



Hijacked

Rev. Charles E. Darnell, PhD



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What? When? Where? How?

God is pushing me to write and examine facts as they should be understood by everyone who professes to be a Christian. I guess, as with many of the articles and books God has brought to my mind, I must stairstep things recorded and things not yet recorded. Every person on the face of this planet, no matter the religion that you claim to have a belief in and follow, needs to examine themselves and answer this one question. When you die do you truthfully know that your soul will be in God's heaven?

I began this chapter with the questions a good reporter would ask when gathering information related to a newsworthy event. I left off "who" for specific reasons. The world may not recognize that we all have an adversary and that adversary is very real. His angelic name was Lucifer, meaning, light bearer. This created entity had the highest position in the angelic host of heaven. After his pride got the better of him he fell from grace and turned himself into the personage of Satan. He managed to attract one third of all the angels to become his followers and they are now the demons that have been loosened upon mankind. Jesus made a statement to the priest and the Pharisees that was recorded by John, John 8:42-47, ⁴² *Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me. ⁴³ Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word. ⁴⁴ You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it. ⁴⁵ But because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me. ⁴⁶ Which of you convicts Me of sin? And if I tell the truth, why do you not believe Me? ⁴⁷ He who is of God hears God's words; therefore you do not hear, because you are not of God."*

I must also attach several statements made by Paul. We must remember that Saul, his name before he met Jesus, was a member of the Jewish ruling council and initially felt the followers of Jesus were against the temple, chief priest and law of Moses. One day while attempting to persecute some of the followers of Jesus he was struck by blindness and the question of: "Why do you persecute Me?" He met Jesus face to face and Jesus told him what was going to happen to him. Everything happened just as it was told to him and his name was changed to Paul and he was appointed the Apostle to the Gentiles. Paul made the following statements: First, in Romans 12:2, ² *And 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.* Secondly, Paul said the following in 1st Thessalonians 5:21, ²¹ ***Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.*** (KJV) Thirdly, Paul, as the writer of Hebrews tells us a very important fact in Hebrews 6:17-18, ¹⁷ *Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, ¹⁸ that by two immutable things, in which **it is impossible for God to lie**, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us.* Therefore, we understand the need to prove things from the Bible's perspective and remembering that God cannot lie.

With those things said, let us go back to the opening verse of scripture from the Gospel of John to prove what it says pertaining to this father as ancestor of the Pharisees. Here is my statement to you. The things my God has brought to me to tell you are very deep subjects from His word and I will do my best, through the Holy Spirit, to bring to you a better understanding of what it means to be a follower of Jesus.

From the book of Genesis, we find the following information. The two trees in the center of the Garden are metaphors for Jesus, the tree of Life, and Satan, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. When we read the passage or listen to the spoken teaching of Genesis, we read the verse in the follow-

ing manner. Genesis 2:16-17, ¹⁶ *And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."* We really should notice two words in these verses. First, notice that Adam could eat of the tree of Life without receiving a death penalty.

Secondly, we really must understand this little word, eat. Along with this word we must, out of necessity, understand that there was never a mention of any type of fruit or nut. If we review Strong's Concordance number 398 for the word *âkal* (aw-kal'), we find out that it may mean any of the following: eat, dine, food, devour or consume. What would be the meaning of the above verse if we used the word consume instead of eat? Wouldn't we have the following statement? ¹⁶ *And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely consume; ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not consume (from it), for in the day that you consume of it you shall surely die."* (my emphasis)

We must also place emphasis on the fact that God commanded this to the man. This is in Chapter 2, verses 16 and 17. The woman, Eve, was not formed until verses 22-23 in this chapter. ²² *Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.* ²³ *And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man."* (KJV)

From this joining between the man and the woman we have one of the principle truths of God's Holy Word. Recorded in verses 24-25, ²⁴ *Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.* ²⁵ *And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.*

It was the responsibility of the man to inform the woman that they were not to consume from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. We have already illustrated that Lucifer, in his angelic form was a shining being and the most beautiful of all the angels. Using this illustration of how Satan appeared to the woman I can only imagine what she thought as she looked at this shining, deceiving serpent before her and pondered its question concerning the consuming from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. When convinced that she would not die, she was ready to partake of this forbidden tree. She did! Then it states, that she gave some, to her husband, who was there with her! Verse 6 of chapter 3: ⁶ *So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate (did consume). She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate (consumed).* (NKJV - my emphasis)

The proof of the pudding, so to speak, rests in the portion of chapter 3 from verse 9 through verse 20. Let's look at these verses with detail. Verses 9-11, ⁹ *Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?"* ¹⁰ *So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself."* ¹¹ *And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat (consume)?"* (NKJV - my emphasis) Adam responded to God's question in verse 12, ¹² *And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me (some) of the tree, and I did eat (consume).* (KJV - my emphasis)

We now get down to the basic fact as recorded in verse 13, ¹³ *And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat (consume).* (KJV - my Emphasis)

We need to stop for a moment and review another Hebrew word. Notice that Eve tells God that the serpent beguiled her. What is the meaning of this one word? Strong's Concordance records the number for this term as number 5377, *nâshâ'* (naw-shaw') meaning to lead astray, (morally) to seduce, beguile, deceive X greatly X utterly. Doesn't that, therefore, mean that Eve was greatly and utterly deceived and seduced and that she also gave some to her husband?

God begins His placement of a curse upon the serpent first in verses 14-15, ¹⁴ *So the LORD God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, You are cursed more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you shall go, And you shall eat dust All the days of your life. ¹⁵ And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."* Notice in verse 15 that God makes no mention of Adam, the man, instead this portion of the curse is placed between the woman and Satan. Stated as your seed and her Seed. Notice that there are two seeds mentioned, your seed and her Seed. We understand, because of the use of the capital S, that the prophetic reference is to Jesus.

God then placed a curse upon the woman in verse 16, ¹⁶ *To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you."* There are two items we need to reflect upon in this verse. First, notice that conception and bringing forth children are brought into this curse upon Eve. My question is this: how did the discussion of eating of a tree have anything to do with conception or child birth? Then we have the second question: Why the statement "Your desire shall be for your husband?" If these are the only two people on the planet, who else is Eve going to have desire for? For Satan, God forbid!

God finally gets to the man and announces to him the following from verses 17-20, ¹⁷ *Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life. ¹⁸ Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field. ¹⁹ In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return."* ²⁰ *And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.*

We see that all three parties involved have a curse placed upon them and the man and woman are expelled from the Garden. It seems funny that the formed beings, the man and the woman, are expelled but the created being, Satan, isn't even mentioned as being removed or expelled from the Garden.

The basis for our search has been stated and we now need to observe the results. Turn with me to chapter 4. The first verse retells us the result of the curse placed upon the woman in chapter 2, verse 16. The verse is above and I will not repeat it here. What I would like to do is show the results of verse 15. We had two seeds mentioned in verse 15, Satan's seed and her Seed. Let's review the actions. Satan seduced Eve first, therefore the first seed is Satan's seed, then we have her Seed, as the second Seed. Look at verses 1 and 2 of chapter 4, ¹ *Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, "I have acquired a man from the LORD."* ² *Then she bore again, this time his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.* These two are twins, but notice that Satan's seed is the first and her Seed is the second. Abel was to be the designated blood line to lead to God's chosen people. But we also know that Cain killed Abel. Once again, isn't Satan a deceiver and a murderer? What would we expect his offspring to be?

Now, there is another interesting portion of chapter 4 that must be shown. Notice that there is a genealogy for Cain given between verses 17-24. Anyone who has ever worked on genealogy can tell you that you can only have one father and not two. If you look at the last two verses in chapter 4 and what is stated in chapter 5, verse 1, we see that there is another genealogy for Adam. Remember there were two seeds shown in relationship to the act in the Garden and the second seed was called her Seed. Abel is her seed. I dropped the capital S because the designated bloodline was broken with the death of Abel. Seth becomes the new progenitor of the Godly line. This is the reason why there are two genealogies given in the Bible. Notice what it says about Seth in verse 3, ³ *And Adam lived one hundred and thirty years, and begot a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth.*

There is the proof of what Jesus said to the Pharisees at the temple. Another way of looking at this is what Jesus said in Matthew 12:30, ³⁰ *He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.*

Another matter we must address is the validity of the Bible. Many so called Christians now say they are New Testament Christians and do not need to read, nor understand, the Old Testament. Why is it you have received this doctrine that makes such a claim and you believe it? Another statement said that the Bible has been translated so much that there is no certainty that any of the Bible is true. Let's see if we can prove this one. Have you been instructed to accept the fact that the first five books of the Bible were written by Moses. Here are a couple of questions for you. If Moses wrote the book of Genesis how did he know anything about Adam and Eve? Moses was not alive when the events in the Garden took place and all but eight people were destroyed in the world wide flood of Noah. Moses could not have spoken to Adam nor to Noah to find out what happened in either of their situations. So how did Moses learn these things?

Moses first met with God at the burning bush on Mount Horeb, the mountain of God, as recorded in chapter 3 of the book of Exodus. Notice that God spoke to Moses and gave him instructions to prepare the Israelites for the Exodus to return them to the land that God had promised to Abraham. Once the actual Exodus began the Israelites traveled through the wilderness and arrived at Mount Sinai. It was here at Mount Sinai that Moses went up the mountain and the LORD God came down to speak to Moses. God dictates the Ten Commandments to Moses, provided instructions pertaining to the law that shall be called the Law of Moses, and also provides the knowledge to complete the first five books of the Bible. This can be observed, as it is recorded, throughout these first five books. From this dictation from God, we have the original Torah and every Torah since has been a process of copying every jot and tittle just as it was in the original. The group known as the Essenes faithfully reproduced manuscripts of every book in the Old Testament. We can say with a certain amount of assurance that, of the Dead Sea Scrolls there are fragments of every Old Testament book except Esther. It is also a known fact that when the Roman army destroyed Jerusalem they also destroyed the area where the Essenes resided. Some of those at Qumran took scrolls and went to Masada and much later there were scrolls found at Masada. What we have is a traceable record that the original words of the Old Testament are the same today as they were when given to Moses and the prophets.

There are also questions being spoken of today pertaining to the prophecies of the Messiah, i.e., Jesus as Christ, LORD and Savior. The proof exists in the many prophecies proclaimed in the Old Testament and the fulfillment through Jesus in the New Testament. I do not have the total number of prophecies pertaining to Jesus being the Christ, but there should be enough for you to accept that Jesus does, in fact, fill the prophecies about who He is. I have read someplace that a mathematician figured the odds for all these prophecies to be filled by one individual. The odds was something on the order of 1, followed by 17 zeros, to 1. In other words, unbelievable odds that one person could fill all of these predictions (prophecies). One must remember, we are dealing with God and His will and all things are possible. 100,000,000,000,000,000 to 1

Jesus the Christ

What makes Jesus the anointed one of God?

Every Christian should know the many answers to the above question. With very little thought, you should be able to give at least five of the prophecies that indicate Jesus is the Messiah! Unfortunately, my own experience indicates that there are few who can defend their belief and explain even five of the prophecies that indicate Jesus is the Messiah. Should the question be: Why can't you, it's your belief?

The answers, that I'm aware of, are given here as a study aid to provide you a better understanding of who your LORD is and what was said about him long before he was born. These are some of the verses that fulfill those prophecies.

Prophecies	Fulfillment
<p>Would be the Offspring of a woman Genesis 3:15 "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, <i>and between your seed and her Seed</i>; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."</p>	<p>Luke 2:7 <i>And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.</i> Galatians 4:4 <i>But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law.</i> Revelation 12:5 <i>She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne.</i></p>
<p>Promised Offspring of Abraham Genesis 12:3 "I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and <i>in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.</i>" Genesis 18:18 <i>Since Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him.</i></p>	<p>Matthew 1:1 <i>The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham.</i> Luke 3:34 <i>The son of Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham, the son of Terah, the son of Nahor.</i> Acts 3:25 <i>You are sons of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying to Abraham, "And in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed."</i></p>
<p>Promised Offspring of Isaac Genesis 17:19 <i>Then God said: "No, Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his descendants after him."</i></p>	<p>Matthew 1:2 <i>Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers.</i> Luke 3:34 <i>The son of Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham, the son of Terah, the son of Nahor.</i></p>

<p>Promised Offspring of Jacob Genesis 28:14 Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and <i>in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.</i> Numbers 24:17 “I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near; <i>a Star shall come out of Jacob</i>; a Scepter shall rise out of Israel, and batter the brow of Moab, and destroy all the sons of tumult.</p>	<p>Matthew 1:2 Abraham begot Isaac, <i>Isaac begot Jacob</i>, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers. Luke 3:34 <i>The son of Jacob</i>, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham, the son of Terah, the son of Nahor.</p>
<p>Will descend from the tribe of Judah Genesis 49:10 <i>The scepter shall not depart from Judah</i>, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh comes; and to Him shall be the obedience of the people.</p>	<p>Matthew 1:2 Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and <i>Jacob begot Judah and his brothers.</i> Luke 3:33 The son of Amminadab, the son of Ram, the son of Hezron, the son of Perez, <i>the son of Judah.</i></p>
<p>The Heir to the throne of David Isaiah 9:7 Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, <i>upon the throne of David</i> 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.</p>	<p>Matthew 1:1 The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the <i>Son of David</i>, the Son of Abraham. Matthew 1:6 And Jesse begot <i>David the king</i>. David the king begot Solomon by her who had been the wife of Uriah.</p>
<p>Will be born in Bethlehem Micah 5:2 “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, <i>yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel</i>, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting.”</p>	<p>Matthew 2:1 Now after Jesus was <i>born in Bethlehem of Judea</i> in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem. Luke 2:4-7 Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, <i>to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem</i>, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.</p>
<p>Would be born of a virgin Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: behold, <i>the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son</i>, and shall call His name Immanuel.</p>	<p>Matthew 1:18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, <i>she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.</i> Luke 1:26-35 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <i>to a virgin</i> betrothed to a man whose name</p>

	<p>was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!" But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."</p> <p>Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?"</p> <p>And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God."</p>
<p>There would be a slaughter of infants Jeremiah 31:15 Thus says the Lord: "A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping, Rachel <i>weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted for her children, because they are no more.</i>"</p>	<p>Matthew 2:16-18 Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying: "A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel <i>weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted, because they are no more.</i>"</p>
<p>Jesus and his parents would escape into Egypt Hosea 11:1 "When Israel was a child, I loved him, and <i>out of Egypt I called My son.</i>"</p>	<p>Matthew 2:14-15 When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "<i>Out of Egypt I called My Son.</i>"</p>
<p>Would be called a Nazarene Cannot find any reference in the Old Testament to meet the statement made by the Prophets.</p>	<p>Matthew 2:23 and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets: "<i>He will be called a Nazarene.</i>"</p>

Jesus would have a ministry in Galilee

Isaiah 9:1-2 Nevertheless the gloom will not be upon her who is distressed, as when at first He lightly esteemed the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, and afterward more heavily oppressed her, by the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, *in Galilee of the Gentiles*. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined.

Matthew 4:12-16 Now when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee. And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: “The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, by the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, *Galilee of the Gentiles*: The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death Light has dawned.”

Jesus would be called a Prophet

Deuteronomy 18:15 "The Lord your God will raise up for you a *Prophet* like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear.”

John 1:45 Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found *Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets*, wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”

John 6:14 Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, “This is truly *the Prophet* who is to come into the world.”

Acts 3:19-26 Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began. For Moses truly said to the fathers, “The Lord your God will raise up for you a *Prophet* like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you. And it shall be that every soul who will not hear *that Prophet* shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.”

Yes, and all the prophets, from Samuel and those who follow, as many as have spoken, have also foretold these days. You are sons of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying to Abraham, “And in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” To you first, God, having raised up His Servant Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from your iniquities.

<p style="text-align: center;">Jesus would be called a Priest in the order of Melchizedek</p> <p>Psalms 110:4 The Lord has sworn and will not relent, “<i>You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.</i>”</p>	<p>Hebrews 5:5-6 So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him: “You are My Son, today I have begotten You.” As He also says in another place: “<i>You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.</i>”</p> <p>Hebrews 6:20 Where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become <i>High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.</i></p> <p>Hebrews 7:15-17 And it is yet far more evident if, in the likeness of Melchizedek, there arises another priest who has come, not according to the law of a fleshly commandment, but according to the power of an endless life. For He testifies: “<i>You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.</i>”</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Would be rejected by the Jews</p> <p>Psalms 2:2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and <i>against His Anointed.</i></p> <p>Isaiah 53:3 He is despised and <i>rejected by men</i>, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.</p>	<p>Luke 17:25 But first He must suffer many things and <i>be rejected by this generation.</i></p> <p>Luke 23:18 And they all cried out at once, saying, “<i>Away with this Man, and release to us Barabbas.</i>”</p> <p>John 1:11 He came to His own, and <i>His own did not receive Him.</i></p> <p>John 5:43 I have come in My Father’s name, and <i>you do not receive Me</i>; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Would have a high moral character</p> <p>Psalms 45:7 <i>You love righteousness and hate wickedness</i>; therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness more than Your companions.</p> <p>Isaiah 11:2-4 <i>The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him</i>, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. His delight is in the fear of the Lord, and He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, nor decide by the hearing of His ears; but with righteousness <i>He shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth</i>; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked.</p>	<p>Luke 2:52 And <i>Jesus increased in wisdom and stature</i>, and in favor with God and men.</p> <p>Luke 4:18 “<i>The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me</i>, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed.”</p>

He would enter Jerusalem riding on a donkey

Zechariah 9:9 "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, lowly and *riding on a donkey*, a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Matthew 21:1-11 Now when they drew near Jerusalem, and came to Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Loose them and bring them to Me. And if anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord has need of them,' and immediately he will send them."

