

## The Place Where You Stand is Holy Ground

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, to whom we pray, bless your holy name. May you be exalted, above the heavens and your glory above all the earth. O Lord you are very great; and clothed with honor, majesty and splendor. Inspire and strengthen all of your people with spiritual zeal in their heart according to your word of truth, the spirit of wisdom and the understanding of your plan of salvation that you are working out for mankind in this age and at this time. We worship you in the beauty of holiness and give you unending thanks for you are good, merciful and gracious, slow to anger and plenteous in mercy. Praise for your goodness and for your wonderful works to the children of men. You satisfy the longing soul and fill the hungry soul with goodness. Help us to be pleasing in your sight. Direct the words of our mouth, the meditation of our heart and the works of our hands to your honor and glory. We ask these things in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

We will have a holy day calendar available for 2016, but we will not know the Hebrew new year until we see the ripening barley (Abib) in Israel this spring. The Karaite Korner search for Abib is scheduled for March 9-10. We will print it out after we know the date of the new year and the holy days according to the true Biblical Calendar based on the Abib (ripening barley) and the crescent new moon.

The Parsha study for this week is in Exodus, the second book of the Torah which is about the time of testing and deliverance of God's people in Ancient Egypt where they were bond slaves under the mighty hand of Pharaoh. God intervened for their salvation and brought great disasters and catastrophes upon the nation of Egypt who was the great world power of that day. There was a great deal of testing and suffering going on. In my thinking, this is parallel to about what is going on in the world today. We are entering a time of great testing and trials like none that have ever been before since the creation of Adam and Eve since before the flood and even including the flood. Now we are at the end of this age which Jeremiah calls the time of Jacob's Trouble.

**Daniel 12:1-3** — “At that time *Michael shall stand up*, the great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered. Everyone who is found written in the book. And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever.’

The flood encompassed the entire earth and Noah and his family would have died if they had not been on the Ark which floated above on the flood waters.

In my research and study, I have proven to myself that the name Michael is one of the names of Jesus Christ, Yeshua the Messiah. He is the great prince and the one mentioned in **Isaiah 9:6-7**.

“For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, **Prince of Peace**. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.” The Prince of Peace is Jesus Christ. The name Michal means like God. The Great Prince that stands is the second member of the Godhead and he watches over Israel. He is the bridegroom of Israel and He is going to marry Israel at his second coming.

Christ spoke of that same time in **Matthew 24:3-10** — His disciples came to him privately on the Mount of Olives and asked Him, “Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?” Christ gave them a lot of things that we should be looking for that will be signs and portent that the end is near and it is coming. We are living in it and facing it. Christ sums it up in **verse 21**. “For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.”

**Verse 22** — “Unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened.”

Today nations and their leaders, the elite of the world, have bought into Satan’s program to destroy the world, but they don’t realize it. They think that they are doing the right thing by bringing the world together under one world government. Take a look at the attempt to integrate European nations (EU) into a politico-economic union that covers 7.3 percent of the world population and get rid of all borders. The EU is based on a series of power giving treaties and governing policies, operates through a system of supranational institutions with intergovernmental-negotiated decisions by the member states and uses a monetary union (the EURO) as legal tender and has a single market through a standardized system of laws that apply in all member states.

The European refugee crisis in 2015 was punctuated by a massive inflow of migrants. Refugees streaming into Europe from Africa, the Middle East (war-torn), and South Asia asylum seekers are contributing to the highest levels of displacement ever recorded and has overwhelmed European leaders and policymakers which is leading to cataclysmic chaos and disaster. Low effective transfer rates and a persistently high incidence of secondary movement among asylum seekers have undermined the efficiency of the EU Dublin Regulation law system which stipulates that asylum seekers must remain in the first European country they enter and that country is solely responsible for examining migrants' asylum applications. As victims of persecution, under international law, refugees are entitled to specific protections. Less clear is the degree to which the right to move freely both within and beyond a country of first asylum can or should be encompassed within the international community's understanding of what refugee protection involves. The economic restrictions placed on refugees in many countries—including prohibitions on the right to work and limitations on movement away from camps—lead many individuals to pursue irregular secondary migration after being granted refugee status.

