



Season
of the
Lord's Return

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Scripture quotations

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The Publication Manual presents explicit style requirements but acknowledges that alternatives are sometimes necessary; authors should balance the rules of the Publication Manual with good judgment. Preface: p. xx.

Introduction

As a young lad my mother always told me that *truth hurt*. I really didn't pay that much attention to mother's statement until I accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior at the age of 12, July 1957. How I became aware of the hurt that truth may bring to a person will most likely be dependent upon each individual in their own mind. It was shortly after this July event that I ran into a problem that I most certainly did not expect. The Sunday morning worship service would begin with the pastor reading a passage of text from the Bible. On this particular Sunday morning the pastor read and there were four words that he did not speak. After the service I went to the pastor and asked him why he didn't read all of the text and he told me he did. I said he did not. He replied he did and I again told him he didn't. He became rather adamant that he had read all of the passage. I went to the nearest pew and pulled out a pew Bible then turned to the passage used that morning and took it to the pastor. Again I asked him why he didn't speak four words in the passage. His mood changed, he looked at me and said, "Boy, you better get from in front of me!" With that I learned that you could not trust everyone in life. Even preachers will lie and show anger like anyone else may lie and show anger. I asked mother how I should take this exchange. Mother told me that since I was the oldest I was dedicated to God when I was born and that I should learn to trust God with the things that would happen over the course of my life.

Much has occurred over the course of the life I have lived so far. I do not know the date that God will call me home, but I felt led to attempt to give younger generations some encouraging words, some older generation viewpoints and much truth as to what the Bible actually says. At times I will add an opinion of what is meant by the words in text. I always had great difficulty trying to understand the old English of the King James Version of the Bible. By today's standards, I probably have seven or eight translations of the Bible and have compared the various translations to provide me with a wealth of knowledge of what the Bible says. It is a giant puzzle that must be thoroughly studied to gather the full truthful meaning of what God instructed mankind to do. The simple statement is that all God ever wanted was for every person to be obedient to what God has laid out for mankind to know and practice. There are certain days that are Holy to God. There are certain rules that God expects His creation to follow. God loves His creation and bases much of what He does for us, or against us, solely upon how we react and how we accept His feast days and commandments.

I have watched as one country will go to war with another country over land, but the most wars that I have observed through the news media is a matter of ideas, opinions or religion. Control over the masses seems to be one of the major themes that causes a war. Countries go to war with another country for control of your speech, control of your job, control of your politics, control of your family and control of whom you worship. These are all major contributors for one country going to war with another country.

Let's go back further in history and make some basic statements concerning God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit and Christians. We all, who are Christians, must understand that God choose Israel as His promised land and the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are His chosen people. It appears that these descendants were intended to be the righteous teachers toward the remainder of humanity for them to understand the one true living God. By the choice of the people, that didn't work too well and God gave them one warning after another to correct their actions and to return to the righteous side of honoring their God. Abraham modeled a friendship and trust in God and passed that to his son Isaac. Through the line of descent, it was intended for this model to be passed onward. But, once the sinful act took place in the Garden of Eden, sin became the cause of death, and Satan had the beginning to deceive mankind and the whole world. Having been expelled from the Garden, mankind began an ever

increasing population upon the earth. There were notable facts that we can glean from history that are both good and bad. Right away, we see the influence of Satan when Cain kills his brother Abel. That was a bad point but, Seth was born to be the replacement line of descent instead of Abel. We find Enoch as the seventh from Adam called a prophet. He was so close to God that God took him from the earth and he did not die. Next is an interesting bit of information for all Christians. Can you explain how Moses received the information pertaining to creation, the flood of Noah, the tower of Babel, the time of Abraham, or the Hebrew people going to Egypt and becoming enslaved? Would you believe this was through the communicated tradition of a family story teller. Understand that in the beginning of our Christian story, mankind had a greater longevity. Mankind lived to the age of 969 years, represented by Methuselah. Between Adam and Moses, there are only 7 people, and six links to pass down the stories of everything up to the time of Moses. Here is how that happened: Adam lived 687 yrs and passed the stories to Methuselah (1st link); Methuselah lived 628 yrs and passed the stories to Shem (2nd link and the passing across the flood event); Shem lived 452 yrs and passed the stories to Isaac (3rd link to the son of Abraham); Isaac lived 77 yrs and passed the stories to Levi (4th link to the son of Jacob); Levi lived 70 yrs and passed the stories to Amram (5th link to the son of Levi); Amram lived 61 yrs and gave the stories to Moses (6th link, son of Amram and the seventh person in this line). Following these links downward, we learn from these stories, presented by Moses in the first five books of the Bible, that mankind had become rather sinful by the time of Abraham. The flood event had occurred. The tower of Babel had been built and the single language of the people had been shattered into the many thousand languages of the world that are represented here on earth today. The combined nation of ancient Israel had traveled to Egypt during a famine and were enslaved for over 300 years. The five cities on the plain, including Sodom and Gomorrah, had already been destroyed.

For a foreshadowing of the Rapture, look at how Moses received the Ten Commandments. Moses went up and God came down. Isn't that exactly what is to happen at the moment of the Rapture? Isn't Jesus going to come down and the true church will be taken up? We find this statement in Exodus 19:19-20, ¹⁹ *And when the blast of the trumpet sounded long and became louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him by voice.* ²⁰ *Then the Lord came down upon Mount Sinai, on the top of the mountain. And the Lord called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up.* (NKJV) We can find other interesting facts from the book of Exodus. We find numerous places that God spoke to Moses between chapter 19 and the end of Exodus in chapter 40. For example, in chapter 20, God spoke the Ten Commandments to Moses. Exodus 20:1, ¹ *And God spoke all these words, saying:* (NKJV) In chapter 24, we see that God told Moses to bring Aaron and others up the mountain and worship at a distance, Exodus 24:1-2, ¹ *Now He said to Moses, "Come up to the Lord, you and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, and worship from afar. ² And Moses alone shall come near the Lord, but they shall not come near; nor shall the people go up with him."* (NKJV) Continuing in chapter 24, we see that God wrote the Ten Commandments on the tablets of stone, verse 24:12, ¹² *Then the Lord said to Moses, "Come up to Me on the mountain and be there; and I will give you tablets of stone, and the law and commandments which I have written, that you may teach them."* (NKJV) These last five words in verse 12 tells all of us the reason that God gave the Ten Commandments to Moses. It was so Moses could teach the law and the commandments to the Israelites.

That also brings us to the next point that I would like for you to understand and know as a fact. This passage is just one thought from the Old Testament. It is included so that everyone who calls themselves a New Testament Christian can see there really is a need to understand and study the Old Testament. Without the knowledge of the Old Testament, you have no basis for understanding the prophecies fulfilled through the life of Jesus. Secondly, within God's plan for all of His creation there is an order for all things, that includes the obedience of God's mankind creation to honor their living God. Idols may have ears but they do not hear, they may have eyes but they do not see. More then

anything else, an idol may be worshipped, but it cannot bring you a righteous answer. Idols have demonic spirits behind them that you do not see, but they will surely influence what you receive back from an idol. Idols may also be any object, or desire, that you place ahead of God. It could be your pet, a material object, such as your car, or it could be the sports team you follow religiously. Let's look at this in another way. God is a Holy God who created all things. Included in God's creation were all the angels and the third angelic leader named Lucifer. Lucifer choose to rebel against God, the creator, and make himself as God's advisory, now known as Satan. When Lucifer made this decision to go against God he led a third of the angels with him. They became the demonic spirits that mislead mankind into all the sins committed in today's world. Just for your information, the other two angelic leaders are Michael, the archangel, and Gabriel. Let's also tie this together with the statement that Jesus Himself spoke. We find this reference in Matthew 5:17-20, ¹⁷ *"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. ¹⁸ For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.* (ESV) This statement alone should have many so called New Testament Christians performing an introspection on themselves. Are you one of these New Testament Christians who claim the Ten Commandments are old, outdated and no longer apply to the modern world? Are you someone who attends church services on Sunday and supports abortions on Monday? Do you truly believe that a person has the right to change their sex or even marry someone of the same sex? You need to go back and look at what you believe and why you believe those things. Jesus spoke the following words in Matthew 24:4-14, ⁴ *And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you. ⁵ For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. ⁶ And 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. ⁷ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. ⁸ All these are the beginning of sorrows. ⁹ Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. ¹⁰ And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. ¹¹ Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. ¹² And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. ¹³ But he who endures to the end shall be saved. ¹⁴ And 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.* (NKJV) Let's return for a moment to the Old Testament and gather a few more facts. Genesis 1:27-30, ²⁷ *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. ²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." ²⁹ And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. ³⁰ And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so.* (ESV) We found in these verses that God only created two genders of mankind — male and female. Anyone who thinks they are a different gender has been created by Satan and not by God. Let's take that another step and find the creation of woman. We find this in Chapter 2, verses 20-23. ²⁰ *The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. ²¹ So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²² And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a*

woman and brought her to the man.²³ Then the man said, “This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.” We conclude these passages with the final two verses found in the second chapter of the Book of Genesis,²⁴ *Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.*²⁵ *And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.* (ESV) It should be obvious to everyone reading this that two males or two females cannot fulfill the instructions God gave to mankind: “*Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.*” (Genesis 1:28) Unless new surgical procedures have been perfected, no transgender person has the capability to perform this instruction either. Sure, you can have sexual relations with another individual in your lesbian, bi, gay, trans (LBGT) playground but even that goes against God’s natural laws. God had particular rules and He even thought it was necessary to spell those rules out so you would understand. This set of instructions pertaining to sexual relations is found in Leviticus, chapter, 18. I am presenting the entire 18th chapter to you for your understanding: ¹ *And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying,* ² *“Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, I am the Lord your God.* ³ *You shall not do as they do in the land of Egypt, where you lived, and you shall not do as they do in the land of Canaan, to which I am bringing you. You shall not walk in their statutes.* ⁴ *You shall follow my rules and keep my statutes and walk in them. I am the Lord your God.* ⁵ *You shall therefore keep my statutes and my rules; if a person does them, he shall live by them: I am the Lord.*

