

WILL THE REAL EPHRAIM PLEASE STAND UP?

Thank you Almighty God for this Sabbath day. Thank you for your mercy and your amazing grace. We pray that we will appreciate that grace to really love you with all our heart, mind, soul and strength. Please fill us abundantly with your Holy Spirit that we might serve you with zeal and diligence. Help us to love our neighbor and serve with grace and compassion. Inspire us to receive and proclaim your truth to this end-time generation as you have called us to do in every aspect. With prayerful gratitude, thanksgiving and praise we ask these things of you in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ, the Messiah. Amen!

Welcome to Bible study. It is two more days until Passover April 14 and the full moon will be passing directly through Earth's dark (umbral) shadow. North and South America, plus islands of the Pacific (such as Hawaii) are in the best position worldwide to watch the total eclipse of the moon on the night of April 14-15. The total part of the April 14-15 eclipse lasts nearly 1.3 hours. A partial umbral eclipse precedes totality by over an hour, and follows totality by over an hour, so the moon takes a little more than 3.5 hours to completely sweep through the Earth's dark shadow on the night of April 14-15. The April lunar eclipses fall on Passover *2014 and 2015*; and the October and September eclipses concur with the Feast of Tabernacles.

Some say this phenomenon has no significant meaning. Four blood moons, or a tetrad, is rare; but when they all four fall on Jewish holy days, it is very rare, only seven of these have taken place since the time of Christ. During past tetrads on Jewish holy days, significant historical events have taken place before, during, or after the blood moons. These eclipses of the moon are all in a row, with no partial eclipse in between. Since we know that God expects us to watch the signs in the heavens, these eclipses should clearly not be ignored. They mean that something important is about to happen.

1. The first of the seven tetrads occurred on Passover and the Feast of Tabernacles in 162 and 163 A.D., which happened during one of the worst persecutions of Jews and Christians that began in 161 by Marcus Aurelius, emperor of Rome. Also in 161 the Parthians invaded Armenia, a Roman province. About three years later a great plague killed about 10% of the pagan Roman population.

2. The second occurred on Passover and the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) in 795 and 796. Pope Leo III was crowned Pope on Christmas day, 795. He was attacked and injured by his enemies in 799; he then fled to Charlemagne for protection. In 800 he and Charlemagne returned to Rome where the Pope was put on trial, but Charlemagne was able to get him acquitted of charges. The Pope then crowned Charlemagne the first Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire, which lasted over 1,000 years. Thus, the Church gave the emperors authority to rule, and the emperors gave the Church protection. (Prior to this, the only official Christian kingdom had been centered in Constantinople, the Christian Eastern Roman Empire, which historians call the

Byzantine Empire, but it was actually a continuation of the Roman Empire, which was divided into east and west before the western half fell.)

3. Another tetrad occurred on Passover and Day of Atonement in 842 and 843 A.D. A lot happened in those years that affected both Christians and Jews. In 842 a synod in the Eastern Church reaffirmed the use of icons, which had been banned for the second time in 814. In Europe, Muslims had been attacking Sicily for several years as they attempted to conquer Italy and Europe, and this continued as they attacked and captured Messina in Sicily in 842. In 843 the Treaty of Verdun divided the Holy Roman Empire into three parts. This affected Jews adversely because the French were tolerant of Jews, but when the French no longer had power over most of Europe, then anti-Jewish feelings were allowed to manifest, leading to persecution of the Jews.

4. A tetrad of eclipses occurred on Passover and the Day of Atonement in 860 and 861 A.D. Important things happened in these years as well. In 861 the first Russians, sailing in 200 ships, attacked Constantinople but withdrew after the Virgin Mary's robe was carried in procession around the walls of the city. A few years later Russia's first ambassador to Constantinople accepted Christianity, which laid the groundwork for the conversion of Russia. In 863 Saint Cyril and Saint Methodius began translating part of the Bible into the Old Slavonic language, which also helped in the conversion of the Slavs (Russians). This led to a great persecution of the Jews later by the Russian Christians, who themselves were later severely persecuted by the Communists. Also in 861 Muhammad al-Mudabbir arrived in Egypt and tripled the jizya (tax) on Christians and Jews. Because so many could not pay the tax, they filled the prisons. The churches were looted and confiscated, and the Coptic patriarch, "unable to pay the taxes demanded from the Coptic episcopate, fled from place to place and went into hiding" (The Decline of Eastern Christianity Under Islam, by Bat Ye'or, page 84).

