisis with Iran, the *Samson Option* has been used to mean that Israel would attack Iran in a preemptive war and would be willing to use nuclear weapons. Iran's possession of nuclear weapons is seen as a threat to Israel's continued existence. In other words, Israel would be

willing to attack Iran even if the result of an Israeli preemptive strike ended up being retaliation by Iran that ended up with Israel's destruction. The Israelis judge that destruction in a military conflict with an aggressor like Iran would still be better than doing nothing and be destroyed. Passivity in the face of aggression has always been judged to be a mistake the European Jews made against Hitler. In extreme situations, Israel can be expected to attack, rather than to delay too long. This is why Israel's patience for negotiations with the mullahs can be expected to run out. Israel knows the mullahs are trying to buy time and that time in this crisis works against Israel.

Analysts argue that Israel's current nuclear arsenal opens up many strategic possibilities short of the *Samson Option*. Israel has the type of relatively low-yield tactical nuclear weapons that can be selectively fired to eliminate specific targets. Low-yield "tactical nukes" could be used to hit the type of hardened underground centrifuge farm, which Iran has built at Natanz to enrich uranium.

Israel's larger nuclear warheads have been adapted for the Jericho series of missiles. Israel first began developing these missiles with French assistance in the 1960s. The Jericho II is a solid fuel, two-stage missile that Israel has test fired into the Mediterranean Sea at ranges estimated at around 1,300 kilometers (800 miles).

Reportedly, Israel has had a multi-stage Jericho III under development, more truly an intercontinental ballistic missile with a range of around 4,800 kilometers (3,000 miles). Israel also has cruise missiles which can be adapted with nuclear warheads, such as the Popeye Turbo which is designed to be air-launched from Israel's F-15 and F-16 fighter jets. The Popeye Turbo can also be launched from the three Dolphin-class submarines the Germans built for Israel.

While details of the Israeli nuclear arsenal remain highly classified, analysts believe Israel can launch relatively low-yield tactical nuclear weapons from the air and sea via Israel's fighter aircraft and submarines. Conceivably, Israel could mix tactical nuclear weapons delivered via fighter aircraft with cruise missiles fired from sea. Higher-yield nuclear warheads deliverable by Israel's Jericho II missiles would most likely

be held in reserve, waiting to see what retaliatory responses Iran launched and how the war escalated from the initial attack. (Intelligence Briefing, Top Secret, Jerusalem Prayer Team, briefing prepared by Dr. Michael Evans, noted Middle East expert, "Israel and Iran on the Brink of War," February 2012. For further information, see www.jerusalemprayerteam.org).

24 Signs of Catastrophic War Coming in the Middle East!

Is 2012 the year when we will see a major war in the Middle East? For years we have heard about rising tensions in the Middle East, and for years we have heard politicians express concerns about Iran's nuclear program, but now things really do seem to be reaching a boiling point. In just the past few days, the U.S. government has imposed tough new sanctions on Iran and has totally shut down the U.S. embassy in Syria. The truth is that we are getting dangerously close to a major war in the Middle East. So will Israel strike Iran at some point in the next few months? Will the U.S. military intervene in the rapidly escalating conflict inside of Syria? If a major war does erupt, it could send the price of oil skyrocketing and there is the potential that the war could broaden very quickly. Hezbollah has already indicated that it will side with Syria, and there is always the potential that Hamas could as well. Russia and China have both stated that they are completely opposed to military action by the United States against Iran and Syria, and they have even hinted that they would possibly even help defend those countries. As the nations of the world take sides, there is even the potential that we could see World War III develop. Let us hope that it never comes to that, but with the world as unstable as it is right now, you never know what may happen.

What makes war so much more likely now is that nobody has shown any signs of backing down.

Syrian President Bashar Assad has sworn that he will never step down.

U.S. President Barack Obama says that it is only a matter of time until he is forced to step down and that no other outcome is acceptable.

Iran has sworn that it will never end its nuclear program.

The United States believes that if Iran is allowed to develop a nuclear weapon it would be a fundamental threat to world security.

Israel believes that if Iran is allowed to develop a nuclear weapon it would be a fundamental threat to the very existence of the nation of Israel.

So if nobody backs down, what is going to happen?

I think we all know what is going to happen.

The following are 25 signs that we are getting dangerously close to a major war in the Middle East....

#1 The United States has just imposed tough new sanctions on Iran. Some of the new sanctions are specifically targeted at the central bank of Iran. Stronger sanctions have been a prelude to war in the past, and the Obama administration surely wants to argue that "all other alternatives have been exhausted" before going to war.

#2 The EU has announced that all imports of crude oil from Iran will be banned **starting in July**.

#3 The U.S. embassy in Syria has been shut down and the Obama administration has once again called for Syrian President Bashar Assad to resign.

#4 The U.S. has also removed all diplomats from Syria.

#5 In speaking of the removal of Syrian President Bashar Assad, Barack Obama is making it very clear what he believes the final result will be....

"This is not going to be a matter of if, it's going to be a matter of when."

This is very reminiscent of the language that Obama used to describe the removal of Gadhafi before the U.S. launched airstrikes in Libya.

#6 U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is calling for "an international coalition" to support the opposition fighters in Syria.

#7 Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak says that Iran is moving their uranium enrichment facilities into recently constructed underground bunkers and that the point of no return is rapidly approaching....

"The world has no doubt that Iran's nuclear program is steadily nearing readiness and is about to enter an immunity zone"

#8 There are indications that Israel may consider launching an attack against Iran without even notifying the United States. Aaron David Miller, a Mideast peace negotiator during the Clinton administration, recently made the following statement....

"There's a growing concern -- more than a concern -- that the Israelis, in order to protect themselves, might launch a strike without approval, warning or even foreknowledge"

#9 The Washington Post is reporting that U.S. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta believes that Israel will strike Iran at some point during the months of April, May or June.

#10 Former IDF chief of staff Moshe Yaalon insists that an attack on Iran could be successful....

"It's possible to strike all Iran's facilities, and I say that out of my experience as IDF chief of staff"

#11 U.S. State Department spokesman Mark Toner says that the Obama administration "is absolutely committed to preventing Iran from getting nuclear weapons".

#12 Barack Obama underscored his policy toward Iran in a speech just the other day....

"I've been very clear -- we're going to do everything we can to prevent Iran from getting a nuclear weapon and creating a nuclear arms race in a volatile region"

#13 According to [Debka](#), thousands of U.S. troops have been heading to "two strategic islands within reach of Iran".

#14 Iranian leader Ayatollah Khamenei is speaking as if the coming war is a foregone conclusion....

"The war itself will be 10 times as detrimental to the U.S."

#15 Khamenei also seems to think that the outcome of the coming war is a foregone conclusion as well....

"In light of the realization of the divine promise by almighty God, the Zionists and the Great Satan (America) will soon be defeated"

#16 Khamenei also has declared that Israel is a "cancerous tumor that should be cut and will be cut".

#17 According to one estimate, there are currently 200,000 missiles aimed at the nation of Israel.

#18 Some Israeli officials claim that Iran is trying to develop a long-range missile capable of reaching the United States.

#19 The death toll from the conflict inside of Syria continues to rise. According to [Debka](#), "a continuous Syrian bombardment beginning early Saturday, Feb. 4, is estimated to have left a record 350 dead and up to 1,300 wounded in the Homs district of Khaldiyeh."

#20 According to the United Nations, a total of approximately 6,000 people have been killed since the conflict in Syria began.

#21 The city of Homs is one giant war zone at this point. The following comes from a recent article in the Telegraph....

"We can't count all the bodies from the streets and the collapsed buildings. Anyone who tries to go on the street might be killed -- there are snipers," said Abu Abdu al-Homsi, spokesman for the Syrian Revolutionary Council, an opposition group, in Homs. "An old woman - her

son was shot and killed in the street, she went to get his body and was shot dead too."

#22 The Russians appear to be very serious about supporting the Assad regime in Syria. According to [Debka](#), "the Russians backed their hard line against the West by putting Rapid Reaction Force (aka Spetsnaz) units in Black Sea bases on the ready to set out for Syria and defend Damascus."

#23 It is being reported that a Hezbollah official has indicated that Hezbollah will attack Israel if Syria is attacked.

#24 There are even signs that Saudi Arabia is busy preparing for a coming war. The following comes from a recent Debka article....

"Our military sources report that the Saudis this week wound up their own intensive preparations for war. Large forces are now deployed around Saudi oil fields, pipelines and export facilities in the eastern provinces opposite the Persian Gulf, backed by anti-missile Patriot PAC-3 batteries. American, British and French fighter-bombers have been landing at Saudi air bases to safeguard the capital, Riyadh."

If a major war does erupt in the Middle East, what is that going to do to the global economy and the price of oil?

It is being projected that the price of gasoline in the United States could go above 4 dollars a gallon this spring even if there isn't a war in the Middle East.

So how much higher would it go if there is a conflict with Iran?

Today, Iran is the third largest exporter of oil in the entire world. If those shipments are cut off that would have a huge impact.

But Iran could have an even greater impact by closing the Strait of Hormuz.

Approximately 20 percent of all oil sold in the world goes through the Strait of Hormuz each year. If Iran started raining missiles down on oil tankers passing through the Strait of Hormuz, that would change the global economy overnight.

We live in very unusual times, and it should be apparent to everyone that there is not going to be lasting peace in the Middle East any time soon.

Right now, the world is on a road that is inevitably going to lead to a major war in the Middle East and nobody is showing any signs of backing down.

When the next major war does erupt in the Middle East, it is going to change the world forever.

But what kind of change will that be? ("24 Signs That We Are Getting Dangerously Close To A Major War In The Middle East," by Michael Synder).

Holy Day Dates for 2012 Spring

Passover	Friday, April 6 (after sunset)
First Day Unleavened Bread	April 7
Begin Omer Count	April 8
7 th Day Unleavened Bread	April 13
Pentecost	Sunday, May 27

Fall

Feast of Trumpets	Sept.18
Yom Kippur	Sept.27
Feast of Tabernacles	
First Day	Oct.2
Hoshana Rabbah	Oct.8
Shemini Atzeret	Oct.9

2012 Calendar

For a free calendar for 2012, including New Moon dates and Holy Days, write to:

Triumph Prophetic Ministries
PO Box 842
Omak WA 98841

The Secret and Power of the Prayer of Jabez

A short, powerful and mysterious prayer is mentioned in the first book of Chronicles. The story is an inspiring one, and the example of Jabez teaches us much about how to pray, and get results – the secret of answered prayer!

