

## WHERE IS THE LORD, THE GOD OF ELIJAH?

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Almighty God our Father in heaven thank you for your love, your mercy, and your kindness. Thanks for guiding us safely through another week and your weekly Sabbath day of rest. Thank you for the new season of life beginning to show around us as the nature springs forth with budding trees and crowds of daffodils that paint the hillsides with brilliant yellow. What joy your creation brings to our hearts and minds with renewed life and the spring rains! We pray for your blessing upon the work you have given us to do as your watchmen on the wall. Keep our hearts and minds fully committed to serving you and proclaiming the gospel of your coming kingdom with mouths of wisdom and peace that will lead sinners to repentance. We seek your face and pray fervently that you will set your angels around about us. Please heal those who are heavy hearted, sick and afflicted. By your grace and favor keep us faithful and let the light of your Spirit shine brightly in each one of us with unshakable trust in you. We commit our lives into your hands and ask for your inspiration of the indwelling power of your Holy Spirit that sustains our faith and guides us to do your will. We ask these things according to your will and in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Welcome to Bible study. Let us rejoice in drinking in the word of the Lord our God which is given freely to all. Today is Adar 29 the last day of the old year. The new moon was seen in Israel, March 21. Tomorrow is the new moon day and Nisan 1 which marks the beginning of the Hebrew New year. The ripening barley was found in five different locations which included areas of the northern Negev desert and two places in the Jordan Valley. Passover will begin April 4, Saturday evening after sunset. We need to go through our dwellings and make sure we have removed all leavening products from the premises so we can be leaven free during the feast of Unleavened Bread. For seven days our homes are to be without leavening to remind us we are to get rid of all sin in our lives.

The following email information came from Nick Pull in England which brought some serious thinking to my mind in regards to the meaning of the Shemita year. It is the year of release and cancellation of debts, and every seventh year in a forty-nine year cycle with the fiftieth year being a Jubilee year. The Hebrew year from September–October 2014 until September–October 2015 is a Shemita year which is a Sabbatical year of letting the land rest according to the laws of God. In the book, *The Shemita Year* by Johathan Cahn, he points out that the economic crash in 2001 when the Twin Trade Towers were destroyed 9/11 in New York City, it was a Shemita year. The economic upheaval experienced by America was the greatest crash experience in the Stock Market to date. Then seven years later in 2008, a Shemita year, a Wall Street financial crash occurred again and the American economy imploded. This year is the third successive Shemita year (Sept/Oct. 2014–Sept/Oct 2015). There is an expectancy of another economic crash this Shemita year as our country has defiantly refused to change, or repent of its sins and

return to the laws of God. So God's judgment is about to occur again. Cahn's study of the Shmeitah years has brought this to America's attention in this 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Nick comments that Cahn's study and the three successive economic crashes in America, who is primarily the tribe of Ephraim, is another incredible stir to action for the church of God groups to be convicted of the truth of the word of God. With Passover approaching people are to be in a humbling frame of mind and need to take the challenge "in due season" to prove the Passover, Ephraim, and the calendar. The lead article in the *Prophecy Flash* magazine is "*Passover—Nisan 14 or 15?*" The article is an in depth study about the Passover. Some of those who came out of old WWCG have joined various offshoot groups, but continue to sleep like Rip Van Winkle and remain deceived by continuing to observe a wrong (counterfeit ) Passover. By admission, Garner Ted Armstrong of the WWCG and his CGI offshoot church said, "The day we observed is not the Passover. It was the Lord's Supper." He was correct in stating that they were not observing the Passover.

Flavius Josephus in *The Antiquities and Wars of the Jews*, clearly states that the Passover lambs were slain at the temple in Jerusalem on the afternoon of Nisan 14 between 3–5 pm, then roasted. Check the *Bible commentaries* (Adam Clarke's, Jamison-Faucett-Brown, Critical Experimentary C.) and *Bible dictionaries* (West Minster D.; Bible D., Angus D., Pleubot's D.) and they all say the same things. Satan who has deceived the entire world uses deception wherever he goes. WWCG was in error and the off-shoot groups that came out of WWCG continue keeping many of the same errors including Passover, thinking they are doing service to God, but are deceived. By God's grace we can prove and can keep the *Feast of the Passover (Exodus 12)* at the right time and the right way with the Passover Seder meal, unleavened bread, lamb and bitter herbs, and recount the story of the Passover every year at the appointed time. **Ezekiel 45:21**—the whole feast is called the Feast of the Passover, and it is a seven day feast (Nisan 5-21) during which unleavened bread is to be eaten. It begins on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the month at evening. This means at the going down of the sun as the 15<sup>th</sup> day begins. Nisan 15 is the first day of the Passover feast and Days of Unleavened Bread. Nisan 14<sup>th</sup> is the day the lambs were killed late in the afternoon as the sun was going down in the sky. Then the lambs were roasted until cooked and ready to eat with the Passover Seder meal.