5. A tetrad occurred on Passover and the Feast of Trumpets in 1493 and 1494. In 1492 King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain ordered the expulsion of all Jews from Spain, about 200,000. Many fled to Morocco where they were later persecuted. It was also in 1492 that Columbus discovered America; the U.S.A. was to become the home of many Jews and a friend to Israel.

6. The sixth tetrad occurred on Passover and Tabernacles in 1949 and 1950, just after the creation of the Jewish state of Israel in 1948 and the 1st Arab – Israeli War for Independence (May 15, 1948 – March 10, 1949).

7. The seventh tetrad since the time of Christ occurred on Passover and Tabernacles in 1967 and 1968, with the 6-Day War taking place in June of 1967 when Israel captured all of Jerusalem and additional land.

8. The next tetrad will occur on Passover and Tabernacles (Sukkot) in 2014 and 2015. Therefore, we can expect something significant to occur that will affect Christians and Jews. The stock market crashed in 2001 after 911 and 2008. Both occurred on the same day on the Jewish calendar that occurs only once every seven years. That day is called Shemitah, which is a day for wiping out debts. It is the last day of the Shemitah (Sabbatical) year. The next Sabbatical year is

Sept. 25, 2014 thru Sept. 13, 2015. That day is also the day before the Feast of Trumpets, during which there will be a partial solar eclipse. It is just 15 days before the last blood moon.

We do not know exactly when the Great Tribulation will start. **1 Thessalonians 5:3**—“For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction comes upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.” Paul is talking about our generation, and our generation is not going to escape.

This reminds me of A cat can sneak up on you very quietly. Have you have ever watched a cat? An excerpt from a poem by Carl Sandburg (1878-1967, about Chicago called “Fog” mentions little cat feet. “The fog comes on little cat feet. It sits looking over harbor and city on silent haunches and then moves on.”

One of our co-worker members wrote a pamphlet entitled: “*Will the Real Ephraim Please Stand Up? OK, I Believe I Will!*” and sent it to the head of The Living Church of God, Roderick Meredith. I will share a few things from it with you, which I found very enjoyable. It made me feel like our ministry has been helping people. God has been using this ministry to teach people his truth. I am one of those people who appreciate and love the truth. A lot of you do, too, and that is why we are together today to hear God’s word spoken in truth, not men’s vain imaginations. The inside of the front cover of the pamphlets states: “Anyone can use all or any part of this, as long as it will glorify our awesome God who created all of us and everything we see, hear or smell and all things not seen.” This pamphlet is obviously about Ephraim. Who is Ephraim in the world today? The pamphlet is addressed in a letter format.

“Greetings Sir: Since you are the leader of our church (the Living Church) it is to you whom I should bring this new understanding and the request that you take a new look. That is, “Who really are Ephraim and Manasseh?” They are the two sons of Joseph given him in Egypt. Manasseh was the older and first born son and Ephraim the younger son. Joseph was the son of Jacob. Jacob’s name was also Israel, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham. **Genesis 48:14**—Israel stretched out his right hand and laid it on Ephraim’s head, who was the younger, and his left hand on Manasseh’s head, guiding his hands knowingly, for Manasseh was the firstborn and blessed he them for their future generations and destiny. Jacob adopted Manasseh and Ephraim as his own sons and Joseph therefore became two tribes of Israel.

The writer then gives the following eight proofs that Ephraim is America and Manasseh is Great Britain. *First proof:* Whoredom in America. Jacob said that Ephraim would be greater than Manasseh, so Ephraim truly is greater in so many ways. America is full of spiritual and physical whoredom. The people have gone after idols massively. **Hosea 4:17-18**—“Ephraim is joined to idols let him alone. Their drink is sour: they have committed whoredom continually.” **Hosea 5:3-4**—“I know Ephraim, and Israel is not hid from me: for now, O Ephraim, thou committest whoredom, and Israel is defiled. They will not frame their doings to turn unto their God: for the spirit of whoredoms is in the midst of them, and they have not known the LORD.”