⁶ *“None of you shall approach any one of his close relatives to uncover nakedness. I am the Lord.* ⁷ *You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father, which is the nakedness of your mother; she is your mother, you shall not uncover her nakedness.* ⁸ *You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father’s wife; it is your father’s nakedness.* ⁹ *You shall not uncover the nakedness of your sister, your father’s daughter or your mother’s daughter, whether brought up in the family or in another home.* ¹⁰ *You shall not uncover the nakedness of your son’s daughter or of your daughter’s daughter, for their nakedness is your own nakedness.* ¹¹ *You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father’s wife’s daughter, brought up in your father’s family, since she is your sister.* ¹² *You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father’s sister; she is your father’s relative.* ¹³ *You shall not uncover the nakedness of your mother’s sister, for she is your mother’s relative.* ¹⁴ *You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father’s brother, that is, you shall not approach his wife; she is your aunt.* ¹⁵ *You shall not uncover the nakedness of your daughter-in-law; she is your son’s wife, you shall not uncover her nakedness.* ¹⁶ *You shall not uncover the nakedness of your brother’s wife; it is your brother’s nakedness.* ¹⁷ *You shall not uncover the nakedness of a woman and of her daughter, and you shall not take her son’s daughter or her daughter’s daughter to uncover her nakedness; they are relatives; it is depravity.* ¹⁸ *And you shall not take a woman as a rival wife to her sister, uncovering her nakedness while her sister is still alive.*

¹⁹ *“You shall not approach a woman to uncover her nakedness while she is in her menstrual uncleanness.* ²⁰ *And you shall not lie sexually with your neighbor’s wife and so make yourself unclean with her.* ²¹ *You shall not give any of your children to offer them to Molech, and so profane the name of your God: I am the Lord.* ²² *You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination.* ²³ *And you shall not lie with any animal and so make yourself unclean with it, neither shall any woman give herself to an animal to lie with it: it is perversion.*

²⁴ *“Do not make yourselves unclean by any of these things, for by all these the nations I am driving out before you have become unclean,²⁵ and the land became unclean, so that I punished its iniquity, and the land vomited out its inhabitants.* ²⁶ *But you shall keep my statutes and my rules and do none of these abominations, either the native or the stranger who sojourns among you*²⁷ (for the people of the land, who were before you, did all of these abominations, so that the land became unclean),²⁸ lest the land vomit you out when you make it unclean, as it vomited out the nation that was before you.²⁹ For everyone who does any

*of these abominations, the persons who do them shall be cut off from among their people.*³⁰ *So keep my charge never to practice any of these abominable customs that were practiced before you, and never to make yourselves unclean by them: I am the Lord your God.*” (ESV) I fully understand that the lesbian portion of your LGBT group have noted that this passage in verse 22 does not tag a label of abomination upon their sexual relationships. That may be true, but as New Testament Christians you failed to read the instructions that the Apostle Paul penned in the Book of Romans. Read the truth in Romans 1:21-32,²¹ *For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.*²² *Claiming to be wise, they became fools,*²³ *and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.*

²⁴ *Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves,*²⁵ *because they exchanged the truth about God for a 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 dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature;*²⁷ *and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.*

²⁸ *And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done.*²⁹ *They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. **They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips,***³⁰ ***slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents,***³¹ ***foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless.***³² *Though they know God’s decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.* (ESV)

There was one more verse in the passage taken from Leviticus that we need to address. Look at verse 21.²¹ *You shall not give any of your children to offer them to Molech, and so profane the name of your God: I am the Lord.* Molech was a pagan idol and a major portion of those sacrificed to it were children. Molech had an opening in its abdomen and the feet and legs contained a perpetual fire. To sacrifice your child to Molech all you had to do was take your baby to the stomach and drop it in. Pray tell, what is the difference between that horrible act and an abortion. In either case you are sacrificing your child. God declares that as the taking of innocent blood and it can bring the wrath of God upon a nation who practices child sacrifice. Woe be it to the United States for the number of innocent children that have been destroyed via an abortion. You, so called, New Testament Christians claim that this is a medical necessity for women’s health. How stupid do you think older people are to believe that nonsense? What you should really call this is a sexual error that you are trying to erase! You didn’t have the guts to use a precaution, have your partner use a precaution or even to abstain all together.

Let us move forward and make an attempt to answer some of the questions that should overflow with “Need to Know” curiosity. I am going to make an honest attempt to answer these questions pertaining to the, “Season of the Lord’s Return.” I have plans to discuss these five areas: The Antichrist; The Christian Sabbath; God’s Ordained Feast Days; The Beast of the Apocalypse; and The Mark of the Beast.

Who, or What, is the Antichrist?

If you have sat in a church of any denomination, for any length of time, you have most likely heard the word antichrist. But, is this a person or is this something else, i.e. a one world government? Where do we begin? Down through history, we have seen hundreds of documents that provide reason that this person or that person is the “Antichrist.” We have heard that particular dictators, elected officials, cult leaders and even kings and presidents were the Biblical antichrist. Almost any individual, organization, church or government that is feared or viewed with suspicion and hatred, has been labeled “Antichrist” by detractors.

Hundreds of tracts, articles, booklets and even full length books have been written reporting on the identity of the “Antichrist” as suggested in the above statement. All such writings invariably attack the organization or individual with a combination of facts and suppositions; insignia, heraldry, badges of office, crowns, edicts, genealogies, religious connections and beliefs, and supposed hidden agendas all become a part or parcel of these supposed facts.

Many are convinced in each case, once the unsuspecting reader has carefully viewed all the supposed evidence charging the one exposed as indeed the Antichrist. In their opinion, they have found the mysterious, undercover person who will suddenly be thrust upon the world stage in the last days, to work horrible evils against God and His people. All such works are based upon a FALSE ASSUMPTION, carelessly taken for granted. Once the false assumption becomes not an assumption, but a fact in the mind of the writer, all the gathered proofs seem to take on substance. Working from this preconceived bias, researchers find all kinds of seemingly meaningful evidence in support of their assumption. Even the number of bars on a shield of heraldry, especially the number 6 or any multiples thereof; the kinds of animals, unicorns, bears, oxen, eagles, displayed on state seals or badges; or the dates of birth, dates of significant actions, all become part of an elaborate, many-pronged structure of straws, which, taken together, once the underlying false assumption becomes fact seem to offer convincing proof, yet remains merely a straw man. We must not leave out numerology and astronomy as essential elements to those who pretend to have uncovered the Antichrist.

Believe it or not, the Bible says nothing about a specific individual called the Antichrist. For centuries, theologians have assumed that there is a direct connection between the “Man of Sin” mentioned by Paul in 2nd Thessalonians 2:1-12 and by the Apostle John in 1st John 4:1-3. Here are those two passages of scripture, first the passage from 2nd Thessalonians, ¹ *Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, ² not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. ³ Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, ⁴ who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. ⁵ Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? ⁶ And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. ⁷ For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. ⁸ And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. ⁹ The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, ¹⁰ and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. ¹¹ And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, ¹² that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.* (NKJV) In this passage you should understand that the one who restrains in verse 7 is the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit must be removed prior to the lawless one being revealed (verse 8). Our second passage is taken from 1st John 4:1-3, ¹ *Beloved, do*

not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. ² By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, ³ and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world. (NKJV) While there may be some reason to connect the so-called Antichrist with the Man of Sin or the Great False Prophet of Revelation, such a connection is indirect, perhaps merely implied, and not based upon any specific statement made by any of the Prophets, Apostles or even Jesus Himself.

Notice this additional description of the Antichrist that is stated by the Apostle John is the following passage taken from 1st John 2:18-23, ¹⁸ *Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour. ¹⁹ They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us. ²⁰ But you have an anointing from the Holy One (this is the same as the Holy Spirit), and you know all things. ²¹ I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and that no lie is of the truth. ²² Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son. ²³ Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also.* (NKJV) Let's add another passage from the fourth chapter of 1st John, verses 4-6, ⁴ *You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. ⁵ They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them. ⁶ We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.* (NKJV) We need to view some of the words John used between verses 1-3 and verses 4-6 in chapter four. Notice in verse 3 John says this is the spirit of the Antichrist. John did not in any sense of imagination declare the antichrist to be a physical man. He called this personage a spirit. Now look at verse four. Notice the two words 'he,' the first is a personal pronoun, 'He,' referring to God and the second 'he' is referring to Satan.

Turn over to 2nd John and read verses 4-8, ⁴ *I rejoiced greatly to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as we were commanded by the Father. ⁵ And now I ask you, dear lady — not as though I were writing you a new commandment, but the one we have had from the beginning — that we love one another. ⁶ And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it. ⁷ For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist. ⁸ Watch yourselves, so that you may not lose what we have worked for, but may win a full reward.* (ESV) Isn't this the same commandment that Jesus gave us in the Gospel of 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.* (ESV) It appears that John has carried forward Jesus' command to love one another, furthermore he says that a part of love is walking in accordance to the commandments. Since this part of verse 6 is in the plural form John must be speaking of God's Ten Commandments. The words from Jesus in John 13 the word commandment is in the singular form, thus meaning His commandment given in that verse. Here is the key to understanding what John meant. The "spirit of antichrist" is any person or spirit who refuses to "confess that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh." The expression "**who confess not** that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh," according to the Apostle John, is the identifying sign of who is "a deceiver and an antichrist." Therefore, it is of primary importance that we understand what John meant. It appears that John meant in his writings, "the coming in the flesh" means that anyone who denies that Christ can now dwell in us is one who is of the "spirit of antichrist." The miracle of the indwelling presence of Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit, is the very heart of the way to salvation.

Historically, most Protestant theologians of past generations assumed that the pope of Rome was the “Antichrist.” In fact, the primary human founder of Protestantism, Martin Luther, declared on August 18, 1520: “We here are of the conviction that the papacy is the seat of the true and real Antichrist” (*The Prophetic Faith of Our Fathers*, LeRoy Froom, Vol 2, p. 121).

Was Martin Luther correct in his statement? You may ask: “Who gave Martin Luther the right to be correct on this statement? How could he possibly know the truth, when so many of the leaders of professing Christianity are in disagreement?” We could give a simple answer and quote Psalm 111:10 as our rebuttal. Here is what Psalm 111:10 says, ¹⁰ *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do His commandments. His praise endures forever.* (NKJV) Every person reading these words must make the admission that investigating the subject of the Antichrist is not merely the investigating of some religious topic. The correct understanding of this subject could be absolutely vital to the very survival of you and your family in the years ahead. More importantly, a solid understanding of this subject may affect whether or not you will be part of the first resurrection at Jesus’ second coming and fulfill your position in the Kingdom of God! Probably within this generation, a **powerful religious leader** will appear on the scene. He will perform awesome signs and wonders. He will be the final personification of what the Bible describes as the Antichrist.

There currently is a great push in Bible translation circles to have the Word of God available to all the peoples of the earth by 2033. The United Nations has plans to have a “One World” government by 2035. If the current population of the earth took these desires seriously, there should be some thought that the second coming of Christ could occur in this time frame. We truly are in the “Season of the Lord’s Return.”

Even so, we need to look at history and understand that there have been in the past, and now are many antichrist! Underlying all of their deceptions is the “spirit of Antichrist, meaning the wrong approaches and false doctrines which have blinded billions of human beings from understanding God’s Truth. The doctrine of Antichrist is not understood by most of the world’s religious leaders.

