## FIGHTING THE BATTLES OF THE LORD

Greetings! This coming week will be the time for sighting for new moon and we will be entering the month of Elul. Elul is the last month of the civil year and dedicated (set aside) as a time for repentance (*teshuvah* —returning to God)—in preparation for the following month of Tishri. Tishri is the seventh month and the *fall holy days* beginning with **Rosh Hashanah** (Trumpets/Yom Terruah) followed by **Yom Kippur** (Atonement), *Sukkot* (feast of Tabernacles) and **Shmini Atzeret** (Last Great Day).

We are getting close to the fall holy days. A few months ago the fall holy days seemed a long time away in the future. Passover (Pesach) came then we counted the Omer for 50 days to Pentecost and it was gone. Now we have passed the *dire straits* from Tammuz 17<sup>th</sup> to Av 9<sup>th</sup> a time when tragedies came upon the children of Israel in both ancient and modern times. Now we are approaching the fall holy day season!

Looking at society, the world around us and its problems today amid the hypocrisy, lying, and deception it appears to me that we are definitely living in the "end-times" described in the Bible. Some men in the past have set dates that Christ would appear. These are a few of those men –*Wm. Miller-1844*, *Herbert Armstrong-1932*, 1936, 1943 and 1975; *Jehovah's Witnesses-1914*, *Archbishop James Ussher-1997* [the end of 6000 years since Creation] and Nostradamus -1999, but the dates have come and gone like another shadow in the night and we are now at the year 2013.

**Revelation** speaks of the coming Great Tribulation and the danger of oblivion and the "bottomless pit" (KJV) or the "abyss". I am glad to see that many believing evangelical Christians and Messianic Jews are striving to understand the Bible/Torah and the days in which we are living. God knows what we all need, where we are in our real understanding of His word and commandments and how much we are changing and growing in grace and knowledge and becoming (putting on) Jesus Christ our Messiah. Sometimes, I think that many of us are not nearly as close (advanced) in this as we think we are.

We all have this human nature and a heart of flesh. We are born with this carnal mind which is enmity against God and his law—by our *nature* we are hostile to authority. That includes everybody. As we grow and develop in this society, we really <u>have to fight against this nature</u> in order to bring it into submission to God and obedience to him. In our pride of life, we may <u>unwisely</u> compare ourselves with others and think ourselves better equipped with knowledge, wisdom and understanding even though we may not be as superior or have as much as we think. **Proverbs 16:18**—'**Pride goes before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall**."

Romans 12:1-2—"In view of God's mercy, present (offer) your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing (acceptable) to God, which is your reasonable service (act of worship). Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." Romans 12:3-6—Paul said, "Let every man not think more highly of himself than he ought to think. But think of yourself with sober judgment, as God had dealt to each one a measure of faith. Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so we who are many form one body in Christ, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts according to the grace given us." Yielding to God is a process by fervently seeking him for more of His Spirit by searching and studying his word daily, memorizing the scriptures (hiding them in your heart), pray over his words and instructions that you may be transformed (really

changed) in spirit. Our heart and mind (ability to think) and a mouth (to praise God and bless others) are gifts from God and for us to use for him as we are given in proportion to our faith with mercy and cheerfulness—not begrudgingly and without hypocrisy. "Abhor evil; cling to what is good! Be kindly affectionate to each other with brotherly love, giving honor and preference to one another. Be not wise in your own conceit. Keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord." "Verse 16—"Do not be proud, (set your mind on high things), but be willing to associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion."

Some years ago I announced to people we were planning a summer tour to Israel which was not at the time of the Feast of Tabernacles. Many had expressed interest in going to Israel, yet not many signed up. I discovered that if we were going to go as a group, it would have to be at a feast time when people would be able to use their second tithe to cover the expense. So I cancelled the plan. A friend said to me, he was asked the question by a man who had been involved helping with my proposed tour plan, "Have you ever gotten "cross-hatched" (at odds) with Mr. Dankenbring?" This man had counted on going, but it just didn't work out despite the efforts made in planning that tour.