“Now who cannot see that America really does fit these scriptures? In Hosea it states that Ephraim is guilty of the above, and who cannot see that America is guilty far more than Great Britain? Hosea’s scripture and American history proves beyond a doubt who we really are, and

that Ephraim truly is America, the youngest brother and, of course the younger nation? America also has a drinking problem, wine and strong drink. **Isaiah 28:1**—“Woe to the crown of pride, to the drunkards of Ephraim, whose glorious beauty is a fading flower, which are on the head of the fat valleys of them that are overcome with wine!”

Second proof. **Hosea 7:8-9**—“Ephraim, he hath mixed himself among the people; Ephraim is a cake not turned. Strangers have devoured his strength and he knows it not: yes, gray hairs are here and there upon him, yet he knows not.” “Who’s strength? Herbert Armstrong wrote in “U.S. and Britain in Prophecy” it is America’s strength that other nations have sapped. Hosea says it is Ephraim’s strength. Here again, without question, we Americans are Ephraim.” TPM has been preaching that America is Ephraim for about twenty five years now. My new book entitled *America and Great Britain – Heraldry in Prophecy* will be about 450 pages long and is being finalized for publication soon after Passover this year. This new book will pick up from where I left off in *America and Great Britain: Our Identity Revealed: Ephraim and Manasseh in the End of Days*. It goes a lot deeper and further into our identity and prophecy for the future and what’s happening today under the Obama Administration and how close we are to the end of this age.

Proof three: “Time after time Mr. Armstrong stated in his booklet *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* (page 103—PCG 106), that the United States is Manasseh and Great Britain is Ephraim.” The Living Church of God and the Philadelphia Church subscribe to that old teaching. Events have happened in the world that shows us that conclusion is incorrect and has been buried by an avalanche of new truth. Nothing could be further from the truth. Here’s why. Tell me, how it is that the oldest brother, Manasseh, is the youngest nation, America – born in 1776? And again, how can the youngest brother, Ephraim, be the oldest nation, Great Britain – born in 1066? This is 110 years earlier. The proof is in the births of each nation. The oldest brother, Manasseh is the oldest nation. Same goes for the youngest brother, Ephraim, being the youngest nation, America – 1776. It can’t be any other way.” Since time is limited today, I’ll just list the remaining proofs Mr. Grice gives.

Proof four: **America** exploded out of its swaddling clothes to become the mightiest nation of all times and that is nothing more than Ephraim’s birthright blessing (page 9 about the middle –PCG 13)). Look around you, which is the greatest nation today, Great Britain or America? The U.S. has a 320 million population, and Great Britain is about a 60 million population. The U.S. is about five times the population of Great Britain and has much more military (army, navy, air-force, nuclear weapons) might, more economic might even though Ephraim (America) has squandered this heritage and blessing because of bad government (**\$17,590,901,993,000.00** in debt today).

I like the way Grice writes — right to the point. *Proof five:* “Armstrong also stated that **America** has expanded rapidly in national resources and wealth after 1800, and became a Giant World Power by the end of WWI (page 102—PCG 106). This could never have happened without Ephraim’s birthright blessing. Time after time H.W.A. has identified the youngest brother and of course America—the youngest nation and both

go together.” Mr. Grice states: “I have read his book many times over the years, but never until now have I been able to see who we really are. Mr. Armstrong himself said numerous times that he was human and that he made many mistakes. Well, this is one of those mistakes. He also said, ‘Don’t believe me because I said it, believe the Bible,—the word of God. “Well, that is what I am learning to do”— search the Bible. Study of the scriptures and comparison of the evidence identifies America as Ephraim and Great Britain as Manasseh. There are other proofs as well.