**Exodus 12:2**—"This month (Nisan) shall be your beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year to you. On the tenth of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb, according to the house of his father, a lamb for a household. And if the household is too small for the lamb, let him and his neighbor next to his house take it according to the number of the persons; according to each man's need you shall make your count for the lamb. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats. Now you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month. Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight." The Hebrew word used here is "**ben ha arbayim**" and is translated "*between the two evening's*—late in the afternoon.

**Deuteronomy 16:1-4** —"Observe the month of Abib (Nisan), and **keep the Passover** to the LORD your God, for in the month of Abib (Nisan) the LORD your God brought you out of Egypt by night. Therefore you shall sacrifice the Passover to the LORD your God, from the flock and the herd, in the place where the LORD chooses to put His name. You shall eat no leavened

bread with it; seven days you shall eat unleavened bread with it, that is, the bread of affliction (for you came out of the land of Egypt in haste), that you may remember the day in which you came out of the land of Egypt all the days of your life. And no leaven shall be seen among you in all your territory for seven days.”

**Matthew 5:14-16**—“Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. For verily I say unto you, till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one *tittle* shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.” We are not to follow a man, but to follow the word of God—the Bible, both Old and New Testaments.

**Deuteronomy 16:5-8**—“Thou may not sacrifice the passover within any of thy gates, which the LORD thy God gives thee: But at the place which the LORD thy God shall choose to place his name in, there thou shall sacrifice the passover at even (twilight), at the going down of the sun, at the season that you came forth out of Egypt. And thou shall roast and eat it in the place which the LORD thy God shall choose: and thou shall turn in the morning, and go unto thy tents. Six days thou shall eat unleavened bread: and on the seventh day shall be a solemn assembly to the LORD thy God: thou shall do no work therein.” (The place where God chose to place his name was Jerusalem; the priesthood and temple are not available today, but may soon be.) Passover was a meal eaten with family. **Exodus 12:8** —“then they shall eat the flesh on that night; roasted in fire, with **unleavened bread** and with **bitter herbs** they shall eat it.”

*Email letter* (continues)—“Just to let you know, the Living Church of God has reissued the book you published in 1984, *The Incredible History of God’s True Church*, by Ivor C. Fletcher which they gave out to members at the Feast of Tabernacles in 2014. There have been two additional chapters added along with photographs from 1987 to date. There is no mention of the work you have been doing since 1987, which incidentally was a Shemitah year. We now have the work of TPM being four Shemitah years old this year in 2015.”

I had not recalled that 1987 was a Shemitah year or that it has been four Shemitah years since that time. I was set free from the bondage and leadership of the WWCG in 1987 and branded as a heretic. WWCG were the ones who rejected God’s truth. The 6-Day War in Israel (1966-67) was a Shemitah year and the Jews recaptured the Golan Heights, the West Bank of the Jordan River, and the Old City of Jerusalem and the Temple Mount. It was also the year I got married (almost 47 years ago). I now can see the hand of Almighty God’s work by my life and the changes that occurred on Shemita years from 1974.

Brethren, thank you for your prayers for God’s intervention in my behalf. My rapid heart rate is now returned to normal rhythm for which I am grateful. I had also lost my favorite jacket and had no clue where it could be. Well, no job is too small or too big for our Father in heaven to answer, so I asked for God’s help. Miraculously, it was found in town where we had made a visit which delights me greatly. Next, when printing out about 100 articles for mailing, the printer developed a glitch and I thought I would have to take it into the shop 200 miles away but a technician was able to solve the problem by a phone call. Thank you Lord. God is a God of miracles and the miracles have not stopped. We are living by faith and miracles are happening all around us whether we see them or are not even aware.