A letter arrived this week from a person who is apparently diligently studying and learning about keeping the true Passover. He had learned the wrong day and manner in which it is to be observed. In one of the articles, I ask the question "Does God like it when Passover is called by the wrong name?" Can the Lord's Supper be called the Passover? Upon reading this, an "ah-ha" moment connected his thought to write to me and ask, well, what about the "name" of God. "How does God feel if we don't call him by the right name? Have you checked into the sacred of God? "People get bent out of shape regarding the name of God and every so often, I receive a letter asking "Why don't you use the Hebrew holy name YHVH instead of God, Jesus Christ or other substitutes." In my booklet, New Insight into the Sacred Names of God, the transliteration of the name by the Greek scribes like Origen (Hexapla) shows that the nearest correct pronunciation of YHVH is Yaveh. God has many names and titles which I use. A person with one surname can have many given names and titles. For instance, William my given name could be shortened to being Willie/Will. My Dad called me Billy. As an adult, I am called Bill, William or Mr. Dankenbring.

An email sent to me this week questioned the reasoning on Sabbath-keeping. **Nehemiah 10:31**(KJV)—if the people of the land bring ware or any victuals on the Sabbath day to sell, that we would not buy it of them on the Sabbath, or on the holy day. **Nehemiah 13:15-17**—"I saw in Judah some treading winepresses on the Sabbath, and bringing in sheaves, and lading asses; as also wine, grapes, and figs and all manner of burdens, which they brought into Jerusalem on the Sabbath day; and I testified against them in the day wherein they sold victuals. Men of Tyre also lived there, which brought fish, and all manner of ware, and sold on the Sabbath to the children of Judah in Jerusalem. I contended with the nobles of Judah, and said to them, 'What evil thing is this that you do, and profane the Sabbath day'?"

Versed 18-21—'Did not your fathers thus, and did not our God bring all this evil upon us, and upon this city? Yet you bring more wrath upon Israel by profaning the Sabbath.' It came to pass that when the gates of Jerusalem began to be dark before the Sabbath, I commanded the gates be shut, and not be opened till after the Sabbath. I set some of my servants at the gate that there should be no burden brought in on the Sabbath day. So the merchants and sellers of all kinds of merchandize lodged without Jerusalem came no more on the Sabbath." Verse 22—"And I commanded the Levites that they should cleanse themselves, and that they should come and keep the gates, to sanctify the Sabbath day. Remember me, O my God, concerning this also, and spare me according to the greatness of your mercy." The point of the letter was that today sometimes people eat out on the Sabbath day causing others to work on the Sabbath, thus breaking the law of God.

**Matthew 12:1**—"At that time Jesus went on the Sabbath day though the corn and his disciples were hungry and began to pluck the ears of ears of corn and began to eat. When the Pharisees saw this, they

said, unto him, 'Your disciples do that which is not lawful to do on the Sabbath day (breaking the Sabbath).' But, he said to them, 'Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, and those who were with him: how he entered the house of God and ate the showbread which was not lawful for him to eat, nor for those who were with him, but only for the priests? Or have you not read in the law that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath, and are blameless? Yet I say to you that in this place there is One greater than the temple. But if you have known what this means, "I will have mercy and not sacrifice" you would not have condemned the guiltless. For 'the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath'."

Let's really understand about the using the name of God and keeping the Sabbath and quit condemning the guiltless. The Bible has been translated into our English language so that we can read and understand in the language that we speak as a nation. If I were Hebrew and reading the Hebrew Bible or the Torah in Hebrew, then I would use the Hebrew language. Each nation reads and speaks in their native tongue. Babel is where and when God changed the universal language of people into the different languages now spoken. In English we say God or Lord and in Hebrew we say YHVH (Yahveh).

Mark 2:24—Mark gives the same account of Jesus and his disciples going through the corn fields on the Sabbath day and picking ears of corn to eat and the Pharisees' questioning Christ about their unlawful action of harvesting grain on the Sabbath. Verses 25-27—"Jesus said to them, have you not read what David did was hungry and entered the house of God in the days of Abiathar the high priest and ate the consecrated bread, lawful *only for priests to eat*. And he also gave some to his companions. The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. So the Son of Man's Lord even of the Sabbath." He did not create the Sabbath to be a yoke of bondage or to be a burden. It is to be a blessing for man. The merchants coming into the city to sell their wares on the Sabbath day were wrong. However, there was a need for inns that were set up to provide lodging and food (today called hotels/motels/restaurants) for travelers. We do what we can in advance preparation at home for Sabbath. When on a trip and hungry, it is better to eat than go hungry. The Pharisees interpreted the disciples' action as an infringement upon the law.