At least 3.2 million people have fled Syria since civil conflict erupted in 2011 in Syria, putting a great strain on other nations around the world. Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey have started

restricting access to people fleeing the war. The U.N. refugee agency (UNHCR) is calling on countries to make pledges toward resettling 130,000 refugees. Countries around the world have been taking in large numbers of these refugees (Europe, America, Sweden, Germany, Lebanon, Jordan and others) except five of the wealthiest Muslim countries—Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Kuwait and Bahrain.

The western nations do not recognize stealth jihad as Muslim refugees. Why is the majority of Syrian refugees all young men between the ages of 18 and 38, and why are they taking over the places they go? The beginning of WW III has begun as a stealth migration of millions of refugees fleeing the Middle East and taking their brand of Islam to the far corners of the world, especially Europe and America. A sign of this has been in the news this past nine days, beginning on New Year's Day 2016.

WND (1.8.16) Faith, Front Page, World by Douglas Ernst. Non-Muslim women in at least six countries across Europe are paying the price for their leaders' decision to welcome millions of migrants from cultures deeply hostile to Western values. A wave of sexual assaults in Cologne, Germany, on New Year's Eve – and the media cover-up that followed – enraged local citizens. The backlash grew as it became apparent that similar attacks happened in Bielefeld, Düsseldorf, Frankfurt, Hamburg and Stuttgart. Over 100 sexual assaults and robberies were perpetrated by Arab and North African migrants last Friday in Cologne, but Germany is not alone. The list of countries that have reported a spike in sexual attacks since taking in migrants include:

- **Austria:** Police allegedly tried to cover up evidence of sex attacks in Vienna, Breitbart London reported Friday.
- **Finland:** Police told Agence-France Presse there was “widespread sexual harassment” at a New Year's event where 1,000 asylum seekers congregated.
- **France:** Two afghan migrants were arrested in connection with an attempted rape on a passenger train in Paris, Le Parisien reported Thursday.
- **Germany:** A police officer in Cologne told Express.de on Thursday that 14 suspects in custody came from Syria; one came from Afghanistan. Seemingly the victims were held at fault for the attacks by not staying at least an arm length away.
- **Sweden:** At least nine women were groped by gangs of migrants in Kalmar.
- **Switzerland:** Six women said they were sexually harassed at a New Year's Eve event in Zurich, SWI reported Thursday. The attacks were described by the website as “Cologne-style.”

WND (1.7.16)— Rape jihad shows ‘Germany is no longer German.’ Phyllis Schlafly told WND, “This massive immigration is simply changing the face of the world. It's already changed Germany. Germany isn't German anymore. We want America to continue to be American, with our values, our Constitution's values. The people who want to make us globalists do not have the best interests of our country at heart.” Schlafly cited a book, *Adios America*, in which the conservative author Ann Coulter reveals why immigration is the biggest threat facing the U.S. Coulter tells how these immigrants come in and then they go after our women. It's shocking the way they go after very young women. These people who are coming in now are going after 10,

11, 12-year-old girls. I think we ought to close the order and have a pause, just like Donald Trump believes.

A leaked police report indicated several suspects in the Cologne sexual assaults claimed to be Syrian refugees. One suspect reportedly told authorities: "I am Syrian. You have to treat me kindly. Mrs. Merkel invited me." German Chancellor Angela Merkel has opened the floodgates to migrants with her "open door" refugee policy, bringing in 1.1 million asylum-seekers in 2015. She plans to bring hundreds of thousands more Muslim migrants into the nation. German officials have reportedly been told to cover up crimes committed by migrants in order to avoid spreading panic among the population. "No arrests have been made in Cologne. Several German government officials appear anxious to make sure migrants do not receive any of the blame. Facebook, Google and Twitter are working with German authorities to control speech as angry citizens react to the chaos caused by refugees."