Proof six: Ephraim’s mixed people. **Hosea 7:8**—“Ephraim has mixed himself among the peoples.” Everyone knows that America has an open door policy. America is known as “the melting pot of the world” (page 104—PCG 107). The Statue of Liberty stands in New York Harbor beckoning all the world’s huddled masses of the poor to come to America who is a nation of immigrants. “Now here is a question for you. Do you know of any other nation in the world that has more of mixture of different kinds of people than America? We have nearly every nationality you can think of from all over the world, legal and illegal immigrants, every kind of language and every kind of ‘religion’. You already know what a mixture we have here in America. In Nashville, Tennessee, we have Germantown and the French Quarter, and of course Little Italy.” People of America have forgotten who they are and need to open their eyes. Satan has blinded the eyes of this world and destroyed their knowledge of history. He does not want them to know who they really are and where or what their heritage is. There was a mixed multitude that came with Israel out of Egypt in the days of Moses. Because they came out with Israel, they became part of Israel. The people of Ephraim became a mixed people to this day.

Proof seven: **Hosea 11:3**—God says he taught Ephraim to walk—“and did he ever in raising up America with our founding fathers like Lincoln, Adams, Jefferson, Franklin and others were leaders who feared God. They were trying their best to form a new government on RELIGIOUS PRINCIPLES, plus religious freedom and freedom of speech. So they drew up the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.” The pattern was after the laws of Moses (Torah) in the Bible. They had to fight every step of the way. They fought the French, the British, the Indians, and even the Mexicans to win Texas and California, anyone and anything that stood in the way. God really did teach Ephraim how to walk and come together and get things done.”

It was God’s plan of manifest destiny in giving Ephraim the birthright blessing of this land of America from sea to shining sea. However, Ephraim (America) has turned their back on the one true God, and deny his name. After serving two terms as President, Washington warned: “of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports.” John Adams, the second president of the United States issued two proclamations during his term of Office calling upon the people of the nation to observe a day of “solemn humiliation, fasting and prayer” in 1798 and 1799. As Lincoln declared in a national day of prayer (3/30/1863) our national blessings are not due to our own goodness. “*It is the duty of nations as well as of men, to own their dependence on the overruling power of God, to confess their sins in humble repentance with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon.*” Continually we have had to repent of our sins and return to the ways of the Great God who created us.

President Grover Cleveland said in his inaugural address (3/4/1893), “Above all, I know there is a Supreme Being who rules the affairs of men and whose goodness and mercy have always followed the American people, and I know He will not turn from us now, if we humbly and reverently seek His powerful aid.” President Ronald Regan said: “If we ever forget that we’re one nation under God, then we will be a nation gone under.”

How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the TRUE Gospel through whom we learn. Those who are raised up by God and teach us how to walk directly from the Bible and obey the plain truth have had to fight for “God’s truth” with hardships along the way. America is where the truth is being proclaimed and sent out around the world.

Proof 8: “Ephraim was to become a multitude of nations. Jacob told his son, Joseph that Manasseh also shall become a people, and he also shall be great. Question: ‘Have you ever notice that the word GREAT is in the name Great Britain, or is it that just coincidence or by design?’ Great in the name Great Britain is a finger pointing toward Manasseh as being Great Britain. Jacob said Manasseh would be great and Great Britain was great—at one time—when the sun never set on her control of a multitude of nations. London became the financial hub of the world by 1804, and Great Britain started with the most modern warship of its time named the Mary Rose that was launched in 1511 with waterproof gun ports, but she never *became* a multitude of nations. Now Great Britain’s sun had set and Great Britain has been reduced to a second or third rate power in the world (H.W.A., bottom page 9 and top page 10—PCG page 13). When London closed its doors in 1966—marking the official death of the British Empire—means that Great Britain has given most of the nations over which she ruled their independence. Great Britain still has Canada, Australia, the Falkland Island and a few others. This leaves only America to become that multitude of nations.”

“America has 50 states in our nation. Each has its own state flag, its own state president who we call Governor, its own State Representatives, its own state Senators, its own state laws that differ from state to state, its own court system, even its State Supreme Court. Each state is independent of the other states, but they have joined together in a united union of states under a national government, so we are a union of states or the United States of America. So you see that each state is a complete nation, and America is a multitude of people. The original Hebrew word for multitudes is *goyim* meaning people, nations, or states. Great Britain never *became* a multitude of nations. There is a big difference in “ruling over” and “becoming”!