**2 Kings 1:1**—King Ahaziah fell through the lattice of his upper room in Samaria, and was injured; so he sent messengers saying to them, “Go, inquire of Baal-Zebub (Lord of the Flies), the god of Ekron, whether I shall recover from this injury.” But the angel of the LORD said to Elijah the Tishbite, “Arise, go up to meet the messengers of the king of Samaria, and say to them, ‘Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are going to inquire of Baal-Zebub, the god of Ekron?’ Now therefore, thus says the LORD: ‘You shall not come down from the bed to which you have gone up, but you shall surely die.’” The messengers returned to the king who asked why they had returned and they told him a man met them and repeated the message Elijah had given to them. By the messengers’ description, king Ahaziah knew it was Elijah and was not pleased. So he sent a captain of fifty with his fifty men to see Elijah. The captain said to Elijah who was sitting on the top of a hill, “Man of God, the king has said, ‘Come down!’” Elijah answered, “If I am a man of God, then let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty men.” And fire came down from heaven and consumed him and his fifty. Ahaziah sent another captain of fifty with his fifty men who met the same fate. Then a third captain of fifty with his fifty men was sent. This captain came and fell on his knees (bowed down with humility) before Elijah, and pleaded: “Man of God, please let my life and the life of these fifty servants of yours be precious in your sight. Look, fire has come down from heaven and burned up the first two captains of fifties with their fifties. But let my life now be precious in your sight.”

The angel of the Lord told Elijah to go on down with him; do not be afraid. Elijah repeated the Lord’s exact message to the king. “Thus says the LORD: ‘Because you have sent messengers to inquire of Baal-Zebub, the god of Ekron, **is it because there is no God in Israel to inquire of His word?** Therefore you shall not come down from the bed to which you have gone up, but you shall surely die.’” So Ahaziah died according to the word of the LORD which Elijah had spoken. King Ahaziah did not have faith in God.

**2 Kings 6:1-6**—the sons of the prophets went down to Jordan to cut some timber to build a larger dwelling. They had persuaded Elisha, the man of God, to accompany them. As one of the men was cutting down a tree using a borrowed iron ax head, it fell into the water and sank and the man cried out. Elisha, asked where it fell, and when he was showed the place, he made the iron ax head float on the water so the man was able to reach out and pick it up.

**2 Kings 6:8-22**—The king of Syria was making war against Israel and consulted his servants about the location of his camp. Elisha, the man of God, sent a message to the king of Israel to beware of the location and not to pass the place because the Syrians are coming down there and will ambush you. The king of Israel sent someone to the place Elisha had told him and was watchful not once, but twice. The king of Syria was greatly troubled and asked his servants which one of you is traitor and telling the king of Israel about my plans and warning him about the ambush. One of his servants said, none of us O king, it is Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel who tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedroom. So the king of Syria said to find out where he is so I can send and get him. He was told, Dothan, so he sent horses, chariots and a great army by night and surrounded the city. When the servant of the man of God arose early and went out, there was an army surrounding the city with horses and chariots.

Elisha's servant said, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?" "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them. And Elisha prayed, and said, 'LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see.' Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. So when the Syrians came down to him, Elisha prayed to the LORD, and said, 'Strike this people, I pray, with blindness.' And He struck them with blindness according to the word of Elisha."

"Now Elisha said to them, 'this is not the way, nor is this the city. Follow me, and I will bring you to the man whom you seek.' But he led them to Samaria. So it was, when they had come to Samaria, that Elisha said, 'LORD, open the eyes of these men that they may see.' And the Lord opened their eyes, and they saw; and there they were, inside Samaria! Now, when the king of Israel saw them, he said to Elisha, 'My father, shall I kill them? Shall I kill them?' "

"But he answered, 'You shall not kill them. Would you kill those whom you have taken captive with your sword and your bow? Set food and water before them that they may eat and drink and go to their master.' Then he prepared a great feast for them; and after they ate and drank, he sent them away and they went to their master. So the bands of Syrian raiders came no more into the land of Israel."

The miracles of interventions done by God on behalf of his people are described in the Bible for his glory and are an example for our benefit. Why does God not always intervene today like he did in the past? **Isaiah 58:1**—"Cry aloud, spare not; Lift up your voice like a trumpet; Tell My people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins. Yet they seek me daily, as if they did not forsake the ordinances of their God." Even though they approach God, they will not listen, and by so doing are inviting judgment.

**Isaiah 59:1- 4**—"Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear. But your iniquities (sins) have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He will not hear. For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity. Your lips have spoken lies, and your tongue has muttered perversity. No one calls for justice, nor does any plead for truth. They trust in empty words and speak lies." This is why God does not hear and intervene.