William F. Dankenbring

The prayer of Jabez, a man of God, is found in I Chronicles 4:10. Jabez prayed, calling on the God of Israel, saying, “Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory [border], that Your hand would be with me, and that you would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain.” The Scripture says, “So God granted him what he requested” (NKJV).

Who was Jabez? Why did he pray this way? What is the real story behind this short, powerful prayer?

Jabez, in Hebrew, means “he makes sorrow.” His childbirth was very difficult for his mother, hence she called him “Jabez.” Jabez is also the name of a place where the family of the scribes dwelt, taking its name from him, the leading scribe who founded the school or academy of scribes, those who preserved the writings and holy Scriptures.

The story of Jabez, in the Bible, amounts to a very brief but significant passage, which occurs in the genealogy of Judah, inserted as a brief but cogent and powerful comment on the man’s actions and character – hidden as if a marginal reading or commentary, of remarkable detail, in a genealogy connected with Bethlehem.

As Christ the Messiah said we are to live by every word of God, this short passage takes on whole momentous significance (Matt.4:4; Luke 4:4). No doubt the story of Jabez is intended by God to inspire each reader to greater heights, spiritually, to attain divine blessing and success in life, no matter how insignificant, painful, or problematical his beginning in life. No matter how inauspicious or lowly one’s beginning, one can accomplish great things through prayer and devotion to serving God with faithfulness, integrity, and earnest, fervent desire.

The School of Scribes

Jabez, the Adam Clarke Commentary points out, was also called “Othniel, the son of Kenaz. And he was called Jabez, because in his council he instituted a school of

disciples; they were called Tirathim, because in their hymns their voice was like trumpets; and Shimaathim, because in hearing they lifted up their faces, i.e., in prayer; and Suchathim, because they were overshadowed by the Spirit of prophecy. These Salmaei were the children of Zipporah, who were numbered among the Levites who came from the stock of Moses, the master of Israel, whose righteousness profited them more than chariots and horses” (Targum, quoted by Adam Clarke Commentary on I Chron.2:55).

The book of First Chronicles says, “And Jabez was more honorable than his brethren: and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, Because I bare him with sorrow. And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, O that thou wouldest bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he requested” (I Chron.4:9-10).

The Septuagint has this passage, “And *Igabes* was more glorious than his brethren . . . And *Igabes* invoked the God of Israel, saying, If in blessing thou wilt bless me, and enlarge my borders, and thy hand be with me, and wilt give me understanding not to depress me: and God brought about all that he requested.”

The Syriac has it – “And on4e of these was dear to his father and to his mother; and he called his name *ainei*, MY EYE. And he said to him, In blessing may the Lord bless thee, and enlarge thy boundary; and may his hand be with thee; and may he preserve thee from evil, that it may not rule over thee; and may he give to thee whatsoever thou shalt request of him!”

The Arabic version declares– “And this one (*Hastahar* or *Harum*) was beloved of his father and his mother: and they called his name *aina*, MY EYE; and they said unto him, May the Lord bless thee, and multiply thy people, and may his hand be present with thee, because thou wast born in Beth-lehem!”

The Chaldee has the passage this way – “And *Jabets* also, he is Othniel, honourable and skilled in the law beyond his brethren, whose mother called his name *Jabets*, because she had borne him with sorrow. And *Jabets* prayed to the God of Israel, saying, O that in blessing thou wouldest bless me with children, and enlarge my borders with disciples; and that thy hand may be with me in business, that thou mayest make me like to my companions, that evil concupiscence may the less grieve me! And the Lord granted that which he prayed for.”

The Character of Jabez

Adam Clarke has a wonderful section in his commentary discussing the prayer of Jabez and its implications. What an example of fervent prayer for us, today! It contains the secret of powerful, persuasive, answered prayer – prayer which moves God, and has serious spiritual and physical impact!

Adam Clarke says of him: “There are several things in the account of Jabez that are very instructive:

“1. He appears to have been a child brought into the world with great difficulty, at the risk of his own life and that of his mother. So much seems to be implied in, *she bare him with sorrow*, i.e., with peculiar sorrow and danger.

“2. To perpetuate the merciful interposition of God in her own and her son’s behalf, she gave him a name that must have recalled to her and his remembrance the danger to which both their lives were exposed, and from which they could not have been extricated but by the especial help of God. *She called name Jabez, etc.*

“3. He was brought up in the fear of God; he was no idolater; he worshipped the God of Israel, and he showed the sincerity of his faith by frequent and earnest prayer.

“4. His prayer at once was both enlightened and pious. He had piety towards God, and therefore he trusted in him: he knew that he was the fountain of all good, and therefore he sought all necessaries both for body and soul from him. *He prayed to the God of Israel.*

“5. Both the matter and manner of his prayer were excellent. His heart was deeply impressed with its wants, and therefore he was earnest and fervent; *O that thou wouldest bless me indeed*; ‘O that in blessing thou wouldest bless me!’ Let me live under thy benediction! Do thou diligently and frequently bless me!

“6. He prays for the things necessary for the body as well as for the soul: *And enlarge my coasts*—grant me as much territory as may support my family. Let the means of living be adequate to the demands of life; let me have the necessaries, conveniences, and, as far as they may be safely entrusted with me, the comforts of life! *O that thou wouldest enlarge my coasts!*

“7. He is conscious that without the continual support of God he must fail; and therefore he prays to be upheld by his power: *That thy hand might be with me!* May I ever walk with thee, and ever feel the hand of thy power to support and cover me in all the trials, dangers, and difficulties of life; and the hand of thy providence to supply all my wants in reference to both worlds!

“8. He dreads both *sin* and *suffering*, and therefore prays against both: *O that thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me!* *Sin* and *misery* are in every step of the journey of life; keep me from *sin*, that I *grieve thee* not; and keep me from *sin*, that I render not *myself miserable!* We can never *offend God* without *injuring ourselves*, he that *sins* must *suffer*. *Thorns* and *scorpions* are everywhere in the way to perdition; and he that walks in it must be *torn* and *stung*. He alone is *happy* who walks in the ways of God. *Keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me.*

“9. Prayers that have a *right aim* will have a *right answer*—Jabez did not pray in vain, *for God granted him that which he requested*. He was continually blessed; his family was increased; the hand of God was upon him for good. He was saved from sin, and saved from the pangs and sufferings of a guilty conscience.

“10. If we take up the character and conduct of Jabez in the view given by the *Chaldee*, we shall not only see him as a *pious* and *careful* man, deeply interested in behalf of *himself* and his *family*, but we shall see him as a *benevolent* man, labouring for the welfare of others, and especially for the religious instruction of *youth*. He founded *schools*, in which the young and rising generation were taught useful knowledge, and especially the knowledge of God. He had *disciples*, which were divided into *three classes* who distinguished themselves by their *fervour* in the *worship of God*, by their *docility* in obediently hearing and treasuring up the advices and instructions of their teachers, and by their deep piety to God in bringing forth the fruits of the Spirit. The *spirit of prophecy*, that of *prayer* and *supplication*, *rested upon them*.

“11. He did not do these things merely as *duty* he owed to God and his fellows, but from the *abundance* of a *generous* and *loving heart*. *In his counsel he erected a school of disciples*. God had blessed him with temporal things, and he secures their continuance by devoting them to his service; he honours God with his substance, and God honours him with his especial blessing and approbation.

“12. On these accounts he was *more honourable than his brethren*. He was of the same stock and the same lineage; he had neither nobility of birth, nor was distinguished by earthly titles; in all these respects he was on a level with his brethren: but God tells us that he was *more honourable than them all*; and why? because he *prayed*, because he *served his Maker*, and because he *lived to do good among men*; therefore he received the honour that cometh from God. Reader, imitate the conduct of this worthy Israelite, that thou mayest be a partaker of his blessings.

“The things added by the Targumist might have been derived from authentic tradition.”

So declares Adam Clarke’s Commentary on this passage

A Time for Fervent Prayer.

It would surely behoove us all, during this end-time of woe and trouble, and tribulation, to emulate Jabez, and follow his excellent, fervent example, and pray his prayer, and many like it, for ourselves, our families, and all God’s true people in this fast-moving end-time, perilous age!

As the apostle James wrote, “Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much” (James 5:16). Moffatt says, “has much impact.”

It is high time we re-energize our prayer life! The example of Jabez ought to spur us to action. If we follow his example, we, too, can meet with unfailing success, be protected from evil, and achieve outstanding accomplishments and do a great work for and through the Lord our God, the God of Israel!

Another Look at Jabez

The *Critical-Experimental Commentary*, by Jamieson, Fausset and Brown, declares on the passage dealing with Jabez, as follows:

“Jabez . . . was, as many think, the son of Coz, or Kenaz, and is here eulogized for his sincere and fervent piety, as well, perhaps, as for some public and patriotic works which he performed.. The Jewish writers affirm that he was an eminent doctor in the Law, whose reputation drew so many scribes around him that a town was called by his name I Chron.2:55); and to the piety of his character this passage bears ample testimony. The memory of the critical circumstances which marked his birth was perpetuated in his name (cf. Gen.24:15); and yet, in the development of his high talents, or distinguished worth in after-life, his mother must have found a satisfaction and delight that amply compensated for all her early trials.

“The prayer of his which is here recorded, and which, like Jacob’s, is in the form of a vow (Gen.28:20), seems to have been uttered when he was entering on an important or critical service, for the successful execution of which he placed confidence neither on his own nor his people’s prowess but looked anxiously for the aid and blessing of God.