Pamela Geller, a WND columnist and internationally known activist against Islamization (SIOA) and author of *Stop the Islamization of America* (2015) documents how Islamic supremacism is seeping into every aspect of American life and how to combat it. Islamic jihad groups aren't solely concentrating on terror attacks, but on the creeping encroachment to introduce Islamic law, an expansionary ideology into this country, step-by-step and bit-by-bit, until finally America wakes up to a country transformed into an Islamic state. Geller charged Merkel and pro-immigration German officials as essentially inviting these attacks – no vetting of migrants or any effort to compel assimilation—and have put their willingness to protect the image of Islam over public safety. “

“The idea of multicultural Europe has failed,” Robert Fico, the prime minister of Slovakia, said on Friday, the Telegraph reported. “The migrants cannot be integrated; it’s simply impossible.” Finnish police and German police said crime is taking on a wholly different dimension with the arrival of refugees. “There hasn’t been this kind of harassment on previous New Year’s Eves or other occasions for that matter. It is a completely new phenomenon in Helsinki,” says the city’s deputy police chief. The three suspects were asylum seekers. Three were caught and taken into custody on the spot. The nations of Europe are beginning to be overwhelmed with the numbers of refugees and the practices they bring along with them wherever they go and expect the world to be converted to follow them and Sharia law.

Inclusiveness of Muslim women’s rights before the 20<sup>th</sup> Century advocated women’s subservience, silence and seclusion. If women were taken into consideration it was with regard to service to men, family and community. Women came to be discussed in law in the same terms as material objects and possessions. An authoritarian family structure predisposes many Muslim women to be abused, and become the victims of violence which is ok according to Sharia law. The harsh rules that some groups are administering in areas under their control in northern and northeastern Syria violate women’s and girls’ human rights and limit their ability to carry out essential daily activities. Jabhat al-Nusra and ISIS insisted that women follow a strict dress code—must cover themselves from head to foot by wearing the *abaya* and *hijab* referred to as a "veil". In some cases, the groups demanded that women wear the *niqab*, a veil covering all of the face apart from the eyes. According to interviewees, members of these groups forbade women from being in public without a male family member. Women and girls who did not abide by the

restrictions are threatened with punishment if they don't comply—in some cases, blocked from using public transportation, working, attending school and accessing education, and buying bread.

According to terror experts, Europe's crisis today is what's facing America in the future once we start importing refugees coming from societies that have no respect for women. The west has turned a blind eye to Sharia law saying it is not religion, but the fact is that the Quran is the basis of Sharia law. Since Obama has become president of the U.S., he has brought 680,000 Muslim immigrants into our country by stealth. In the first 5 years of the Obama presidency, the U.S. gave out green cards to over 680,000 immigrants from predominantly Muslim countries. According to the Center for Immigration Studies, in recent years, 100,000 new Muslim immigrants are brought into the United States EACH year, and it's growing at a rate of about 10% per year.

*Beforeitsnews* (12.31.15) “Obama Caught Smuggling in up to 100,000 Refugees per year on UPS Planes! There is no reason for 30 busses of people to be flying on a UPS flight designated for parcels, under the cover of night, filled with people, who are met on arrival with busses already waiting, and whisked away in secret. About 6 weeks ago a brave individual caught and filmed late at night what he believed was supposed to be a UPS cargo plane, but instead it was filled with people, presumably Muslim refugees, who were then given escort by DHS buses to some unknown destination. Upon the plane's arrival at Harrisburg, PA airport late at night, which was alleged to be a 'parcel flight,' there were 30 busses already lined up, and ready to receive, what turned out not to be parcels, but dozens and dozens of people. According to whoever took the video, he watched as the plane's occupants were quickly escorted onto the busses that were already waiting, and then he began filming as the busses departed with all the 'mystery flyers'.” Is history repeating itself? Is Obama circumventing the law once again to bring in refugees, just like he did with the “refugees” from South America who were actually given rides on D.H.S. busses for protection?

WND (1.7.16) — Leo Holman, “Alabama 2<sup>nd</sup> state to sue Feds over Refugee Settlement.” Two states, Texas and Alabama have filed similar suits against the Federal Government alleging that it has failed to “consult” with state officials while secretly placing foreign refugees into communities. The 10th Amendment guarantees states certain rights that are not spelled out in the Constitution as belonging to the federal government. *Failure to consult* is a problematic term that has no real definition to it. Thus far the case has not gone anywhere and the U.S. State Department has continued distributing Muslim refugees into more than 180 U.S. cities and towns. They come not only from Syria and Iraq, but from Somalia, Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burma and other countries with active jihadist movements. Alabama Governor Robert Bentley is one of more than two-dozen Republican governors who opposed the settlement of Syrian refugees in their states after the jihadist attacks (11.13.15) that killed 130 people in Paris. At least one of the eight Paris attackers was believed to have entered Europe as a refugee.