“How so?” you might ask.

Because there is a very real Satan who is the prince of the air. Jesus twice called Satan the “ruler of this world.” We find these two statements in John 12:31 and 14:30, ^{12:31} *Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.* and ^{14:30} *I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me.* (NKJV) Satan is the great deceiver. The Apostle John made it very clear that Satan deceives the vast majority of mankind: Revelation 12:9, 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.* (NKJV)

You might be prone to say, “But I am not deceived!” Do not be too sure!

Let’s look at what is, undoubtedly, the major deception that Satan has introduced to mainstream Christianity! The widespread deception concerning the Antichrist is only the beginning of the vast religious deception spread about in the name of “Christianity.” These religious deceptions are so thorough that thousands of professing Christian ministers and priests are themselves deceived and therefore do not even realize that they are perpetuating a lie! Jesus similarly described the false religious leaders of His day in the following manner: Matthew 15:10-14, ¹⁰ *And he called the people to him and said to them, “Hear and understand: ¹¹ it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but what comes out of the mouth; this defiles a person.” ¹² Then the disciples came and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this saying?” ¹³ He answered, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be rooted up. ¹⁴ Let them alone; they are blind guides. And if the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit.”* (ESV)

This mass deception is so widespread and so believable because many of its tenets “look good” on the surface. Most of its practitioners will say that we must believe in Christ. They will say that

Christians should exhibit love, kindness, mercy and patience, and that Christians should “do good” to their fellow man—give to the poor and support hospitals, charities and homes for orphans. They will say that Christians should respond to Jesus’ “law of love.”

All of this sounds biblical. It sounds very good!

However, those practitioners do not tell you which of the laws of God are to be kept—and exactly how **God’s laws are to be obeyed**. These people will talk sentimentally about Christ being the “Lord” of our lives. But, they will inevitably fail to explain that if Jesus is “Lord,” we must **obey Him!** **They will never tell you that Jesus directly and consistently taught obedience to all of the Ten Commandments!**

Because of Satan’s inspired deception, many of the bloodiest wars in modern history have been waged between professing “Christian” nations in Europe. Bishops on one side would bless their troops as they prepared for battle. The bishops on the other side did the same. Then thousands of young men—often still in their teens—would rush up some hill to shoot or brutally stab to death other young men who were often of the very same church denomination! All were supposedly “Christian.” All were supposedly of the body of Christ—the Church of which Jesus is the living, active Head, Ephesians 1:20-23, ²⁰ *that He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,* ²¹ *far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.* ²² *And He put all things under His feet and gave Him as Head over all things to the Church,* ²³ *which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.* (ESV) Turn on your TV set today and observe the fighting that has been going on now for over a year between Ukraine and Russia. Over the past year we have seen President Putin with the leader of the Russian Orthodox Church blessing young Russians. The Ukrainian Orthodox bishops have blessed their troops. Both countries stating that they are Christian and both stating that the other side started this war. But look at the millions of Ukrainians that have fled the country. Look at the number of husbands and young men who have died over this deceitful attempt to take over a nation by another nation for the sake of control. Look at the number of widows that have been left behind on both sides and the number of children who no longer have a father. All of this by so called Christian people who are following the model set by Jesus. Not so and there should not be such!

One of the Greek words for “sin” in the New Testament literally means “**to miss the mark.**” Satan is content to allow you to “believe in” God and Christ as long as he can still control you so that you “**miss the mark.**” Satan’s goal is to keep you out of the coming Kingdom of God, which will replace him and his demons—by blinding you to what is really happening! God inspired the Apostle James to write: James 2:19, ¹⁹ *You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!* (NKJV) Then James explains how the true Christian must not merely believe in God, but must surrender to God’s will and **do what He says**. See James’ statement in verses 2:20-23, ²⁰ *But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?* ²¹ *Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar?* ²² *Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect?* ²³ *And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.” And he was called the friend of God.* (NKJV) James concludes his illustration with verse 24-26, ²⁴ *You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.* ²⁵ *And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way?* ²⁶ *For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.* (ESV)

Justified by works and our faith are two actions working together to provide us with salvation through Jesus Christ! It should be very clear that true salvation involves more than just accepting, in faith, Christ’s death. Salvation is a free gift from God, given through Jesus’ death as full payment for our sins. When we accept Christ’s sacrifice, we must also make a literal “covenant with our Creator” to

quit sinning in the future—to truly surrender and let Christ live His obedient life in us through the Holy Spirit! For, God’s inspired Word tells us in 1st John 3:1-10 who we really are through Christ: ¹ *See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are! But the people who belong to this world don’t recognize that we are God’s children because they don’t know him.* ² *Dear friends, we are already God’s children, but he has not yet shown us what we will be like when Christ appears. But we do know that we will be like him, for we will see him as he really is.* ³ *And all who have this eager expectation will keep themselves pure, just as he is pure.*

⁴ *Everyone who sins is breaking God’s law, for all sin is contrary to the law of God.* ⁵ *And you know that Jesus came to take away our sins, and there is no sin in him.* ⁶ *Anyone who continues to live in him will not sin. But anyone who keeps on sinning does not know him or understand who he is.*

⁷ *Dear children, don’t let anyone deceive you about this: When people do what is right, it shows that they are righteous, even as Christ is righteous.* ⁸ *But when people keep on sinning, it shows that they belong to the devil, who has been sinning since the beginning. But the Son of God came to destroy the works of the devil.* ⁹ *Those who have been born into God’s family do not make a practice of sinning, because God’s life is in them. So they can’t keep on sinning, because they are children of God.* ¹⁰ *So now we can tell who are children of God and who are children of the devil. Anyone who does not live righteously and does not love other believers does not belong to God.* (NLT) So, we must repent of sin, repent of breaking God’s spiritual Law, the Ten Commandments. This involves a life of humble obedience—the “works” of keeping God’s laws and commandments.

We must understand that no one can ever earn salvation—it is a gift from God! The true grace of God leads to the gift of salvation. We can see this in Paul’s writings in Ephesians 2:8-10, ⁸ *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,* ⁹ *not of works, lest anyone should boast.* ¹⁰ *For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.* (NKJV) and Romans 6:23, ²³ *For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.* (ESV) Those willing to obey God, as shown in Acts 5:29-32, ²⁹ *But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: “We ought to obey God rather than men.”* ³⁰ *The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree.* ³¹ *Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.* ³² *And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him.”* (NKJV) These who are under true grace will be God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works. Ephesians 2:10, ¹⁰ *For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.* (NKJV) God’s grace does not eliminate the need for obedience and keeping God’s commandments. The Apostle Paul warned that one could “receive the grace of God in vain,” 2nd Corinthians 6:1, ¹ *Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain.* (ESV)

When men cleverly misuse “grace”—teaching “cheap grace” without real repentance from sin—it is the very essence of the doctrine of the Antichrist! This false concept has allowed millions of professing Christians to go through life regularly and habitually disobeying the Ten Commandments—yet still assuming they are “Good Christians!” The book of Jude is composed of only 25 verses, however, in those 25 verses Jude writes about false teachers who turn the grace of God into licentiousness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, I’m recording all 25 verses of Jude and placing those verses here. ¹ *Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James, To those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ:* ² *May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.* ³ *Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.* ⁴ *For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation,*

ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

⁵ Now I want to remind you, although you once fully knew it, that Jesus, who saved a people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe. ⁶ And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day— ⁷ just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire.

⁸ Yet in like manner these people also, relying on their dreams, defile the flesh, reject authority, and blaspheme the glorious ones. ⁹ But when the archangel Michael, contending with the devil, was disputing about the body of Moses, he did not presume to pronounce a blasphemous judgment, but said, “The Lord rebuke you.” ¹⁰ But these people blaspheme all that they do not understand, and they are destroyed by all that they, like unreasoning animals, understand instinctively. ¹¹ Woe to them! For they walked in the way of Cain and abandoned themselves for the sake of gain to Balaam’s error and perished in Korah’s rebellion. ¹² These are hidden reefs at your love feasts, as they feast with you without fear, shepherds feeding themselves; waterless clouds, swept along by winds; fruitless trees in late autumn, twice dead, uprooted; ¹³ wild waves of the sea, casting up the foam of their own shame; wandering stars, for whom the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved forever.

¹⁴ It was also about these that Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied, saying, “Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of his holy ones, ¹⁵ to execute judgment on all and to convict all the ungodly of all their deeds of ungodliness that they have committed in such an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things that ungodly sinners have spoken against him.” ¹⁶ These are grumblers, malcontents, following their own sinful desires; they are loud-mouthed boasters, showing favoritism to gain advantage.

¹⁷ But you must remember, beloved, the predictions of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ They said to you, “In the last time there will be scoffers, following their own ungodly passions.” ¹⁹ It is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit. ²⁰ But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, ²¹ keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. ²² And have mercy on those who doubt; ²³ save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh.

²⁴ Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, ²⁵ to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen. (ESV)

Take this as a challenge, go to your minister or priest and directly ask this question: “Pastor, does God require true Christians to keep the Ten Commandments?” If you ask the question directly in these words, most religious leaders will begin to mumble something about being “saved by grace.” Then, they may hastily add that the Ten Commandments are a good moral guide but that “you don’t have to keep them since you are saved by grace and are a New Testament believer.”

If you press on and try to “pin your pastor down” to a straightforward answer on this matter, he or she may try to skirt the issue or point you to the “new” commandments of Jesus. Or, perhaps, they will finally come right out and say what virtually all mainstream theology actually teaches—the Ten Commandments were either “nailed to the cross” when Christ died or the Apostle Paul somehow “did away” with them! **This is the very “heart” of the doctrine of Antichrist!**

This is so because it creates a “lawless society”—a society cut off from God since the Ten Commandments actually portray God’s character. God’s awesome purpose involves putting His “divine nature” into us through the Holy Spirit. It involves our going through a process of spiritual growth and “overcoming” to reflect the very character of God and be made fit to rule with Christ in His soon

coming Kingdom. Jesus directly states the following in Revelation 2:26, ²⁶ *And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations—* (NKJV)

The true saints of God are being prepared by Him to replace Satan and his demons in ruling over this earth. For Satan is now the “god of this age.” Paul tells us: ¹ *When one of you has a dispute with another believer, how dare you file a lawsuit and ask a secular court to decide the matter instead of taking it to other believers!* ² *Don't you realize that someday we believers will judge the world? And since you are going to judge the world, can't you decide even these little things among yourselves?* ³ *Don't you realize that we will judge angels? So you should surely be able to resolve ordinary disputes in this life.* ⁴ *If you have legal disputes about such matters, why go to outside judges who are not respected by the church?* ⁵ *I am saying this to shame you. Isn't there anyone in all the church who is wise enough to decide these issues?* ⁶ *But instead, one believer sues another—right in front of unbelievers!*

⁷ *Even to have such lawsuits with one another is a defeat for you. Why not just accept the injustice and leave it at that? Why not let yourselves be cheated?* ⁸ *Instead, you yourselves are the ones who do wrong and cheat even your fellow believers.*

⁹ *Don't you realize that those who do wrong will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Don't fool yourselves. Those who indulge in sexual sin, or who worship idols, or commit adultery, or are male prostitutes, or practice homosexuality, ¹⁰ or are thieves, or greedy people, or drunkards, or are abusive, or cheat people—none of these will inherit the Kingdom of God.* 1 Corinthians 6:1-10 (NLT)

Why have you not heard a lot more about this awesome purpose of the true Christian to exercise rulership in the future? Because Satan wants to block this knowledge from reaching human beings so they will be unable to replace him and his demons in ruling this earth. Therefore he, the “father” of lies has deceived the vast majority of all humanity—including two billion professing Christians—regarding God's purpose for man and the way to fulfill that purpose!