All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: "Tell the daughter of Zion, 'behold, your King is coming to you, lowly, and sitting on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey.'"

So the disciples went and did as Jesus commanded them. They brought the donkey and the colt, laid their clothes on them, and set Him on them. And a very great multitude spread their clothes on the road; others cut down branches from the trees and spread them on the road. Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"

And when He had come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, "Who is this?"

So the multitudes said, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee."

John 12:13-14 Took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, and cried out: "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! The King of Israel!" Then Jesus, when He had found a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written.

Would be betrayed by a friend

Psalms 41:9 *Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted up his heel against me.*

Matthew 26:14-16 Then *one of the twelve*, called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, "What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?" And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver. So from that time he sought opportunity to betray Him.

Mark 14:10 Then Judas Iscariot, *one of the twelve*, went to the chief priests to betray Him to them.

Mark 14:43-45 And immediately, while He was still speaking, Judas, *one of the twelve*, with a great multitude with swords and clubs, came from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders. Now

	<p>His betrayer had given them a signal, saying, “Whomever I kiss, He is the One; seize Him and lead Him away safely.”</p>
<p>Betrayed by thirty pieces of silver Zechariah 11:12 Then I said to them, “If it is agreeable to you, give me my wages; and if not, refrain.” So <i>they weighed out for my wages thirty pieces of silver.</i></p>	<p>Matthew 26:15 And said, “What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?” And <i>they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver.</i></p>
<p>Betrayal money to be returned for a potter’s field Zechariah 11:13 And the Lord said to me, “Throw it to the potter”—that princely price they set on me. <i>So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the Lord for the potter.</i></p>	<p>Matthew 27:3-10 Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, “I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.”</p> <p>And they said, “What is that to us? You see to it!” Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself.</p> <p>But the chief priests took the silver pieces and said, “It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, because they are the price of blood.” And they consulted together and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in. Therefore that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day.</p> <p>Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying, “And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the value of Him who was priced, whom they of the children of Israel priced, and gave them for the potter’s field, as the Lord directed me.”</p>
<p>Judas’ position to be taken by another Psalms 109:7-8 When he is judged, let him be found guilty, and let his prayer become sin. Let his days be few, and let another <i>take his office.</i></p>	<p>Acts 1:18-20 Now this man purchased a field with the wages of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his entrails gushed out. And it became known to all those dwelling in Jerusalem; so that field is called in their own language, Akel Dama, that is, Field of Blood. “For it is written in the book of Psalms: ‘Let his dwelling place be desolate, and let no one live in it;’ and, ‘Let another <i>take his office.</i>’”</p>

	<p>Acts 1:24-26 And they prayed and said, “You, O Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which of these two You have chosen to take part in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place.” And they cast their lots, and the lot fell on <i>Matthias</i>. And he was numbered with the eleven apostles.</p>
<p>False witnesses accuse him Psalms 27:12 Do not deliver me to the will of my adversaries; for <i>false witnesses have risen against me</i>, and such as breathe out violence. Psalms 35:11 KJV <i>False witnesses did rise up</i>; they laid to my charge things that I knew not.</p>	<p>Matthew 26:60-61 But found none. Even though many <i>false witnesses</i> came forward, they found none. But at last two false witnesses came forward and said, “This fellow said, ‘I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.’”</p>
<p>Would be silent when accused Psalms 38:13-14 But I, like a deaf man, do not hear; and I am like a mute <i>who does not open his mouth</i>. Thus I am like a man who does not hear, and in whose mouth is no response. Isaiah 53:7 He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet <i>He opened not His mouth</i>; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so <i>He opened not His mouth</i>.</p>	<p>Matthew 26:62-63 And the high priest arose and said to Him, “Do You answer nothing? What is it these men testify against You?” But <i>Jesus kept silent</i>. And the high priest answered and said to Him, “I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!” Matthew 27:12-14 And while He was being accused by the chief priests and elders, <i>He answered nothing</i>. Then Pilate said to Him, “Do You not hear how many things they testify against You?” But <i>He answered him not one word</i>, so that the governor marveled greatly.</p>
<p>Would be struck and spit on Isaiah 50:6 <i>I gave My back to those who struck Me, and My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard</i>; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting.</p>	<p>Mark 14:65 Then <i>some began to spit on Him</i>, and to blindfold Him, and to beat Him, and to say to Him, “Prophecy!” And the officers <i>struck Him with the palms of their hands</i>. John 18:22 And when He had said these things, one of the officers who stood by <i>struck Jesus with the palm of his hand</i>, saying, “Do You answer the high priest like that?” John 19:1-3 So then Pilate took Jesus and scourged Him. And the soldiers twisted a crown of thorns and put it on His head, and they put on Him a purple robe. Then they said, “Hail, King of the Jews!” And <i>they struck Him with their hands</i>.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Would be hated without cause</p> <p>Psalms 69:4 Those who <i>hate me without a cause</i> are more than the hairs of my head; they are mighty who would destroy me, being my enemies wrongfully; though I have stolen nothing, I still must restore it.</p> <p>Psalms 109:3-5 <i>They have also surrounded me with words of hatred</i>, and fought against me without a cause. In return for my love they are my accusers, but I give myself to prayer. Thus they have rewarded me evil for good, and hatred for my love.</p>	<p>John 15:23-25 He who hates Me hates My Father also. If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father. But this happened that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law, "<i>They hated Me without a cause.</i>"</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Would suffer vicariously</p> <p>Isaiah 53:4-6 Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But <i>He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities</i>; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and <i>by His stripes we are healed</i>. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and <i>the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all</i>.</p>	<p>Matthew 8:16-17 When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: "<i>He Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses.</i>"</p> <p>Romans 4:25 <i>Who was delivered up because of our offenses</i>, and was raised because of our justification.</p> <p>1 Corinthians 15:3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that <i>Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures</i>.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Would be crucified with sinners</p> <p>Isaiah 53:12 Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong, because He poured out His soul unto death, and <i>He was numbered with the transgressors</i>; and He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.</p>	<p>Matthew 27:38 <i>Two robbers were crucified with him</i>, one on his right and one on his left.</p> <p>Mark 15:27-28 <i>With Him they also crucified two robbers</i>, one on His right and the other on His left. So the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "<i>And He was numbered with the transgressors.</i>"</p> <p>Luke 23:33 And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there <i>they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left</i>.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Hands and feet to be pierced</p> <p>Psalms 22:16 For dogs have surrounded Me; the congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet.</p> <p>Zechariah 12:10 "And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then <i>they will look on Me whom they pierced</i>. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.</p>	<p>John 19:37 And again another Scripture says, "They shall look on <i>Him whom they pierced.</i>"</p> <p>John 20:27 Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing."</p>

<p>To be mocked and insulted</p> <p>Psalms 22:6-8 But I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised by the people. All those who see Me ridicule Me; they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, “<i>He trusted in the Lord, let Him rescue Him; let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him!</i>”</p>	<p>Matthew 27:39-44 And <i>those who passed by blasphemed Him</i>, wagging their heads and saying, “You who destroy the temple and build it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross.”</p> <p>Likewise the chief priests also, <i>mocking</i> with the scribes and elders, said, “He saved others; Himself He cannot save. If He is the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe Him. He trusted in God; let Him deliver Him now if He will have Him; for He said, ‘I am the Son of God.’” Even <i>the robbers who were crucified with Him reviled Him with the same thing.</i></p> <p>Mark 15:29-32 And <i>those who passed by blasphemed Him</i>, wagging their heads and saying, “Aha! You who destroy the temple and build it in three days, save Yourself, and come down from the cross!”</p> <p>Likewise the chief priests also, <i>mocking among themselves with the scribes</i>, said, “He saved others; Himself He cannot save. Let the Christ, the King of Israel, descend now from the cross, that we may see and believe.” Even <i>those who were crucified with Him reviled Him.</i></p>
<p>Would be given gall and vinegar</p> <p>Psalms 69:21 <i>They also gave me gall for my food, and for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.</i></p>	<p>Matthew 27:34 They gave Him <i>sour wine mingled with gall</i> to drink. But when He had tasted it, He would not drink.</p> <p>Matthew 27:48 Immediately one of them ran and took a sponge, filled it with <i>sour wine</i> and put it on a reed, and offered it to Him to drink.</p> <p>John 19:29 Now a vessel full of <i>sour wine</i> was sitting there; and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on hyssop, and put it to His mouth.</p>
<p>Would hear prophetic words repeated in mockery</p> <p>Psalms 22:8 “<i>He trusted in the Lord, let Him rescue Him; let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him!</i>”</p>	<p>Matthew 27:43 “<i>He trusted in God; let Him deliver Him now if He will have Him</i>; for He said, ‘I am the Son of God.’”</p>

<p>Would pray for his enemies Psalms 109:4 In return for my love they are my accusers, but <i>I give myself to prayer.</i> Isaiah 53:12 Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong, because <i>He poured out His soul unto death</i>, and He was numbered with the transgressors, and He bore the sin of many, and <i>made intercession for the transgressors.</i></p>	<p>Luke 23:34 Then Jesus said, “<i>Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.</i>” And they divided His garments and cast lots.</p>
<p>His side would be pierced Zechariah 12:10 “And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will <i>look on Me whom they pierced.</i> Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.”</p>	<p>John 19:34 But one of the soldiers <i>pierced His side</i> with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.</p>
<p>Soldiers would cast lots for his clothes Psalms 22:18 <i>They divide My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots.</i></p>	<p>Mark 15:24 And they crucified Him. <i>Dividing up His clothes, they cast lots</i> to see what each would get. John 19:24 They said therefore among themselves, “Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be,” that the Scripture might be fulfilled which says: “<i>They divided My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots.</i>” Therefore the soldiers did these things. Luke 23:34 Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.” And <i>they divided His garments and cast lots.</i></p>
<p>Not a bone would be broken Psalms 34:20 <i>He guards all his bones; not one of them is broken.</i></p>	<p>John 19:33 But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, <i>they did not break His legs.</i></p>
<p>Would be buried with the rich Isaiah 53:9 And they made His grave with the wicked—but <i>with the rich at His death</i>, because He had done no violence, nor was any deceit in His mouth.</p>	<p>Matthew 27:57-60 Now when evening had come, there came <i>a rich man</i> from Arimathea, named Joseph, who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be given to him. When Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and <i>laid it in his new tomb</i> which he had hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a large stone against the door of the tomb, and departed.</p>

Would arise

Psalms 16:10 *For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.*

Matthew 28:9 And as they went to tell His disciples, behold, *Jesus met them*, saying, “Rejoice!” So they came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him.

Luke 24:36-46 Now as they said these things, *Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them*, and said to them, “Peace to you.” But they were terrified and frightened, and supposed they had seen a spirit.

And He said to them, “Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts? Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have.” When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. But while they still did not believe for joy, and marveled, He said to them, “Have you any food here?” So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish and some honeycomb. And He took it and ate in their presence. Then He said to them, “These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.” And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. Then He said to them, “Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day.”

Would ascend into Heaven

Psalms 68:18 *You have ascended on high, you have led captivity captive; you have received gifts among men, even from the rebellious, that the Lord God might dwell there.*

Luke 24:50-51 And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that *He was parted from them and carried up into heaven.*

Acts 1:9 Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, *He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.*

<p>His rejection would be shown to the Jews Psalms 118:22 <i>The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.</i></p>	<p>Acts 4:10-11 “Let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole. This is the ‘stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.’”</p>
<p>Rebellion against God and <u>the Word</u> Psalms 2:1-12 Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, <i>against the Lord and against His Anointed</i>, saying, “Let us break Their bonds in pieces and cast away their cords from us.” He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; the Lord shall hold them in derision.</p> <p>Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, and distress them in His deep displeasure: “Yet I have set My King on My holy hill of Zion. I will declare the decree: The Lord has said to Me, ‘You are My Son, today I have begotten You. Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter’s vessel.’”</p> <p>Now therefore, be wise, O kings; be instructed, you judges of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish in the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.</p>	<p>John 1:1-5 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And <i>the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.</i></p> <p>Acts 4:25-29 Who by the mouth of Your servant David have said: “Why did the nations rage, and the people plot vain things? The kings of the earth took their stand, and the rulers were gathered together <i>against the Lord and against His Christ.</i>”</p> <p>For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done. Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word.</p>

There are two other areas that need proof and they are the Ten Commandments and the feast days that God established.

There are 17 things that God asks His people to be obedient toward. We should all know and understand the Ten Commandments, however, there have been so many who are in rebellion toward God that they have complained time and again that the following of these ten rules crosses the line between church and state. They want mankind to believe that adherence to these ten rules make them religious because they are contained in the Bible. Let's look at this for a moment. Look at Genesis chapter 2 and notice that Adam had only one duty to perform in the Garden. All God asked Adam to do was tend the Garden, Genesis 2:15-17, ¹⁵*Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.* ¹⁶*And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat;* ¹⁷*but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."*

We all know what happened with only one duty or rule to follow. That didn't turn out very well for mankind as a whole. Adam and Eve's disobedience caused mankind to enter into a condition of sinfulness and separation between God and mankind. This means a spiritual separation and not a physical separation. However, God had a plan. Within God's plan He selected a people to become His beloved people, and His goal (plan, etc.) was for them to represent God to all the rest of the peoples upon the earth. In a portion of this plan, God caused them to become enslaved in Egypt and for them to cry out to their God for deliverance. God delivered them through the leadership of Moses. This same time was the beginning of testing in the desert. Along this journey, God instructed Moses to write down Ten Commandments for the people to follow. Once again, we have some simple rules to follow and they shouldn't be that difficult to follow. However, we see that even ten rules were too much for the people to follow and they created a golden calf to be their god. God saw what they were doing and caused them to wander for 40 years before they were allowed to enter into what God called the promised land.

Maybe we should look at these Ten Commandments to see what they really say. Can mankind really follow ten rules? Prior to looking at these ten rules, I'm going to provide an answer to my first question concerning whether mankind can really follow these ten rules. God's plan provided a means for the breach between Himself and mankind to be healed. That plan was for God to send His only Son to earth to become the living sacrifice to be presented as the offering to God. That same offering would redeem His people and provide a means for all of mankind to have a method so they would once again have a spiritual relationship with Almighty God. Here is my answer: Jesus made the following statement to all of mankind; Matthew 11:27-30, ²⁷*All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.* ²⁸*Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.* ²⁹*Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.* ³⁰*For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."*

Look at verse 30 above. It clearly tells us that believing in Jesus provides an easy yoke and His burden upon us is light. Therefore, we should not have a difficult task in believing Jesus. But once again we need to look at the ten rules that God gave to all mankind to follow. We find these rules in the 20th chapter of the book of Exodus. Exodus 20:1-17; ¹*And God spoke all these words, saying:* ²*"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.* ³*You shall have no other gods before Me.* ⁴*"You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth;* ⁵*you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me,* ⁶*but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.* ⁷*"You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in*

vain. ⁸ “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁰but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. ¹¹ For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it. ¹² “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you. ¹³ “You shall not murder. ¹⁴ “You shall not commit adultery. ¹⁵ “You shall not steal. ¹⁶ “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. ¹⁷ “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor’s.” That is the full scripture record of God’s Ten Commandments or rules in Exodus. Let’s look at each one individually.

Verse 3 gives us commandment ONE: ³ *You shall have no other gods before Me.* That should be rather straightforward that there is only one God who is God Almighty. In our present day and age it seems mankind themselves have created several new gods for all people, in general, to follow. We have those who push science as a new god for mankind to follow. Their statement seems to be that science proves all things and is to be worshipped as the only truth to follow. Following right behind this new god is health as another new god. We are all to believe that science has given all of mankind greater health, but we must also follow and worship the vaccines that mankind has developed as new found answers to today’s problems. A third new god is humanism whereby the human spirit can out perform any unseen God who created the entire universe.

The greatest new god is AI (artificial intelligence) in the form of smart phones and tablets. It even seems that a child is born with this AI infection and must be pressing keys by the time they are two years of age to be connected to today’s world. From where is all of this new god belief coming? There is a simple answer: Satan, mankind’s adversary. Satan will use any means available to distract mankind from the simple truth: There is only one true God!