**Luke 9:62**—Jesus called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases and he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick. Jesus steadfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem when his time was come that he should be received up. He sent messengers before his face and they went. He said to one man, "Follow me." But the man said, "Lord, first suffer me first to go and bury my father." Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their dead: but go you and preach the kingdom of God." Another also said, Lord, "I will follow you; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house." Jesus said to him, "No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." He sent another seventy also, two and two before his face into every city and place where he himself would come. He said to them, "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray you therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into this harvest. Go your ways: I send you forth as lambs among wolves." To follow and serve God, we have to be willing to break with the past—leave the past behind and focus on what is ahead (the future). We have to be faithful to our calling and go forward, putting God and his kingdom first.

We have wonderful people working with our Website and there are various duties and assignments in getting the gospel out. On occasion we run into minor issues and conflicts of opinions or personality that have to be solved, but there has to be someone in charge and authority. This particular work God has given me to do, so I am the one in authority here at Triumph Ministries and make the decisions related to writing, publishing and production of the Prophecy Flash magazine, letter answering, the tapes, DVD's and CD's in getting out the gospel. This responsibility also extends to the live, weekly Sabbath telephone conferences. Each person is important and very much appreciated.

At one point, many years ago now, the person that was in charge of set-up and maintaining our original TPM website decided that I was wrong on some issues such as Noah's flood. He said it did not cover the entire earth as God says it did. Then he began erroneously teaching a rotating weekly Sabbath based upon the new moon cycle which occurs every 29 ½ days. Because seven will not divide into 29 ½ equally, this would leave 1 ½ days left over every month. He said, Sabbath falls on a different day of the week each month. I had to ask him to leave. He also took my website with him and adapted it for his own use to suit his purpose using his name and teaching false doctrines. God is going to judge all men and their works.

Later there were people upset over my research into the calendar which came about because the question came up asking, "How can the Jewish calendar be right when they have all these postponements and traditions?" So I began to research into the Jewish calendar and found out that the original calendar in the days of Christ was based on the sighting of the new moon in Jerusalem, Israel. The Jewish calendar is a predicted mathematical-astronomical approximation created by Rabbi Hillel II in 358 A.D. using the 19 year time cycle. It is close but the calculations can be off a day or two during the months of the year. If certain **annual** holy days like *Yom Kippur* (a fast day) would occur on a Friday, the Jews postpone the year a whole day and start (the month) Tishri 1<sup>st</sup> a day later. If Yom Kippur falls on a Sunday, it is postponed until Monday. They alter the calendar so they can keep their tradition. **Matthew 15** and **Mark 7**—Christ says, "Woe to you Pharisees who change God's law to keep your traditions. In vain they worship me, teaching for doctrines the traditions of men."

People write me letters which have a mistaken idea of having a one on one relationship with God, and telling me I am wrong about the true calendar and should be keeping the Jewish calendar because the Jews have been given the oracles of God. **Romans 3:1-4** —Paul himself says the Jews were given the oracles of God. "What if, some did not believe? Shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect? God forbid: yes, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, that you might be justified in your sayings, and might overcome when you are judged."

One has to be careful about the "oracles of God." "Oracles" means the words (teachings) of God. The Jews were given the oracles, but then they began to ignore and change them by their traditions and adopting certain halacha (rules of interpretations) that began to do away with the actual commandments of God. This is why Christ said "you worship me in vain keeping the commandments of men, replacing the commandments of God with the tradition of men"—contrary to what God says. God is my heavenly Father and when I pray I call him Father. Take time to request and read the free booklet, *The Insight into the Sacred Names of God.* Prove things for yourself. Keeping the right annual holy days of God at the appointed time depends upon having the right calendar that is based on visual observation of the new moon in Israel. We now have the reports from Israel from the Karaite Korner observances of the new moon reports each month by computer. Even the Jews don't observe and report the new moons since the Roman captivity and Diaspora. People make a big issue and cut themselves off by failure to humble themselves and search the scriptures for the truth, and assuming error passed on by others for God's truth. The Jews may not change until the coming of Christ. We need to be about our Father's business with zeal to fulfill his will and keep his commandments.