“10. **thou wouldest keep me from evil**—thou wouldest do so as abstain; i.e., thou wouldest abstain from evil. Others, says *Gesenius*.render less well ‘thou wouldest do me from evil—i.e., keep me from harm.’ The enterprise was in all probability the expulsion of the Canaanites from the territory he occupied; and as this was a war of extermination, which God himself had commanded,

“His blessing could be the more reasonably asked and expected in preserving them from all the evils to which the undertaking might expose him. In the words ‘that it may not grieve me,’ and which might be more literally rendered, ‘that I may have no more sorrow,’ there is an allusion to the meaning of his name, Jabez, signifying grief; and the import of this petition is, let me not experience the grief which my name implies, and which my sins may well produce. God granted him that which he requested.

“Whatever was the kind of undertaking which roused his anxieties, Jabez enjoyed a remarkable degree of prosperity, and God, in his instance, proved that He was not only the hearer, but the answerer of prayer.”

What can we learn from the intriguing story of Jabez and his prayer? Certainly, God does answer the fervent, believing, earnest prayers of His people – wonderfully, marvelously, and aw4esomelly! Why don’t you study and consistently pray like Jabez?

Tithing Matters More Than You Might Think!

One man wrote a booklet titled “Tithing Is a SIN!” Some people hate the very idea of tithing – even consistent “giving” gets into their craw. Yet one person told me, “Tithing is the BEST Insurance Policy,” and said she would feel very fearful and uncomfortable unless she tithed on money received. What is all this about tithing? Should Christians “tithes” to God?

William F. Dankenbring

A man wrote to me saying, “I remember you telling us a few years ago about a certain prayer cited in the Old Testament by a man who asked God to prosper him chiefly so that he could do great works in God's name. I prayed to God to make me prosper just enough to be able to afford tithing this year, and hopefully make me even more prosperous afterward. An unheard of (where I work, at least) raise of one dollar and ten cents per hour convinced me God had heard that prayer and took me at my word.

“Oddly enough, I've heard of people tithing to their own churches -- usually Protestant or Mormon -- and being unusually blessed by God. I recall Herbert Armstrong mentioning on ‘The World Tomorrow’ that John D. Rockefeller (for all his many faults) was a tithe payer, for example. If this is true, it may be a sign that God actually DOES reward people for doing the right thing even if they are otherwise ‘in the dark’ about the true nature of God and what God has planned. If so, then God is far more generous and forgiving than many may suspect.

“One last note before I close: a few weeks after I started back to work, I was walking to my morning bus and began to feel sad and anxious. Out of the blue, a neighbor from down the block whom I have known since we were both five years old drove up the street in his truck. He, too, has gone through his share of hard times, and I was surprised to find that he was very philosophical about it.

“When I told him that the words ‘the Lord will provide’ kept coming to me, he said something like that was God wanting me to have abundance. Was his driving past right when I needed such encouragement a mere coincidence? Is there really any such thing as a coincidence in a universe whose Ruler can account for each hair upon everyone’s heads?”

God Sees Everything

That is a very good question!

How cannot the God who created all things, who sees the sparrow fall, who knows the numbers of hairs on your head, not see everything, and know everything we do? He who created the eye, shall He not see? He who created the ear, shall He not hear?

David wrote, “The LORD is in His holy temple, the LORD’s throne is in heaven; His eyes behold, His eyelids test the sons of men. The LORD tests the righteous, but the wicked and the one who loves violence His soul hates” (Psalm 11:4-5).

God knows our innermost secrets, and our innermost desires, and He beholds the works of all the children of men. And He is going to judge us, one way or the other, for all our actions and deeds upon this earth.

He will judge us whether or not we are faithful in tithing. Men may argue back and forth, debate, and rage, but God means what He says and says what He means, and it is foolish to trifle with Him or ignore His absolute, inexorable, unbending LAWS – including the Law which says:

“And all the tithes of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD’s. It is holy to the LORD” (Lev.27:30).

“And concerning the tithes of the herd or the flock, of whatever passes under the rod, the tenth one shall be holy to the LORD” (verse 32).

In other words, the tenth portion of all our income or increase – that comes to us, that passes into our possession – belongs to God. It is His. He has a prior claim on it and says it is His – and for us to take it, and keep it, and spend it upon ourselves, constitutes breaking God’s LAW. To do such a thing is “SIN” – for God says, “Sin is the transgression of the law” (I John 3:4). He also says to us, “The wages of SIN is death” (Rom.6:23), and, “The soul who sins shall DIE” (Ezekiel 18:4).

The Ways of the Lord

God’s ways are very mysterious to mankind. But there is no doubt that He does intervene for those who believe in Him.

God does prosper those who obey Him and therefore obey His tithing LAW. Abraham tithed. Jacob tithed. Moses tithed. ALL the saints, holy men of God, and prophets tithed. Jesus Christ TAUGHT tithing. He declared: “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithes of mint and anise and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the other undone” (Matt.23:23).

There is no doubt about it. We can kid ourselves all we want, but Christ taught tithing! In fact, He went so far as to say, “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. I tell you the

truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished” (Matt.5:17-18, NIV).

God’s true people and servants have always tithed. Abraham, the father of the faithful, tithed. When Melchizedek, the High Priest of God, met Abraham after he had defeated in battle the kings who invaded the land, “Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything” (Gen.14:20).

Jacob tithed as well. He prayed and promised God, “If God will be with me and watch over me . . . of all that you give me I will give you a tenth” (Gen.28:20-22).

The Greatest Insurance Policy

A lady I know in France recently tithed upon the sale of an apartment. She told me, “Tithing is the BEST insurance.” How true!

The prophet Malachi tells us: “Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, ‘In what way have we robbed You?’ IN TITHES AND OFFERINGS. You are *cursed with a curse*, for you have robbed Me, even this whole nation” (Mal.3:8-9).

God promises to bless the obedient tithe payer, and those who do not tithe are under a CURSE! A divine curse. There are no two ways about it.

God declares through Malachi, “Bring ALL the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try [test] Me now in this, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it” (v.10).

Tithing is INSURANCE from God, and He never fails to pay on a policy; His promises are sure; He cannot lie (Titus 1:2).

People who don’t tithe FAITHFULLY are like people walking NAKED down the street, in broad daylight. Their nakedness is revealed to everybody; and their shame is inevitable – great shame. Tithing is the greatest insurance policy ever – and it is backed up by God Almighty Himself.

A Bad Example

A family I once knew briefly came out of the Philadelphia Church of God. They wanted to come with us, and wanted to be our representatives in Canada, and collect tithes for us. It didn’t work out and the next thing I knew she was teaching against tithing, poisoning the minds of some of God’s people. She was sending them literature written by Ernest Martin, a disfellowshipped minister of the old Worldwide Church of God who had started his own ministry and taught against tithing – he called tithing a “SIN.”

How strange! Obeying God is a “SIN”? Only the Devil would say that – or someone inspired BY the Devil! He also taught that all God’s Law was “done away” for Christians, because we are already sitting in the “heavenlies” with Christ! He wrote that therefore a man or woman could commit adultery, and it was NOT A SIN -- but is already forgiven by Christ!

What unutterable nonsense and tragic false teaching! When Satan begins to corrupt the minds of people, he doesn’t let go, but they get worse and worse. As the apostle Paul prophesied, “But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived” (II Tim.3:13).

Be careful. Look well to your obedience. Don’t trust anybody – even a mate – if you have delegated authority to them to pay the family tithes, but suspect they may not be tithing. Beware that you do not “collude” or “conspire” against God not to tithe, and decide to hold back what belongs to God.

Ananias and Sapphira

Remember Ananias and Sapphira, in the book of Acts. They “sold a possession” and ‘kept back part of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of it, and brought a certain part and laid it at the apostles’ feet. But Peter said, ‘Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God.’ Then Ananias hearing these words, fell down and breathed his last. So great fear came upon all who heard these things” (Acts 5:1-5).

His wife also was privy to this plot. She came in about three hours later, not knowing what had happened. “And Peter answered her, ‘Tell me whether you sold the land for so much?’ She said, ‘Yes, for so much.’ Then Peter said to her, ‘How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out.’ Then immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. And the young men came in and found her dead, and carrying her out, buried her by her husband. So great fear came upon all the church and upon all who heard these things” (Acts 5:8-11).

It does not pay to try to fool God – or lie to the Holy Spirit – or to “pretend” to be a Christian but fail to tithe. God knows the truth. As Paul wrote, “But let each examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. For each shall bear his own load. Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches. Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap” (Gal.6:4-7).

To does not pay to try to cheat God. To refuse to tithe faithfully is “TRANSGRESSION of the law” (I John 3:4), and the “wages of SIN is DEATH”

(Rom.6:23). But “the FEAR of the Lord is the beginning of WISDOM; and a good understanding have all those who DO HIS COMMANDMENTS” (Psalm 111:10).

Do you stand in awe before God? Do you tremble before the Word of the Almighty? Do you really fear Him and believe He will punish the wicked? God says, “But on this one will I look: On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who *trembles* at My word” (Isaiah 66:2).

God’s Word tells us plainly to tithe. “For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account” (Heb.4:12-13).

Will a Man Really Rob God?

Review once again what the prophet Malachi writes: “Will a man rob God?” Who would be so brazen, so bold? “Yet,” God says, “you have robbed Me! But you say, In what way have we robbed You? IN TITHES AND OFFERINGS.” Did you know that the tithe BELONGS TO GOD – IT IS HIS – the tenth of your income has God’s Name written on it! And if you keep it for yourself, you are STEALING – literally stealing from GOD HIMSELF! Who would be so foolish – so craven – so insensitive – so wicked and arrogant? But the truth is, millions of people thoughtlessly, ignorantly, perhaps, *rob God daily and steal from Him!*

As a result, God thunders—“*You are CURSED with a CURSE, FOR YOU HAVE ROBBED ME*” (Mal.3:8-9). God says, “Bring ALL the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try [test] Me in this, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open for you the WINDOWS OF HEAVEN *and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it*” (Mal.3:10).

The NIV translation has this, “Test me in this, says the LORD Almighty, and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.” Now that is a REAL “insurance policy”! I agree with the lady from France. Tithing *IS* the “Best Insurance Policy.”

Make no mistake. Tithing matters to God. It proves where your heart is. It proves the bona fides of your love, surrender to Christ, and your obedience to God. It is surely one of the “test” commandments. How are you performing on the test?