Verses 4-6 gives us commandment TWO: ⁴ *“You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; ⁵ you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, ⁶but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.* That is rather complex in its verbiage. Maybe a short version will make this rule simpler: Worship no idol! Mankind has taken great steps to create idol after idol with no concern that the object of their creation is being worshiped. The worship of any object, other than God Himself, is an idol. You may ask, what am I speaking about? Look around you at your hobbies, your sports, your pets and your possessions. You place a greater importance upon your hobby of quilting, or fishing or collecting than you do toward worshipping God. You idolize a sports team and follow every game and desire to be where the action is. You pick up your dog or cat and kiss it on its mouth as if it was your child. You really allow your pets to control you instead of you being the master having dominion over the pet. Finally, look at the gifts that God has given to you; your house, your car, your wealth, your health, and your family. Instead of praising God you praise and worship material items that God’s grace has provided to you.

Verse 7 gives us commandment THREE: ⁷ *“You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.* Once again we have a straightforward and simple rule. Do not take the name of the LORD in vain!

Verse 8-11 gives us commandment FOUR: ⁸ *“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. ¹¹ For in six days the Lord*

made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it. Christianity has really done a wonderful job messing up this one commandment. Through the influence of Satan, Catholic priest, bishops and popes have misunderstood the crucifixion of Jesus and by some wording here or there have rejected this one commandment and made Sunday the day for Christians to worship God. God's Word plainly reads that mankind is to honor the seventh day, or the Sabbath, and keep it holy. The Bible does not say anything about honoring the first day of the week or anything about Jesus being resurrected from the dead on a Sunday (the first day of the week). Every Christian who believes that Friday to Sunday equals the statement made by Jesus that He must spend three days and three nights in the tomb as Jonah spent in the great fish makes Jesus out to be a liar. I personally do not intend to call Jesus a liar. DO YOU? Isn't that the same thing as violating the third commandment by taking the word of the LORD in vain? Final words on this rule: Jesus says that He is Lord of the Sabbath and not the lord of the first day of the week.

We have gone through the first four commandments and are at the natural dividing point within this set of rules. These first four rules pertain to God and the honoring of our God. Jesus shortened the ten commandments down to two when He answered the lawyer with the following in Matthew 22:35-40, ³⁵ *Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying,* ³⁶ *“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?”* ³⁷ *Jesus said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.”* ³⁸ *This is the first and great commandment.* ³⁹ *And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’* ⁴⁰ *On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”* The final six rules (commandments) represent a moral code for an orderly society, no matter where you are on the planet, or of which society (race) you are speaking.

Verse 12 gives us commandment FIVE: ¹² *“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you.* This is the first moral rule and it honors your parents and also is the only commandment that provides a promise of long life.

Verse 13 gives us commandment SIX: ¹³ *“You shall not murder.* Murder is a punishable crime in every society and nation on earth. However, at the same time, some societies make up laws that establish wording that make excuses for murdering innocence children. They carry this forward and call this a health function for female members of society. They call this act an abortion, God fearing societies call this murder. In the Bible God instructed His people not to worship, or follow, the practice of sacrificing their children through the fires of Moloch. In either case this was, and is, the practice of murdering innocence children.

Verse 14 gives us commandment SEVEN: ¹⁴ *“You shall not commit adultery.* Here rests a simple rule that is multifaceted in its meaning. First, the meaning of this rule would give us the concept that there was a lawful Godly marriage between a male and a female. This is established in the first book of the Bible in Genesis 2:24, *Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.* Mankind has once again established a manmade rule that is contrary to what the Bible teaches. The purpose of marriage is to produce children. A marriage of two individuals that are of the same gender fails to fulfill the purpose of marriage because of a simple principle: two men cannot produce children and neither can two women produce a child. Secondly, same sex marriage is the unnatural sexual function of sexual perversion. God calls such a practice an abomination.

Verse 15 gives us commandment EIGHT: ¹⁵ *“You shall not steal.* God tells us that we are not to be thieves. Over the course of the last two years, we have seen an increase in rioting and looting. It seems the practice is to instill a crisis, start a riot and while everybody is wrapped up in the moment break into a store and steal everything you can. Maybe it is the fact that the current pandemic has created a do nothing, get it given to you society, or society will just break in and steal what they want. There is a statement in the Bible that says, if you don't work you don't eat. So tell me why it seems that everyone has a new mindset that it should all be free with no punishment for stealing. Let's take this

one step further. Manufacturers have lost sight of producing a quality item for a reasonable price. God tells us to have a fair and honest set of weights. In the days of the Bible, a balance was used to provide an exchange between seller and buyer. The set of weights used were not to be drilled out to be lighter for one set and the drilled out portion to be filled with lead to be heavier for the other set. A cheating seller would use the lighter set when they purchased an item and the heavier set when they sold their product.

Today, we see engineered obsolescence in many of today's products. There is a desire to use plastic parts instead of metal for the wear and tear to quickly be influenced upon a product. At one time this nation produced the best the world could build. Today it seems that cars, buildings, and consumable products are all engineered to fail as quickly as possible so another one must be bought, or the profit is greater because the least expensive building material is used. Let's use another example. Look at the corruption in our present day government system. In days gone by our forefathers would call it a bribe. Today, they call it a law and use these type laws to manipulate everything from your bank account to the taxes you have to pay to the government. These laws do not take into consideration how many times a tax has already been paid, somehow the government will now tax you again on the same thing. The incentives to work hard and produce the best you can has gone by the wayside. You will pay taxes on your wages. Take part of your wages and invest it in savings for the future and you will be taxed on the interest. Sell stock or property and you will be taxed on capital gain. Die and your children will be taxed on their inheritance. That is a form of manipulated deception and it is the same thing as stealing. It really doesn't matter the form it may take, it is still, in truth, committing thievery by illegally cheating, stealing or deceiving.

The people of this nation seem to have forgotten the fact that this nation and the nation of Israel are the only two nations that have made a covenant with our God. God blessed us as a nation when we acted in a godly manner. However, we have been on a road of self destruction ever since the end of World War II and our blessings have been getting less and less as we travel down that forbidden pathway. It is time this nation takes a moment to think about the history of this nation and our constitution. That history, these present days, seems like something that we no longer need to know about. Society has turned its back toward our God, our Constitution, our Bill of Rights, and all things that have helped make us a nation of united people. We are now split 50/50 on just about everything. We are either Republican or Democrat, right or left, for or against, just or unjust, fair or unfair. Many of those who desire a socialistic, one world government believe it will solve the problems of our planet. I hate to tell you this, but every action toward that one world government is a stamp of approval for Satan, his antichrist and the false prophet. Those three are the trinity of hell. Every step this nation takes away from the God who made a covenant with our forefathers only brings these three closer. Wake up sleeping giant! Wake up all you believers of the one true God! Repent, change your ways, stand up for the blood of Christ and be the Godly people you were meant to be! God's warning is now, God's wrath is near. Remember what Jesus said, "You are either for me or you are against me!"

Verse 16 gives us commandment NINE: ¹⁶ *"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.* To state this in simple terms is to say "you should not lie." Even in a court of law we take an oath that we shall tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. Do you really believe that fake media tells the truth in every broadcast that they make? It does not matter if you are reading the newspaper, listening to radio or television, or streaming on the Internet, you don't know what is truth and what is propaganda. There is no unity in this nation and the country is now divided just about 50/50. United We Stand, Divided We Fall is the motto of both the states of Kentucky and Missouri. In reading the book of Jeremiah, we should understand what the prophet told the nation of Judah about what was going to happen to them because of their unbelief. The same destiny is about to overtake this nation, and there doesn't seem to be many who understand the warnings that God is sending. The fires, heavy rains,

drought out west, snow in Hawaii, earthquakes and volcanoes are all warning of God's judgment against the nations of the earth because of their unbelief. Wake up and try to smell the roses. Mankind is causing their own destruction and no one seems to understand why this is happening.

Finally, verse 17 gives us commandment TEN: ¹⁷*"You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's."* This actually is a very simple rule. It means that you are not to envy anything that does not belong to you. In many ways the violation of this rule also causes you to violate rule SIX, SEVEN or EIGHT. By being envious over what your neighbor has, you may want to steal from him, or have a sexual encounter with his wife or servant, or you may be led to murder your neighbor to obtain what belongs to your neighbor. The choice you should make is to believe in God and through His grace you will experience a healthy and wealthy life. There really is no reason to violate any of these ten rules that God has given to mankind to follow. Jesus understood mankind's heart and gave us only one commandment. That commandment is given in John 13:34-35, ³⁴*"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another."* ³⁵*By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."* Consider what Jesus actually said: if we loved one another as He loves us there would be no reason to violate any of God's Ten Commandments.

That provides us with ten items that God wants us to be obedient toward. There are seven other items that we need to review and understand. These seven items are God's ordained feast days which we are directed to observe throughout all of our (mankind's) generations.

The Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread — Passover April 14th, Feast April 15th

We have to begin our study of God's feast days with more information than normal. There are certain pre-Passover activities that must be understood along with understanding the month with which Passover is identified. The following scripture will give us both answers. The first month does not indicate January, this is identifying the beginning month of the sacred year. The name for that month is Abib or Nissan and represents our month of April. Therefore April tenth is when you select your Passover lamb. The fourteenth is when the lamb is slain and the Passover meal is eaten. Exodus 12:2-11: *"This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household. If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbor, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat. The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats. Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the people of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs. That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast. Do not eat the meat raw or cooked in water, but roast it over the fire—head, legs and inner parts. Do not leave any of it till morning; if some is left till morning, you must burn it. This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the Lord's Passover."* (NIV) Leviticus 23:4-8: *"These are the Lord's appointed feasts, the sacred assemblies you are to proclaim at their appointed times: The Lord's Passover begins at twilight on the fourteenth day of the first month. On the fifteenth day of that month the Lord's Feast of Unleavened Bread begins; for seven days you must eat bread made without yeast. On the first day hold a sacred assembly and do no regular work. For seven days present an offering made to the Lord by fire. And on the seventh day hold a sacred assembly and do no regular work."* (NIV)

Firstfruits — April 18th

Firstfruits is almost a mystery feast. It appears to be a part of the Feast of Unleavened Bread and to be performed as a feast during that seven day period. However, there is still a question concerning the date of this festival. First look at Exodus 23:14-17: *“Three times you shall keep a feast to Me in the year: You shall keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread (you shall eat unleavened bread seven days, as I commanded you, at the time appointed in the month of Abib, for in it you came out of Egypt; none shall appear before Me empty); and the Feast of Harvest, the **firstfruits** of your labors which you have sown in the field; and the Feast of Ingathering at the end of the year, when you have gathered in the fruit of your labors from the field. Three times in the year all your males shall appear before the Lord God.*

Did you see the one feast of Firstfruits hidden in this passage of scripture? After that look at Leviticus 23:4-16: *‘These are the feasts of the Lord, holy convocations which you shall proclaim at their appointed times. On the fourteenth day of the first month at twilight is the Lord’s Passover. And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the Lord; seven days you must eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall have a holy convocation; you shall do no customary work on it. But you shall offer an offering made by fire to the Lord for seven days. The seventh day shall be a holy convocation; you shall do no customary work on it.’ “And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘When you come into the land which I give to you, and reap its harvest, then you shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest. He shall wave the sheaf before the Lord, to be accepted on your behalf; **on the day after the Sabbath** the priest shall wave it. And you shall offer on that day, when you wave the sheaf, **a male lamb of the first year**, without blemish, as a burnt offering to the Lord. Its grain offering shall be two-tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil, an offering made by fire to the Lord, for a sweet aroma; and its drink offering shall be of wine, one-fourth of a hin. You shall eat neither bread nor parched grain nor fresh grain until the same day that you have brought an offering to your God; it shall be a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings. ‘And you shall count for yourselves from the day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering: seven Sabbaths shall be completed. Count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath; then you shall offer a new grain offering to the Lord.*

We must remember that this feast was set up while the Israelites were traveling through the wilderness and it plainly states in verse 14 of Exodus 23 that all the males were to appear before the Lord three times each year. This was long before the crucifixion of Jesus and long before the 2nd Temple era. Therefore, we are seeing a type prior to seeing the prototype. Firstfruits offering at the time of Moses was the first grain you would harvest. In Israel this would be the barley harvest. In scripture, at the time of Moses, we do not have an established time for the feast of firstfruits. To further complicate the matter: We must identify the three feast days that the males of Israel were to appear before the Lord. Look at Deuteronomy 16:16 for the correct understanding. Verse 16: *Three times in a year shall all thy males appear before the LORD thy God in the place which he shall choose; in the feast of unleavened bread, and in the feast of weeks, and in the feast of tabernacles: and they shall not appear before the LORD empty.* (KJV) This verse clearly identifies the three feasts that a man was to appear before the Lord. They are the Feast of Unleavened Bread; the Feast of Weeks; and the third is the Feast of Tabernacles. The above scripture indicates that Firstfruits is not a feast day when all the males must appear before the Lord. It also indicates that, the second feast is the one called Pentecost (Feast of Weeks) in the month of June and is the festival at the time of the wheat harvest. The third feast (Feast of Tabernacles) also includes a harvest time and is the period for the firstfruits of olives (oil) and grapes (wine). Therefore, it seems that God established a harvest incorporated into each “must appear” feast.

When is Firstfruits? Do we have an understanding of when Firstfruits occurs? No! I don’t think so. Verses from Leviticus indicate that firstfruits are offered on the day after the Sabbath. Here is where

we all get lost! Which Sabbath? Does this mean on the second day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread? Remember that the first day is a high holy day (a Sabbath). What about the eighth day after the close of these feast days because the seventh day is also a high holy day? What about the normal weekly sabbath? Surely we can all see that a seven day festival will include at least one normal weekly sabbath. I say at least one weekly sabbath because the period of eight days could include two weekly sabbath days if the start of the feast is a sabbath and ends on a sabbath.

Feast of Weeks, also known as Pentecost — June 6

Leviticus 23:15-22: *“From the day after the Sabbath, the day you brought the sheaf of the wave offering, count off seven full weeks. Count off fifty days up to the day after the seventh Sabbath, and then **present an offering of new grain** to the Lord. From wherever you live, bring two loaves made of two-tenths of an ephah of fine flour, baked with yeast, as a wave offering of firstfruits to the Lord. Present with this bread seven male lambs, each a year old and without defect, one young bull and two rams. They will be a burnt offering to the Lord, together with their grain offerings and drink offerings—an offering made by fire, an aroma pleasing to the Lord. Then sacrifice one male goat for a sin offering and two lambs, each a year old, for a fellowship offering. The priest is to wave the two lambs before the Lord as a wave offering, together with the bread of the firstfruits. They are a sacred offering to the Lord for the priest. On that same day you are to proclaim a sacred assembly and do no regular work. This is to be a lasting ordinance for the generations to come, wherever you live. When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Leave them for the poor and the alien. I am the Lord your God.”* (NIV) This feast also has a grain offering as a portion of its regulations. The firstfruit grain in this case is wheat.

Feast of Trumpets — October 1

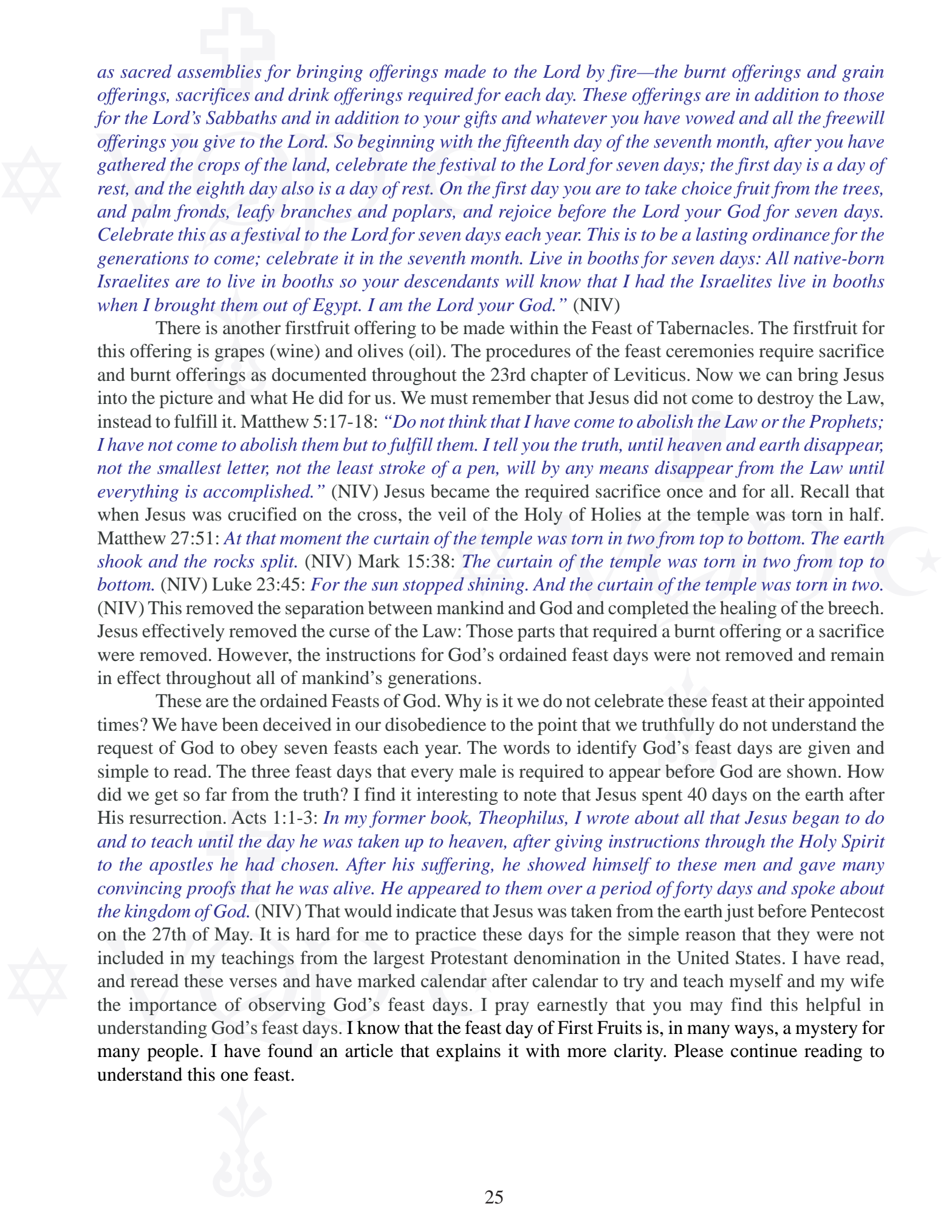
Leviticus 23:23-25: *The Lord said to Moses, “Say to the Israelites: On the first day of the seventh month you are to have a day of rest, a sacred assembly commemorated with trumpet blasts. Do no regular work, but present an offering made to the Lord by fire.”* (NIV) Remember, the first month is April, therefore, the seventh month is October.