Let's make it a clear statement. Satan does not want to give up his position as the prince of the air and the ruler of this world. He will use every strategy to keep mankind in the dark, to deceive as many as possible and keep them from the truth. That, my friends, represents the true meaning of the “spirit of antichrist.” To answer the question “Who or What is the Antichrist” it must be stated that there is no “Who!” Understand that we will address “the man of sin” and the “False Prophet” in greater detail when we review “The Beast of the Apocalypse.” The “What” is a very deceptive false teaching of disobedience toward God's Word and the modeling of obeying God's commandments by His Son, Jesus.

Recall the young man who came to Jesus and asked Him the way to eternal life. Jesus answered, “If you want to enter into life, keep the commandments” Matthew 19:16-17, ¹⁶ *Now behold, one came and said to Him, “Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?”* ¹⁷ *So He said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments.”* (NKJV) Jesus went even further in the account given by Matthew. There we find instructions to be careful and allow no one to deceive us, Matthew 24:4-5, ⁴ *And Jesus answered and said to them: “Take heed that no one deceives you.* ⁵ *For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many.* (NKJV) Paul, as the Apostle to the Gentiles understood that by the time of his ministry false teachings were already taking place. Review what Paul taught to the Corinthians in 2nd Corinthians 11:3-6, ³ *But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.* ⁴ *For if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or if you accept a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it readily enough.* ⁵ *Indeed, I consider that I am not in the least inferior to these super-apostles.* ⁶ *Even if I am unskilled in speaking, I am not so in knowledge; indeed, in every way we have made this plain to you in all things.* (ESV) Unwittingly, to be sure, most of us have grown up hearing about

“another Jesus,” a “different spirit” and, very definitely, a “different gospel” than the one Jesus and the Apostles preached! Notice in the passage from Matthew 24 that it is the “many” who will be deceived. And how? They will be deceived because these “many” false teachers come “in Jesus name.” Get that! They use Jesus’ own name to deceive people! They come as “Christian” preachers and teachers—**but their message is obviously contrary to the message Jesus Himself preached.** Take extra care to notice that it is many false teachers who will deceive many people.

Because “Christian” and “Jesus” is stamped on the outside of the package, most people unthinkingly assume that Christ must approve of the inside of the package! **But these deceived people fail to really study their Bibles.** They fail to “prove all things” as God commands, so they are easily deceived by a false “Christianity” based upon the “doctrine of Antichrist.”

For the sake of those who are New Testament believers who do not believe that it is necessary to understand the Old Testament I am going to show you six tie-points from the Gospel of John to scripture passages in the Old Testament. This should perform two things: one, it should show you that there really is a need to study and understand the Old Testament; and two, it should provide proof that Jesus is the Son of God!

Who is Jesus? Let’s look at six coded messages that will have one reference in the Gospel of John and another reference from the Old Testament.

Illustration 1: Compare John 1:1, “In the beginning was the Word,” with Genesis 1:1, “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” We see John connecting Jesus with being involved in creation. In some ways this is not clearly shown to the reader in our modern day Bible. Go and review The Interlinear Bible, Genesis 1:1. Strong’s numbers are shown and you begin text on the right and read to the left. Notice that there is a fourth word in Hebrew that is not transferred over to our English translations of the Bible. The fourth word in Hebrew is Aleph Tav, meaning the same thing as the Alpha Omega in Greek, or in more modern English “the beginning to the end,” or another means to identify Jesus as the Son of God, Revelation 1:8, ⁸ *“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End,” says the Lord, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”* (NKJV)

Illustration 2: When we connect John 1:14, “The Word became flesh and tabernacled among us and we beheld His glory,” with Exodus 40:34, “and the glory of Yahweh filled the tabernacle,” we can see how John identifies Jesus with Yahweh who hovered within the Old Testament tabernacle.

Illustration 3: When we look at John 1:29, “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world,” alongside Leviticus 16, we can see that Jesus is both the atoning sacrifice of God and the scapegoat that carries the sins away. Thusly, separating the sins from the people.

Illustration 4: Then in John 1:51, Jesus reports to Nathaniel that he will “see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man,” connecting Jesus with Jacob’s dream when Jacob saw heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on a ladder set on the earth and reaching into heaven (Genesis 28:12).

These four illustrations identify Jesus with key Old Testament images that help John to accomplish his mission of pointing out that what he shares will lead us to the conclusion that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God (John 20:31). There are more.

Illustration 5: In John chapter 3, Nicodemus has a conversation with Jesus where Jesus makes this statement, “As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up so that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life” (John 3:14-15). If you have read the story from Numbers you probably remember this story. Israel had disobeyed God and many venomous snakes entered the camp and bit several thousand people. God instructed Moses to cast a bronze serpent placing it onto a long staff. He then lifted the staff and serpent into the air. When anyone bitten by the venomous snakes would look up at the bronze serpent, God would heal them from the effects of the

venom and they would live (Numbers 21:6-9). So, Jesus identifies Himself in this conversation with Nicodemus that if He is lifted up from the earth, alluding to being hung on the cross, He would bring healing and salvation to every person who looked to Him.

Illustration 6: Later in John's gospel Jesus has an argument with the Pharisees over proper ministries. At the end of that argument Jesus makes this statement, "Before Abraham was born, I am" (John 8:58). John is connecting this statement by Jesus with the burning bush event recorded for us in Exodus 3. When Moses asks God, "What is your name?" He replies, "I am who I am" (Exodus 3:14). This reply, "I am," Jesus uses to identify Himself at the end of the argument.

From these six illustrations, we can safely draw the conclusion that throughout Jesus' ministry John's gospel records for us various ways Jesus identifies Himself as God. Jesus connects Himself with key Old Testament accounts that record the identity and key activities of God.

I hope and pray that these will help to strengthen your faith and your understanding about Jesus. I hope you will find more confidence in your witnessing about Jesus and that these illustrations from John's gospel help us to understand more fully who Jesus was and who He still is today.

In my next chapter I will attempt to correctly identify the true day for the Christian day of worship.



Which Day is the Christian Sabbath?



Let us perform a quick review of the Fourth Commandment to see what it says. Exodus 20:8-11, 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.* (NKJV) The second set of Ten Commandments are in Deuteronomy 5:12-15, ¹² *‘Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy, as the Lord your God commanded you. ¹³ Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁴ 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 ox, nor your donkey, nor any of your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates, that your male servant and your female servant may rest as well as you. ¹⁵ And remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God brought you out from there by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm; therefore the Lord your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day.* (NKJV) Now, take any present day calendar from any country and look at the structure of the layout from month to month. On every calendar the beginning of every week is on the left side of the calendar and the seventh day of the week is on the right side of the calendar. The day on the left is Sunday, a day so named for worshipping the pagan sun god. The day on the right side is Saturday and in everything pertaining to a Christian viewpoint is the Sabbath. As Christians, we need to strongly remember that our heritage and roots toward our Christian belief came from Jewish (Hebrew) roots. We are the grafted in wide olive branch to God’s original chosen people, the Hebrew people.

But, here we are, traveling at a record pace toward the end of days as we currently know them. Every Christian should look around and see the warning signs that are occurring daily. God is highly upset and preparing to unleash His wrath upon the earth. Mankind is disobedient toward God’s Commandments, and His ordained Feast Days. The warnings from His prophets and even the words of His Son Jesus and the Apostles are ignored. In the last chapter, we saw that the “spirit of Antichrist” was the major cause of the disobedience toward God. Satan does not relish the idea that he is going to lose the fight over who is ruler of the earth and the prince of the air. Satan knows the Bible and understands that if he is going to lose, his time is getting short. Therefore, he is doing everything that God has allowed him to do to deceive the population of the earth today, just as he has been deceiving the earth going all the way back to the Garden of Eden. Eve was his first victim, Adam the second and Cain the third in Satan’s plot to command the earth and all who live upon it.



It was this breach in the Garden that began this mess and it is through Jesus that God provided a means that mankind can return back to a pure and righteous relationship with Him. We established in the last chapter that Satan is the author of confusion and disobedience. Look at the statement Paul makes in 2nd Corinthians 11:13-15, ¹³ *For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. ¹⁴ And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. ¹⁵ So it is no surprise if his servants, (Satan’s) also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds.* (ESV)

It most certainly appears that mankind is in the “Season of the Lord’s Return.” There seems to be two major events that are going on around the earth. First, there is this great falling away that we are witnessing. There is the outcry that abortion rights are a necessity for women’s health and it is their right to have an abortion. At nearly the same time, there seems to be the outpouring of the Holy Spirit that is to occur just before the return of Christ. Look at the revival atmosphere that is going on in

Uganda, Philippines, Iran and some college campuses in the United States. Maybe, just maybe, by God's Holy Grace people are finally understanding what is going on and the need for repentance.

But, let us return to our primary subject for this chapter: What is the Christian Sabbath?

As we swiftly approach the END of this present age of man's rule under the influence of Satan, it is vitally important that we consider whether or not we are truly obeying the God who gives us life and breath. Jesus taught time and again that empty faith is NOT enough! Contained in Jesus' concluding remarks in the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 7:21-23, He said, 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. ²² Many 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?' ²³ And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"* (NKJV) In similar manner, Jesus asked, in Luke 6:46, ⁴⁶ *"But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do the things which I say?"* (NKJV) In a discussion with the Pharisees, Jesus quoted a prophecy of Isaiah's, Mark 7:6-7, ⁶ *He answered and said to them, "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: 'This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. ⁷ And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.'"* (NKJV) Then Jesus said to them, verse 9, ⁹ *He said to them, "All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may **keep your tradition.**"* (NKJV)

Clearly then, when the traditions of men conflict with the commandments of God, we face a **HUGE** problem according to Jesus. Did you know that your willingness to keep holy the true Sabbath day, which God made holy, directly affects whether or not you will be granted eternal life in the Kingdom of God? Did you know that keeping the true Sabbath is, and always has been, a special "test" commandment in God's sight?