God says what He means; and means what He says. Tithing is one of the most neglected, ignored, and compromised commandments today, even in the lives of Christians. So many have allowed themselves to be so deceived, and misled, angered and abused by false ministers and their evil deeds, that they take out their wrath on God and His true servants. So they steal from God, saying in their hearts, “We are confused. We don’t know who are God’s true ministers.” So they steal from God. What about you?

Bible Questions and Answers

QUESTION: Is it all right to build a fire on the Sabbath? What about Exodus 35:3 where fires are prohibited on Sabbath? What about using electrical appliances, toasters, stoves, ovens, heating units or furnaces?

ANSWER: Thanks for your letter and question about Exodus 35:3, and building a fire on the Sabbath. To understand this prohibition against building a fire on the Sabbath day, we must see the context.

The verse says, “You shall kindle no fire throughout your habitations on the Sabbath day.” But remember, the Sabbath was not a fast day. It was a day of rest from work, and a day of worship. The Israelites kept warm when temperatures went down by use of fires, and they cooked their food on that day, for which a fire would be necessary, although they did not do major cooking on the Sabbath,.

Says the Jamieson-Faucett-Brown Commentary, “This view of the institution is supported by our Lord (Luke 14:1). But in early times the Israelites, while sojourning in the wilderness and subsisting on MANNA, received a double supply on the sixth day, which they cooked also on that day, so that a fire for culinary purposes was entirely unnecessary on the Sabbath day. As the kindling of a fire, therefore, could only be for secular purposes, the insertion of the prohibition [in the section dealing with the work of the tabernacle] in connection with the work of the tabernacle makes it highly probable that it was intended chiefly for the mechanics who were to be employed in that erection; and as some of them might have supposed it was allowable to ply their trade in the furtherance of a structure to be dedicated to religious worship, it was calculated to prevent all such ideas, by absolutely forbidding any fire for the sharpening of tools, for the melting of metals, or any other material purpose bearing on the sanctuary.”

The Sabbath is to be a joyous delight. Lighting a fire on the Sabbath to heat food, or to heat a home, to provide comfort and warmth, as in winter when it is cold outside, is certainly not prohibited by God’s commandment given in love. The use of electrical appliances, stoves, heating units, lighting candles for light, turning on lights, and furnaces to keep warm, are all permissible on the Sabbath. Christ said, “The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath” (Mark 2:27).

The Jews by Christ’s time and since then have added many human additions and rulings about the Sabbath which were never intended by God. Christ set them straight on these principles, but they rejected Him and His teaching. The Sabbath is a day of rest – but not intended to be an onerous burden or a day of sacrifice and suffering. It is all right to visit

the sick, do good, do work in emergency situations, rescue oxen in ditches, so to speak, on the Sabbath. Generally, however, the Sabbath is to be a day of rest, spiritual reflection, meditation, study and worship.

Some self-righteous ministers and teachers, however, sometimes have taken some of the commandments of God to an extreme by adding many interpretations and prohibitions never intended by God, turning them into a yoke of bondage. They become spiritual scrooges and misers and hawks, peering down their long noses to find fault with others. God says we should not sit in judgment of our brother, as to how he keeps the Sabbath or other holy days, or try to “fine tune” our worship like the Pharisees did, boasting of their righteousness, who thought they were more righteous than other men. .

Christ gave a parable about such Pharisee type of persons “who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and despised others” (Luke 18:9-14). For more information on the Sabbath, write for our free booklet “A New Look at the Sabbath.”

QUESTION: Is it wrong to wear tattoos imprinted on our body? I had a cross tattoo put on my back and now believe I should remove it. Are tattoos wrong?

ANSWER: God’s Word says His people should not wear tattoos or such imprints in their flesh, so I would definitely have it removed, if I were you. It is a pagan symbol, and a symbol of paganized “Christianity,” and something we should therefore avoid. Just because you had it done, when you were in ignorance of the truth, does not mean you are doomed to hell. However, now that you see the truth, it is time to repent of that sin and put it away, by having it removed.

God’s Word says, “Do not cut your bodies for the dead or put tattoo marks upon yourselves. I am the LORD” (Lev.19:28). There was to be no disfiguring of the body, after the manner of the pagans.

Says Adam Clarke’s Commentary: “*Nor print any mark upon you.* It was a very ancient and a very general custom to carry marks on the body in honour of the object of their worship. All the castes of the Hindoos bear on their foreheads or elsewhere what are called the *sectarian marks*, which distinguish them, not only in a civil but also in a religious point of view, from each other.

“Most of the barbarous nations lately discovered have their faces, arms, breasts, &c, curiously carved or *tattooed*, probably for superstitious purposes. Ancient writers abound with accounts of marks made on the face, arms, &c., In honour of different idols; and to this the inspired penman alludes, Rev. xiii. 16, 17; xiv. 9, 11; xv. 2; xvi. 2; xix. 20; xx. 4, where false worshippers are represented as receiving in their hands and in their forehead the marks of the beast. . . . I have seen several cases where persons have got the figure of the cross, the Virgin Mary, &c, made on their arms, breasts, &c., the skin being first punctured, and then a blue colouring matter rubbed in, which is never afterward effaced. All these were done for superstitious purposes, and to such things probably the prohibition in this verse refers.”

The Jamieson, Faucett and Brown Commentary adds that the prohibition in the Torah refers to tattooing, such as “imprinting figures of flowers, leaves, stars, and other fanciful devices on various parts of their person. The impression was sometimes made by means of a hot iron, sometimes by ink or paint, as is done by the Arab females of the present day . . . and the different castes of the Hindoos.” These were “signs of apostasy,” and so were forbidden by God. No doubt that the Israelites learned these practices while enslaved in Egypt, that ancient fountain of paganism.

QUESTION: I'm reading the story of the Ten Virgins and was wondering, are the 5 virgins who ran out of oil and didn't qualify to be in the first Resurrection are they lost forever or will they get a chance to repent and renew there spirit? It seems so difficult to be chosen for the first Resurrection it worries me to no end that I might fail because I known how weak of a person I am but I hate myself because of it and what so badly to a true Christan. I seem to be the lowliest person to have been called out. I sometimes wonder if I was really called By God or was it by my own demise. I hope you don't mind me asking by I don't have anyone else to advise me.

ANSWER: It is clear that five virgins are wise and will be in the kingdom at the coming of Christ (Matt.25:10). The five foolish virgins won't be ready, so they will not be included at that time -- they will be outside when the door is shut, and will be told, "I do not know you." (v.11). In other words, they will not be in the first resurrection. Perhaps they were negligent, not ready, not on fire for God, sleepy, etc., and will be resurrected at the Great White Throne judgment, and then be judged. They could conceivably still make it into the Kingdom, at that time, with a much smaller reward and position in the Kingdom, compared with those in the first resurrection (Rev.20:4-6). I definitely believe we ought to strive to be in the first resurrection and be ready to meet Christ when He comes! Write for our free article, “The Church in the End of Days – The Ten Virgins.”

QUESTION: Someone asked me if I thought praying for the dead was beneficial. I responded in the affirmative. It is my feeling that to pray for the deceased is to intercede with God on their behalf because they are no longer able to pray for themselves. I seek God's mercy for them. In your opinion, is this a good and/or right thing to do? I searched the concordance for a proof in scripture where we might be exhorted to do this and couldn't find anything. Please respond and explain your position on this. I will certainly appreciate hearing from you.

ANSWER: The dead are dead and awaiting judgment. We should remember them, and think of them at times, and knowing their judgment is pending, we should love them and be concerned about them. Praying for them, for their spirit, for God to be merciful and kind to them, would not be wrong, even though they are already deceased. Many will arise in the Great White Throne resurrection and be judged and have their opportunity for salvation at that time. They are not now eternally lost, nor has their fate been decided. They will live again (Rev.20:11-15; Ezek.37:1-14). "And so all Israel will be saved" (Rom.11:25).

QUESTION: Should Christians observe Purim and Hanukkah? Are these festivals commanded in the Bible? I know Christmas and Easter have pagan origins, and long ante-date the time of Christ.

ANSWER: Purim is not a part of the Law of God given at Mount Sinai. Yet it was “added” to the festivals of the Jews in the days of the Persian Empire, after God’s great deliverance from Haman, the Amalakite, the prime minister of Xerxes. The book of Esther describes the story, and how God turned the tables on the wicked Haman who sought to kill all the Jewish people in the Empire. God gave His people favor in the eyes of the king, and He allowed the Jews instead to slay all their enemies, and Haman himself was hanged on the huge gallows 75 feet high.

As a result of this divine deliverance, we read that Mordecai, the new Jewish prime minister, “sent letters to all the Jews, near and far,” throughout the Empire, “to establish among them that they should celebrate yearly the fourteenth and fifteenth days of Adar, as the days on which the Jews had rest from their enemies, as the month which was turned from sorrow to joy for them, and from mourning to a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and joy, of sending presents to one another and gifts to the poor” (Esther 9:20-22).

“So the Jews accepted the custom which they had begun, as Mordecai had written to them” (v.23).

CLEARLY, CELEBRATING A FEAST in honor of the true GOD, in THANKSGIVING to Him, is NOT evil or pagan or wrong in God’s sight! However, please take note – Purim is a Jewish festival, not a commandment of God! Messianic believers in Christ may choose to celebrate it, with their Jewish brethren, or choose not to do so. It is a personal choice, but not a spiritual obligation. There is no record in the New Testament of either Jesus Christ or the apostles or the early Church celebrating Purim.

Hanukkah is known as the “Feast of Dedication.” It was begun by Judas Maccabeus after the Jews revolted against Antiochus Epiphanes and recaptured the Temple of God from the Syrians in 164 B.C., after it had been defiled by them for three years. It was rededicated on the 25th day of Chisleu, about the month of December. The Jews began to celebrate this victory granted by God over the powerful Syrian army and created a feast of eight days, much like the Feast of Tabernacles which they had not been able to observe during the Syrian occupation.