Under the Alabama and Texas suits, even if the states win, Thompson of the Thomas More Law Center said the federal government would be allowed to continue sending unwanted refugees

into those states. “The feds are going to say ‘OK, we’re consulting, we’ve consulted with you and we’re going to do it,’ and the federal government has already made the statement that the states have no rights to refuse refugees,” Thompson said. “The word ‘consultation’ is so vague that if federal government calls whatever state representative and says, ‘OK, we’re going to send 10 refugees to the state of Alabama and they’ve all been checked out,’ and the state says no, it has no impact.”

As the Muslim population increases in the United States, so too will the number of Islamic terror attacks. This is because the pool from which the radicals recruit grows bigger. Studies show that between 5 - 25% of Muslims in America believe that violence in defense of Islam is justified. The number of potential terrorists therefore grows proportionately with the overall number, even if only a small minority actually plot terror. On December 2, 2015, 14 people were killed and 22 were seriously injured in a terrorist attack in San Bernardino, California, which consisted of a mass shooting and an attempted bombing. Last week a Muslim man in Philadelphia—who supposedly pledged allegiance to ISIS--ambushed police officer Harnett in his patrol car as he patrolled his usual west Philadelphia beat Thursday shortly before midnight, fired 13 shots right into the car window hitting the officer three times in his arm. Harnett got out of his car, bleeding badly and chased the man and returned fire, wounding him in the buttocks before he was captured by other officers about a block away. Investigators said Archer told them he was “following Allah” and pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group, and he believed the police department defends laws that are contrary to Islam.

Despite the fact that Archer stated he did it “in the name of Allah and Islam”, Mayor Jim Kenney sanitized his statement to the public by offering a politically acceptable statement. Instead of telling the truth about Archer’s actions, he stated: “In no way shape or form does anyone in this room believe that Islam or the teaching of Islam has anything to do with what you have seen on the screen.” “This is a criminal with a stolen gun who tried to kill one of our officers. It has nothing to do with being a Muslim or following the Islamic faith

Thehornnews — “According to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a woman in her 40’s who works at a post office in Raqqah was hauled into the street and killed by her own son. The woman reportedly was accused of ‘inciting her son to leave the Islamic state and escaping together,’ and her son turned her into ISIS authorities. ISIS allowed the young man to carry out its death sentence personally. The incident follows several other reports of ISIS fighters killing or turning in their own family.”

At the center of the gun control debate few things are as hotly disputed in the United States as the Constitution's Second Amendment and the right to bear arms. The Second Amendment protects an individual right to possess a firearm unconnected with service in a militia, and to use that arm for traditionally lawful purposes, such as self-defense within the home. President Obama is seeking to impose stricter gun law expansion and has indicated he will bypass Congress to accomplish his goal through executive order.

WND (1.6.16) by Leo Hohmann — “U.S. in grip of ‘Muhammad’ baby boom.” The segment of the U.S. population of second-generation American-Muslim babies born of Middle Eastern parents who migrated to America and never fully assimilated is growing exponentially. Buried in the Social Security data is a count of babies born with the name Muhammad. The Center for Security Policy decided to sift through that data and found the growth of that name, spelled one of a dozen various ways, has been off the charts over the past 50 years. Muhammad is likely the most common given name in the world. But the trend in America is relatively new and is being fueled by various immigration programs that have been expanded since the Immigration Act of 1965 which opened the flood gates of immigration from all corners of the globe. The 1965 act marked a radical break from the immigration policies of the past. The law as it stood then excluded Asians and Africans to 1965. But that's not how the law was seen when it was passed — at the height of the civil rights movement, at a time when ideals of freedom, democracy and equality had seized the nation. The U.S. now takes in 1.1 million immigrants, legally, each year — an all-time record high — and Middle Eastern immigrants are among the fast-growing segments.

The refugee resettlement program brings approximately 40,000 people to the U.S. from Muslim countries every year, along with another 10,000 asylum seekers. There's been an explosion in the issuance of green cards and visas to foreign workers. There are fiancé visas and many immigrants come to the U.S. and have babies, their offspring automatically become U.S. citizens. The fertility rate for Muslim women is also more than double that of native-born American women, who have only 1.9 children per woman.”