Let's begin this at the beginning, turn to Genesis 2:1-3, ¹ *So the creation of the heavens and the earth and everything in them was completed. ² On the seventh day God had finished his work of creation, so he rested from all his work. ³ And God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, because it was the day when he rested from all his work of creation.* (NLT) Now turn with me to Leviticus 23:3, ³ *'Six days shall work be done, but **the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, a holy convocation. You shall do no work on it; it is the Sabbath of the Lord in all your dwellings.*** (NKJV) Here is the full account of the Israelites receiving manna in the wilderness, Exodus 16:4-35, ⁴ *Then the Lord said to Moses, "Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you. And the people shall go out and gather a certain quota every day, **that I may test them, whether they will walk in My law or not.**" ⁵ And it shall be on the sixth day that they shall prepare what they bring in, and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily." ⁶ Then Moses and Aaron said to all the children of Israel, "At evening you shall know that the Lord has brought you out of the land of Egypt. ⁷ And in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord; for He hears your complaints against the Lord. But what are we, that you complain against us?" ⁸ Also Moses said, "This shall be seen when the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening, and in the morning bread to the full; for the Lord hears your complaints which you make against Him. And what are we? Your complaints are not against us but against the Lord."*

⁹ Then Moses spoke to Aaron, "Say to all the congregation of the children of Israel, 'Come near before the Lord, for He has heard your complaints.'" ¹⁰ Now it came to pass, as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the children of Israel, that they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. ¹¹ And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ¹² "I have heard the complaints of the children of Israel. Speak to them, saying, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread. And you shall know that I am the Lord your God.'" "

¹³ So it was that quails came up at evening and covered the camp, and in the morning the dew lay all around the camp. ¹⁴ And when the layer of dew lifted, there, on the surface of the wilderness, was a small round substance, as fine as frost on the ground. ¹⁵ So when the children of Israel saw it, they

said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. And Moses said to them, "This is the bread which the Lord has given you to eat. ¹⁶ This is the thing which the Lord has commanded: 'Let every man gather it according to each one's need, one omer for each person, according to the number of persons; let every man take for those who are in his tent.' " ¹⁷ Then the children of Israel did so and gathered, some more, some less. ¹⁸ So when they measured it by omers, he who gathered much had nothing left over, and he who gathered little had no lack. Every man had gathered according to each one's need. ¹⁹ And Moses said, "Let no one leave any of it till morning." ²⁰ Notwithstanding they did not heed Moses. But some of them left part of it until morning, and it bred worms and stank. And Moses was angry with them. ²¹ So they gathered it every morning, every man according to his need. And when the sun became hot, it melted.

²² And so it was, on the sixth day, that they gathered twice as much bread, two omers for each one. And all the rulers of the congregation came and told Moses. ²³ Then he said to them, "This is what the Lord has said: 'Tomorrow is a Sabbath rest, a holy Sabbath to the Lord. Bake what you will bake today, and boil what you will boil; and lay up for yourselves all that remains, to be kept until morning.'" ²⁴ So they laid it up till morning, as Moses commanded; and it did not stink, nor were there any worms in it. ²⁵ Then Moses said, "Eat that today, for today is a Sabbath to the Lord; today you will not find it in the field." ²⁶ Six days you shall gather it, but on the seventh day, which is the Sabbath, there will be none." ²⁷ Now it happened that some of the people went out on the seventh day to gather, but they found none. ²⁸ And the Lord said to Moses, **"How long do you refuse to keep My commandments and My laws?"** ²⁹ See! For the Lord has given you the Sabbath; therefore He gives you on the sixth day bread for two days. Let every man remain in his place; let no man go out of his place on the seventh day. ³⁰ **So the people rested on the seventh day.** ³¹ And the house of Israel called its name Manna. And it was like white coriander seed, and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey.

³² Then Moses said, "This is the thing which the Lord has commanded: 'Fill an omer with it, to be kept for your generations, that they may see the bread with which I fed you in the wilderness, when I brought you out of the land of Egypt.' " ³³ And Moses said to Aaron, "Take a pot and put an omer of manna in it, and lay it up before the Lord, to be kept for your generations." ³⁴ As the Lord commanded Moses, so Aaron laid it up before the Testimony, to be kept. ³⁵ And the children of Israel ate manna forty years, until they came to an inhabited land; they ate manna until they came to the border of the land of Canaan. (NKJV) Did you see the test that God gave the Israelites in Exodus 16:4?

Jesus modeled for us, Luke 4:4, ⁴ But Jesus answered him, saying, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.' " (NKJV) Jesus also made it clear that the Bible does not contradict itself. He showed that the teaching of Scripture is consistent. Jesus said, John 10:31-38, ³¹ Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him. ³² Jesus answered them, "Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?" ³³ The Jews answered Him, saying, "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God." ³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your law, 'I said, "You are gods" ' ? ³⁵ **If He called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken),** ³⁶ do you say of Him whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming,' because I said, 'I am the Son of God' ? ³⁷ If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; ³⁸ but if I do, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and believe that the Father is in Me, and I in Him." (NKJV)

I came across a teaching given by a friend and desire strongly to insert the teaching here to show you, the reader, more proof of the truth and integrity of the Bible. This teaching looks at questions skeptics ask about the Christian faith as answered from Dr. D. James Kennedy in his work "Evangelism Explosion." The first question I desire to show you is the question: Is the Bible reliable? Here is his answer:

Since all the information we have about God and eternity comes to us from the Bible, it is a legitimate and reasonable question to ask and we ought to expect to hear this question. What answer will we give?

We could talk about the popularity of the Bible . . . sales at 150 million every year. four billion in total sales. No other book in human history comes even close!

We could mention the power of the Word to change lives . . . many of those who have set out to disprove its accuracy have become ardent adherents. And we have witnessed hardened criminals changed before our eyes because of its power.

We could share the claims the Bible makes for itself: “All Scripture is inspired by God . . .” (2 Tim. 3:16). “Prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit . . .” (2 Pet 1:21).

The phrase “thus says the Lord” occurs over 3,600 times in the Bible. The Bible claims not human, but divine authorship.

We could say these things and support them, but the real proof of the authenticity of the Bible comes from three other points. Three proofs which are hard for anyone to deny or to dismiss. We can use the acronym HAP to help us remember these points.

History— in all the years of criticism by the skeptics and enemies of the church, no one has ever been able to identify even one historical mistake anywhere in the Bible. One of the more well know, skeptic-turned-Christian, is Lee Strobel. Lee was an atheist, award winning investigative reporter for the Chicago Tribune. When his wife got saved, he decided to make it his crusade to disprove Jesus and the Bible. The more he investigated, the more facts he uncovered. He is now one of the most recognized witnesses of Christianity in the United States. If humans alone wrote the Bible, we would surely find historical errors after all these years, but there are none. How do you explain this? This book did not come to us simply from the hand of man, but from the direction of God.

Archaeology — out of all the 25,000 archaeological finds relating to the people, places, and events in the Bible, how many do you suppose have been found that disprove a detail of the biblical record? You’d expect that some would disprove something, right? How many have? None! In fact, every discovery just continues to prove the Bible is true—great proof for the accuracy and trustworthiness of the Bible. If we can believe the historical and archaeological evidence for the Bible, we have great support to believe the spiritual accuracy of the book! One of my favorites is the Moabite Stone, discovered in 1868, dating back to 840 BC referring to the god Chemosh of Moab and the material located in the Bible, 2 Kings 3:4-28 from the Moabite point of view. It is on display at the Louvre Museum in Paris, France.

Prophecy — fulfilled prophecy is unique to the Bible alone. Out of all the religious and spiritual guidebooks of history, the Bible stands out all by itself in this area. There is no other book like it in the history of the world! Here’s a good question to

ask the skeptic: “What is the only book in the world that contains hundreds of very detailed prophecies?” The correct answer of course is the Bible. The Koran for Muslims doesn’t, and the Gita for Hindus doesn’t.

If there were a book that contained prophecies that did not come true, what would you say about the book and its author? They would be false, right? And what would be the value of such a book? Worthless—throw it in the trash.

From the Old Testament alone, some 2,000 specific prophecies have been fulfilled already. And of the 333 prophecies specifically predicting the Messiah, all of those concerning his first coming have been fulfilled in Jesus Christ, and those remaining have to do with His second coming.

As the Bible was written, thousands of verses predicted future events. Every single prophecy has been fulfilled except for the few remaining ones that deal with the future return of Jesus Christ. There is no way anyone can predict the future with 100 percent accuracy. Who is the only one who can do this? The answer is God. Fulfilled prophecy is not only proof for the veracity of the Bible, it is also proof for the existence of God.

The only reasonable explanation is that the Bible is a supernatural book written under the supernatural direction of God Himself. And that is why we want to read it, study it, and pass it on. I hope this helps a little to give you more confidence in your faith and in your witness. I will be praying for you.

Here is another of the tough questions along with his answer: How can there be a God when there is so much evil and suffering in the world?

When people ask this, their thinking is that either God is not powerful enough to prevent evil or else God is not good. He is often blamed for tragedy. “Where was God when I went through this, or when that happened?” God is blamed for natural disasters. Even my insurance company describes them as “acts of God.”

Here is one way to handle this — (O.N.E.)

1. Origin of evil—God created a sin-free world. Humans chose to disobey God.
2. Nature of God—He forgives, I John 1:9, “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins.” According to C.S. Lewis, God uses tragedy to bring us to Himself, “God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks to us in our conscience, but shouts to us in our pain: it is His megaphone to arouse a deaf world.”
3. End of it all—The Bible teaches that God will one day put an end to all pain and death. “God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away” (Revelation 21:4).

As Christians we have this hope of Heaven and eternity. Share with someone how Jesus has made a tremendous difference in your life and that you know for sure that when you die you are going to spend eternity in Heaven. Ask the person, “May I ask you a question? Do you have this hope? Do you know for certain that when you die you are going to Heaven, or is that something you would say you’re still working on?”

Another question: How could a loving God send people to Hell? (O.N.E.)

1. Origin of Hell—It was never intended for people. God created Hell for Satan and his demons. Jesus said, “Depart from Me, you cursed ones, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels” (Matthew 25:41). Man chooses to sin and ignore God. The penalty for sin is death (eternal separation from God) and, yes, Hell. But God doesn’t send anyone to Hell, we choose it by refusing or ignoring God in our attitude and in our actions.
2. Nature of God—”God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9). He is so loving that He sent His own Son to die and pay the penalty for our sin so that we could avoid Hell and have the assurance of Heaven. No one in Hell will be able to blame God. He doesn’t send people there, it’s our own choice. We must choose to repent, to stop ignoring God in our attitude and in our actions, accepting His salvation and yielding to His leadership.
3. End of it all—The Bible teaches that one day God will put an end to all pain, death, and the penalty of Hell. “God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away” (Revelation 21:4).