This festival is mentioned once in the Bible. In the 10th chapter of John we read: “Now it was the Feast of Dedication in Jerusalem, and it was winter. And Jesus walked in the temple, in Solomon’s Porch” (John 10:22-23).

Notice! This verse does not say whether or not Jesus Christ “observed” the feast – but He never condemned it, either! He was present, at the porch of the Temple, however, when the feast was being observed, during the stormy month of December, in mid-winter. Here would have been a good opportunity to thunder against it and to denounce it, if He chose to do so! But His silence in this case is deafening. He never condemned it.

Observing such national holidays, not commanded by God or part of His divine Law, was NOT CONSIDERED “ADDING TO” the Law, commandments, or statutes of GOD!

If it was contrary to God’s Law, and was an “addition” to the law because it was a celebration not commanded in Scripture, then surely Christ would have condemned its observance! But He never mentioned it one way or the other!

Therefore it is NOT SIN OR EVIL OR WRONG to observe Purim, or Hanukkah. Likewise, it is not a sin to observe a national holiday, such as the 4th of July, Memorial Day, or especially the Thanksgiving Day, in an attitude of thankfulness to God and praising Him for all the bounty and blessings He has bestowed upon us! In fact, it is a distinctly GODLY thing to do!

For as Paul writes, “See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but UNDERSTAND what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your hearts to the Lord, GIVING THANKS ALWAYS TO GOD THE FATHER in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Eph.5:15-20, NKJV).

The most important thing we need to remember is that whatever we do, we do it unto the Lord. As the apostle Paul wrote, “And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him” (Col.3:17). As Paul also said, “Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God” (I Cor.10:31).

Paul also wrote, in regard to things of this nature, “One person esteems one day above another; another esteems every day alike. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind. He who observe the day, observes it to the Lord; and he who does not observe the day, to the Lord he does not observe it. He who eats, eats to the Lord, for he gives God thanks; and he who does not eat, to the Lord he does not eat, and gives God thanks . . . So then each of us shall give account of himself to God” (Rom.14:5-12).

Paul continues, “Therefore let us not judge one another any more, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother’s way. I know and am convinced by the Lord Jesus that there is nothing unclean of itself; but to him who considers anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean” (vs.13-14).

In conclusion, Paul writes, “For he who serves Christ in these things is acceptable to God and approved by men. Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another” (vs.18-19).

List of Articles and Booklets

These articles are sent FREE as the Lord God provides. As the world hurtles into the time known as the Great Tribulation, with economies tottering and hard times arriving, we must be careful in doing the Work of God. Inflation is destroying the value of the dollar, prices are rising, so we must cut costs to be profitable servants of the Lord.

Take note: We can only send 7-10 articles or booklets at a single time. Do not request more than this amount.

Basic Doctrine

- Who Is the Messiah? Incredible Proof Yeshua is who He said He was!
- A New Look at the Historical Jesus
- How LONG Was Jesus in the Grave? Exposing the Good Friday and Wednesday Crucifixion Theories!
- The Pharisees, Hasidim and Early Nazarene Christians
- Which Is the True Biblical Calendar of God?
- What Is the 'New Moon'?
- When Was Christ Born?
- Where Was Yeshua Crucified?
- The Plain Truth about LAW AND GRACE!
- A New Look at Colossians
- A New Look at the Book of Galatians
- Galatians and the "Works of the Law"
- What Are the REAL Salvation Issues?
- Bible Health LAWS – Are Unclean Meats Still Unclean?
- The Keys to Robust Health
- The Power of Prayer
- The Bible – Science or Superstition?
- Bible Criticism – Intellectual Idolatry?
- How To Walk with God
- What is the True Gospel?
- What Is Real Repentance?
- All About Water Baptism
- The Truth about Laying on of Hands and Anointing
- How Should God's Ministers Be Ordained?
- The Power of Faith and Prayer
- A New Look at the "FRINGES" of the Law!
- The Truth about "Holy Garments"
- The Exodus – Myth or Reality?
- Who Was the Pharaoh of the Exodus?
- The Mystery of the Olive Tree
- Once Saved Always Saved?
- Life on Earth Before Adam?
- James' Ossuary Box – Incredible Proof of the Existence of Christ!
- Should We Observe the New Moons!
- Is Obedience to God Required for Salvation?
- What Is the 'Unpardonable Sin'?
- Why Did Jesus Curse the Fig Tree?
- The Passion of the Christ
- Is There LIFE After Death?
- What's All This about the Resurrection?
- The Spirit in Man Mystery
- What's All This about the Place Called "Hell"?
- Satan's Fate – Will the Devil be Tormented Forever?
- Saul and the Witch of Endor
- The Parable of the Ten Virgins
- What Is a Genuine Christian?
- The Mystery of the Book of Job
- God's Laws about Divorce and Marriage
- Is There Government I the Church of God
- A New Look at Moses' Seat
- The Plain Truth about Church Authority

The Holy Days of God

- __ The Annual Holy Days Reveal the Awesome Plan of God
- __ The Shocking Origin of Christmas!
- __ A New Look at Easter
- __ The Origin of Halloween
- __ What Days Should We Observe?
- __ Sabbath Versus Sunday – Which Day Should We Observe?
- __ PASSOVER – Its Hidden Meanings and Mysteries
- __ Yeshua's Last Week on Earth – a Day By Day Reconstruction
- __ When Should the Passover be Observed?
- __ What Do You Mean, "The Sixth Hour"? When Did Christ Appear Before Pilate?
- __ The Mystery of "Between the Two Evenings"
- __ Luke and the Passover Mystery
- __ The Incredible Passover Plot!
- __ What Is the "New Testament Passover"?
- __ A New Look at the Passover!
- __ Four Special Bible Correspondence Course Lessons on PASSOVER!
- __ Pentecost (Shavuot) – The Mystery and Significance Revealed
- __ Pentecost – the FINAL Analysis!
- __ Pentecost – Sunday or Sivan 6?
- __ The Incredible Truth about Pentecost!
- __ How Should we COUNT Pentecost?
- __ Luke 6 – New Testament Proof on Pentecost
- __ Counting the Omer – Its Incredible Meaning
- __ Sefirat Ha Omer – a Key to Overcoming!
- __ Sadducees Vs. Pharisees – Who Controlled Temple Worship in the Time of Christ?
- __ A New Look at the Sadducees and Pharisees
- __ Amazing New Revelation on the Feast of Trumpets
- __ Fascinating New Understanding on the Feast of Tabernacles
- __ Secrets of the Sukkah – New Insight on the Fall Festival
- __ A New Look at Yom Kippur and the Azazel Goat
- __ Shemini Atzeret – a New Look at the "Eighth Day"
- __ The Mystery of Hoshana Rabbah Revealed
- __ What's All This about Tithing?
- __ The Sacred Names of God
- __ Dinosaurs in the Time of Adam?
- __ Angels, Women, Giants, UFOs and the Occult – Return of the Nephilim
- __ Christian-Messianic Passover Hagaddah
- __ The Birth, Ministry, Death, and Resurrection of Christ
- __ Is HELL Eternal?
- __ Is the Cross Christian?
- __ What Was the Mark of Cain?
- __ Is the Star of David Pagan?

End-Time Apostasy

- __ Was Herbert Armstrong the Elijah to Come?
- __ Where God's Church Went Wrong!
- __ Prophetic Errors of Herbert W. Armstrong
- __ Back to Babylon
- __ How Are the Mighty Fallen!
- __ Joseph Tkach – Apostle or Apostate?
- __ Joseph Tkach – Saint or Monster?
- __ Gerald Flurry and the Philadelphia Church of God
- __ The House of Yahweh Exposed
- __ Apostasy in the End of Days
- __ Zechariah 11 and the End-Time Vultures

The Nature of GOD

- __ The Mystery of God – Who or What Was Christ Before His Human Birth?
- __ What Do You Mean, "The Only True God"?
- __ Was Jesus Christ "Created"?
- __ The Mystery of Lucifer and the Logos
- __ The Genesis Factor – Is God Reproducing Himself?
- __ The Pre-Existence of Christ – Fact or Fable?
- __ Is Jesus "God"?
- __ Is God a "Trinity"?

- __ The Origin of the Logos
- __ Did God Create a Devil?
- __ The Early Church Fathers and the Logos

Bible Prophecy

- __ Who Is the United States in Bible Prophecy?
- __ Israel in the Last Days – Is America Ephraim or Manasseh?
- __ Noah’s Universal Flood – a Warning to Our Generation?
- __ Coming: A Modern Roman Empire?
- __ Panorama of Prophecy
- __ What Is the “Mark” of the Beast?
- __ Will the Messiah Return in a “Jubilee Year”?
- __ China Taking Over Panama Canal & America in Prophecy
- __ Babylon the Great and the New World Order
- __ “END OF DAYS” – *Incredible New Insight* on End-Time Prophecy
- __ Where Are the Seven Churches of Revelation?
- __ The Last Days: Daniel 7 and the New World Order
- __ Daniel’s 2300 day Prophecy
- __ Daniel 8 and the End of Days
- __ Daniel 9 – Amazing PROOF Christ is the Promised Messiah!
- __ A New Look at Daniel 11
- __ Daniel 11 – FINAL Warning
- __ Daniel’2 1260, 1290, and 1335 Days
- __ The Book of Revelation Decoded
- __ God’s Mysterious 6,000 Year Plan
- __ Far Beyond STAR WARS!
- __ A New Look at Bible Chronology and Prophecy
- __ Armageddon – How Much Longer?
- __ The “Time of Jacob’s Troubles” – Have They Begun?
- __ Planet “X” and Worlds in Collision!
- __ Who Is the 144,000 of Revelation?
- __ Who Are the Two Witnesses?
- __ Spiritual Breakthrough – Awesome Power of Faith, Prayer and Fasting
- __ Meditation – Hidden Key to Spiritual Growth
- __ 2012 and Beyond – End-Time Prophecies
- __ America at the Crossroads – Have We Passed the Point of No Return?
- __ Rothschild’s Choice – a Shocking Look at “Conspiracy Theory”
- __ The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse Ride Forth
- __ Simon Magus and the Greatest Conspiracy of All Time
- __ Sign of the Unicorn – Who is the Tribe of End-time Manasseh?
- __ Isaac Newton and the End-Time Prophecies of Daniel
- __ The Quartodeciman Passover Controversy and the Early Church\
- __ Was the “Lord’s Supper” Really the Passover?
- __ “How Can I Become a True Christian?”
- __ Countdown to the Messiah – How Much Longer?
- __ The 70 Years, Jubilee Cycles, Daniel’s 2300 Days, and Seven Times Prophecies
- __ How Many Times Did Peter Deny Christ?
- __ How Many Thieves Were Crucified with Christ?
- __ Whatever Happened to Enoch and Elijah?
- __ Mysteries of the Great Pyramid of Gizah
- __ What Is the Doctrine of the Antichrist?
- __ The Tribe of Dan and the Antichrist\
- __ Masonic Symbols and the Origin of America’s Great Seal
- __ Prophecy from the Zohar
- __ Just What Is Jewish “Kaballah”?
- __ Nimrod and the Tower of Babel Cataclysm
- __ Just Who Are the Modern Jewish People?
- __ The History of Apostasy and the Perfect Storm
- __ Origin of the 360 Day Year
- __ 40 Proofs on Counting Pentecost
- __ What Do You Mean, “Born Again”?
- __ Seven Proofs the Lord’s Supper Is NOT the Passover!
- __ Apollyon Rising, 2012 and the End of Time
- __ Should Christians Wear Make Up and Cosmetics?
- __ Hannukah and the Abomination of Desolation