Day of Atonement — October 10

Leviticus 23:26-32: *The Lord said to Moses, “The tenth day of this seventh month is the Day of Atonement. Hold a sacred assembly and deny yourselves, and present an offering made to the Lord by fire. Do no work on that day, because it is the Day of Atonement, when atonement is made for you before the Lord your God. Anyone who does not deny himself on that day must be cut off from his people. I will destroy from among his people anyone who does any work on that day. You shall do no work at all. This is to be a lasting ordinance for the generations to come, wherever you live. It is a sabbath of rest for you, and you must deny yourselves. From the evening of the ninth day of the month until the following evening you are to observe your sabbath.”* (NIV) It seems the implication is a full day of fasting and abstaining from anything (deny yourself). No food!, No drink! No drugs! No smoking! No earthly pleasure! You are to abstain from all things and to rest!

Feast of Tabernacles — October 15

Leviticus 23:33-43: *The Lord said to Moses, “Say to the Israelites: On the fifteenth day of the seventh month the Lord’s Feast of Tabernacles begins, and it lasts for seven days. The first day is a sacred assembly; do no regular work. For seven days present offerings made to the Lord by fire, and on the eighth day hold a sacred assembly and present an offering made to the Lord by fire. It is the closing assembly; do no regular work. These are the Lord’s appointed feasts, which you are to proclaim*



as sacred assemblies for bringing offerings made to the Lord by fire—the burnt offerings and grain offerings, sacrifices and drink offerings required for each day. These offerings are in addition to those for the Lord’s Sabbaths and in addition to your gifts and whatever you have vowed and all the freewill offerings you give to the Lord. So beginning with the fifteenth day of the seventh month, after you have gathered the crops of the land, celebrate the festival to the Lord for seven days; the first day is a day of rest, and the eighth day also is a day of rest. On the first day you are to take choice fruit from the trees, and palm fronds, leafy branches and poplars, and rejoice before the Lord your God for seven days. Celebrate this as a festival to the Lord for seven days each year. This is to be a lasting ordinance for the generations to come; celebrate it in the seventh month. Live in booths for seven days: All native-born Israelites are to live in booths so your descendants will know that I had the Israelites live in booths when I brought them out of Egypt. I am the Lord your God.” (NIV)

There is another firstfruit offering to be made within the Feast of Tabernacles. The firstfruit for this offering is grapes (wine) and olives (oil). The procedures of the feast ceremonies require sacrifice and burnt offerings as documented throughout the 23rd chapter of Leviticus. Now we can bring Jesus into the picture and what He did for us. We must remember that Jesus did not come to destroy the Law, instead to fulfill it. Matthew 5:17-18: *“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.”* (NIV) Jesus became the required sacrifice once and for all. Recall that when Jesus was crucified on the cross, the veil of the Holy of Holies at the temple was torn in half. Matthew 27:51: *At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split.* (NIV) Mark 15:38: *The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.* (NIV) Luke 23:45: *For the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two.* (NIV) This removed the separation between mankind and God and completed the healing of the breach. Jesus effectively removed the curse of the Law: Those parts that required a burnt offering or a sacrifice were removed. However, the instructions for God’s ordained feast days were not removed and remain in effect throughout all of mankind’s generations.

These are the ordained Feasts of God. Why is it we do not celebrate these feast at their appointed times? We have been deceived in our disobedience to the point that we truthfully do not understand the request of God to obey seven feasts each year. The words to identify God’s feast days are given and simple to read. The three feast days that every male is required to appear before God are shown. How did we get so far from the truth? I find it interesting to note that Jesus spent 40 days on the earth after His resurrection. Acts 1:1-3: *In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.* (NIV) That would indicate that Jesus was taken from the earth just before Pentecost on the 27th of May. It is hard for me to practice these days for the simple reason that they were not included in my teachings from the largest Protestant denomination in the United States. I have read, and reread these verses and have marked calendar after calendar to try and teach myself and my wife the importance of observing God’s feast days. I pray earnestly that you may find this helpful in understanding God’s feast days. I know that the feast day of First Fruits is, in many ways, a mystery for many people. I have found an article that explains it with more clarity. Please continue reading to understand this one feast.

Feasts and Festivals of Israel

The Feast of Firstfruits

I. Introduction and review:

A. We have been considering the feasts and festivals of God.

1. We saw that they were considered to be two things:

a. They were appointments with God.

b. They were rehearsals of some event or action God was going to bring to pass in the future.

2. Some have already occurred and we can examine them with hindsight.

3. Others have not yet occurred and we can only look at them prospectively, that is without the precision of hindsight.

B. We began by looking at the first of the Spring feasts, that is Passover:

1. The Passover requirements:

a. Preparation for the Passover begins on the tenth of Nisan when each family takes into their home a yearling, unblemished, male lamb (or goat).

b. It has to be without spot or blemish.

c. On the 14th day of Nisan, the lamb is killed and his blood painted on the door posts and the lintel of the family's home.

d. There is a Passover meal served to the family which is administered by the father.

e. The lamb is the main course.

f. This feast is a dress rehearsal of the death and burial of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2. The second Spring feast is the Feast of Unleavened Bread:

a. On the day of Passover, there is a search for leaven in the home.

b. All leaven found of the home is burned and for the next seven days no leaven is used in the home.

c. All of the bread that is baked and consumed by the family during this festival is unleavened.

d. Leaven represents sin.

e. This seven day feast represents the new life of the believer after accepting the substitutionary death of Jesus on the cross.

II. The next feast is the Feast of Firstfruits; Leviticus 23:10-14 (NKJV):

*”Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘When you come into the land which I give to you, and reap its harvest, then you shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest. ¹¹ He shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted on your behalf; **on the day after the Sabbath** the priest shall wave it. ¹² And you shall offer on that day, when you wave the sheaf, a male lamb of the first year, without blemish, as a burnt offering to the LORD. ¹³ Its grain offering shall be two-tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil, an offering made by fire to the LORD, for a sweet aroma; and its drink offering shall be of wine, one-fourth of a hin. ¹⁴ You shall eat neither bread nor parched grain nor fresh grain until the same day that you have brought an offering to your God; **it shall be a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings.***

A. When it started:

1. The Passover was first celebrated when the last plague befell Egypt.
2. Thereafter Israel left Egypt.
3. The feast of unleavened bread followed the first Passover.
4. But when was the first feast of firstfruits held?
5. After they entered the promised land and not until the first harvest.

B. How the Feast would work:

1. This feast is commenced on the day after the Sabbath following Passover.
2. So **the feast of firstfruits would always be on a Sunday**, that is the first day of the week.
3. The first of the **barley crop** would be bound into a sheaf.
4. You would then take this sheaf to the priest.
5. This sheaf was called the sheaf of firstfruits.

6. The priest would then take this sheaf into the place of worship and waive it before the Lord.

7. There were other proscribed offerings to be presented along with the sheaf of firstfruits.

C. Background information:

1. The word 'sheaf' in Hebrew is omer.

a. omer {o'-mer} **Meaning:** 1) a dry measure of 1/10 ephah (about 2 liters);
2) sheaf.

b. **Exodus 16:36** (NKJV): *Now an omer is one-tenth of an ephah.*

2. This feast was a harvest festival:

a. It was the first harvest festival in the year.

b. Just as the Feast of Pentecost (wheat harvest).

c. The Feast of Tabernacles (fruit harvest):

(1) important fruits

(2) olives

(3) grapes

3. The harvest of the barley:

a. Barley, unlike wheat does not stand up straight but hangs over.

(1) Barley is a relatively soft grain unlike wheat.

(2) Therefore Barley is winnowed and not threshed.

b. The barley doesn't always sprout up at the same time.

c. The fields are watched and the earliest grain to emerge is marked, usually with a red cord.

d. When these first emerges ripen and mature, enough of them are cut to make an omer (sheaf).

e. This sheaf was then taken to the priests so that they could offer it to God as a wave offering.

f. Thereafter you would make the other offerings prescribed in Leviticus.

g. Once that process was completed, then the barley could be harvested, but it could not be touched before the offering of the firstfruits is accepted.

D. This Feast is about a picture of resurrection and salvation. Consider some of the events that took place on this day:

1. Israel eats the firstfruits of the promised land; Joshua 5:10-12 (NKJV): *Now the children of Israel camped in Gilgal, and kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month at twilight on the plains of Jericho. ¹¹ And they ate of the produce of the land on the day after the Passover, unleavened bread and parched grain, on the very same day. ¹² Then the manna ceased on the day after they had eaten the produce of the land; and the children of Israel no longer had manna, but they ate the food of the land of Canaan that year.*

a. And the next day, the day after Passover, they ate from the produce of the promised land.

b. The Manna ceased on the day after they had eaten the produce of the land.

2. Jesus of Nazareth has risen from the dead. Jesus is the firstfruit of the resurrection and had to present Himself to the Father for acceptance as the firstfruit. As the barley could not be touched and harvested until after the sheaf wave offering was accepted. Jesus told this to Mary in different words. John 20:17, ¹⁷ *Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, ‘I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.’ ”*(NKJV)

3. Consider 1st Corinthians 15:20-26 (NKJV):

²⁰*But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. ²² For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. ²³ But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ’s at His coming. ²⁴ Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. ²⁵ For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. ²⁶ The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.*

E. Jesus is the firstfruits.

1. First born son – Matthew 1:22-25 (NKJV):

²²*So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: ²³ “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.” ²⁴ Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, ²⁵ and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.*

2. First begotten – Hebrews 1:6 (KJV):

For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son? ⁶ And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him.

3. First born of every creature – Colossians 1:15 (NKJV):

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

4. First begotten from the dead – Revelation 1:5 (NKJV):

and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,

5. First born of many brethren – Romans 8:29 (NKJV):

For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

6. First fruits of the resurrected ones – 1st Corinthians 15:20 (NKJV):

But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

7. Beginning of the creation of God – Revelation 3:14 (NKJV):

”And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, ‘These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God:

8. Preeminent One – Colossians 1:18 (NKJV):

And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

III. Now we know the questions to go with the answers:

A. Consider John 20:11-12 (NKJV):

¹¹But Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping, and as she wept she stooped down and looked into the tomb. ¹²And she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain.

1. Did God know that Mary was coming?

2. Did He have those two angels remain there for her to see?

3. What did Mary see?

a. The slab on which Jesus’ body had been placed.

b. An angel sitting at the foot of the slab.

c. And an angel sitting at the head of the slab.

4. She saw a living display of the Mercy Seat.

B. Consider also John 20:17 (NKJV):

Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, ‘I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.’”

1. John 20:17 (KJV):

Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.

2. Haptomai {hap'-tom-ahee}, Greek reference 680 in Strong's Concordance —
Meaning: to fasten one's self to, adhere to, cling to, or to touch.

3. Flavius Josephus wrote that the Jews would not touch their barley crop, that is to harvest it, until their firstfruits had been accepted.

4. Jesus now tells Mary that she should not touch Him until He goes first to the Father for acceptance and approval of His “sheaf” and wave offering.

5. Thereafter Jesus was fine with others touching Him, see John 20:27 (NKJV): *Then He said to Thomas, “Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing.”*

C. Why can't the Jews see these things? Here is an even larger question: Why can't Christians see these things? Why have Christians continued for over 2000 years to call Jesus a liar? Oh, yes you have! By not accepting Jesus at His word that He must spend three days and three nights in the tomb as Jonah spent in the great fish you are calling Jesus a liar!

1. They have been blinded to some extent. 2 Corinthians 4:3-4, ³ *But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,* ⁴ *whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.* (NKJV)

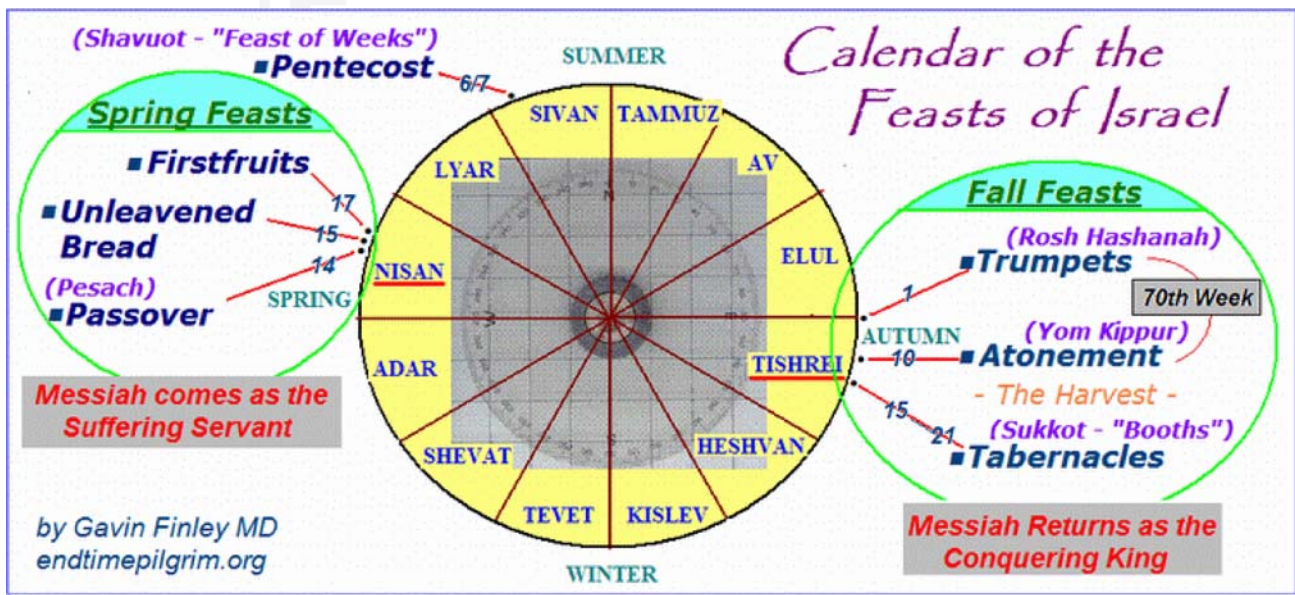
2. Consider Zechariah 12:10 (NKJV):

“And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.

3. That will happen at the second coming of Jesus, at the end of the Great Tribulation.

D. The giving of the firstfruits to God, demonstrated the faith of the covenant people in their God.

1. Do we exercise this same kind of faith today? I don't think so! As Bible Believers following the example of our LORD and Savior Jesus, why don't we exhibit this kind of faith today?



This is a good example of God's feast days, but even with this illustration I have a problem. Once again, Jesus said he had to spend three days and three nights in the tomb as Jonah spent in the great fish. This presentation would reflect a more accurate illustration of a Maundy Thursday viewpoint. However, that would still **not fulfill** all that Jesus said. If Passover is the 14th (Wednesday), Unleavened Bread on the 15th (Thursday), Friday would be the 16th, the weekly sabbath on the 17th (Saturday) and finally, Firstfruits on the 18th (Sunday). The three nights are Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. The three days are Thursday, Friday and Saturday and Firstfruits is on the day after the sabbath.