**1 Samuel**, chapters 21-24 tell of David's escape into the desert from the extreme anger of Saul who planned to kill him. David wound up going to the land of the Philistines, to king Achish of Gath seeking refuge. The servants of Achish recognized David and said to king Achish. "Is this not David, the king of the land?" David heard him and was sore afraid and changed his behavior before them, and feigned himself mad in their hands and scrabbled on the doors of the gate. And he let his spittle fall down his beard (**1 Samuel 21:13-21**). King Achish said, "The man is mad. Why have you brought him to me? Have I need of mad men in my presence?"

David visited the priest, Ahimelech, who gave David five loaves of the showbread plus the spear of Goliath. A certain man of the servants of Saul was there that day, detained before the Lord; and his name was Doeg, the chiefest of the herdmen that belonged to Saul. Saul found out about the visit from Doeg, and had Ahimelech the priest and all in his father's house, that were in Nob come before him and Doeg, the Edomite, put to the sword 45 priests. Then he smote Nob, the city of the priests, with the edge of the sword, both men and women, children and sucklings, and oxen, and asses and sheep. One of the sons of Ahimelech named Abiathar escaped and fled after David.

When his brethren and all his father's house heard of it they went down to join him. All who were distressed and everyone that was in debt and everyone who was discontented gathered themselves to him in the wilderness and David became a captain over them: there were with him about 400 men. David went to Mizpeh and said to the king of Moab, "Let my father and my mother come to visit with you until I know what God will do for me. David brought them there and they dwelt with him all the while that David was in the strong hold."

1 Samuel 23:1—"David was told the Philistines fight against Keilah and they rob the threshing-floors. David inquired of the Lord, saying, 'Shall I go and smite these Philistines?' God said, Go, smite the Philistines and save Keilah. David and his men went to Keilah and fought the Philistines with a great slaughter and brought away their cattle and saved the inhabitants of Keilah." When Abiathar the son of Ahimelech fled to David to Keilah, he came down with an ephod in his hand. Saul heard David was in Keilah, (shut in by entering into a town that has gates and bars) and called all the people together to besiege David and his men. David heard Saul was coming and said to Abiathar the priest, bring the ephod. David inquired of God through Abiathar with the ephod, to tell him if Saul would come as he had heard, and if the men of Keilah would deliver David and his men into Saul's hand. The Lord told David, 'They will deliver you up'." David and his men (600) left Keilah, and so Saul refrained from going to Keilah.

David lived in a mountain in the wilderness of Ziph and Saul sought him every day, but God did not deliver David into his hand. While David was at Horesh in the Desert of Ziph, he learned that Saul had come out to take his life. Then Jonathan, Saul's son went to David in the woods and strengthened his hand in God. The two of them made a compact (covenant) before the Lord. Then Jonathan went home and David remained at Horesh. But the men of Ziph went to Saul in Gibeah and told Saul where David was hiding (verse 19). They said, "Now, O king, come down whenever it pleases you to do so, and we will be responsible for handing him over to you." Saul replied, "Blessed are you of the Lord, for you have compassion on me. Please go and find out for sure and see the place where his hideout is, and who has seen him there. For I am told he is very crafty. Find out about all the hiding places he uses and come back to me with definite information. Then I will go with you; if he is in the area, I will track him down among all the clans of Judah." So they set out and went to Ziph ahead of Saul. Meanwhile, David and his men had moved into the wilderness of Maon, in the plain on the south of Jeshimon. Saul and his men began the search, and when David was told about it, he went down into a rock and stayed in the Desert of Maon.

When Saul heard this, he pursued David on one side of the mountain and David and his men were on the other side of the mountain and David made haste to get away for fear of Saul. Just as Saul and his men were closing in on David and his men to capture them, a messenger came to Saul saying "Hurry and come, for the Philistines have invaded the land." Then Saul broke off the pursuit of David and went to meet the Philistines.