Both nations are Anglo-Saxon and brothers —Celtic people—and both speak the same language and have the same heritage and origin as the two sons of Joseph. “Now **just what is a nation anyway?** Webster’s Dictionary defines a nation as: 1) a stable historically developed community of people with a territory, economic life, distinctive culture and language in common. 2) The people of a territory united under a single government ,country, or state. **How about a multitude?** Webster’s defines a multitude as: 1) the quality or state of being numerous or many. 2) A large number of people or things, when gathered together or considered as a unit. Now Great Britain is considered a second rate world power. Only America is left of the two to become that *multitude of nations*. The blessings were between Ephraim and Manasseh. Remember, Jacob said that Ephraim would be greater. As we are living in the last days, are we not, the proof is now evident who is greater in every way. The United States fits all of the above and the

description of Ephraim because he had the birthright blessing and America is greater in nearly every way than Great Britain who is Manasseh. It does not take a rocket scientist to be able to see the truth about the identity of these two brothers that God's handwriting is all over America as being Ephraim.

Herbert Armstrong vigorously promoted British Israelism (also called Anglo-Israelism) a doctrine based on the hypothesis that people of Western European descent, especially the people of the British Empire are the direct lineal descendants of the Ten Lost Tribes of Israel. He never got past his core belief that Great Britain was Ephraim and the United States was Manasseh.

There is an ancient *Midrash* that identifies Manasseh with the unicorn. A rampant lion and rampant unicorn are part of the official Royal coat of arms which is used as a national symbol throughout the United Kingdom. These symbols are seen everywhere throughout Great Britain.

The number thirteen is written all over America and represents Ephraim who was a rebellious son, and America has been a rebellious nation. The number 13 stands for America's original 13 colony states, as well as the number of rebellion. The number 13 is found in our flag and many times in the design of America's Great Seal. The shield with thirteen stripes cover the eagle's breast; the eagle holds thirteen arrows in its left talon, and above the eagle's head is a cloud surrounding a blue field containing thirteen stars. Even each of the three Latin inscriptions on the American Great Seal is exactly 13 letters. Now, if you will take a look at some of the other scriptures about Ephraim and America beginning with **Hosea 7:1**—"When I would have healed Israel, then the iniquity of Ephraim was discovered and the wickedness of Samaria: for they commit falsehood." Read the whole verse – plus witchcraft, sun worship, abortion, the gay and lesbian movement, and of course, adultery, fornication and murder, and much more. But let more of the scriptures speak. **Hosea 8:11**—"Because Ephraim has made many altars to sin, altars shall be unto him to sin." **Hosea 11:12**—"Ephraim compassed me about with lies, and the house of Israel with deceit; but Judah yet rules with God and is faithful with the saints."

"Now, **do you think that we Americans have not lied to God**, and of course been guilty of deceit?" **Hosea 12:14**—"Ephraim provoked him to anger most bitterly." We are guilty. Guilty as charged. **Hosea 4:17-18**—"Ephraim is joined to idols, let him alone. Their drink is sour, they have committed whoredom continually." Guilty! **Hosea 12:8**—"And Ephraim said, yet I am become rich, I have found me out substance, in all my labors they shall find none iniquity in me that were sin." What a bunch of puffed up, stiff-necked, self-righteous leaders filled with pride which we have in government, but not only our Government leaders are thinking like that. We are not giving credit to our God who gave us wealth in the first place. Americans are guilty of the same thing. God says this is what is going to be our punishment as a nation, if we don't change rapidly. Time is running out. **Hosea 5:9-12**—"Ephraim shall be desolate in the day of rebuke; among the tribes of Israel I make known what shall surely be.¹¹ "Ephraim is oppressed and broken in judgment. Because he willingly walked by human precept.¹² Therefore I will be to Ephraim like a moth, and to the house of Judah like rottenness." **Hosea 5:5**—"therefore Israel and Ephraim stumble in their iniquity; Judah also stumbles with them." They will seek the Lord but will find Him because they have dealt treacherously with the Lord, and begotten pagan children."

Writer Grice continues. "After four months I wrote to Mr. Bonjour. 'I sent Mr. Meredith a personal big envelope which you signed for on 4/19/12 (copy enclosed). I will assume you are one of his personal staff to protect him from people like me. And since I have not had a reply, the reason I am writing you Sir is to ask you two questions if you could take time to answer. 1) Sir, did you deliver to Mr. Meredith that envelope? 2) If so, do you know or can you find out on my behalf, if he read it or just threw it in the waste basket? I would appreciate any help on this matter. Thank you, Sir.' Then I signed my name and return address."