*Leviticus 26:3-13* (God's promises of blessings) —"**If you walk in my statutes and keep my commandments, and perform them**"—keep his commandments, God says, and he would bless us like no other nation on earth

*Leviticus 26:14-36* (God's curses and retribution) —"**But if you do not obey me, and do not observe all these commandments, despise my statutes, or your soul abhors my judgments, so that you do not perform all my commandments, but break my covenant, I will do this to you:**" *verse 18* —"I will punish you seven times more for your sins and break the pride of your power *verses 21-28*—then I will walk contrary to you in *fury*; I will chastise you 7X's for your sins. This is four periods of seven year cycles =28 years. Brethren this ministry began warning the world in 1987. This year 2014-15 is the 28<sup>th</sup> year.

*Leviticus 26:40*—**if they confess their iniquity and the iniquity of their fathers**, with their unfaithfulness in which they were unfaithful to Me, and that they also have walked contrary to me—“**I will remember** the covenant of their ancestors, whom I brought out of the land of Egypt in the sight of the nations, that I might be their God: I am the LORD. These are the statutes and judgments and laws which the LORD made between Himself and the children of Israel on Mount Sinai by the hand of Moses.

*Flash Traffic/ Joel Rosenberg (9/10 /14) “Three Threats Facing America, Israel and the Church in the Middle East.” Ezekiel 33:1-9*—“Again the word of the LORD came to me, saying, “Son of man, speak to the children of your people, and say to them: ‘When I bring the sword upon a land, and the people of the land take a man from their territory and make him their watchman, when he sees the sword coming upon the land, if he blows the trumpet and warns the people, then whoever hears the sound of the trumpet and does not take warning, if the sword comes and takes him away, his blood shall be on his own head. He heard the sound of the trumpet, but did not take warning; his blood shall be upon himself. But he who takes warning will save his life. But if the watchman sees the sword coming and **does not blow the trumpet**, and the people are not warned, and the sword comes and takes any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at the watchman’s hand.” “So you, son of man: I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore you shall hear a word from my mouth and warn them for me. When I say to the wicked, ‘O wicked man man, you shall surely die!’ and you do not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand. Nevertheless **if you warn the wicked to turn from his way**, and he does not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul. **Verses 10-11**—“Therefore you, O son of man, say to the house of Israel: ‘Thus you say, “If our transgressions and our sins lie upon us, and we pine away in them, **how can we then live?**”’ Say to them: ‘As I live,’ says the Lord GOD, ‘I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?’ ”

What was Ezekiel clearly commanded to do? (1) Listen to God (2) Watch for threats (3) Warn the people, come what may. He would be held responsible for obeying the Lord, teaching people the Word of God and warning the people when God told him to speak. God wants his people to listen to his word (the Bible), to speak the Word of God—to tell people the bad news and the good news according to the Scriptures, to warn people of threats that are rising. Judgments are coming. God wants his people to repent before it is too late. The Shemita years are passing and the time of decision is here now and we are being weighed in the balances and will be held to account before the Lord. Rosenberg gives “three threats to America we all must see and understand and take action on:

1. **What if America is not simply in a season of decline but headed for collapse, toward implosion.**
2. **What happens if America is not just simply entering a season of strange relations with Israel, but heading toward total abandonment of the Jewish state? The Lord promises to bless and “prosper” those who love Israel who is our best ally in the Middle East.**

**3. What if America is not just simply at risk of an attack by Radical Islam, but is heading towards risk of annihilation by Apocalyptic Islam? i.e. a nuclear war , and nuclear weapons in terrorist hands.**

In January the president covered a range of issues and challenges that Americans face today, but his essential case was, no challenge poses a greater threat to future generations than climate change. That is not the biggest problem facing America. Rosenberg says, "I can sum it up in one number, 58 million. Since 1973, Americans have aborted fifty-eight million babies. If something doesn't happen soon to change course, in less than two years we will hit 60 million which will be ten times more human beings than the six million Jews murdered by the Nazis."

God's judgment is coming upon America because of our national sins and wickedness. We need to be pleading for God to have mercy on us. **Habakkuk 3:2**—"O Lord in wrath, remember mercy." "O Lord of God hosts be with us yet, lest we forget; Thy mercy on your people, O Lord (Rudyard Kipling/*The Recessional*). People around the world need to be called upon to pray and fast. Now is not the time to cower in fear, but now is the time to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit with courage and conviction, because "faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of Christ." Amen.