As Christians, we need not worry about Hell. The Bible says, “these things have been written . . . so that you may know you have eternal life” (1 John 5:13). I have complete confidence that when I die, I’m going to Heaven. By receiving Jesus, you can have that complete confidence as well.

One more question: What about the hypocrites in the church?

Sometimes people act like they need Jesus

This is just one more smoke screen and trick with a mirror to deflect the attention off of myself and focus on another person. We are all hypocritical. A hypocrite is someone who lives inconsistent with the way they believe. Some of us are inconsistent more often than others.

What about the hypocrite in the living room? We’re all hypocritical at some time and point in our lives. A hypocrite is a pretender, and people are right, there are pretenders in the church. But there are pretenders everywhere in life and that does not stop us from participating.

Go ahead and admit there are hypocrites in the church. Point out that some are Christians who are not living the way we should. But there are also hypocrites at the mall and it doesn't keep us from shopping there. There are hypocrites at the ball game and yet we still watch the game.

“We can't let hypocrites stop us from finding out about the one true God who loves unconditionally and wants to forgive each one of us of our sins?”

Jesus didn't say, “Follow my people,” He said, “Follow Me.”

God calls us personally and individually. He holds us personally responsible. Ultimately the responsibility is an individual one. We all must take responsibility for our own decisions. We all must personally stand before God. We are all accountable for our own choices and actions.

How many of you know that THE ULTIMATE ISSUE is not the hypocrites in the church? It's not the heathen in Africa, or the problem of evil or of Hell. It's not the reliability of the Bible. These are intellectual hang-ups that many people seem to have. We can help them with these things. But ultimately the issue is not merely intellectual. It doesn't have to do with the head only. It has to do with the heart. That is where the Holy Spirit works to bring a person to repentance. The ultimate issue for every man and woman is a spiritual one, because what is demanded of us is a decision of the will, of the heart. We need to do what the Lord would have us do . . . then leave the results to Him.

That concludes the thoughts of Dr. D. James Kennedy in his work “*Evangelism Explosion*” as presented by a friend for teaching purposes. I'll now return to my thoughts on this work that I have felt needed to be presented to all Christians in this day and age, “The Season of the Lord's Return.”

Let us pick up where we left off. We have seen the words of Jesus pertaining to the statements He made in the Gospels of Luke and John. The Apostle Paul expanded on this theme of Jesus. Paul said the following in 2nd Timothy 3:16-17, ¹⁶ *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,* ¹⁷ *that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.* (NKJV)

If you are willing to BELIEVE these inspired statements, then you will have no problem understanding this vital subject. For the Bible teaches us about God's true Sabbath day from Genesis to Revelation. In fact, it is one of the clearest and most easily understood subjects in the entire Bible, if you honestly look at the facts and are not fearful about “what other people think.” Remember that in Jesus' day many of the religious leaders knew that He was the Christ, but would not confess Him for the reason stated in John 12:42-50, ⁴² *Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue;* ⁴³ ***for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.*** ⁴⁴ *Then Jesus cried out and said, “He who believes in Me, believes not in Me but in Him who sent Me. ⁴⁵And he who sees Me sees Him who sent Me. ⁴⁶I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness. ⁴⁷And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge*

the world but to save the world. ⁴⁸ He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day. ⁴⁹ For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak. ⁵⁰ And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak.” (NKJV)

Do you have the faith and courage to do what God clearly commands, regardless of what others may think?

All right. Let's get down to clear, absolute PROOF regarding the true Sabbath of Almighty God. Let's build our proof, in part, with a story. You were on a voyage near a small deserted island and struck a reef and had a shipwreck. You managed to get to that island and of the things that floated ashore were some food, a Bible and a calendar. You had nothing but time to consider your own life, therefore you began a search of the Bible to learn the true Sabbath day of the Lord. Your desire was to practice worship of the Lord as the Bible recorded. You began your search with a completely open and objective mind, you even put off the day you had worshipped before. Would your study lead you back to the same day as you had been raised to believe? Which day would you HAVE to keep as the Lord's day after such an objective study? Would it be Sunday?

No way!

Why? Because the Bible never commands anyone to observe Sunday as a weekly day of worship! Rather, it instructs us to work on that day. In fact, from Genesis to Revelation, many verses in the Bible clearly show that, rather than observing the first day (Sunday) it was the seventh day (Sabbath—from Friday sunset to Saturday sunset) that was kept by all of God's faithful servants in both the Old and New Testament times. This seventh day Sabbath will continue to be observed by those believers of Christ Jesus during His thousand year reign on earth. This can be seen in Revelation 20:4-6, *⁴ Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. ⁵ The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection. ⁶ Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years.* (ESV) During this thousand year reign Christ will observe the Sabbath as the day of worship of the Father. It shall be just as it was during His first period of life on earth. Jesus will observe Saturday as the Sabbath just as He did when He was on earth the first time.

Notice the teaching of Jesus in the Gospel of Mark. Jesus allowed His disciples to pluck heads of grain to eat as they walked through grain fields on the Sabbath. He was challenged on this point by the Pharisees, who had added more than 60 legalistic “dos and don'ts” to the Sabbath, of their own human devising. But observed what Jesus answered, Mark 2:23-28, *²³ Now it happened that He went through the grainfields on the Sabbath; and as they went His disciples began to pluck the heads of grain. ²⁴ And the Pharisees said to Him, “Look, why do they do what is not lawful on the Sabbath?” ²⁵ But He said to them, “Have you never read what David did when he was in need and hungry, he and those with him: ²⁶ how he went into the house of God in the days of Abiathar the high priest, and ate the showbread, which is not lawful to eat, except for the priests, and also gave some to those who were with him?” ²⁷ And He said to them, **“The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath.”** ²⁸ **Therefore the Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath.**” (NKJV) Christ did not say that the Sabbath was made for the Jews, instead he said it was for man. He also said that it was the Sabbath that He was made Lord of, and not Sunday. Remember this, Jesus said that the Sabbath was “made for man” and for him to keep it sacred, long before the Jewish people even existed.*

The word “Sunday” doesn’t even appear in literal Bible translations. We do find the phrase “first day of the week” in the New Testament, but this occurs just eight times. Five of those references are listed here:

Matthew 28:1, ¹ *Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb.* (NKJV)

Mark 16:1-2, ¹ *Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him.* ² *Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen.* (NKJV)

Mark 16:9, [Some of the earliest manuscripts do not include 16:9-20.] ⁹ *Now when he rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons.* (ESV)

Luke 24:1, ¹ *Now on the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they, and certain other women with them, came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared.* (NKJV)

John 20:1, ¹ *Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb.* (NKJV)

These five references describe Mary Magdalene and others coming to the tomb AFTER Christ’s resurrection. We read in John 20:19-20 the following, ¹⁹ *Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, “Peace be with you.”* ²⁰ *When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.* (NKJV) This was not a worship meeting celebrating the resurrection; Scripture tells us that until they saw Him, they did not believe that Jesus was risen! We can read this in the following passages, Mark 16:11; 13 and 14, ¹¹ *And when they heard that He was alive and had been seen by her, they did not believe.* . . . ¹³ *And they went and told it to the rest, but they did not believe them either.* ¹⁴ *Later He appeared to the eleven as they sat at the table; and He rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen.* (NKJV)

The book of Acts recounts the development of doctrine and practice in the early Church. Yet the first day of the week is only mentioned once, in Acts 20:7-12, ⁷ *On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with them, intending to depart on the next day, and he prolonged his speech until midnight.* ⁸ *There were many lamps in the upper room where we were gathered.* ⁹ *And a young man named Eutychus, sitting at the window, sank into a deep sleep as Paul talked still longer. And being overcome by sleep, he fell down from the third story and was taken up dead.* ¹⁰ *But Paul went down and bent over him, and taking him in his arms, said, “Do not be alarmed, for his life is in him.”* ¹¹ *And when Paul had gone up and had broken bread and eaten, he conversed with them a long while, until daybreak, and so departed.* ¹² *And they took the youth away alive, and were not a little comforted.* (ESV) **This was a one-time farewell meeting and meal, not a regular worship service!** When we understand that by Biblical reckoning, days are from sunset to sunset, we can see that the before midnight portion of “the first day” is actually on Saturday. This “first-day” gathering was a Saturday evening event! At sunrise Sunday morning, Paul began the hard work of a 20 mile hike (verses 11-14, ¹¹ *And when Paul had gone up and had broken bread and eaten, he conversed with them a long while, until daybreak, and so departed.* ¹² *And they took the youth away alive, and were not a little comforted.* ¹³ *But going ahead to the ship, we set sail for Assos, intending to take Paul aboard there, for so he had arranged, intending himself to go by land.* ¹⁴ *And when he met us at Assos, we took him on board and went to Mitylene.* (ESV) This journey is not what one would expect if he considered Sunday his Sabbath day of rest.

In 1st Corinthians, we find another one of those statements pertaining to the first day of the week. Here is what the Apostle Paul said in that passage of Scripture. 1 Corinthians 16:1-2, ¹ *Now*

concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: ² On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come. (NKJV) This is not an endorsement of anything that could be construed as Sunday worship. Notice that this practice was to stop when Paul came to Corinth! Notice also, that these verses say nothing about gathering for a weekly worship service to perform this collection. This was not a collection of money, but of food to assist the poor in Jerusalem, suffering from drought and famine. This can be confirmed in Romans 15:25-28, ²⁵ *At present, however, I am going to Jerusalem bringing aid to the saints.* ²⁶ *For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make some contribution for the poor among the saints at Jerusalem.* ²⁷ *For they were pleased to do it, and indeed they owe it to them. For if the Gentiles have come to share in their spiritual blessings, they ought also to be of service to them in material blessings.* ²⁸ *When therefore I have completed this and have delivered to them what has been collected, I will leave for Spain by way of you.* (ESV) Until Paul arrived in Corinth each individual was to store up his contributions, surely in his home. Paul knew that the collection would be bulky enough that it would take several people to transport it to Jerusalem, not what one would expect if money were collected.

Only one more verse that some use to justify calling Sunday the “Lord’s Day.” We find this verse in Revelation 1:10, ¹⁰ *I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet.* (ESV) Consider Revelation 1:10 above. This is the Apostle John making an opening statement to the Revelation of Jesus as presented to John. This does not refer to worshipping on the first day of the week, or any day of the week, for that matter. Recall that Revelation is a prophecy of end time events. Clearly, then, the “Lord’s Day” is synonymous with the “Day of the Lord,” a future time, mentioned more than 30 times in Bible prophecy, when God will supernaturally intervene in human affairs, executing punishment on the nations and finally sending Jesus Christ back to this earth to bring world peace at last. John meant that he was carried in a vision by God’s Spirit to that time so he could report what Jesus told him to write.