Why is it the Church does not question Christmas and Easter? Yes! I understand that the church, and Christians as a unified body, are attempting to honor the birth and death of our Lord Jesus. But, they do not seem to understand the manner of the celebration and even when to celebrate the actual event. First, there is the date for Jesus' birth. Jesus was not born on the 25th day of December. The wording of text in the Bible would indicate that Jesus was born in the fall of the year. If you understand God, He has His special events to occur on His feast days. The birth of Jesus most likely coincided with Yom Kippur, the day of Atonement, the 10th of Tishrei. Let us understand that Jesus is God's atonement for mankind's sin and the One who healed the breach between God and mankind. The death of Jesus was on Passover, Pesach on the 14th of Nisan. The church seems to have the desire to carry forward two pagan holidays in what they are celebrating. First, the sun god worshipers celebrated the winter solstice after the shortest day of the year to celebrate the new birth of the sun, so to speak, leading to longer days and a new cycle of the earth's orbit around the sun. That day is normally the 21st or 22nd of December. In the spring of the year the pagan holiday celebrated is for the goddess Ashanti, the goddess of fertility. That is why we have baby chicks and baby rabbits tied into the so called death day of Christ. Both of these present day holidays have nothing to do with Jesus the Christ, they are both pagan celebrations glossed over to represent the days for the birth and death of Jesus.

Beside these facts, have you ever really understood why the date for Easter changes from year to year? Allow me to explain the folly of Easter to you.

The Folly of Easter — March 20th to as late as April 24th

Because of the misunderstanding between the term sabbath and Sabbath, Satan found an opening to change what God said and what Jesus did. When we find sabbath spelled with a lower case s, it indicates the weekly sabbath of Saturday. When we find Sabbath spelled with an upper case S or termed a sacred assembly or a holy convocation, this is a high holy day. We must also remove this foolishness of Jewish reckoning. Jesus said He had to spend three days and three nights in the tomb as Jonah spent in the great fish. Matthew 12:40: *“For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”* To not accept this as truth, and with full understanding, means we are calling Jesus a liar who did not mean what He said! I’m sorry, but I prefer to accept Jesus’ own words, not those of men identifying the number of days and nights He would be in the grave. Besides, there is no possible way Friday to Sunday completes three days and three nights. This totals only about forty hours, or not even a two day period. Along with this fact, there is one other fact to aid in our understanding. The chief priest and the Pharisees went to Pilate to ask that a guard detail be stationed at the tomb for three days. Matthew 27:62-66: ⁶² *The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate* ⁶³ *and said, “Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, ‘After three days I will rise.’* ⁶⁴ *Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away and tell the people, ‘He has risen from the dead,’ and the last fraud will be worse than the first.”* ⁶⁵ *Pilate said to them, “You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can.”* ⁶⁶ *So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.* Recall the order of the feast. Passover is the 14th, the high holy day or the 1st day of Unleavened Bread is on the 15th. Firstfruits is the first sabbath after Passover. There is to be no work on the high holy day of the 15th. If Jesus is crucified on Passover the 14th as a Friday, then the high holy day of the 15th is Saturday. The priest could not go to Pilate and perform work at the time to have the tomb sealed because they would violate their own rule of law. Text tells us that the tomb was opened by early the morning of the first day of the week, Sunday. Look and read! The priest and the Pharisees understood what Jesus said about spending three days in the grave. Why don’t we understand this today? Read my book, *Jesus, the Life of Christ*, if you desire to see the full truth explained. In the account just presented above, we clearly see the preparation day and how the guard for the tomb was requested of Pilate. Pilate instructs the chief priest to place his temple guard at the tomb. Continue with this thought and review the scripture passage from Matthew 28:4 *And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men.* The women left the tomb to go and tell the disciples. The guards left the tomb to go and tell the chief priest. I know you don’t recall that portion of the story. The proof of that statement is in Matthew 28:11-15: ¹¹ *While they were going, behold, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests all that had taken place.* ¹² *And when they had assembled with the elders and taken counsel, they gave a sufficient sum of money to the soldiers* ¹³ *and said, “Tell people, ‘His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep.’* ¹⁴ *And if this comes to the governor’s ears, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble.”* ¹⁵ *So they took the money and did as they were directed. And this story has been spread among the Jews to this day.* Any person who has ever served as a guard in the military will tell you, if you go to sleep while on duty, you are subject to disciplinary action. It is hoped that this grouping of scripture will illustrate for you the truth from preparation day to resurrection day. Now, allow me to explain how we get this false date to celebrate what is called Easter. The church had divided into several different viewpoints with different dates for feast and festival by the time of Constantine. There was the Catholic viewpoint along with the Greek, Syrian and Russian Orthodox viewpoint. Constantine charged the bishops at Alexandria to determine a fixed date for Easter at the Council of Nicea in 325. This date was a movable date based upon a lunar cycle by Constantine’s decree. **Therefore, Easter is the first Sunday after the full moon after the Spring Equinox!** Even

this has some variance for the date. The Spring Equinox may be on the 19th, 20th or 21st of March, in the Northern Hemisphere, or in September in the Southern Hemisphere. What I desire for you to understand is that mankind has set a date for a feast to be equivalent to Passover. But, it is not according to the dates ordained by God and quoted in the Bible. If we use the structure given here, we should all see that if the Spring Equinox was on the 19th of March, a full moon was that night and the next day was Sunday, thus the parameters are met. We can see that the earliest Easter could be is the 20th of March. On the other end of this equation, we should see that **if** the full moon was the night before the Spring Equinox and the Spring Equinox was the 21st, we must add 28 days for the lunar cycle to get to the next full moon. If at that point we find the full moon occurring on a Sunday, we must also add another week to get the first Sunday after the full moon. Therefore the latter date for Easter could be as late as April 24th. Here is my question. Do you find any of this foolishness in the instructions ordained by God? Plainly and absolutely, I do not! My God said **Passover was the 14th of April (Nisan)** and that it is to be such in all of mankind's generations. The full instructions from God is given in the following explanation for Passover and Unleavened Bread. Why have we allowed ourselves to listen to men and not to God?

There is one final area to review under our search of When, Where, Why and How. Russia just invaded Ukraine and the entire world could easily say that the possibility of World War III now looms over the head of the world. I'll ask my question up front and give you an indication of where this review might take us. My question is: Do you know how many wars are in prophecy for today until the end of the thousand year reign of Christ? Here goes the answer from the Bible!

In bygone days there were certain things that you found any journalist asking in order to gather information to make a newscast presentation. Those things were **who, what, when, where** and **how**. Nowadays, as we go further and further through this pandemic we seem to get the idea that the only thing a modern day journalist is concerned about is how to get their image on television. The presentation presented is either a chastisement of someone's actions, a statistical number count or an opinion of the journalist who are calling themselves analysts. What happened to the gathering of provable facts? What happened to the presentation of truth that was supported by these facts and not the spin doctor's rewording that put a different slant on the statement or situation.

There used to be honored people who gave the nightly news. People like Walter Cronkite and Paul Harvey, to name a couple, who would also give you the rest of the story. We could also expect to learn about news worthy events in Europe, Asia, South America or anyplace else for that matter. Now we hear very little news from any other point on the planet. Why?

Has our society digressed to the point that only the riots and looting are news worthy and those facts must be stated in a manner that blames and finds obvious fault concerning someone with whom the presenter doesn't agree. This nation really needs to stop, take a breathe and look at itself for a brief moment of introspection. What are our beliefs, where did they come from, and how do they apply to us as a society today? What occurred in our history that helped form our great nation? Maybe we should return to some of those facts and do a review of who we were and how we got to this point in time.

The peoples of the United States of America are of imported descent for the most part. We do not pay enough respect to our First Nation peoples. We took away their lands, their beliefs and their heritage. Those who came later were from Europe, Africa and the Far East and not all of them came by their own initiative. Africans and Orientals were brought into this country as slave laborers, but they were not alone in this. Let us not forget that many Europeans were brought to this land as indentured servants who owed their labors to someone else who had paid for their journey to this country. As indentured servants they had to work as slaves to repay that expense. Even those who worked the land on farms worked side by side as black and white share croppers who worked long hard hours just to

make enough to raise a family. They never got rich from their labors but they did make a vast investment in the structure of our society. Both races went to church, learned about Jesus and made their testimonies of faith to believe in the Son of God. These were all strong minded individuals who helped form our nation and who have gone to war to protect our freedom thus our great God blessed society. Today **greed and idolatry** has stepped in and caused a great schism in our society. We no longer have those citizens who will step up to the task to represent our fellowman and work toward the betterment of us all for a couple of years and then return home. Politicians have become the norm with their perks and high minded ideas that they are better than the rest of society, can do no wrong and their way is right. Follow the money as it pertains to politicians because money is the root of all evil.

Our forefathers penned documents that caused the entire world to be envious. They laid out a tri-branched system of checks and balances that allowed all of us to be free. They laid down the tyranny they left in the places they came from, and picked up the moral ideas and concepts of the Judo-Christian perspective. In other words they placed God first in their endeavors and we as a people were blessed by and through these words and ideas. Our Constitution, Declaration of Independence and Bill of Rights are the standards of freedom and other documents around the world are modeled after these documents. Can I prove any of what I have said. Yes! Most definitely! Look into our history at the men who penned our Constitution. They wrote other articles, made great speeches and lived by the values they incorporated into the Bill of Rights. Along with these other writings and speeches you will find the heart felt serious respect for God and His Son Jesus. They were not ashamed to use their belief in honoring God within their work or their life.

I'll be bold and go one step further in what I'm saying. I am an American with a heritage that initially goes back to Europe. But that heritage goes much further than just Europe. In my searching for truth I ran across a most interesting tidbit of Biblical history. Many of us do not read the Old Testament as we should. We say that we are New Testament believers and the Old Testament doesn't really pertain to us. **WRONG ANSWER!** As Christians we are the grafted in branch and not the original stem. Our roots are Jewish and that is the true branch that goes back to our roots in Adam and Eve as the first of God's people. We really don't know that much about our Old Testament roots. Let me make a short clear statement. There are three groups of people that we all should understand who they are. There is the People of Israel, the House of Israel and the House of Judah! The People of Israel means all Israel. The House of Israel identifies the ten tribe, Northern Kingdom that was taken into captivity and has not returned to the present day country of Israel. Finally, the House of Judah represents the modern day Jews and they are the peoples who presently live in the country of Israel.

There have been those who have made attempts to identify the location of the lost ten tribes and have made documentary movies of Jewish sects in Africa, Northern and Eastern Asia. By locating ten such sects these producers have felt that they have answered where in the world you find the ten lost tribes of Israel. Not so! My very nature of persistence means I will search ten, fifteen, twenty or more years to find the definitive end to my search. I've done it with old tombstones, with Biblical passages and with genealogy records. My website contains the results of some of these searches, especially as they pertain to the Bible. My website is www.vqpub.org and the website has all of my work in PDF format and all items are available for free download. Take for instance the *Adam and Eve Family Tree*TM. It took eight years to research, identify and lay out the 1500 plus names identified on this genealogy chart. It took twenty years to research, study and learn the truth concerning the lost Ten Tribes of Israel. The record is recorded in my book, *The Thirteenth Tribe of Israel*. It is this record that will show that many of Irish, Scottish and English descent are descendants of the children of Joseph. Many others of European descent are the children of the other lost tribes and all of these are the descendents of Abraham. These are the peoples of the lost ten tribes. They represent some of those that Jesus told the Apostles to proclaim to them the truth of the Gospels. Matthew 10:6, **But go rather to the**

lost sheep of the house of Israel (KJV). The truth of the Gospels came to our forefathers and some of the greatest missionaries of all ages have come from Great Britain and the United States. It is time for the children of the lost ten tribes of the House of Israel to realize their true heritage and to repent of their sins and humble themselves before the God of Israel.

What Are The Choices Before Us?

I have given you a short introduction to whom you might be if your ancestors came from Europe. I really haven't asked you anything about the choices that you make in your everyday life. Stop for just a moment and consider that for every situation you encounter there will always be at least two choices that could be made. It could be as simple as yes/no; up/down; right/left; in/out or true/false. In the present pandemic, it could be wear a mask or not wear a mask; social distance or refuse to social distance. But is that all there is to the current situation that mankind is facing in America and around the world? I really don't think so.

I have shown you that your heritage may lead you back to the Northern Kingdom of Israel, referred to as the House of Israel. Even so, we are called Gentiles because we are not Jewish. The Apostle Paul is the appointed Apostle to the Gentiles and a major portion of the New Testament was written by Paul. It might reflect greatly upon what I'm attempting to get you to understand if I use portions of Paul's writings to illustrate my point. The first book of Paul's epistles is the book of Romans and there are many statements that I could use to show you the present situation and why God is giving mankind a preview of His wrath to come. In the book of Romans, Paul doesn't wait long before he begins to show mankind their errors. He even warns us that there is a wrath to come for ungodliness in the following, Romans 1:18-23, ¹⁸ *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,* ¹⁹ *because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.* ²⁰ *For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,* ²¹ *because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.* ²² *Professing to be wise, they became fools,* ²³ *and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.* Paul goes further in identifying the manner of mankind's heart and what their desires had become. Read the next portion of Chapter 1, Romans 1:24-32, ²⁴ *Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves,* ²⁵ *who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.* ²⁶ *For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. **For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature.*** ²⁷ *Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.* ²⁸ *And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting;* ²⁹ *being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers,* ³⁰ *backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,* ³¹ *undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful;* ³² *who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.* Paul gives us an explanation why God is revealing only a glimpse of His wrath in the following verse in chapter 2, Romans 2:5 (NIV), *But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart,*

you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed. I know that I am taking the next verse out of contexts but I'm doing so to transition to another point. Read Romans 5:13 (NIV), *for before the law was given, sin was in the world. But sin is not taken into account when there is no law.* Paul also gives us instructions toward those in positions of authority. Read the following, Romans 13:1-7, ¹ *Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.* ² *Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.* ³ *For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same.* ⁴ *For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil.* ⁵ *Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake.* ⁶ *For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing.* ⁷ *Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.*

Stop for a moment and consider politics in today's view. We have two sides which would make up two choices that we have in viewing an election; we can be either Democrat or Republican and we will vote for one party or the other. The airwaves are full of ad after ad from the local level all the way up to the Presidential level. The rhetoric is name calling after name calling with slander and cussing spoken with just about every sentence. Where is the honesty, where is the leadership, where are the moral values, and what is the platform that each party says they represent? What happened to our morality?

Let's add some other elements: racial tension, anarchy, riots and the looting that is running rampant in some of our major cities. We are a democratic nation of law and when the law is not respected, there is no law. Anarchy becomes the rule! That is not the backbone ideology of our nation. It is not Biblical, nor constitutional and most certainly does not reflect the thoughts and heart of the majority of the citizens of this nation.

Let's take these elements and mix them together and then look at where we are as a people and as a nation. To make a simple statement: All hell is breaking loose! The primary choice that can be made at this point is this: Either we are headed toward a **great revival** when God's people repent of their sins and humble themselves; or, we are headed toward the second **civil war and revolution** in our history as a nation. We can say with assurance that on the one hand we might get a reprieve from God and He will allow our children's, children's children to live life as we have known it prior to the coming of the end of the age. On the other hand, it will be **this generation** that will see the failure and the fall of our land and the coming of God's wrath upon the whole of earth. It really is our choice and we really are going to have to make up our minds and make that choice in the very near future, if not now.

The easy side of this discussion is that a great revival is about to take place and people will realize that this pandemic is a wakeup call. They need to reevaluate their life and how they conduct themselves on a day-to-day basis. I know even before I begin that I cannot change the hearts and minds of everyone in this nation. Yes! There are those who will have thoughts similar to my own and their prayers are as my prayers that God will forgive us and allow us to go forward. But what about the others who feel that they are being abused by society and that Black Lives Matter. If you are a Christian please consider that God does not see color of skin, He sees the condition of the heart. The Bible cast humanity into one group and the term used in the Bible for race is flesh and there is animal flesh, bird flesh and fish flesh along with human flesh. Notice that we are of one blood and that is human blood. There is no such thing as white blood, brown blood, black blood, yellow blood or even red skin blood; there is only one blood amongst the human race and that is red blood. I served proudly with those of different races for twenty-seven years in the Air Force and had respect for all who wore the uniform of

this nation. When I retired I returned to my hometown and began a small business with many black employees. After only a few months I was approached and told that if I didn't want to be cut I'd have to change my leadership around and toward black people because I was acting too friendly with them and making them my peers. Satan won that round and I gave up my business and many friends. That was also the time that God led me to writing about His Word and I began my search through the passages of the Bible. I always enjoyed reading the Bible and loved it when someone showed me the little phrase which said Bible means - **B**asic **I**nstructions **B**efore **L**eaving **E**arth. Allow me to once again return to Paul's writings in Romans and present to you several verses that we all need to look at and understand how it could be applied to Black Lives Matter. Romans 12:3-19, ³ *For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.* ⁴ *For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function,* ⁵ *so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.* ⁶ *Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith;* ⁷ *or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching;* ⁸ *he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.* ⁹ *Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.* ¹⁰ *Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;* ¹¹ *not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;* ¹² *rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer;* ¹³ *distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.* ¹⁴ *Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.* ¹⁵ *Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.* ¹⁶ *Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.* ¹⁷ *Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men.* ¹⁸ *If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.* ¹⁹ *Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.*

I highlighted greed and idolatry earlier and would like to address these two items in more detail. First, there is the rampant greed that seems to be a major driving force in most businesses anymore. One such item is quality. It used to be that American products were carefully crafted with pride to be the best in the world. Now days there seems to be engineered obsolescence in the products built. Take for an example major household appliances. In the 1950s and 60s you could buy a washer, dryer or refrigerator that would last for 20 years or longer. Now you can go to Lowe's and buy a replacement item and they will tell you that the expected life of the appliance is five to seven years. Along with that knowledge is the devaluing of our currency. In the 1950s and 60s a washer or a dryer would cost you 150 to 200 dollars and today that will be 600 or more for the replacement item. Refrigerators, "Oh my!" how they have gone up in price. I replaced one earlier this year and a basis refrigerator was 2000 dollars. What about cars? We are not in the Lee Iacocca era! When Mr. Iacocca took over Chrysler Motors the name Chrysler was not the best in the automotive market. Mr. Iacocca instigated the 100,000 mile warranty on a new car and the cost for a new car was around 1500 to 2000 dollars. Today the basis starting price for the lowest priced automobile is about 20,000 dollars. Tell me there isn't greed. Many of us realize that the items constructed and built today are meant to fail and another one must be purchased.