Letters from Our Readers

“Consider the possibility that the 7 year tribulation period has already begun.

“I have assembled information from several different websites about the blood moons. The most astonishing thing to me is that BHO is mentioned in the Bible, and that 7 years of 360 days before the last blood moon goes back to Nov 4, 2008, his election day. See what you think. His election could have been the covenant, he certainly rose to power that day. It certainly takes us to the Feast of Tabernacles, Sept 28, 2015, the date of the last blood moon.”

-- Email

“Thank you for the constant reminder of the Word of God, in each and every one of us. Seeing the people flocking to the malls, frantic and fevered, running after frills; with their eyes ablaze and their mind dulled, hypnotized, by Satan. It is depressing to see our fellow men enslaved by Satan the devil; thinking that they are honoring the Creator of the Universe.

“Hoping that you are enjoying radiant health, always attuned with the Word of God and in tune with His voice.”

-- Canada

“It seems like World War III has started on the Q.T. and many under cover operations are going on that the lame-stream news does not mention.

“I heard that Iran is starting a 10 day naval and military operation and this could cause a confrontation of the Iranian navy and the U.S. navy. Also I hear the Chinese are saying they are preparing for World War III.

“BO is spending over \$4,000,000 for his winter vacation as I hear it. He sounds more like Nero as Rome burns. With all the homosexual support that this country is doing around the world is going to bring YAHWEH’s wrath down on us like Sodom and Gomorrah.

“Isaiah 7:8 – I think says Ephraim will be broken in 65 years. Does this mean our time is running out very soon?

“Looking at the world earthquake map and the non-mentioning of the frequency by the lame-stream news could mean we can expect a big one in the near future.”

-- Charles Rearick, Ohio

COMMENT: It seems as if many end-time prophecies date from the founding of the state of Israel in 1948, or the United Nations resolution endorsing a state of Israel in 1947. If we count the 65 years till Ephraim – the USA and the companion tribes, including Great Britain and Canada, also sons of Joseph – we come to 2012-2013 – indicating that Ephraim’s “fall” and shattering will take place in the next two years.

Interestingly, Isaiah also says: “The burden against Arabia . . . Bring water to him who is thirsty; with their bread they met him who fled. For they fled from the swords, from the drawn sword, from the bent bow, and from the distress of war.

“For thus the LORD has said to me: ‘Within a year, according to the year of a hired man, all the glory of Kedar will fail; and the remainder of the number of archers, the mighty men of the people of Kedar, will be diminished; for the LORD God of Israel has spoken it’ (Isa.21:13-17).

This is a prophecy against Arabia, including Saudi Arabia, and the people of the Arab world. Within a year, war will come in the Middle East, and upon Arabia, and their military will be diminished. Could this not mean that when Ephraim’s power is shaken and shattered, that Arabia also – our so-called Arab “allies” – will fall, and be overthrown, by spreading war and alien forces – perhaps the Shiite Muslims overthrowing the Sunni governments, and those allied with Iran, including Iraq which has a Shiite government, will “diminish” the power of the Arab gulf states, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, etc.?

The world is approaching the edge of the abyss.

* * *

“The writing is on the wall, not much time left, yet all the people are still sleeping except some

brethren from UCG, LCG, WCG and prisoners are seeking the truth. Hopefully more will come out before it is toooo late.

“You are the only one who is calling a Spade a Spade, no compromising, and that is GOD’S WORD.

“At times Satan might try to send one or two of his minions to trouble you with his false knowledge and truth. Don’t get stressed up, just laugh at them, let them bang their head against the wall. Keep on doing the good work and enjoy doing it. Enclosed is my 2011 tithe.

“God bless you, Cappy, and all my Brethren who are with you every Sabbath meeting.”

-- New Zealand

“Just a short note to you – to thank you for the wisdom you have handed down to us over the past years. . . .

“Nelson Mandela and his followers have brought this country to a complete banana republic. The thieving, corruption, rapes and murders is completely out of control. Police Chief Jackie Selibi found guilty of corruption – sentenced to 15 years in jail, and now will serve his time in a jail hospital (he is now dying?) getting television, 3 meals a day, and probably a cell phone and computer. It is a complete joke.

“Our president Jacob Zuma was involved in massive military corruption deals – but has never been brought to book. He has +/- six houses, 2 flats in Berea Johannesburg, on which he has never paid \$120,000 rates and taxes!!!

“We have lost count of the wives and children he has got – for which the South African tax payer must cough up to keep them all in the lap of luxury.

“I can go on and on – all we can pray for is that the great God and Yeshua sorts them all out – but with Israel so far in the darkness – it seems like this will not happen! He is sorting Israel out through this black government that is in power.”

-- South Africa

“I have a question: because we all use that pagan Gregorian calendar, is it really possible to determine the actual times, for certain events? for example, the year 2017 sounds good to me, but suppose this year is the year 2012 that Israel

is force to divide Jerusalem and Israel gets a new third temple, then according to Daniel's 70 Weeks THE DAY OF THE LORD would be in the year of 2019. What do you think? By the way, Ezekiel 1: 1-2 does provide the year 2019 for a Sabbatical year.

I am convinced that you are right about that evil person, president abomination who is persona non grata will get back into office once again, at the detriment of the U S A. If Congressman Ron Paul runs as an independent candidate, he will take many votes away from the Republican candidates.

If the Republicans win, then I believe that the labor unions will go belly up, on the other hand, if the democRATS win then the Israelite nations will go belly up.

A chapter a day keeps the devil away. Thank you for your work of joy.”

-- Israel

COMMENT: The last PF had an article showing that God may be adding 15 years to the end-time generation based on Isaiah 38 and Hezekiah's 15-year extension of time. Counting from Ussher's creation date, and the transgression of Adam and Eve was 7 years after Creation according to the book of Jubilees -- so the 6000 years from 4004 B.C. + 15 years = 2012, and 6000 years from 3997 B.C. would end in 2004 + 15 = 2019. Very interesting, indeed.

Even though Ezek.1:1-2 may show 2019 is a Sabbatical year, it is not a Jubilee year. Interesting, though. The Chumash says that Ezekiel's vision occurred in the 30th year of the 50 year Jubilee cycle and was the fifth year of king Jehoiachin's exile to Babylon. Ussher's chronology puts Jehoiachin's 5th year of exile as 598 B.C., Beecher's chronology as 597 B.C. Jehoiachin's 5th year would have been 592 or 593 B.C. The Jubilee then would have been 572 or 573 B.C. According to my math, the next Jubilee year based on this count would then be 2028 or 2029 A.D., Then 2027 or 2028 would be a Sabbatical year, and so would 2019 or 2020. Interesting, yes, it is. Thank you for the tip.

* * *

“

“After reading your articles, were you ordained in the WCG [Worldwide Church of God] as a minister? We have read your many previous

articles in WCG but we came in 1975.”

-- Email

COMMENT: I was a member of the Worldwide Church of God from 1958 till 1987, or thirty years, when they decided to disfellowship me one year to the very date after the death of Herbert W. Armstrong. Joseph Tkach had consolidated his power by then and I became “history,” but a thorn in their flesh from that time on as I began Triumph Prophetic Ministries (Church of God) at that time.

I graduated from Ambassador College in spring of 1963 and labored as a “minister” in the Letter Answering Department for years, as I also began writing many articles in the *Plain Truth*, *Good News*, and *Tomorrow's World* magazines, and lessons for the *Bible Correspondence Course*. I worked as an assistant to Pastor Dennis Luker in the San Francisco Bay Area for six months.

However, I was never “ordained” in the sense of having human hands laid on me by human ministers, and I say, today—THANK GOD! It seems to me that every single minister in that church, ordained by men, was compromised, and thereby placed themselves under HUMAN authority, including that of grievously wicked men, such as the adulterous Garner Ted Armstrong, and his despotic father, Herbert W. Armstrong, who also had sexual liaisons and relationships outside of marriage, including an incestuous relationship with one of his own daughters. Those men ordained by them seemed to all become servants of men, men-pleasers, and tried to “politic” their way to success. They became what Christ Himself referred to as a “hireling.” He spoke of many of them when He said, “But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep” (John 10:12-13).

For more information and proof about these matters, write for our free articles, “How Are the Mighty Fallen!”, “Back to Babylon,” “Joseph W. Tkach – Apostle or Apostate,” “A Spiritual Odyssey – My Personal Story,” and “Timeline of My Life and Ministry.”

* * *

“Thank you for the recent material you have sent. Your material helps me to keep an open mind and focused. It is most difficult during

these hard times to find anyone who is willing to stand firmly on the Word of God. Today’s Christianity has become self fulfilled prophecy for the benefit of the prophet (false) at the expense of the deceived. The doctrine of Balaam is alive and well today but to those whom our Creator haws opened their eyes and unstopped their ears and turned from their unwillingness to actively do all the word at all cost and diligently searched for God with all their heart your material is a blessing. May our Creator pay you all a double portion for this good you do and may His Kingdom come.”