This is the answer he received. "*Dear Friend*, Thank you for your submitted article. Mr. Meredith has asked *us* to answer you. We disagree with every one of your conclusions. Just saying something does not make it to be true. Mr. Armstrong, along with all major British Israelism scholars, understood the identity of each nation. What is happening around the world on this modern scene only serves to strengthen the truth of the United States and Great Britain as being what we have always said they were Manasseh and Ephraim. If you have further need of information, please let us know— PERSONAL CORRESPONDENCE DEPARTMENT."

8/31/12—"Dear Personal Correspondence Department, You say Mr. Meredith has asked *us* to answer you. Question – now just who is us? I gave you my name. Now I request to know yours. *The word us indicates* more than one person. So give me your names. When you sign P.C.D., it is nothing more than a cop-out. So stand up and be counted! Please give me your names."

This was a very interesting pamphlet and scenario. The truth of God will prevail. **John 8:32 – "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."** If we abide in the truth, it means that we have to accept the truth – the evidence (proof) and that will make us free from error and false doctrines. Most all the groups that came out of Worldwide Church of God still subscribe to the false teaching that Great Britain is Ephraim and America is Manasseh. They have gotten it backward. Therefore, they do not understand Bible prophecy no matter how set they are about it. The prophecies in Hosea begin to make sense when you know that America is Ephraim. Hosea is talking to America/Ephraim, *the leader of the lost 10 tribes of Israel*.

2 Thessalonians 2:8-12—"those who receive the love of the truth will be saved." "And then the *lawless one* will be revealed whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.⁹ The coming of the *lawless one* is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders,¹⁰ and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.¹¹ And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie,¹² that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness." Question is, Do we love the truth—really hunger, yearn and thirst for the righteousness of God and his word of true wisdom and understanding? Or do we put up with lies and fables because we have tickling ears?

1 Timothy 4:1-2—"Now the Spirit speaks expressly, that in the latter time some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their *conscience seared with a hot iron.*" **2 Timothy 3:1-4, 7-13**—"Know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. Men shall be lovers of themselves (selfish),

covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, truce-breakers, false accusers, no self-control, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a *form of godliness (outward appearance)* but **denying the power** thereof: from such people turn away.” **Verses 7-8**—“Ever learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth: so do **these also resist the truth**: just like Jannes and Jambre withstood Moses; men of corrupt minds, reprobate (condemned) concerning the faith. But they will progress no further, for their folly will be made manifest (clear) to everyone. All that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution, but evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived—following error and leading others into error.” This is what is happening today.

The time has already arrived when people will not endure sound doctrine. But *according to their own desires (what they want to hear)* will heap up teachers around them because they have itching ears. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to fables.

Isaiah 30:1-9—“Woe to the rebellious children,” says the Lord. “Who take counsel, but not of me, and who devise plans, but not of my Spirit, that they may add sin to sin. Who walk to go down to Egypt and have not asked my advice. Note it on a scroll that it may be for a time to come, as an everlasting witness. That this is a rebellious people, lying children, children that will not hear the law of the Lord: who say to the seers, ‘Do not see:’ and to the prophets, ‘Do not prophesy to us right things; speak smooth things, prophecy deceits (preach lies). Get out of the way, turn aside out of the path. Cause the Holy One of Israel to cease from before us.’” They do not want to change. The only security that any of us have is in God and in his Word.

MATTHEW 5: THE BEATITUDES

5 Seeing the multitudes, Christ went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him.² Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:

³ **Blessed are the poor in spirit**, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven

⁴ **Blessed are those who mourn**, for they shall be comforted.

⁵ **Blessed are the meek**, for they shall inherit the earth

⁶ **Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness**, for they shall be filled.

⁷ **Blessed are the merciful**, for they shall obtain mercy.

⁸ **Blessed are the pure in heart**, for they shall see God.

⁹ **Blessed are the peacemakers**, for they shall be called sons of God.

¹⁰ **Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake**, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for my sake. ¹² Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

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

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lamp-stand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. ¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

It is time to stand up and be counted.