**1 Samuel 24:1-7** – After Saul returned from following the Philistines, he was told, "David is in the Desert of En Gedi." "Then Saul took three thousand chosen men from all Israel and set out to look for David and his men near the Crags of the Wild Goats. He came to the sheep pens along the road where there was a

cave, and Saul went in to relieve himself. David and his men remained in the sides of the cave. David's men whispered to him, 'This is the day the Lord spoke of when he said to you, *I will deliver your enemy into your hand that you may do to him as it seems good to you*. David crept up unnoticed and cut off a corner (the fringes) of Saul's robe. Afterward, David's heart troubled him (*was conscience-stricken*). He said to his men, "The Lord forbid that I should do such a thing to my master, the Lord's anointed, or lift my hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the Lord.' So David restrained his servants with *these* words and did not allow them to attack Saul. And Saul got up from the cave and went on his way."

Verses 8-15—"David also arose afterward and went out of the cave and called to Saul, saying, 'My lord the king!' And when Saul looked behind him, David stooped with his face to the earth, and bowed himself. He said to Saul, 'Why do you listen when men say, 'David seeks your harm?' This day you have seen with your own eyes how the Lord delivered you into my hand in the cave. Some urged me to kill you, but I spared you: I said, 'I will not stretch out my hand against my lord, for he is the Lord's anointed.' Moreover, my father, see the corner of your robe in my hand? For in that I cut off the corner of your robe, and did not kill you, know and see that there is neither evil nor transgression (rebellion) in my hand, and I have not sinned against you; yet you are hunting me down to take my life. Let the Lord judge between you and me, and let the Lord avenge me on you. But my hand shall not be against you. As the proverb of the ancients says, 'Wickedness proceeds from the wicked.' (*From evildoers come evil deeds*). Against whom has the king of Israel come out? Whom are you pursuing? A dead dog? A flea? May the Lord be our judge and decide between us. May he consider my cause and uphold it; may he vindicate me by delivering me from your hand."

**1 Samuel 24:16**—"When David finished saying this, Saul asked, 'Is that your voice, David my son?' And he wept aloud. 'You are more righteous than I. You have rewarded me with good, whereas I have rewarded you with evil. You have shown me this day how you have dealt well with me. For when the Lord delivered me into your hand, you did not kill me. For when a man finds his enemy, does he let him get away unharmed? May the Lord reward you well for the way you have done to me today. Now I know indeed that you shall surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in your hand.' So David swore to Saul and Saul went home, but David and his men went up to the stronghold." David swore to Saul that he would honor Saul's family and not take vengeance.

1 Samuel 25:1—"Now Samuel died and all Israel gathered together, mourned for him and buried him. Then David went down into the wilderness of Paran. There was a certain man in Maon, who had property there at Carmel, and was very wealthy. He had a thousand goats and three thousand sheep, which he was shearing in Carmel. His name was Nabal and his wife's name was Abigail. She was a woman of good understanding and of a beautiful countenance, but her husband was harsh and evil in his dealings. While Nabal's shepherds stayed among David and his men they were protected and nothing was ever stolen from them.

When David heard in the wilderness that Nabal was shearing his sheep, he sent ten young men and said to them, Go up to Nabal at Carmel and greet him in my name. Say to him who lives in prosperity, 'Peace be both to you, peace be to your house, and peace be unto all that you have! Now I hear that you have sheep-shearers. Your shepherds were with us, and we did them no harm, nor was there anything missing from them all the while they were in Carmel. Ask your young men and they will tell you. Therefore, be favorable toward my young men, for we come on a feast day. Please give whatever comes to your hand to your servants and to your son David. When David's young men arrived, they gave Nabal this message in David's name and waited. Nabal answered David's servants, 'Who is this fellow David. Who does this son of Jesse think he is? There are many servants breaking away from their masters these days. Why should I take my bread and water, and the meat I have slaughtered for my shearers, and give it to men

coming from who know where?' David's men turned around and went back. When they arrived, they reported every word. David said to his men, 'Put on your swords!' Everyman put on his sword and David also put on his sword. About four hundred men went up with David, while two hundred stayed with the supplies."