What about idolatry? You may not think that such a thing exists in our modern day society. We do not have house idols of silver and gold that we worship and pray to, so how is there idolatry? Let me ask you some questions. Do you like sports? Do you enjoy your weekends and vacation time? Do you polish and clean your car on a regular basis? Do you have a pet that you treat as a child? Do you have a hobby that takes up a major portion of your spare time? Evaluate those questions and ask yourself if

you are performing idolatry in your heart. God knows your heart and He alone knows what you cherish and worship. If the object of your attention is not God or His Son, you may be worshipping the wrong thing.

Are you starting to see the need for a national or even a world wide revival of the spirit. It is your choice and you do have to make the choice for yourself. **Choose wisely!**

The Other Side of the Choice

There is the other side of all this and it is the ugly side of what is happening. Satan has a group of demons who overpower the minds of those they attack and once overpowered the person becomes possessed with the overthrow of anything that even has a hint of having a connection with God, His Son or the nation of Israel. They are supporting Satan's idea that he can overthrow the throne of God and take God's place. These demons use their influence and power to cause hate, despair, division, envy and contempt for anything they see as righteous. They play on the emotions of those who are not strongly based in Christian principals. These people then become the instigators and influential leaders of those who riot, destroy and loot storefronts and other people's property. They want everything to be their way or no way!

Stop! These means and methods are not the actions of a moral citizen of this nation. This is not reflecting our American ideology of being united together with a common cause of freedom and prosperity. Did you know that there are two states that the logo in the middle of their state flag says: United We Stand, Divided We Fall. These two states are Kentucky and Missouri. Do you recall the vision that King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon had as it pertained to the statue he saw in his dream? Do you recall the structure of the statue? It had a head of gold, a chest of silver, an abdomen of bronze, legs of iron and toes that were a mixture of iron and clay (Daniel 2:32-33). Daniel interpreted the dream and told the king that he was the head (kingdom of Babylon), the chest would be the kingdom of Persia, the belly the kingdom of Alexander the Great (Greek) and the legs would be the divided Roman kingdom with its east and west capitals. The toes would be the last kingdom to exist and would be made up of iron and clay. In other words it would be partially strong and partially weak. Daniel records the condition of these toes in the following verse, Daniel 2:43 (NIV), *And just as you saw the iron mixed with baked clay, so the people will be a mixture and will not remain united, any more than iron mixes with clay.*

Those individuals who are rioting and looting are marching toward the end of this age and fulfilling Bible prophecy. You may hate everything that is righteous but you are the agents of fulfillment of God's wrath in the Bible. Those who act in this manner will not see an eternity of peace, instead it will be an eternity of agony in the lake of fire. Read very carefully Revelation 21:8 (NIV), *But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.* Need another source for a similar statement, read Revelation 22:12-15, ¹² *"And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. ¹³ I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last."* ¹⁴ *Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. ¹⁵ But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie.*

Maybe the best answer for the moment is to lead you toward another book. It seems that there are many Christians who have great difficulty in studying the Revelation of Jesus as given to the Apostle John. I penned a simple book titled *Days to Come* that goes through the book of Revelation verse by verse. Days to Come may help some understand more of the days that we are living today and the days that are coming, if we stay on this present path. If you desire a slightly deeper view of the

Revelation go to Lamb and Lion Ministries, <https://christinprophecy.org/> and seek Dr. Reagan's DVD *Revelation Revealed*. This is a 75 minute DVD that will take you through the Revelation and show you the meaning of all the symbols. There are others, who also have study material pertaining to the Revelation that will run from the simple to the very deep. These in-depth commentaries will go so far as to review every Greek word used in the Revelation and what that word means. These are studies taking many hours of time and recorded on 7 to 12 DVDs or more.

What I feel the Holy Spirit is leading me to do in this book is, go through the event known as the Rapture and then to go through the possible wars that will occur from this time to the end of the Millennial Kingdom of Jesus. First, there are many who will debate the fact that the word rapture is not in the Bible. That is a true statement! However, there are those verses in text that imply there will be a removal of the Church prior to the period of time known as the Tribulation or the Great Tribulation. One such verse is found in First Thessalonians 4:16-17, *“For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.”* Notice what is said in verse 17, that we who are alive shall be caught up. This is the event we are speaking of when the Church is removed from the earth. You must also remember that you have to be a member of Jesus' church in order to be caught up. Jesus' church is not the name of a denomination, it is the body of believers that have been justified and sanctified by and through the blood of Jesus. The second reference that is used to show the event called the rapture is 1 Thessalonians 5:9, *“For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.* Notice that Christians (true believers of Christ or simply the Church body of Christ) are not appointed to wrath. In other words we are removed prior to the coming tribulation. We can also show the removal of the Church in the book of Revelation. Notice in Revelation that Jesus identifies seven churches in Asia. These could be seven types of churches or seven church ages and spoken of in chapters 1 through 3. Beginning in chapter 4 to the end of Revelation in chapter 22 there is no further mention of the Church. Yes! I agree there is the bride of Christ that is spoken of in chapters 19-22 and yes, that is the church. But you also have to notice that the bride is in heaven with Christ and now called the bride and not the church.

It is now time to approach the most difficult task assigned to me during this journey through God's word. I said I felt the Holy Spirit leading me to define the wars that are to come from now to the end of the thousand year reign of Christ. I can only pray and ask God to lead me through what He wants said. With that I say Amen and start my task.

One of the thoughts I presented was that as a people and as a nation we stand on the brink of either a great revival or a 2nd civil war and revolution. Where would I even pick up such an idea of a 2nd civil war or revolution? That should be a no-brainer! Look around at what is happening in this country. Those whose intent is to stir up trouble are doing their job well. There are many who have made their choice to follow the trouble makers and take up arms against authority and those who stand for righteousness. If these trouble makers continue to incite hostility between the races of this nation, then we as a nation have become divided and not united and shall see our fall from God's grace. Jesus told his disciples the following when they asked Him about the signs of the end of the age. Matthew 24:4-8 (NIV), *“**Jesus answered: “Watch out that no one deceives you. ⁵For many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many. ⁶You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. ⁷Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. ⁸All these are the beginning of birth pains.**”* Strong's Concordance - Greek Dictionary number 1484 gives the definition for nation as *ethnos* meaning a race. The Greek number 932 gives the definition for kingdom as *basileia* meaning realm, therefore, what Jesus was saying was that race will fight race

and realm (country) will fight realm. If lawlessness prevails in this nation, we are at that point where there is no trust, no unity and most certainly no common ground. You would think that the blood of Christ was shed only for one particular group of people and all other groups are left out. Somehow Satan's influence has become so strong in one group or the other that truth no longer applies. Go back to the words of Paul and look once again at Romans. Romans 5:12-21 (NLT) NOTE: This is my first use of the New Living Translation (NLT) in this work and I needed to identify this reference source.

¹² *When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned.*¹³ *Yes, people sinned even before the law was given. But it was not counted as sin because there was not yet any law to break.*¹⁴ *Still, everyone died—from the time of Adam to the time of Moses—even those who did not disobey an explicit commandment of God, as Adam did. Now Adam is a symbol, a representation of Christ, who was yet to come.*

¹⁵ *But there is a great difference between Adam's sin and God's gracious gift. For the sin of this one man, Adam, brought death to many. But even greater is God's wonderful grace and his gift of forgiveness to many through this other man, Jesus Christ.*¹⁶ *And the result of God's gracious gift is very different from the result of that one man's sin. For Adam's sin led to condemnation, but God's free gift leads to our being made right with God, even though we are guilty of many sins.*¹⁷ *For the sin of this one man, Adam, caused death to rule over many. But even greater is God's wonderful grace and his gift of righteousness, for all who receive it will live in triumph over sin and death through this one man, Jesus Christ.*

¹⁸ *Yes, Adam's one sin brings condemnation for everyone, but Christ's one act of righteousness brings a right relationship with God and new life for everyone.*¹⁹ *Because one person disobeyed God, many became sinners. But because one other person obeyed God, many will be made righteous.*

²⁰ *God's law was given so that all people could see how sinful they were. But as people sinned more and more, God's wonderful grace became more abundant.*²¹ *So just as sin ruled over all people and brought them to death, now God's wonderful grace rules instead, giving us right standing with God and resulting in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Notice two things in the passage from Matthew 24. First, in verse 6 it says that *the end is still to come* and in verse 8 it says these are *the beginning of birth pains*. So, if we have a 2nd civil war it will have to happen before the tribulation. I would go so far as to say that such a war would have to be after the Rapture. I say this because there are very righteous, God fearing Christian believers in all races including black and white and it is not the will of God that His people fight each other. That was how we ended up with the Northern Kingdom and the Southern Kingdom of Israel and they did fight each other, but that was not God's desire.

Now that we have addressed the possibility of a civil war in our country, let us attempt to go through the battles that the area of the Middle East and Israel will go through between today and the end of the thousand year reign of Christ.

There will be many people that think of the battle of Armageddon as the only war that will involve Israel. Not so! Would you believe that there are as many as 9 different battles that are identified in scripture. By God's grace, I am going to attempt to show you each battle and where you can find the facts for each battle in scripture. The first battle will not be the battle of Armageddon, in fact the battle of Armageddon may be the eighth battle in our list of battles.

Battle One

The first battle may be titled Israel Extermination or the Battle of Neighbors and is found in Psalm 83. You wouldn't expect to find a battle concerning Israel in Psalm would you? We read in Psalm 83:2-8 the following, ² *For behold, Your enemies make a tumult; And those who hate You have*

lifted up their head. ³ They have taken crafty counsel against Your people, And consulted together against Your sheltered ones. ⁴ They have said, “Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation, That the name of Israel may be remembered no more.” ⁵ For they have consulted together with one consent; They form a confederacy against You: ⁶ The tents of **Edom** and the **Ishmaelites**; **Moab** and the **Hagrites**; ⁷ **Gebal**, **Ammon**, and **Amalek**; **Philistia** with the inhabitants of **Tyre**; ⁸ **Assyria** also has joined with them; They have helped the children of Lot.

These are the inner circle of neighbor nations around present day Israel. The current names of the countries around Israel are Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon, Syria and Gaza. If you study the individuals and their relationship to Abraham you will find out that most of these countries are the descendents of Isaac’s cousins and kin. Notice that all of these countries are Islamic. Here is the identity of each player:

Edom - also known as Esau, the brother of Jacob and son of Isaac. A portion of Jordan.

Ishmaelites - Sons of Ishmael the half brother of Isaac and son of Abraham and Hagar. Ishmaelites are the descendents of Ishmael and may include Saudi Arabia.

Moab - One of the sons of Lot and his daughter after the fall of Sodom and Gomorrah. Lot is nephew of Abraham. A portion of Jordan.

Hagrites - same as Hagarites, descendent of Hagar, concubine of Abraham and mother of Ishmael. Hagar was an Egyptian, her other offspring are not identified in the Bible. Egypt

Gebal - An Edomite territory and Phoenician trade city. A portion of Lebanon.

Ammon - also known as Ben-ammi. The other son of Lot through the other daughter and half brother to Moab. A portion of Jordan.

Amalek - Grandson of Esau through his son Eliphaz and his concubine Timna. Israel’s persistent enemy.

Philistia - Philistines, today known as Gaza.

Tyre - A coastal city of Phoenicia. Located in Lebanon.

Assyria - Syria

The last portion of Psalm 83 makes a request to God to help Israel. Here are those verses. Psalm 83:13-18, ¹³ *O my God, make them like the whirling dust, Like the chaff before the wind!* ¹⁴ *As the fire burns the woods, And as the flame sets the mountains on fire,* ¹⁵ *So pursue them with Your tempest, And frighten them with Your storm.* ¹⁶ *Fill their faces with shame, That they may seek Your name, O LORD.* ¹⁷ *Let them be confounded and dismayed forever; Yes, let them be put to shame and perish,* ¹⁸ *That they may know that You, whose name alone is the LORD, Are the Most High over all the earth.*

Battle Two

The next battle that we have to deal with is the first battle of Gog of Magog as shown in Ezekiel 38 and 39. The players for this battle are named in verses 2, 3, 5 and 6 of Ezekiel 38, ² *“Son of man, set your face against Gog, of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal, and prophesy against him,* ³ *and say, ‘Thus says the Lord God: “Behold, I am against you, O Gog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal”’* . . . ⁵ *Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya are with them, all of them with shield and helmet;* ⁶ *Gomer and all its troops; the house of Togarmah from the far north and all its troops—many people are with you.* These are an outer ring of countries led by Russia that will attack Israel. In these verses I will show why this war will be fought at least three and a half years before the start of the tribulation. First, here is a list of the players:

Gog, of the land of **Magog**, the chief prince of Rosh - Rosh is an old name for Russia. So it seems that the lead country for the war will be Russia.

Meshech, Tubal, Gomer and **Togarmah** - are all names of people now located in Turkey.

Persia - modern day Iran

Put - modern day Lybia

Cush - modern day Sudan and Ethiopia

Most of these names are given in the table of nations of Genesis 10. Genesis 10:2 names the sons of Japheth and we find Gomer, Magog, Tubal and Meshech in that group, verse 3 gives the sons of Gomer which lists Togarmah. We find Cush and Put in verse 6 as sons of Ham. There is no direct link from the table of nations to the present day country of Iran.