-- Texas

“What can I say! How can I repay you for all you have done to help me through the years of my incarceration!! Thank you!! But that just does not seem to be enough; but still, Thank you!! . . .

“Upon my release and as Yahweh provides, I will send you my new address and prayerfully a donation, so that I may continue to receive your publications.

“Please know that yours was one of the first, if not the first that I was led to, followed by Hebrew Roots, so that I may learn to be observant to Scripture and its Festivals and Sabbaths!!

“Your Work was and is eye-opening to those that it is meant to help. Many are called but few are chosen. Your Work is for those that are meant to be chosen, only if we are willing to be guided!!

“Please keep up the good work!! Thank you!! Peace and blessings!!”

-- Texas

“Thank you for the Bible Study on Dec.14, the one on Zech.4 plus for the understanding of what candlestick, oil, bowls, messengers and the love that Christ has for His Church (and God the Father).

“It is not easy for this frail human body of mine to do as the Spirit says in Isaiah 11:2 and as in the New Testament (Fruits of the Spirit [Gal.5:22-23]).

“As the man last Sabbath talked to you about the unpardonable sin, he sounded like he was very troubled. I sometimes get troubled, fighting things in this life.

“Not working much these days. May have to do something drastic soon—become trailer trash or something.

“I pray every day that God will send His Son back, that the hell that is coming will come and go quickly with speed, as one verse says, that God’s Kingdom will come and men will finally learn the way of peace.

“I’m dealing with Jury summons now (Court of LA) says religion is no excuse. I’ve heard stories of what they tell old people—‘so what’ is what they say. Horrible stories. Two women are the big shots. God calls these people tyrants. I may have to get rid of phones – can’t afford. Time will tell.”

-- California

“When I got home from the hospital, I came down with pneumonia and lost my voice, so I could not talk for about two weeks. Can you imagine that I could not talk about 2 weeks? I then began to mend and get back on my feet but had numbness on my neck and face on the right side. I was told that I had a partially blocked carotid artery and needed that worked on. Thanks to Cappy, I had some of the heart drops that she told me about and was told to start taking them right away and they would remove the artery restrictions. I started them right away and the numbness is about gone and the doctor said whatever I am doing to keep on. I sure appreciated everything that you have done for me.

“I have not paid much attention to world conditions lately but it sure looks like something is going to happen around the first week of March.

“It looks like the powers to be are going to finish off the dollar this year which allows for the new world currency.

“I also heard that Pope Ratzinger might step down around the first of March. So many things are on the front burner. It looks to me like things are really speeding up in these last days.”

-- Charles Rearick, Ohio

“Not sure what that guy’s problem was but you were right to cut him down to size with your comment. He wasn’t showing good form. Randy from Canada did the right thing with calming comments.

“Relax, there is really nowhere else to go for the complete truth. Have tried Catholics, global, living , Messianics and would be surprised if God had someone hiding on a mountain who can preach like you can. You may find helpers, but you are the man, so lose a little weight and keep going!”

-- Canada

“I recently started sending you my tithes. I read in one of your articles that the tithe can be based on net income (after taxes but presumably before other deductions like medical insurance, etc). To be on the safe side I’ve been sending you approximately 11% of my post-tax income. (I have extra taken out on the federal and state level, but you are welcome to a tithe of whatever refund I receive.) If that’s more than required, then consider the little bit of extra a free-will offering.

“With that in mind:

1.) I’ve been making the checks out directly to you. Is that okay, or should I be making them out to Triumph Prophetic Ministries instead?

“2.) Are my tithes to you tax deductible? (No offense intended, just a fair question. I’ll be working on my 2011 taxes soon and I have a couple of small charitable donations. My tithes to you and the Work began in 2012. I am not tithing for a mere tax deduction, but if there is a deduction to be had, I will not turn it down.)

“Thanks for the help! Your prayers, as well as the prayers of many around me, helped me get through these past few months. I was the man who called Mrs. Dankenbring one Sabbath in early October to tell her about my car accident and my mother’s impending death from cancer. She passed away the night of October 17, 2011, about eleven pm. I have since recovered from both the accident (except for two permanently damaged fingers on my left hand -- a graphic reminder to watch my left turns!) and a painful urinary tract infection for which you sent me a prayer cloth. (Regarding the UTI: ‘razorblades and lit matches’ was how I described the feeling to Mrs. D. I lost several days of work and many hours of sleep before both prayer and medical science gave me relief, just in time to celebrate Thanksgiving with my family.)

“I remember you telling us a few years ago about

a certain prayer cited in the Old Testament by a man who asked God to prosper him chiefly so that he could do great works in God's name. I prayed to God to make me prosper just enough to be able to afford tithing this year, and hopefully make me even more prosperous afterward. An unheard of (where I work, at least) raise of one dollar and ten cents per hour convinced me God had heard that prayer and took me at my word. Oddly enough, I've heard of people tithing to their own churches -- usually Protestant or Mormon -- and being unusually blessed by God. I recall Herbert Armstrong mentioning on 'The World Tomorrow' that John D. Rockefeller (for all his many faults) was a tithe payer, for example. If this is true, it may be a sign that God actually DOES reward people for doing the right thing even if they are otherwise "in the dark" about the true nature of God and what God has planned. If so, then God is far more generous and forgiving than many may suspect.

"One last note before I close: a few weeks after I started back to work, I was walking to my morning bus and began to feel sad and anxious. Out of the blue, a neighbor from down the block whom I have known since we were both five years old drove up the street in his truck. He, too, has gone through his share of hard times, and I was surprised to find that he was very philosophical about it. When I told him that the words 'the Lord will provide' kept coming to me, he said something like that was God wanting me to have abundance. Was his driving past right when I needed such encouragement a mere coincidence? Is there really any such thing as a coincidence in a universe whose Ruler can account for each hair upon everyone's heads?"

-- Pennsylvania

COMMENT: Donations may be made out to this Work of God by addressing them to either William F. Dankenbring or Triumph Prophetic Ministries. Either one will do. The tithe is calculated on net income, after mandatory taxes, which are not considered as "increase" but a logical deduction from the increase.

* * *

"We have had another family trial, but God once again has delivered us. Indeed, great is God's mercy and faithfulness. The biggest lesson I have learned the past few years, and something we all need to learn, is to use God's past deliverances and mighty works to encourage us

in faith that He will once again deliver us from our current trials. This is one of the grassroots in Christian living. In Psalm 77 it talks about feeling like the Lord has forgotten us and thinking that He has cast us off forever (vs.7-9). But in verses 10-12 it tells us what to do when doubting God (to remember the Lord's works and wonders of old).

"Again, in I Samuel 17:33-37, David uses past times when God delivered him from bears and lions when he was keeping his father's sheep to press forward to fight Goliath knowing that God would deliver him from the hand of this Philistine too. Or we can be like the children of Israel when they came out of Egypt. Whenever they faced trials in the wilderness or conquering the promised land, etc., they remembered not the Lord's hand in delivering them from past enemies (Psalm 78:42). This whole chapter tells about Israel's lack of obedience and faith.

"Again in Psalm 106:21, they forgot God their Saviour, who had done great things in Egypt. This attitude showed a complete lack of faith (which itself is sin – Romans 14:23), but it also leads to a great sense of hopelessness. If one can't depend on God, who can they depend on? If one will not be encouraged by God's great works, what will encourage them?

"There are many trials coming in these last days, all we really have in the end is God's mercy which endureth forever (Psalm 118-119). Amen! In the times ahead in this evil world we really need to hold fast to God's Word and remember His great works of Redemption in our own personal lives, as well as what He has done for all His people."

-- Arkansas

"I have been one of your avid learners for 11 years while I server my dues in Texas prison. I still remember the first two articles I read back then that lead on a path of true knowledge, Mark of the Beast & the one about the food laws. Ever since I read those articles I have held strongly to your teachings because I haven't found any error. Now thankfully I can easily follow your teachings through this new to me media, the internet. . . .

"I thank Hashem often for the blessing of having my eyes opened, (and for my new found freedom too). Soon, I will be able to do my dues by giving support to your ministry so that my

brothers left behind in prison can continue to receive training towards holiness.”

-- North Carolina

“We certainly agree with what you teach regarding tithing, and it's obvious to me that others (particularly former HWA followers), need to really and truly understand and practice biblical ‘forgiveness,’ and learn *how* to forgive and not allow their past losses (financially or otherwise), to cloud the truth about tithing and giving, which robs them from *financial and spiritual* blessings, *which are only obtained* through Godly love and obedience.

“I listened with earnest attention to the brother who was discussing your tithing message and who had some simple questions . . . I don't know the man personally, but it sounded (to us anyway), that he had asked some honest, legitimate questions regarding the subject, and then I sensed that the conversation began to spiral downwards, when he asked you why you spent another 10 years in the WWCG Herod temple. . . .”

-- Canada

ANSWER: A lot of water has gone under the bridge since I was a member in the Worldwide Church of God from 1956 to 1987. That was a story in itself. The person in question said there is much confusion among people about tithing, and to whom tithes should be paid. Yes, there is much confusion. Hundreds of groups have sprung up out of the flotsam and jetsam of the debris left in the wake of the once formidable Worldwide Church of God, and people are confused as to who is preaching the truth, today.

However, this man's question evolved from to whom should tithes be paid to why did I, personally, remain in the Worldwide Church of God ten years after the time when serious problems began to surface in that church. It was an oblique attack on me, personally, insinuating that I should have left the church when the problems began to surface.

The truth is not so simple. The problems did not pop up all at once, nor was the situation clear at all. The truth is that some changes were made in church doctrines, ministers took sides, and the immorality of Garner Ted Armstrong became a major issue among the ministry. Herbert Armstrong did his best to keep the church

together, but a hundred ministers or so left the church to begin an “Association” of churches of God. One man left on his own basically over the change in what day to celebrate Pentecost on.