**1 Samuel 25:14-22**—"One of the servants told Nabal's wife Abigail: 'David sent messengers from the desert to greet our master who reviled (insulted) them. But the men were very good to us. We were not hurt, neither missed anything as long as we accompanied them when we were in the fields: night and day they were a wall around us all the time we were herding our sheep near them. Now, therefore consider and know what you will do, for harm (evil) is determined against our master, and against his whole household: for he is such a son of *Belial* (scoundrel/ title of a wicked person) that no one can speak to him'." "Abigail made haste (lost no time) and took two hundred loaves of bread, two skins of wine, five dressed sheep, five *seahs* (nearly a bushel) of roasted grain, one hundred clusters of raisins, and two hundred cakes of figs and loaded them on donkeys. Then she told her servants, 'Go on ahead, I will come after you.' But she did not tell her husband Nabal. So it was, as she rode on the donkey that she went down under cover of the hill; and there were David and his men (armed for battle), coming down toward her, and she met them. David had just said, 'surely in vain (it's been useless) I have protected all that this fellow has in the wilderness, so that nothing was missed of all that belongs to him. He has repaid me evil for good. May God do so, and more also, to the enemies of David, if I leave one male alive of all who belong to him by morning'."

**Verses 23-31**—"When Abigail saw David she quickly got off her donkey and bowed down before David with her face to the ground. She fell at his feet and said: 'My lord, let the blame be on me alone. Please let your maidservant speak to you; hear what your servant has to say. May my lord pay no attention to this man of *Belial*, Nabal; for as his name, so is he; Nabal is his name and folly (foolishness) is with him. But I, your maidservant, did not see the young men of my lord whom you sent. Now, as the Lord lives and as your soul lives, since the Lord YHVH has held you back from bloodshed and from avenging yourself with your own hand, now let your enemies and those that seek evil to my lord, be as Nabal (this fool). Now this blessing which your handmaid has brought to my lord, let it be given to the young men who follow my lord."

"Please forgive the trespass of your handmaid: for the Lord will certainly make my lord an enduring house; because my lord **fights the battles of the Lord** YHVH, and evil is not found in you throughout your days. Yet a man has risen to pursue you and seek your life, but the life of my lord shall be bound in the bundle of the living with the Lord your God; and the lives of your enemies He shall sling out, as from the pocket of a sling. And it shall come to pass, when the Lord has done for my lord according to all the good that He has spoken concerning you, and has appointed you ruler over Israel, that this will be no grief to you, nor offense of heart to my lord, either that you have shed blood without cause (needlessly), or that my lord has avenged himself. But when the Lord has dealt well with my lord, then remember your maidservant'."

Deuteronomy 32:35—"To me belongs vengeance, and recompense." Hebrews 10:30—"For we know whom who has said, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay' says the Lord." We are to wait on the Lord YHVH. We do not need to take vengeance on our enemies. We are to fight the battles of the Lord and do the work of God that he has put us here for. That is what we are doing—our Father's will. That is what this ministry is all about. We battle for the Lord daily. It is a battle and we are in an ongoing war spiritually speaking, and must stand against evil, and wickedness in high places; to proclaim the gospel of repentance and redemption of mankind through Christ who willingly shed his blood once for all mankind

and rose from the dead that we may have eternal life through him at his second coming (the end of days/time as we know it).

Theodore Roosevelt the 26<sup>th</sup> president of the United States gave an outstanding and resonating quote in his speech at the *Progressive Party Convention* in Chicago, Illinois, August 6, 1912. "We fight in honorable fashion for the good of mankind; fearless of the future, unheeding of our individual fates, with unflinching hearts and undimmed eyes; we stand at Armageddon, and we battle for the Lord."

**1 Samuel 15:32-35**—"After Abigail finished speaking, David said to Abigail, 'Blessed is the Lord God of Israel (Praise to the Lord), who sent you this day to meet me! And blessed is your advice and blessed are you because you have kept me this day from coming to bloodshed and from avenging myself with my own hand. For indeed, as the Lord God of Israel lives, who has kept me back from hurting you, unless you had hurried and come to meet me, surely by morning light no males would have been left to Nabal.' So David received from her hand what she had brought him, and said to her, 'Go up in peace to your house. See, I have heeded your voice and respected your person."