Even if this were talking about a day of the week, which day would it be? Remember what Jesus said: “The Son of Man is . . . Lord of the Sabbath.” Mark 2:27-28, ²⁷ *And He said to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath.* ²⁸ *Therefore the Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath.”* (NKJV) Recall that the pre-incarnate Christ called the Sabbath “the Lord’s holy day” Isaiah 58:13-14, ¹³ *“Keep the Sabbath day holy. Don’t pursue your own interests on that day, but enjoy the Sabbath and speak of it with delight as the Lord’s holy day. Honor the Sabbath in everything you do on that day, and don’t follow your own desires or talk idly.* ¹⁴ *Then the Lord will be your delight. I will give you great honor and satisfy you with the inheritance I promised to your ancestor Jacob. I, the Lord, have spoken!”* (NLT) And in the fourth commandment, He said in Exodus 20:10-11, 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.* (NKJV) Obviously, then, the seventh day Sabbath is not our day. It is, without question, the **Sabbath of the Lord your God!** **Weekly Sunday observance, therefore, has absolutely no biblical foundation!**

By, and through, the Biblical Scriptures there should be an understanding that neither God, nor His Son, identified, directed or mentioned any day of the week, other than Saturday, the seventh day to be the Christian Sabbath.

In our next chapter we will review God’s ordained Feast (Holy) Days.

God's Ordained Feast Days

Considering today's standards we know very little about God's ordained feast days. We put little faith in what the Bible says in the Old Testament! That is due to our denomination's leaders teaching us during our lifetime that the Old Covenant has been replaced by the New Covenant, therefore the old (original covenant) no longer applies. I must read a different Bible from most people. My personal faith and knowledge of what is recorded in the Bible directs me in a different direction.

My God did not instruct me to read only a portion of His guide book. He seems to have implied that the guide book was to be understood in its entirety. Part of that instruction was to show, and for us to see, the disobedience of God's chosen people and how God dealt with their disobedience. Ultimately, God sent His son so the breach between God and His people could be mended.

There will be those who will say that this statement is all fine and good, however it doesn't apply to them because they are not Jewish. Those who question in this manner will also wonder why I'm leaving them out of the picture, yet the great tie point for these people is through Jesus.

Allow me to make a quick point of reference and then I will attempt to tie the pieces together for everyone's understanding. **There are three times every year a man is to appear before the Lord.** These are the Feast of Passover, the Feast of Weeks and the Feast of Tabernacles. Here are the verses to prove these things to each person reading this material. These verses are given from three different translations: King James (KJV), New International (NIV) and the New English Translation (NET):

Exodus 23:17, *Three times in the year all thy males shall appear before the Lord GOD.* (KJV) *"Three times a year all the men are to appear before the Sovereign Lord."* (NIV) *At three times in the year all your males will appear before the Lord God.* (NET)

Exodus 34:23, *Thrice in the year shall all your men children appear before the Lord GOD, the God of Israel.* (KJV) *Three times a year all your men are to appear before the Sovereign Lord, the God of Israel.* (NIV) *At three times in the year all your men must appear before the Lord God, the God of Israel.* (NET)

Deuteronomy 16:16, *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) *Three times a year all your men must appear before the Lord your God at the place he will choose: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Feast of Weeks and the Feast of Tabernacles. No man should appear before the Lord empty-handed.* (NIV) *Three times a year all your males must appear before the Lord your God in the place he chooses for the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the Festival of Weeks, and the Festival of Temporary Shelters; and they must not appear before him empty-handed.* (NET)

We can also show that even King Solomon observed these feast days: 2 Chronicles 8:13, *Even after a certain rate every day, offering according to the commandment of Moses, on the sabbaths, and on the new moons, and on the solemn feasts, three times in the year, even in the feast of unleavened bread, and in the feast of weeks, and in the feast of tabernacles.* (KJV) *According to the daily requirement for offerings commanded by Moses for Sabbaths, New Moons and the three annual feasts—the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Feast of Weeks and the Feast of Tabernacles.* (NIV) *He observed the daily requirements for sacrifices that Moses had specified for Sabbaths, new moon festivals, and the three annual celebrations — the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Feast of Weeks, and the Feast of Temporary Shelters.* (NET)

Why would it be necessary to use more than one verse from three different translations to have you, the reader, understand that every male must appear annually before the Lord on three occasions? It is necessary to show you that there are the two or three witnesses to establish the truth. Deuteronomy

19:15 (NIV), *One witness is not enough to convict a man accused of any crime or offense he may have committed. A matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.* Matthew 18:16 (NIV), *“But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.”* Any time you can find the same wording in two or three different places in the Bible you have a principal rule from God. We must also remember that the Bible tells us that God cannot lie. Titus 1:2 (NIV), *In hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began.* So we have our basic fact and our confirmation that there is the requirement for every male to present himself before God on three days each year.

There is one other important conditional statement that establishes the requirement for males to present themselves before God three times a year: This requirement never ends until the final days of the earth! Many will gasp and step back saying: No! I’m a New Testament Christian this doesn’t apply to me in any manner whatsoever.

Once again it becomes necessary to show those two or three witnesses to establish the testimony of truth. When God established His covenant with Moses as a guide for the Israelites He set aside His permanent rest day and His feast days **for all future generations** to follow. I know you don’t believe that because you have never been instructed to follow those days nor celebrate those feast. **Stay with me!** Let us see what the Bible says pertaining to each holy day or feast.

For Passover and Firstfruits: Leviticus 23:14 (NIV), *You must not eat any bread, or roasted or new grain, until the very day you bring this offering to your God. This is to be a lasting ordinance for the generations to come, wherever you live.* For Feast of Weeks: Leviticus 23:21 (NIV), *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.* For Feast of Tabernacles: Leviticus 23:41 (NIV), *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.*

God’s instructions pertaining to His feast days fall on deaf ears for the most part. Our mainstream society is made up of people professing Jesus as God’s son in various denominations. All of these denominations do not, nor seemingly will not, declare that there is any association between them and Israel. They might offer a feeble attempt to call themselves the New Israel, but they will overlook the truth for lack of knowledge of who we are in our mainstream society.

I am not Jewish, but I am an Israelite, a proud descendant of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. No! That does not make me Jewish, nor you either for that matter. We really don’t study the old Testament to that extent and when we do, we don’t see any connection that we may have to the people identified as God’s chosen people.

We should all understand that the original individual considered the forefather of God’s chosen people was Abel. Cain killed Abel and the line was cut off the first time. Seth was then born and the line once again had a connecting link as God’s chosen people. We transferred the chosen line across the flood event of Noah and ended with the birth of Abraham as the father of all the blessed nations. Genesis 22:16-18, ¹⁶ *and said, “By myself I have sworn, declares the Lord, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷ I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, ¹⁸ and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”* (ESV) Through Sarah’s maid Hagar, Abraham had Ishmael but it **was not** through Ishmael that the chosen line was to follow. God performed a miracle and Isaac was born. God tested Abraham’s faith and told him to sacrifice Isaac. Abraham did as God instructed and this act became the type for the prototype of Jesus who was sacrificed for all of mankind’s sins. But where does the link to the people in the United States enter? That part of the overall picture begins to form with the birth of Isaac’s two sons Esau and Jacob. Esau was the oldest and therefore the holder of

the birthright as the forebearer of all the multitude to become God's chosen people. However, by trickery, Jacob bought Esau's birthright and then by deception gained Esau's blessing from a blind father and became the forefather of God's chosen people.

Stop for a moment and think! Jacob was the father of twelve sons and one daughter. **Those twelve sons are the so called Twelve Tribes of Israel.** While Jacob, whose name was changed by God to Israel, was father to these twelve sons, however, there are four women who mothered those sons. Let us look at the birth of the sons by each of the four women. Leah was Israel's first wife and she bore Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun and the only daughter Dinah. Leah's maid Zilpah bore Gad and Asher. Leah's sister, Rachel bore Joseph and Benjamin. Rachel's maid Bilhah bore Dan and Naphtali.

History must move forward toward the present day. We see that Levi is appointed as the priest for all the tribes and removed from those counted toward the inheritance or of fighting strength. Our count of tribes is now reduced by one to make eleven. Reuben and the other brothers, outside of Benjamin, sold Joseph into slavery and he was taken to Egypt. Years later Joseph was the governor of Egypt and his brothers came to him, unaware that he was their brother. They went to Egypt to buy grain during a period of extended famine. Joseph invited his brothers, their families and his father Israel to come and live in Egypt when it came time to reveal who he was. With Israel's advanced age, it was not long before he called his sons to his death bed. When Joseph appeared, he had with him his two sons that had been born in Egypt. Israel took it upon himself to adopt these two sons and make them as his own. Genesis 48:5-6 (NIV), *"Now then, your two sons born to you in Egypt before I came to you here will be reckoned as mine; Ephraim and Manasseh will be mine, just as Reuben and Simeon are mine. Any children born to you after them will be yours; in the territory they inherit they will be reckoned under the names of their brothers."* With this being done, we see that the name Joseph is also removed from the tribes (in most situations) but the two new names of Ephraim and Manasseh (Joseph's sons) are added, once again, making twelve tribes.

I have said that I was an Israelite but not Jewish. That is true for my forefather was an Israelite-Egyptian governor and his wife was my Egyptian mother. I am a part of the thirteenth tribe of Manasseh, which is represented as the United States. Great Britain is our brother country of Ephraim. Together, we are a portion of the ten lost tribes of Israel. Those tribes are lost because God gave Israel a divorce and scattered them throughout the nations. I am including the entire third chapter of Jeremiah to illustrate for you the displeasure of the Lord God and why God gave Israel a divorce! Jeremiah 3:1-25 (NKJV), They say, "If a man divorces his wife, and she goes from him and becomes another man's, may he return to her again? Would not that land be greatly polluted? But you have played the harlot with many lovers; yet return to Me," says the Lord. "Lift up your eyes to the desolate heights and see: Where have you not lain with men? By the road you have sat for them like an Arabian in the wilderness; and you have polluted the land with your harlotries and your wickedness. Therefore, the showers have been withheld, and there has been no latter rain. You have had a harlot's forehead; you refuse to be ashamed. Will you not from this time cry to Me, 'My father, you are the guide of my youth?' Will He remain angry forever? Will He keep it to the end? Behold, you have spoken and done evil things, as you were able."