Where was I in all this mess? Like many, I was upset – angry – even furious. What should I do? Despite the problems in the church, I saw confusion everywhere, and rebellion, and all kinds of new doctrines popping up. So I determined to remain in the church where I had learned the truth about so much, and to pray and let God sort it all out, according to His timetable and will. In essence, when king Saul began to go astray, who was the Lord's anointed, David did not rebel against him, but waited till God intervened and removed him from office – even though David also had been anointed by Samuel the prophet.

So I decided after much prayer and deliberation, to remain faithful to God, and to stay in the church, until it was clear what God would have me do. At that time I had already been removed from working for the church, no longer writing articles, due to administrative decisions and personality issues. Upheaval was everywhere. But at that time I began publishing BOOKS which maintained the TRUTH that I had been taught and the TRUTH of God's Word, as a personal “ministry,” and the church basically ignored it, as it continued to founder, strive, and grow in political and spiritual strife, with factions seeking to take over when Herbert Armstrong died.

Do not judge superficially, but judge righteous judgment (John 7:24).

I was very frustrated in the Worldwide Church of God in 1974. Many evil things were coming to light, and I was deeply concerned about them. Scores of ministers left the church, to begin their own churches – which led to division and chaos and they all failed. Raymond Cole started his own church, but it refused to repent of false doctrine and was a very self-righteous and authoritarian organization. I, personally, saw nowhere to go that had more truth than Worldwide at the time, so I stayed in the church, though no longer writing or working for it, and looked to GOD to intervene and either correct the church leadership, or show me His will in the matter. I no longer supported the church, for I felt it was going astray, and had become Laodicean. But I tried to work “with” it in that

although I remained a member, I began an independent publishing work to keep alive and proclaim the TRUTH of God, via Triumph Publishing Company, which God began through me. I wrote nine books over the next 13 years, including *Keys to Radiant Health*, *The First Genesis*, *The Last Days*, *Children's Creation Book*, *Beyond Star Wars*, *Last Days of Planet Earth*, *Overcoming Satan*, *Escape from Armageddon*, and *Satan's Fate*. During that time I also published *Faith and Doctrines of the Early Church*, *Ascent to Greatness*, a book written by evangelist Raymond F. McNair, as well as *Health Secrets from the Bible*, and *Ultimate Source of Supernatural Phenomena*. I was not idle, and I did not let the truth die out. The Church went astray, but I held fast to the truth, and gave people an anchor to hold onto.

The Church, under apostatizing leadership, kept going astray, and much infighting and political maneuvering took place, until Herbert Armstrong died, and then the apostasy struck full force like a hurricane. In 1987, when Joseph Tkach had taken over the church, I was summarily put out of the church, and accused of "heresy." At that time I began Triumph Prophetic Ministries (Church of God). You can read the whole story of the beginning of this Work of God in "A Spiritual Odyssey – My Personal Story," "TimeLine of My Life and Ministry," and the story of the decline and fall of the Worldwide Church of God and its offshoots in "How Have the Mighty Fallen!," "Back to Babylon," "End-Time Apostasy," and other articles available for free (see article list).

There are people today who wish to attack this ministry, and me, personally, out of jealousy, anger, hatred of God's truth, and for various reasons, in an attempt to confuse people, destroy their faith, and destroy God's Work. But they cannot and will not succeed! Jesus Christ declared, "I will build My Church, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it" (Matt.16:18).

We must beware of people who attempt to deviously sabotage our faith and obedience. There are those who presently wander in the wasteland of religious confusion and perilous darkness. Their attitude has been revealed in their actions, accusing me behind my back, seeking to turn people away -- so they imply sinister motives and make excuses as to why they do not tithe. They stand condemned because of their evil works. I call such people

"alligators" – creatures who lurk underwater, waiting for a poor gazelle, sheep, or wildebeest to attempt to cross the river, and then plunge after them in a savage attack, dragging them down underwater in their terrible jaws, to drown them, and devour them.

Christ said, "Blessed is he who is not offended in Me" (Luke 7:23). Many took offense at things He said, and went away (John 6:60-61, 66). Many were offended at the things He said about (and to) the Pharisees – when He said strongly, "Woe to you," "snakes," "hypocrites," "fools," "blind", etc. (Matt.23:13-33). Many people left Christ because of His words, which they took the wrong way (John 6:60-61, 66). Christ surely said, "Blessed is he [the one] who is not offended in Me" [by misinterpreting what He said, or did, or taught]. Many, it seems took it upon themselves and thought it was their duty to "judge Christ."

Really, when we stop and meditate on it, people should not judge me, or anybody else, or assume things not proven, or in evidence -- or judge by "surface impressions." Like the blind man trying to describe an elephant, who only got to touch his trunk, and said, "The elephant is like a hose!" Rather, we need to get ALL the facts before rendering "judgment" or criticism. God hates critics, complainers, those who are quick to judge and find fault, no matter how "appearances" look.

Remember what God told Samuel: "For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart" (I Sam.16:7).

In other words, God commands each one of us, "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good" (I Thess.5:21). He commands us, "Study and be eager and do your utmost to present yourself to God approved (tested by trial), a workman who has no cause to be ashamed, correctly analyzing and accurately dividing [rightly handling and skillfully teaching] the Word of Truth" (II Tim.2:15, Amplified).

The subject of "tithing" is clear in the Scriptures. One should tithe to God. Then it behooves the individual to PROVE TO HIMSELF WHERE GOD IS REALLY WORKING, and WHO IS TEACHING GOD'S WORD IN TRUTH! This is, of course, a very personal matter.

A Personal Message from William F. Dankenbring on the 25th anniversary of Triumph Prophetic Ministries—

FORGET THE *PAST* – It’s Time to *Move Forward!*

I was a prolific writer for the *Plain Truth*, *Good News*, *Tomorrow’s Word*, and other church publications of the Worldwide Church of God from 1963 to 1974 and a well-known church member till 1987 when Joseph Tkach had me thrust out of the church accusing me of teaching heresy and being a false teacher, even though my books had been read and enjoyed by thousands in the church from 1975-1987, and never disapproved by Herbert Armstrong or the ministry during that time.

I am now the director and leader of Triumph Prophetic Ministries, publish *Prophecy Flash* magazine, books, articles, and booklets, and continue striving to serve God and recapture the true values and the “faith once delivered” to the saints, to the best of my ability. 2012 marks the 25th anniversary of Triumph Prophetic Ministries.

Years ago Herbert W. Armstrong said the PROOF that a Church or individual is truly following God is their willingness to admit error when they are shown to be wrong. False churches, he stated, are unwilling to change doctrinal errors which have been believed and accepted for years. He himself several times during his ministry spanning fifty years, had to “eat crow,” and admit it when he was proven wrong. He did so, even when others opposed him. I am not his judge, but there were times when he sincerely repented of error in teaching, and changed.

Today we live in a “NEW ERA” – the post-Armstrong era of the end-time Church of God. Both Herbert and Garner Ted Armstrong, with their problems and contretemps, are gone. Now hundreds of scattered churches have sprung up like dandelions in their place. Most of them choose to follow in Herbert Armstrong’s steps, right or wrong. They refuse to admit he could be wrong, or left any errors behind. They have stopped “proving all things.”

Yet Mr. Armstrong himself never claimed to have been infallible – when he was alive, he confessed errors and changed when he saw he had been wrong. Only the Pope claims to be “infallible”!

With the passing of the Armstrongs, it behooves God’s people as never before to “Ponder the paths of your feet” (Prov.4:26) and “prove all things” (I Thess.5:21) – lest they be led astray by end-time false prophets, phony ministers, “hirelings,” and men who claim to follow Herbert Armstrong, but all fight and wrangle and devour each other. Some invoke the “Armstrong mystic” and image. Herbert Armstrong did blaze new trails in theology, and was a true “pioneer” in many respects. But he didn’t have everything right—yet he was willing to admit he could be wrong, and to SEARCH OUT things

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which he previously assumed to be true, and to REPENT and CHANGE when he saw he had been wrong!

What about you, personally? Are you willing to investigate further, to search the Scriptures, like the Bereans (Acts 17:11), or do you just accept whatever you are told by your local church or minister, or because Herbert Armstrong taught it years ago?

I challenge **YOU** – yes, *you personally* – to take stock of your faith and beliefs – and re-examine things you “thought” you proved and accepted years or decades ago – and CHECK UP and PROVE when and how Passover should really be observed! Check up and PROVE how we should count Pentecost and when we should observe it! If you are presently right, then what do you have to lose? But if you are wrong, don’t you want to KNOW about it? Why not take the time to MAKE SURE of your faith, your beliefs, and DOUBLE-CHECK the teachings you accepted years ago? God Himself declares, “Be *diligent* to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, *rightly dividing the word of truth*” (II Tim.2:15). Salvation and truth are too important to “merely assume” you are right, and take it for granted! So here’s what I want you to do:

► Write for the FREE latest issue of Prophecy Flash on “Finally – the Honest Answer on the Passover!” What have you got to lose? What if you have unwittingly been taught error? Did the Jews really unwittingly lose track of time, change Passover?

► Write for our FREE article on Pentecost – the Final Answer!” and “How Should We Count Pentecost?” Did you know Herbert Armstrong first observed Pentecost on the day the Jews do, then changed it in 1937-38 to a Monday, and then in 1974 moved it to Sunday? What is the truth? Is it time to come “full circle” and see WHY the Jews keep Pentecost on the day they do?

► Write for our FREE booklet “A New Look at God’s TRUE Calendar.” Study and see what the original calendar was according to the Word of God. Has the calendar been changed? Who changed it, and by what authority, and why? Isn’t it time we get back to and “contend earnestly for the faith which was ONCE FOR ALL delivered to the saints” (Jude 3)?

Fifty five years ago, I responded to Herbert Armstrong’s challenge to “blow the dust off your Bible, and PROVE whether what I am saying to you is true!” What about you? Will you “blow the dust” off your Bible, and humbly, meekly, earnestly seek God’s truth and prove it, asking God in humble prayer to show you if you have been wrong, mistaken, or misled? I DARE YOU TO TAKE THE CHALLENGE!