A portion of the reason for this war is given in Ezekiel 38:14-16 (NLT), *“Therefore, son of man, prophesy against Gog. Give him this message from the Sovereign LORD: When my people are living in peace in their land, then you will rouse yourself. ¹⁵ You will come from your homeland in the distant north with your vast cavalry and your mighty army,¹⁶ and you will attack my people Israel, covering their land like a cloud. At that time in the distant future, I will bring you against my land as everyone watches, and my holiness will be displayed by what happens to you, Gog. Then all the nations will know that I am the LORD. Then verses 18-20, ¹⁸ But this is what the Sovereign LORD says: When Gog invades the land of Israel, my fury will boil over!¹⁹ In my jealousy and blazing anger, I promise a mighty shaking in the land of Israel on that day.²⁰ All living things—the fish in the sea, the birds of the sky, the animals of the field, the small animals that scurry along the ground, and all the people on earth—will quake in terror at my presence. Mountains will be thrown down; cliffs will crumble; walls will fall to the earth. Finally, read verse 22, I will punish you and your armies with disease and bloodshed; I will send torrential rain, hailstones, fire, and burning sulfur!*

That gives us some of what is to happen during the first war of Gog and Magog. However chapter 39 tells us more of the reason for this war and the results pertaining to both Gog and to Israel, along with the proof that this war begins prior to the tribulation. The following verses are from chapter 39 of Ezekiel and will continue from the New Living Translation for ease of reading. We begin with verse 1, *“Son of man, prophesy against Gog. Give him this message from the Sovereign LORD: I am your enemy, O Gog, ruler of the nations of Meshech and Tubal. Then we read in verses 3-6 the following, ³ I will knock the bow from your left hand and the arrows from your right hand, and I will leave you helpless.⁴ You and your army and your allies will all die on the mountains. I will feed you to the vultures and wild animals.⁵ You will fall in the open fields, for I have spoken, says the Sovereign LORD.⁶ And I will rain down fire on Magog and on all your allies who live safely on the coasts. Then they will know that I am the LORD. The next entry will provide to us the reason to state that this battle must begin at least three and a half years before the beginning of the tribulation. Read verse 9, *“Then the people in the towns of Israel will go out and pick up your small and large shields, bows and arrows, javelins and spears, and they will use them for fuel. There will be enough to last them seven years!”* Read that last sentence. Do you see where it takes seven years to burn up all the weapons? The Abomination of Desolation stands in the temple at the 3 1/2 year point of the tribulation and it states in these verses that it takes Israel 7 years to burn up all the weapons. Therefore, this battle must take place prior to the beginning of the tribulation and could even be before this point of 3 1/2 years but must be at least that long before the beginning of the tribulation.*

Continuing with chapter 39 we read the outcome of Gog in verse 11, *“And I will make a vast graveyard for Gog and his hordes in the Valley of the Travelers, east of the Dead Sea. It will block the way of those who travel there, and they will change the name of the place to the Valley of Gog’s Hordes.”* Ezekiel 39:11 (NLT) The next verse, verse 12, shows us how long it takes Israel to bury the

dead and verse 13 indicates that Israel is victorious, ¹² *It will take seven months for the people of Israel to bury the bodies and cleanse the land.*¹³ *Everyone in Israel will help, for it will be a glorious victory for Israel when I demonstrate my glory on that day, says the Sovereign LORD.*

Toward the latter part of chapter 39 we find the reason God does this. Ezekiel 39: 21-24 (NLT),
²¹ *"In this way, I will demonstrate my glory to the nations. Everyone will see the punishment I have inflicted on them and the power of my fist when I strike.*²² *And from that time on the people of Israel will know that I am the LORD their God.*²³ *The nations will then know why Israel was sent away to exile—it was punishment for sin, for they were unfaithful to their God. Therefore, I turned away from them and let their enemies destroy them.*²⁴ *I turned my face away and punished them because of their defilement and their sins."* Then we see the restoration of Israel in verses 25-29, ²⁵ *"So now, this is what the Sovereign LORD says: "I will end the captivity of my people ; I will have mercy on all Israel, for I jealously guard my holy reputation!²⁶ They will accept responsibility for their past shame and unfaithfulness after they come home to live in peace in their own land, with no one to bother them.*²⁷ *When I bring them home from the lands of their enemies, I will display my holiness among them for all the nations to see.*²⁸ *Then my people will know that I am the LORD their God, because I sent them away to exile and brought them home again. I will leave none of my people behind.*²⁹ *And I will never again turn my face from them, for I will pour out my Spirit upon the people of Israel. I, the Sovereign LORD, have spoken!"*

Battle Three

We could call this battle many names: It could be called World War III; the Battle to Conquer the World; or the Seal Judgments. It appears that this battle is fought with conventional weapons. We find the explanation for this battle in the sixth chapter of Revelation 6. The leader for this battle is the Antichrist who is shown as the rider on the white horse within seal one. Revelation 6:2, *And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.* We must also review passages from Daniel to confirm some things. Daniel's vision of the seventy weeks tell us this in Daniel 9:27 (NLT), *"The ruler will make a treaty with the people for a period of one set of seven, but after half this time, he will put an end to the sacrifices and offerings. And as a climax to all his terrible deeds, he will set up a sacrilegious object that causes desecration, until the fate decreed for this defiler is finally poured out on him."*

Seal two brings forth war. Revelation 6:4, *Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that people should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword.* Seals three and four bring forth pestilence and death. Revelation 6:5, *When He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come and see." So I looked, and behold, a black horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand.* Revelation 6:8, *So I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth.*

Stop for a moment and think about what this truly says. We are approaching a total population of the earth at 10 billion and verse 8 above says one fourth of earth's population is to be killed in this battle. I must inject one other factor when I start giving figures. There are approximately 2 billion Christians now on earth. If they are removed in the Rapture, we must start viewing our figures at 8 billion and not 10 billion. Therefore, we are seeing the warning that 2 billion people are to be killed in this battle. With the fifth seal we see the Christian and Jews who are martyred during this war. Revelation 6:11, *Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as*

they were, was completed. The sixth seal brings us to the escalation of this battle to the point that it goes nuclear. Revelation 6:12-14, ¹² *I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. ¹³ And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. ¹⁴ Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place.*

Battle Four

This is the nuclear portion of the above war and/or the trumpet judgments of Revelation 8 and 9. We find one third used repeatedly in these two chapters and we also see the demonic locusts, the four bound angels of the Euphrates and their mounted troops who killed one third of the remaining population of earth. Revelation 9:15, *So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released to kill a third of mankind.* With the killing of this one third of the remaining population of mankind, an additional 2 billion people have now been killed. That's a total of 4 billion people or one half of the total population of the earth at that time. Go just a little further in chapter 9 and you will find the horses and riders of the two hundred million mounted troops and verse 18 says that these horses kill one third of mankind. Revelation 9:18, *By these three plagues a third of mankind was killed—by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which came out of their mouths.* The total population of mankind has been decreasing as these battles take place and each time a number is given it seems that we are talking about the remainder of the population at that point in time. At this juncture we started with 4 billion and we have one third of this number killed by the demonic horses. That would be an additional 1.33 billion killed. There are those places within Revelation that presents a flash forward and there are a few that flash backward into history. One such flash forward is given here in the last two verses of chapter 9. Revelation 9:20-21, ²⁰ *But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk. ²¹ And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.*

Battle Five

Our fifth battle does not take place on earth, instead we jump to the Heavenly War. Read with me as we look at Revelation 12:7-9, *And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, ⁸ but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. ⁹ So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.* Revelation 12:12 informs us that Satan is thrown out of heaven for the last time and he is furious. *“Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time*

Battle Six

This battle represents the Antichrist's battle against the Saints and the Jews. Since Satan has been thrown out of heaven, he goes after those who believe in Jesus as the Son of God. He continues to think that he can overpower God and take away His throne. He knows his time is short and he thinks that if he can destroy the saints and the Jews, he can gain God's throne. We can see some of this in

Revelation 12:13-17, ¹³ *Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child.* ¹⁴ *But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.* ¹⁵ *So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood.* ¹⁶ *But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth.* ¹⁷ *And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.* The woman in verse 13 is Israel, Christ is the male child, her place in the wilderness may be the city of Petra in Jordan and her other offspring are the saints (Christians). We must also remember that the tribulation period is mainly for the Jews to come to acceptance that Jesus is Israel's savior and the one that they pierced. Many of those who accept Jesus as savior during the tribulation will be those martyred in Revelation, chapter 7. These actions by Satan will be the second holocaust of the Jews and we may see this in Zechariah 13:8-9, ⁸ *And it shall come to pass in all the land, Says the LORD, "That two-thirds in it shall be cut off and die, But one-third shall be left in it: "* ⁹ *I will bring the one-third through the fire, Will refine them as silver is refined, And test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, And I will answer them. I will say, 'This is My people'; And each one will say, 'The LORD is my God.'* "

Battle Seven

The Middle East Campaign Against the Antichrist should be the title of this battle. The battle is toward the end of the seven year tribulation period and represents the battle, or battles, between the king of the north and the king of the south in Daniel 11. In verse 36 of Daniel 11 we see the one who is called king is actually the Antichrist. Daniel 11:40-41 sets up this final battle between the king of the north and the king of the south, *"At the time of the end the king of the South shall attack him; and the king of the North shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter the countries, overwhelm them, and pass through. "* ⁴¹ *He shall also enter the Glorious Land, and many countries shall be overthrown; but these shall escape from his hand: Edom, Moab, and the prominent people of Ammon."* However, the Antichrist begins to hear rumors of discord from the north and from the east, and the Antichrist sets up his tents in the valley between the seas and awaits the advance of these other forces. Daniel 11:44-45, *But news from the east and the north shall trouble him; therefore he shall go out with great fury to destroy and annihilate many. "* ⁴⁵ *And he shall plant the tents of his palace between the seas and the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and no one will help him.*

Battle Eight

This sets up the battle that everyone seems to know about, the battle of Armageddon. The Antichrist and his forces are waiting for the others to gather from the north and from the east. Revelation 16:12, *Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared.* Finally, we get to the second rider on a white horse coming out from heaven in Revelation 19:11-21, ¹¹ *Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. "* ¹² *His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. "* ¹³ *He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. "* ¹⁴ *And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. "* ¹⁵ *Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the*

nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. ¹⁶ And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.¹⁷ Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, "Come and gather together for the supper of the great God, ¹⁸ that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, both small and great." ¹⁹ And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. ²⁰ Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. ²¹ And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh. So! With the understanding of these verses everyone should know that there is no Battle of Armageddon because all those who had gathered to fight against Jesus were destroyed with one word from His mouth.

With that said and done the Kingdom of God has arrived and Jesus shall rule on earth for one thousand years. There will be no sickness, pain, worry or death during that thousand years of peace. The righteous who have overcome the tribulation will be those in the flesh who will enter the thousand years and will have children. They will have children throughout the thousand years. At the end of this thousand years Satan will be released from the abyss and he will deceive the world to rebel against God.

Battle Nine

It is easy to establish what happens in this concluding battle that shall take place on earth. This is the second battle of Gog of Magog. It is different and distinct from the first battle of Gog of Magog. In the first battle of Ezekiel 38-39 we see Russia gathering Moslem countries and they go against Israel. In this second battle we see Russia gathering the world's armies to go against Jesus. Revelation 20:7-10, ⁷ Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison ⁸ and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea. ⁹ They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. ¹⁰ The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

It Is Your Choice!

With this second battle between Gog of Magog and Israel we close out all of the wars that shall occur on earth. Eternity is from this point forward and there are only two places that mankind's soul and spirit can exist. Either you will spend eternity in the New Jerusalem on the new earth with God, Jesus and all souls who accepted Jesus as their personal savior. Or, the other place that souls will spend eternity is in the lake of fire with Satan, the beast, the false prophet and all the other souls who never accepted Jesus as the Son of God and savior of mankind.

Through the presentation of information that is presented in these few pages every person reading this should see the deception that Satan is using to get us to deny that God is real or that there

is a necessity to accept Jesus as your personal savior. We should all see the influence the Black Lives Matter leaders along with Antifa have made within our society to instill violence, rioting and looting as a portion of their political anarchy agenda. We should also see the biased objectives of the media to present what suits their opinion and how they criticize any word or action that doesn't go along with their political game plan.

God is also performing His work as only He can. The Bible says many things about the living, supreme God. He cannot lie! He does not desire for anyone to will themselves into Hell, yet that is what you are doing by your own actions and decisions. To encourage mankind to repent and humbly seek forgiveness God sent this pandemic upon the earth to get all of mankind to stop and review our personal actions. We have had three hurricanes to hit the Gulf coast. We have forest fires burning in nine states. We have already had a snow storm in Colorado, and it is only the first week in September. We have had an earthquake in South Carolina and one in New Jersey. The air quality in three western states is the worst in the world and the Liberal minority wants to declare it is due to global warming. Folks who think things like this surely do not believe in God. Everything that we are seeing happen that pertains to weather is under the control of God.

Here is the bottom line decision that you must make. If you enjoy what is happening with the pandemic, the weather, the riots, the looting and the deprived ideas of humanity, you don't have to do a thing. You will fit right in with the plans of Satan. However, if, on the other hand, you would like to return to some semblance of life as we knew it, you need to evaluate your life. You need to see if there is something for which you need to ask God to forgive you, and for you to repent. Maybe you need to make a change in your life and accept Jesus as your personal savior. It is through the blood sacrifice that Jesus made on your behalf that gives you an Intercessor to stand before His Father and vouch for you. Remember it is not by our works that gets us into heaven, it is only by the accepted blood sacrifice of Christ that we have a means to spend eternity with our Creator. Once again I will say it!

It is your choice! Choose wisely!

An Afterthought

Yesterday was the 15th of September 2020 and my wife and I watched a very historical event take place. In the young life, seventy-two years, of modern Israel's existence only two Arab countries have previously signed a peace agreement with Israel. These two countries are Egypt and Jordan. Yesterday, we saw two more Arab countries in the Middle East sign a peace agreement with Israel. These two countries are UAE and Bahrain. One of the amazing facts pertaining to this agreement is that these two countries worked with the United States and Israel to work out this treaty in just over one month. It has been almost forty years since the Jordanian peace agreement was signed. Simply amazing!

I am not a prophet but I most certainly could speculate because of this agreement. Go back to those first two battles and look at what the supporting Biblical text says. Now, let's start adding current information to those statements. Turkey is now showing contempt for the United States and NATO while agreeing with Russia and Iran. I foresee the soon coming day when the United States is asked to move our military out of Turkey and Turkey will withdraw from NATO. The United States will move its Middle East base to one of these two countries, UAE or Bahrain. President Trump also stated that up to nine other Arab countries may join the Abraham Accord after our November election. Review the first two battles presented in this document. The first was a battle of Israel's neighboring Arab countries against Israel and those neighbors are Syria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Gaza. Egypt and Jordan have

signed peace agreements with Israel in the past. It seems the one country in this group that we must look at is Gaza, which actually is the representative portion of Palestine. If other countries in the area join the Abraham Accord there is tremendous pressure on Palestine to come to the peace table. If Palestine signed on to this peace agreement, there might be peace in the Middle East for a few years and there would be a sharing of wealth in science, food and health issues. But we must remember what the prophecy of the Bible says and that God is not a liar. These actions only help set up the conditions necessary for Ezekiel 38 to take place. Here is what the Lord says, Ezekiel 38:1-23 (NLT), *1 This is another message that came to me from the LORD: 2 "Son of man, turn and face Gog of the land of Magog, the prince who rules over the nations of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him. 3 Give him this message from the Sovereign LORD: Gog, I am your enemy! 4 I will turn you around and put hooks in your jaws to lead you out with your whole army—your horses and charioteers in full armor and a great horde armed with shields and swords. 5 Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya will join you, too, with all their weapons. 6 Gomer and all its armies will also join you, along with the armies of Beth-togarmah from the distant north, and many others. 7 "Get ready; be prepared! Keep all the armies around you mobilized, and take command of them. 8 A long time from now you will be called into action. In the distant future you will swoop down on the land of Israel, which will be enjoying peace after recovering from war and after its people have returned from many lands to the mountains of Israel. 9 You and all your allies—a vast and awesome army—will roll down on them like a storm and cover the land like a cloud. 10 "This is what the Sovereign LORD says: At that time evil thoughts will come to your mind, and you will devise a wicked scheme. 11 You will say, 'Israel is an unprotected land filled with unwallied villages! I will march against her and destroy these people who live in such confidence! 12 I will go to those formerly desolate cities that are now filled with people who have returned from exile in many nations. I will capture vast amounts of plunder, for the people are rich with livestock and other possessions now. They think the whole world revolves around them!' 13 But Sheba and Dedan and the merchants of Tarshish will ask, 'Do you really think the armies you have gathered can rob them of silver and gold? Do you think you can drive away their livestock and seize their goods and carry off plunder?' 14 "Therefore, son of man, prophesy against Gog. Give him this message from the Sovereign LORD: When my people are living in peace in their land, then you will rouse yourself. 15 You will come from your homeland in the distant north with your vast cavalry and your mighty army, 16 and you will attack my people Israel, covering their land like a cloud. At that time in the distant future, I will bring you against my land as everyone watches, and my holiness will be displayed by what happens to you, Gog. Then all the nations will know that I am the LORD. 17 "This is what the Sovereign LORD asks: Are you the one I was talking about long ago, when I announced through Israel's prophets that in the future I would bring you against my people? 18 But this is what the Sovereign LORD says: When Gog invades the land of Israel, my fury will boil over! 19 In my jealousy and blazing anger, I promise a mighty shaking in the land of Israel on that day. 20 All living things—the fish in the sea, the birds of the sky, the animals of the field, the small animals that scurry along the ground, and all the people on earth—will quake in terror at my presence. Mountains will be thrown down; cliffs will crumble; walls will fall to the earth. 21 I will summon the sword against you on all the hills of Israel, says the Sovereign LORD. Your men will turn their swords against each other. 22 I will punish you and your armies with disease and bloodshed; I will send torrential rain, hailstones, fire, and burning sulfur! 23 In this way, I will show my greatness and holiness, and I will make myself known to all the nations of the world. Then they will know that I am the LORD.*

Another item that was discussed during this two hour ceremony was the possibility of selling F-35 aircraft to the UAE. The Israeli ambassador to the United Nations expressed a little concern over this statement. Here are a few things that I know and a few that I think are possible. We sold Saudi Arabia our F-15 fighters either in the late 80's or early 90's. That airframe is now 40 years old and has

been replaced by F-22s or F-35s in our own aircraft inventory. If the United States sold the F-35 to the UAE, other Arab countries would also want to have the same capability and buy them for their air force. Now, the question is the security of Israel. The United States has made a sound commitment to help defend Israel at all cost. Stop and think for a moment. Technology is moving at such a rate that it is only a matter of a few years, if not months, that technology doubles. I personally know that smart phones, tablets and desk top computers can all track your location and can listen to your conversations. They can also be turned on, updated and turned off remotely. Incorporate that technology into all the other technology of the F-35 and we would have a fighter jet that could be controlled from satellites if they entered the wrong air space at the wrong time. We might even have the capability to shut them down completely so that you couldn't even start them up if things turned ugly. As long as there is peace things work as they should. Allow things to escalate into a warfare footing and either technology or God Himself will come into play. Look at verses 21-22 in the above passage to see if this isn't so.