Current size of the U.S. Muslim populations is estimated at around 5 million. The U.S. immigration system allows more than 230,000 more Muslims into the country every year through myriad programs from refugee resettlement to green cards. About 170,000 each year are issued “lawful permanent resident” status, also called the “green card”.

WND (1/7/16) “The FBI in 2004 captured documents in a raid on a suspect's home in Falls Church, Virginia, that revealed the Muslim Brotherhood plan to infiltrate and change American society from within, using liberal immigration programs and the nation's own civil liberties against it. That document called the Explanatory Memorandum on the General Strategic Goal for the Group in North America, was presented as evidence in 2008 during the Holy Land Foundation terror-financing trial in Dallas, Texas. It laid out a plan for Sunni Muslims to wage nonviolent jihad against the United States taking a long-term approach based on immigration, non-assimilation and other tactical efforts that would basically change American values by changing its people.”

“Senator Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., who chairs the subcommittee on immigration and the national interest has identified 72 terror attacks and attempted attacks by Muslim immigrants or their offspring over a 12-month period from July 2014 to July 2015. The Obama administration has to date refused to respond to Sessions' request for clarification of the immigration status of the 72 terror suspects.” Is America going to follow the leftists, communists and fascists? Conservative Thomas Sowell, widely respected conservative African American author and economist stated: “Any politician who can be elected only by turning Americans against other Americans is too

dangerous to be elected.” America is divided as never before. Let’s take a look at the evidence. Christ said, “And if a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand” (Mark 3:25).

Abraham Lincoln said, “A house divided against itself cannot stand. I believe this government cannot endure, permanently, half slave and half free.” “I do expect it (the Union) will cease to be divided. It will become all one thing or all the other. Either the opponents of slavery will arrest the further spread of it, and place it where the public mind shall rest in the belief that it is in the course of ultimate extinction; or its advocates will push it forward, till it shall become lawful in all the States, old as well as new — North as well as South.”

How has Obama divided this nation since becoming president? To understand someone’s intentions; ignore what they say, but pay close attention to what they do; and pay particular attention to the results of their actions. Obama has been profoundly successful implementing his ideas. I mean, if he doesn’t get what he wants out of Congress, he just writes the law himself. “you will know them by their fruit” is quite instructive when it comes to Barrack Obama. Obama came into office promising to unite America, instead he has been very divisive. 1) black versus white. He has supported the revolutionary movement Black Lives Matter. He ignores racial slights that negatively affect whites and “favor” darker skinned folks. 2) Class warfare. The divide between the haves and the have-nots. 3) Decreased Morality. 4) Healthcare— young vs old. 4) A question of right versus wrong; good versus evil. 5) Law vs lawlessness.

*Parsha Shimot* (“**Holy Ground**”). **Exodus 3:5** — “Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed. So when the LORD saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, ‘Moses, Moses!’ And he said, ‘Here I am.’ Then He said, ‘Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand *is* holy ground.’ ” He said, “I am the God of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.”

There is a lesson that we can derive from this today. Right now, today we are sitting before God, and we are being taught the word of God. Stop and think about where you are in your life. The situation where you find yourself at the moment, that is the situation and the place that the Almighty wants you to be to serve Him. We are learning a lesson He is teaching us by where we are in our life because we are called of God which is a sacred opportunity to serve Him. It is a holy calling. Are we listening and paying attention to God, or are we ignoring our calling? The Almighty God gives people tests. Each test He gives us is for our own personal spiritual welfare, growth and elevation. The sages teach: “According to the difficulties is the reward.” We must strive to make the most of our opportunities in every situation and every moment of every day to serve God to the best of our ability. That is what life is all about. We need to be cognizant that where we stand is holy ground—we are being called to serve God without fear, without favor and without holding back.

**Exodus 2:16-17** — “Moses fled for his life from Pharaoh to the land of Midian which is modern-day Saudi Arabia. When Moses arrived he sat down by a well and the seven daughters of the priest of Midian came and drew water and filled the troughs with water to water their father’s flock. Then the shepherds came and drove them away; but Moses stood up and helped them and watered their flock.” Their father Reuel, invited Moses to have bread and Moses was content live with the man, and he gave Zipporah his daughter to Moses.