Verses 36-44—"When Abigail went to Nabal, he was in the house holding a banquet like that of a king. He was in high spirits and very drunk. So she told him nothing until daybreak. The in the morning, when Nabal was sober, his wife told him all these things, and his heart failed him and he became like a stone. About ten days later, the Lord struck Nabal and he died. When David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, "Blessed be (Praise) the Lord YHVH, who has pleaded the cause of my reproach from the hand of Nabal, and has kept His servant from evil! For the Lord has returned the wickedness of Nabal on his own head. Then David sent and communed with Abigail, to take her as his wife. David's servants went to Carmel and said to Abigail, 'David sent us to you to ask you to become his wife.' She bowed down with her facer to the ground and said, 'Here is your maidservant, ready to serve you and wash the feet of my mater's servants.' Abigail hasted and rode on a donkey, attended by five of her maidens; and she followed the messengers of David, and became his wife. David also took Ahinoam of Jezreel, and so both of them were his wives. But Saul had given Michal his daughter, David's wife, to Palti the son of Laish, who was from Gallim."

David was a servant of God and he fought the battles of God in his generation. We are called upon of God to serve him in this generation. We are striving to warn this disobedient end-time generation by publishing the word of God bimonthly in the Prophecy Flash, preaching the word of God on the weekly Sabbath Bible Study (and a printed summary for the deaf brethren), having conference hook-ups and duplicating those messages on audio tapes, CD's, DVD's, and observing his annual feasts and encouraging those who cross our path. I am crying out the message given, urging people to repent, turn back to God and not to forget God, but to learn of him and believe.

**Psalm 9:15**—"The nations have sunk down in the pit they have dug. In the net which they hid, their own foot is caught. The Lord is known by the judgment which he executes. *Selah*—It shall be so .The wicked is snared in the work of his own hands. The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God." **Psalms 50:16**—But to the wicked, God says: 'What right have you to recite my laws or take my covenant on your lips? Seeing you hate my instruction and cast my words behind you. When you see a thief, you join with him; you throw in your lot with the adulterers. You give (use) your mouth to evil, and your tongue frames deceit. You sit and speak against your brother and slander your own mother's son. These things you have done and *I kept silent*. You thought that I was altogether like you. But I will rebuke you and accuse you to your face. Consider this, you who forget God, lest I tear you into pieces and there will be none to deliver. Whoever offers praise glorifies me: and to him who orders his conversation aright I will show the salvation of God." Just because God is keeping silent today and patiently waiting, and giving man an opportunity to repent (change) and to earnestly seek his face. Because God says he has

kept silent, it does not mean that God is not going to take action. Silence does not mean that he does not care and is not going to intervene. God says his judgments are coming and are sure.

God tells us to hold fast with perseverance. Who can deliver us from the hand of God? **Hebrews 10:22**—"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope *without wavering*, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. **Verses 25-31**—"If we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was *sanctified* (set apart) a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know Him who said, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay says the Lord.' And again, 'The Lord will judge His people.' It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."

The nations are haughty (arrogant) and lift themselves up in vanity by **Isaiah 1:1-2**—"Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: For the Lord has spoken. I have nourished and bought up children, and they have rebelled against me." **Verses 4-6**—"Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity; a seed of evil-doers children that are corrupters: they have *forsaken* the Lord, they have *provoked (spurned) the Holy One of Israel to anger, and turned their backs on him.* Why should you be stricken (continue to invite punishment; beaten) anymore? You will revolt (rebel) more and more. The whole head is sick, and the whole heart faints. From the sole of your foot to the top of your head, there is no soundness in it, but wounds and bruises and putrefying sores; they have not been closed or bound up, or soothed with ointment." **Verse 10**—"Hear the word of the Lord, you rulers of Sodom; Listen to the law of our God, you people of Gomorrah!" **Verse 16**—"Your hands are full of blood; wash and make yourselves clean. Take your evil deeds out of my sight! Stop doing wrong, learn to do right! Seek justice. Relieve (help) the oppressed. Defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow."

**Isaiah 1:18**—"Come now and let us reason together," says the Lord. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool. <u>If you are willing and obedient</u>, you shall eat the good of the land. But if you refuse and rebel, you shall be devoured by the sword; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken it."

**Isaiah 3:12**—"As for my people, children are their oppressors and women rule over them. Those who lead you, cause you to err, and destroy the way of your paths. **Isaiah 2:6**—"They are filled with superstition from the East, they practice divination like the Philistines and clasp hand with pagans; their land is full of idols." The world's politicians are helping Satan cast his net over the nations to deceive them. The time has come to repent, remember your Maker—the God who made you. Inquire of the Lord. Put his law in your heart so that you will remember Him and continually walk in the truth and light of His Holy Spirit.