In all honesty, I praise the actions of President Trump, I thank my God for leading him in the manner that He has and for this reprieve to allow mankind to go forward for a little longer. Remember what Jesus said in Matthew 24. Matthew 24:6-14 (NLT), *“And you will hear of wars and threats of wars, but don't panic. Yes, these things must take place, but the end won't follow immediately.”* *Nation will go to war against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in many parts of the world.⁸ But all this is only the first of the birth pains, with more to come.⁹ ”* *Then you will be arrested, persecuted, and killed. You will be hated all over the world because you are my followers.¹⁰ And many will turn away from me and betray and hate each other.¹¹ And many false prophets will appear and will deceive many people.¹² Sin will be rampant everywhere, and the love of many will grow cold.¹³ But the one who endures to the end will be saved.¹⁴ And the Good News about the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it; and then the end will come.*

I have one more speculation to make. All this rioting and looting in America that is called protesting will come to a screaming halt. By God's grace this action in America would match the grace of God as shown in the Abraham Accord. Police agencies all across America will arrest those who are causing these things to happen. Mayors and Governors will be chastised by those they are serving. Remember those in elected office in this nation are servants of the people who put them in the positions they are holding. They are not elevated royalty who make all the rules and everything is to be their way or no way. We will return to being a God fearing, lawful nation with a moral backbone. That is still freedom, but with the original idea that the majority rules, and not the rule of every quack that comes down the road with a different viewpoint.

Even with the addition of this information the fact still comes down to one of two choices. I have stressed what those two choices are and that you alone must make up your mind on where you desire to spend eternity.

It is your choice! Choose wisely!

We Have Been Hijacked!

At the beginning of this work we placed the important words for any good reporter to gather and report on except one: Where was the WHO? In the first section we have alluded to whom the Who is that we need to study and see what that entity has done to the followers of Jesus and how the great whore of Babylon has pushed truth to the sideline. Our knowledge of Jesus comes from the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. From these four books, we have to determine what Jesus said, did and how He acted and behaved in His day-to-day activities while on planet Earth. We have the stories of His birth, we see His baptism by His cousin John in the Jordan River, and we learn that our salvation is only through the sacrifice that Jesus made for all citizens of earth, past, present and future. Every person who claims to be a Christian needs to understand that Jesus represents the model we are to follow in our day-to-day life to be the representative of Christ before a pagan, unsaved world. Along the way we must look at statements Jesus said that we need to know and agree with.

Most Christians do not follow the example left by Jesus for our knowledge, they follow the example of the traditions the church they attend presents to them. They do not take the time to study what the Bible says and will not question why particular things that are done do not agree with what the Bible says. For an example let's take the death of Jesus and look at it for a moment. Jesus is the Son of God and if the Bible says that God cannot lie that also means that Jesus will not lie. Jesus spoke on four occasions that He must spend three days and three nights in the tomb as Jonah spent in the great fish. If Jesus said this then He must know what He was saying and that a full three days and three nights must be accounted for. Do you accept that this is a true statement? Okay, why is it that you accept the traditions established by men and follow tradition that Friday at 3:00 PM in the afternoon to approximately 6:00 AM Sunday morning is three days and three nights. You just called Jesus a liar and that He doesn't know what He is talking about and that Friday is a day, Saturday is a day and Sunday is a day. That's three days! Tradition says this is the correct interpretation and we celebrate Easter every year.

This is only one example of how the church has been hijacked and taught a different theology. Every since the introduction of Satan in the Garden, we have seen that he is a liar and a murderer. He was once appointed a position that equaled the position of Michael or Gabriel, or maybe even above them. But his pride, ego, envy and self-centeredness led to his change from a glorious being of light named Lucifer to this evil entity that believes he can take over the throne of God. We also know that in his fall from grace he took one third of the heavenly hosts (angels) with him. We also know that many of the churches today claim to be a New Testament Church and that the Old Testament does not apply to them. That would also include the Ten Commandments and God's ordained feast days since they were both established in the Old Testament.

It is through the Old Testament that we learn of the ways of God and of His chosen people. We see the days of blessing and we see the sins of God's people that cause God to react and correct His people. We also see the interaction that God's people have with the other lands and peoples around them and how they call for a king, worship an idol or fail to follow God's prescribed laws. Moses took the dictation from God directly on Mount Sinai. The prophets gave the people the words and direction for them to follow, but the people accepted the temptation from Satan to follow after other people's false gods and traditions. God knew from the fall of Adam and Eve that He would have to send His Son to heal the breach that Satan caused in the Garden. That leads us back to the New Testament and the results of all the grace and failures that God's people had gone through. Please recall the brief explanation that I have given that illustrates the split between the House of Israel and the House of Judah. The

House of Israel represent the ten northern tribes that were given a divorce from God and scattered. They are defined in my book, *The Thirteenth Tribe of Israel*, as many of the present day European nations. You can look at these nations in two ways. First, they are the direct descendant people of Abraham, or secondly, they are the co-heirs of heaven through their salvation by the blood of Christ. Remember, these peoples are not Jews, but many of them are descendant Israelites. It doesn't matter how you view these people, either way they should be following the teachings of God toward the Ten Commandments and His feast days.

We must also view the facts that even as divorced Israelites, they have also picked up the habits and traditions of the peoples they reside among and follow a false theology. It is time to look at how all of this has taken place and how much of what we do as Christians is not in the teachings of Jesus. Let's start with the birth of Jesus. How in the world did we get the idea from the traditions of the church that Jesus was born on the 25th day of December. If you go back and look at pagan feast days of the Greeks and Romans that various gods or goddesses birth was on the winter solstice. The pagan worshippers of the sun god celebrated the beginning of the new sun cycle on the winter solstice. This tradition was carried down to the fourth century when Constantine called the Council of Nicaea in 325 and ruled that worship of this new religious sect called Christian would be on the day of the sun (Sunday) and all businesses would be closed. These two facts are part of the carryover of pagan idol worship that Satan has used to deceive the church into bypassing what God instructed us to do. I have already attempted to introduce you to this question pertaining to Christmas and Easter and shown how Easter's date changes from year to year depending upon the cycle of the moon and the Spring Equinox.

There seems to be an anti-Semitic thought that had crept into the church that anything referring back to the Old Testament was Jewish and not to be accepted by Christianity. I guess, in some ways, this is still going on even today. We have many people who do not accept the Ten Commandments as a moral guideline to live by. They see the Ten Commandments as some sort of religious document just because it is found written in the Bible. They cling to the false concept that the placement of the Ten Commandments in a government or school building is in violation of the separation of church and state as established by our constitution. Once again, we must understand that there is a difference between the divorced ten tribes and those who are Jewish. One thing that must be understood is the birthing of the twelve male children of Jacob. There were four women who birthed these children. The Bible even recorded that there were different characteristics between sisters that surely had to count for different facial features. Add to that fact the other fact that each sister had a handmaiden and we don't know the origin of these two women. In some circles, it has been said that these two handmaidens were slave girls of the sister's father, and in other circles that these handmaidens were even, much younger, half-sisters. We really don't know.

Going further along with the Biblical story, we see that Jacob's name is changed to Israel and that his son Joseph became the chief overseer of all Egypt. When the Israelites moved to Egypt Israel was greeted by Joseph and prior to Israel's death he adopted Joseph's two sons as his own. With this adoption, we have another bloodline to enter into the twelve tribes of Israel. These two sons have a Hebrew father and an Egyptian mother. Again, we are going to have different facial features from those of the rest of the male children. However, they are all the male children of Israel and are labeled as the Twelve Tribes of Israel. The fact is there are a total of fourteen males involved, but in the counting of things Levi and Joseph are removed, thus making up the twelve tribes.

When this race of over two million people left Egypt in the Exodus led by Moses, they were all under the protection of God as He led them through the wilderness under the cloud by day and the flaming fire by night. It is interesting to me that there are many people who do not believe in the grace of God and don't see the need for believing in Him, or His Son. Did you notice how God protected this group of people. By day, as they traveled through a desert wilderness, the temperature could exceed

100 degrees and God placed a cloud over the Israelites to cool and protect them from the heat. By night, when the temperature could drop to near freezing, God placed a flaming fire over them to give them heat. But, that's just another story, a myth, to many people today. They don't see God's grace.

Through the Old Testament, we learn of these people and their periods of grace and their periods of rebellion against God including what God did to them. There were periods of other captivity where they were slaves. God continued to correct them and teach them that all He wanted was for them to be His people and to be His representatives upon the earth acting as God fearing righteous people before all the pagan, sinful nations on earth. Be obedient to 10 rules and 7 feast days was all God really asked of them. But, that didn't work too well either. So, it became time to send His Son to be the model of how He wanted His people to act.

We have already previewed the birth of Jesus and the only thing I'd like to add to what has been said concerns the Star of Bethlehem. This had to be an angel that had shape shifted into this star to lead the wise men to the location of Jesus' birth. The glorified body must have two attributes with it. One, it can change its shape and two it must be able to shine brightly. I say this because of several Bible verses. Lucifer, our adversary's name means, light bearer, and he was called the morning star. There is the finger that writes on the palace wall at King Nebuchadnezzar's palace. There is the fourth person in the fiery furnace in Babylon and we see the Transfiguration of Jesus and the many times of His appearing after His resurrection in rooms that the door is closed.

When Jesus was a boy, we find a story that gives us some of the modeling we need to understand what being a Christian means. Look at the story in Luke about Jesus at the age of twelve. Luke 2:41-52, *⁴¹His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. ⁴²And when He was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem according to the custom of the feast. ⁴³When they had finished the days, as they returned, the Boy Jesus lingered behind in Jerusalem. And Joseph and His mother did not know it; ⁴⁴but supposing Him to have been in the company, they went a day's journey, and sought Him among their relatives and acquaintances. ⁴⁵So when they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking Him. ⁴⁶Now so it was that after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers. ⁴⁸So when they saw Him, they were amazed; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You done this to us? Look, Your father and I have sought You anxiously."*

⁴⁹And He said to them, "Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?" ⁵⁰But they did not understand the statement which He spoke to them.

⁵¹Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them, but His mother kept all these things in her heart. ⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

Notice four things in this passage: 1) His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of Passover. This verse means that God's ordained feast days were followed by Jesus and His earthly parents. 2) Joseph, His earthly father is identified. Meaning to me that there was a respect that Jesus shown to the world for His earthly parents. 3) Jesus said He had to be about His Father's business. Shown to me this means Jesus had reached the age of accountability and He knew it was time for Him to take on the representation of His Father's essence. 4) Jesus was mindful of a parent and child respect and subjected Himself to the authority of His parents. Notice He grew in favor with God.

The Gospel of Luke goes further in chapter 4 and we find the temptation of Jesus after John, His cousin, had baptized Him. Satan approached Jesus in the desert and tempted Jesus with three questions. We know from text that Jesus was hungry. We also know that Satan understands and can quote scriptures. The most important point that we need to understand from this encounter was the last statement made. Notice the wording in the verse, Luke 4:13, *¹³Now when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time.* Luke 4:13 (NKJV) Notice what it says, that Satan left Jesus

for a more opportune time. We should understand that Jesus knew His task from God, the Father, and accepted it even to the night that He was betrayed. Observe His prayer as recorded in Luke 22:42-43, ⁴²saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done." ⁴³Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him. Satan did not find an opportune time to attack Jesus again between His baptism and His death, however that did not mean he couldn't attack the church that claimed to follow Christ.

Let's look for some of the things Jesus gave as instruction and statements. Turn to Luke 17:20-21, ²⁰Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, "The kingdom of God does not come with observation; ²¹nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you." There are several verses we can look at in the Gospel of Matthew that illustrate more how we should follow Jesus and what to be on the lookout for. Turn to Matthew 7:13-14, ¹³"Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. ¹⁴Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. Carefully notice what this verse says. Most Christians do not realize they are on the broad way that leads to destruction. I say this for a reason. Many Christians have this belief that once saved always saved, therefore, in their mindset they have found the narrow gate by their belief. In reality they have gone from pagan to deceived individuals on the broad way (the way of many) who have not found the narrow gate. Basically, Jesus confirms this by His statement in Luke 12:32, ³²Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Isn't Jesus implying that He has a little flock? Isn't that a similar idea to the one about finding the narrow gate?

Jesus also warns His flock to be well aware of false prophets and false teachers who will deceive many. Read with me the statement in Matthew 7:15-23, ¹⁵"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. ¹⁶You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? ¹⁷Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. ¹⁹Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰Therefore by their fruits you will know them.

²¹"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. ²²Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' ²³And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

Probably, the most significant statement made by Jesus, in the Gospels, comes from Matthew 24, verses 4-14, ⁴And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you. ⁵For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. ⁶And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. ⁷For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. ⁸All these are the beginning of sorrows. ⁹Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. ¹⁰And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. ¹¹Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. ¹²And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. ¹³But he who endures to the end shall be saved. ¹⁴And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come. Recall with me that Satan left Jesus in the desert and was waiting for an opportune time and I also said that the church is the representative of Jesus and there is nothing that says Satan couldn't or wouldn't attack the church. There is a verse that Paul spoke in 2nd Corinthians 11:13-15 I'd like for you to see. ¹³For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. ¹⁴And no wonder!

For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. ¹⁵Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.

So it is, we have been deceived (hijacked) by Satan and his demons who have changed themselves into ministers of light and righteous to present to us a false presentation of Jesus, and they have taken God's Commandments and feasts and converted them into quazi-pagan festivals just to mock God. Jesus, apparently had enough! Therefore to warn His small flock He came in the spirit to the Apostle John on the Isle of Patmos and spoke to him to write the Revelation. In chapter 18 we see the fall of Babylon the Great. Notice what it says in verse 4, And I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues. God is calling for His people to come out of all the false teaching and the false preaching and to seek and find the narrow gate that leads to the true Christ. We may have a faith in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God but, we may also be listening to a deceptive spirit that is telling us lies and leading us down the broad way to destruction.

I really want to leave you with positive words and a stronger belief in our God and His Son, Jesus. There are many who still believe that the Bible is old fashioned and just tells stories which have no relevance in today's world. There are many Jewish people who do not believe that Jesus is the Messiah. Furthermore, the Jews are unsure of anyone who claims to be a Christian. They associate Christian with Catholic and Evangelicals as followers of Christ. There is a difference between the two. There is one thing that I'd like to know and if I'm correct all Jews should understand. I do not have a Torah and do not understand Hebrew, but I do have an Interlinear Bible that parallels Hebrew and English or Greek and English and if I'm correct the fourth word in the Torah is Aleph Tav. If this was in Greek it would be Alpha and Omega, in English the beginning and the end. In some ways this could be taken as God (a view from the Jewish perspective) or Jesus (a Christian perspective). The sad fact is that in the translation to English this isn't even brought over to the King James or any other translation, for that matter.

“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.” Psalms 23:6

The other item I'd like to leave you with is the following story authored by anonymous.

Two people knocked on the door of her home. Staring at them through a small crack of the door, she asked, “Yes, can I help you?”

They said, “We have been assigned to follow you everyday for the rest of your life.”

She laughed, “You want to do what?”

They said, “Our names are Goodness and Mercy and your Father in heaven has sent us here to follow you wherever you go.”

She was cautious. Life had taught her some hard lessons about trusting others. As she stood there, she could see Corruption and Dismay lurking behind the trees, with a sneaky grin on their faces. She was all too familiar with them and had just kicked them out of her house. However, they knew if she didn't receive God's Goodness and Mercy into her home, they would eventually find their way back into her life and take seven of their demon friends with them.

As she stood there, she whispered to herself, “If anyone is going to follow me, it won't be Corruption and Dismay. It won't be what I've always experienced in my past.” She then opened the door—as wide as she could open, and Goodness and Mercy came into her home and closed the door behind them.

Whenever she stumbled, Mercy was there to pick her up and dress her wounds. Mercy helped remind her of the Father's love regardless of her many mistakes. Whenever she faced a trial, Goodness was there to help her gather all the treasures that came from it. Goodness was always excited about the Father's expected end for her.

Through the years, their friendship grew. They followed her through every moment in her life, every joyous victory and every heart-wrenching tragedy. They were there and never left her side. And when her time had come to take her last breath, Goodness and Mercy escorted her to her heavenly home where she would live for eternity with these two heavenly servants and her heavenly Father.

Prayer: Father God, yes! I receive your Goodness and Mercy in the home of my heart. I open the door as wide as I can to you. Heal every wound and cause me to gather all the treasure after every trial I face. Until I take my last breath, be with me and be glorified in my life. In Jesus' name. Amen!

If you would like another excellent viewpoint on the current situation go to Lamb & Lion Ministries and order a copy of Dr. David Reagan's latest book, *America's Suicide*. <https://christinprophecy.org>

Maranatha



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