**Exodus 4:24-25** — Later on, Zipporah saved Moses’ life. Moses had not circumcised his second son on the eighth day. So God’s angel sought to kill Moses at the encampment, on their way back to Egypt. Then Zipporah took a sharp flint stone and cut off the foreskin of her son, so God let Moses go. All of us need to learn that all the kindnesses we do to someone else is essentially repaid to us. God rewards kindness. Christ said, “For whoever gives you a cup of water to drink in MY name, because you belong to Me, assuredly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward” (Mark 8:41). When you are kind to others, they will be kinder to you. Think about any relationship you have where there is strain and stress involved. When it comes to doing something good for ourselves or others, even if it seems out of our reach, we should not give up but try our best to do it. If we practice this, we will be amazed at how much we will accomplish.

**Exodus 2:5**—When Pharaoh’s daughter came to bathe herself in the river and saw a basket in the rushes along the river’s side she sent her maid to fetch it. When she opened it, she saw a baby and the baby cried. She had compassion on him and knew the baby was one of the Hebrew’s children. She paid a Hebrew woman to nurse the babe and care for him until weaned and named the baby Moses. After he was weaned, then he was brought to the palace and became her son. Moses became God’s chosen servant to lead Israel out of bondage.

Some people may think that the study of words (Etymology) is meaningless and not important, but they are mistaken. It is reported that in Judaism’s highest court, the Sanhedrin, one had to be fluent in 70 languages. *Nations and Languages, the Seventy* by Kaufmann Kohler, Isaac Broyde “The Jewish law required that every member of the Sanhedrin should have sufficient knowledge of the seventy languages to be able to do without an interpreter (Sanh. 17a; comp. Meg. 73b; Men. 65a).” A judge has a very important job. To be a good judge one has to decide between right and wrong, good and evil, mete a punishment suitable to the crimes, appreciate life and must have wisdom as well as love for people and understanding. God is calling all of us to be judges and priests in his kingdom. Wisdom is knowing what is right and then doing it—making life meaningful and rewarding.

What does it mean to be “holy”? The Hebrew word for holy is *kadosh* which has the basic meaning of being meaningful or important. It is important where we are. God put us here, and we have learned where we ought to be. You are listening and tuned in because you wanted to be tuned in for your own spiritual development and fulfillment. It gives us a clearer picture of what life is all about, and the Holy Spirit gives us right direction in our life. What we have to understand is that God rules the world and runs the Universe. 1) He gave us life, 2) we are not an accident, 3) there is a reason for everything that happens, 4) life is not purposeless. Therefore, consider everything that happens to you – from the smallest happening to the largest — as directed by God. Nothing is too difficult or too small for God. He is involved in your life.

A few winters ago when I was driving uphill on an icy curve our van slid across the road stopping two feet short from a steep drop-off. We were fortunate that a couple of good Samaritans stopped to help and pulled the car to the middle of the road and one of the old-timers showed us a better route to use. As we were standing in the middle of the road, my wife was told to be careful of the slick ice, but she was not careful enough and fell and broke four ribs. Experience teaches us important lessons. I had to learn about driving on icy roads. During September this past year the Okanogan Complex Fires burned right up to the four sides of our property line and the heat singed a few of the trees, yet our place was saved. There is a reason for everything and we need to understand the reason for our experiences by observing, analyzing and praying to God for understanding and discernment for those things we do not understand. Remember that everything that happens to us is part of a test. The world is going to be tested. Everyone will go through tests to purify their character and to learn what it means to become like Christ and give ourselves for the noble kingdom of God.

God wants us to be holy and we need to pay attention to his directions and what crosses our path and the people that God brings into our lives so we can encourage, befriend, and serve in kindness. The purpose of our life is to learn the secret of brotherly love for our neighbor as our self. Do kind deeds without expecting return. Give generously—be a generous giver and not a taker. The first commandment is to love God with all of our heart, mind, soul and strength. We are to put our strength and energy into serving God. **Colossians 3:17** — “Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”

**Philippians 2:14-15** — “Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.” Be women and men of the “BE” ATTITUDES of grace, love, joy, peace and kindness. Learn the lesson and fulfill your calling. Remember the place that you are standing is holy ground.