The Lord said also to me in the days of Josiah the king: "Have you seen what backsliding Israel has done? She has gone up on every high mountain and under every green tree, and there played the harlot. And I said, after she had done all these things, 'Return to Me.' But she did not return, and her treacherous sister Judah saw it. Then I saw that for all the causes for which backsliding Israel had committed adultery, **I had put her away and given her a certificate of divorce;** yet her treacherous sister Judah did not fear, but went and played the harlot also. So it came to pass, through her casual

harlotry, that she defiled the land and committed adultery with stones and trees. And yet for all this her treacherous sister Judah has not turned to Me with her whole heart, but in pretense,” says the Lord.

Then the Lord said to me, “Backsliding Israel has shown herself more righteous than treacherous Judah. Go and proclaim these words toward the north, and say: ‘Return, backsliding Israel,’” says the Lord; “I will not cause My anger to fall on you. For I am merciful,” says the Lord; “I will not remain angry forever. Only acknowledge your iniquity, that you have transgressed against the Lord your God, and have scattered your charms to alien deities under every green tree, and you have not obeyed My voice,” says the Lord.

“Return, O backsliding children,” says the Lord; “for I am married to you. I will take you, one from a city and two from a family, and I will bring you to Zion. And I will give you shepherds according to My heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding. Then it shall come to pass, when you are multiplied and increased in the land in those days,” says the Lord, “that they will say no more, ‘The ark of the covenant of the Lord.’ It shall not come to mind, nor shall they remember it, nor shall they visit it, nor shall it be made anymore. At that time Jerusalem shall be called *The Throne of the Lord*, and all the nations shall be gathered to it, to the name of the Lord, to Jerusalem. No more shall they follow the dictates of their evil hearts. In those days the house of Judah shall walk with the house of Israel, and they shall come together out of the land of the north to the land that I have given as an inheritance to your fathers.”

But I said: “How can I put you among the children and give you a pleasant land, a beautiful heritage of the hosts of nations?” And I said: “You shall call Me, ‘My Father,’ and not turn away from Me. Surely, as a wife treacherously departs from her husband, so have you dealt treacherously with Me, O house of Israel,” says the Lord.

A voice was heard on the desolate heights, weeping and supplications of the children of Israel. For they have perverted their way; they have forgotten the Lord their God.

“Return, you backsliding children, and I will heal your backslidings.”

“Indeed we do come to You, for You are the Lord our God. Truly, in vain is salvation hoped for from the hills, and from the multitude of mountains; truly, in the Lord our God is the salvation of Israel. For shame has devoured the labor of our fathers from our youth—their flocks and their herds, their sons and their daughters. We lie down in our shame, and our reproach covers us. For we have sinned against the Lord our God, we and our fathers, from our youth even to this day, and have not obeyed the voice of the Lord our God.”

Read Jeremiah chapters 2 through Jeremiah 11:17 to further see the truth of Israel’s disobedience and its affect on the land and the people. Read my book *The Thirteenth Tribe of Israel* for additional information about the tribe of Manasseh (to which you might belong) and to show how all this fits together.

We have now linked the United States to Israel and our connection to the stories and prophecies of the Old Testament! Any location in the Bible where the term Manasseh is used, especially when used with Ephraim, indicates something that should be known to all the people of the tribe of Manasseh! This also means that the feasts God set up with Moses and had placed under the Law still apply to us today, this day and all the following days until there are no more generations to come.

Therefore, God’s feast days should be our feast days, and we should know about them. The following will identify the various feast days, give a reference from the Bible and tell you when the feast days are on the calendar. Your pastor **should** be able to help you clarify this.

The Sabbath (seventh day of the week) — Every Saturday

Leviticus 23:3 (NIV), “*There are six days when you may work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of rest, a day of sacred assembly. You are not to do any work; wherever you live, it is a Sabbath to the Lord.*”

Our last chapter dealt with the Christian Sabbath and which day of the week was the Christian Sabbath. The only thing I’d like to add is this: If you believe that you will be around for the One Thousand year reign of Jesus Christ you might as well begin to honor God’s day of rest now. Jesus, as King of kings and Lord of lords, will honor His Father on the day His Father designated as the day of rest, that being the Saturday (seventh day) Sabbath. We shall see in the final two chapters of this book that the spirit of antichrist will do everything it can to demand allegiance to mankind’s established day of worship as being a different day from that established by God. Everyone should understand who or what the rider of the first horse of the apocalypse (first seal of the scroll in Revelation, chapter 6) actually means.

I feel it is necessary to provide to you, the reader, enough information that you can grasp a more detailed view of Revelation, but you need more basic facts to do that. Therefore, a good reporter would check their facts and information to see whether they had included the five basic tenants of reporting. Those facts would be who, what, when, where and how, and sometimes why. This is a difficult task to follow at this moment, simply because I don’t know the future and have no means of seeing past the current minute of time. However, within the mysteries of the Bible, there are certain stories, events and facts that are illustrated that might, even in some small way, give mankind an idea of what is to come in the future. One of the hidden mysteries is the idea of time. We, you and I, of today operate on a 24 hour per day, 7 days per week, 365 days per year time frame. Most of the Bible is laid out in hours, watches, days, periods, seasons and years. But, the first question would have to be: do these two systems of time coincide? Once again, I would have to admit that I don’t know. To some extent there are 12 months in both systems, along with what is called a day. But, even the day is turned upside down between the two. I call the day a period of time that begins at one minute after midnight (12:01 am) and goes for 24 hours until the next midnight. On the Biblical side the day starts out with the first watch at approximately 6:00 pm (sunset) in the evening and after the night watches there are the hours of the day period. It seems that God set this system of observing time in the first chapter of Genesis: *And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day* (Genesis 1:3). Because we do not use, nor operate, on the Biblical time schedule, I’m showing the Biblical time in the following chart.

EVENING		DAY	
6:00	Sunset beginning of 1st Watch	6:00	Sunrise - End of 4th Watch, 1st Hour
7:00		7:00	1st hour
8:00		8:00	2nd hour
9:00	Beginning of 2nd Watch	9:00	3rd hour
10:00		10:00	4th hour
11:00		11:00	5th hour
12:00	Midnight -Beginning of 3rd Watch	12:00	Noon - 6th hour
1:00		1:00	7th hour
2:00		2:00	8th hour
3:00	Beginning of 4th Watch	3:00	9th hour
4:00		4:00	10th hour
5:00		5:00	11th hour

A Biblical day was from sunset to sunset in 8 equal parts:

First Watch — Sunset to 9 pm

First Hour — Sunrise to 9 am

Second Watch — 9 pm to Midnight
Third Watch — Midnight to 3 am
Fourth Watch — 3 am to Sunrise

Third Hour — 9 am to Noon
Sixth Hour — Noon to 3:00 pm
Ninth Hour — 3 pm to Sunset

That provides for us a view of how God laid out time in the concept of sunset to sunset equals a day. Why would it be necessary to provide this tidbit of knowledge to everyone who finds and begins to read this book? Simple, we have an adversary who influences mankind into believing that man knows better than God, and mankind thinks we should use man's concepts and not God's concepts. Satan truly believes that he can mess things up to the point that by default he wins the throne of God. There is one other aspect of time that we need to review. It appears that Biblical prophecy provides an idea, or concept, that mankind's reign on the earth shall be 6000 years. This would correlate to the six days of creation, and Peter proclaims that to God a day is as a thousand years and a thousand years is as a day. With that concept, mankind could use our current year of 2023 and subtract backward through the BC/AD breakpoint, then go back 4000 additional years. With that said, time should have already run out for the existence of mankind by 22 years. I know, you think I made a mistake of one year. However, if you will check there is no year 0 on either the BC or the AD side. Therefore 22 years is correct. If we adjusted our beginning and used the time factor of 4004 BC, as given in many Biblical reference books, according to Ussher, we could use that as our starting point. Therefore, we would take the 4004 BC point and add the number of our current year 2023 and we would have 6027 as our final number. With that we would be 27 years past the extent of mankind's existence. Now, what if we used the Jewish counting of time. Their current year is 5783 and, if that was an accurate count of mankind's existence, man would have another 217 years before reaching the proverbial 6000 years of existence for mankind. Somewhere in all these numbers, there is a number known only by God when mankind will reach the date that God ends the existence as we now know it.

That brings us down to another point that neither I, nor you, know when it will happen and what will be the outcome for that event. If time passes, as I believe it will, the rapture of Bible Believers will occur prior to the beginning of the tribulation. All the wars of prophecy, except one, will have happened. Jesus, the Son of God, will be sitting on his throne in Jerusalem, as ruler of the earth, and David will be the ruler over Jerusalem. I used some identifiers that are not the norm for today. Why did I say Bible Believers would be those raptured and not Christians? There are several reasons for my choosing to state this in this manner. Christians are supposed to be followers of Christ following the examples of The Way. Satan, long ago, began to influence doctrine, beliefs and the manner of worship within the church. Today, Christianity is more in line with pagan worship, with idols, false gods and false teachings led by ministering angels of darkness under the leadership of Satan, than anything associated with Christ. Christ did not worship God on Sunday, He did not have a party on His birthday and He spoke the truth in all things. Jesus informed all who followed His teachings that the Kingdom of God was here and now; that He must spend three days and three nights in the grave as Jonah spent three days and three nights in the great fish; and that He had a small flock which had found the gate of the narrow way. Furthermore, there are some that will be included in the rapture that are not of the Christian faith. They will be righteous people who believe in the Son of God, but are not worshipping God in this counterfeit religion that is now prevalent over the earth.

For what reason I used the terminology that all the wars of prophecy would have taken place, except one? I have written, along with the writings of Dr. David Reagan, founder of Lamb & Lion Ministries, that there shall be nine battles that are in prophecy before the end of time as we know it. Eight of these battles will take place prior to the thousand year reign of Christ upon the earth. The final battle will be the second battle of Gog, of the land of Magog, prince of Rosh and the land of Israel. God Himself will end this battle even before it begins with a word, and then God will throw Satan into the lake of fire.

Why do I claim that there would only be a remnant of mankind on the face of the earth? Through the prophecies of the Revelation of Jesus, as given to the Apostle John on the island of Patmos, it appears that there will only be a tithe of mankind remaining on earth at the end of the Great Tribulation. If mankind's population reached ten billion people residing on the planet, then only one billion will be alive at the beginning of the thousand year reign of Christ. If that number was used for the United States and carried forward, then at the beginning of the reign of Christ, there would only be about thirty and a half million people in the remaining area of the United States. I read that there are approximately three million children between the ages of six months to 6 years that have not had a shot to protect them from the COVID-19 virus. Maybe, just maybe, it is this group of innocent children who have not had a COVID shot that are untainted by mankind's playing with genetics that God carries forward into the thousand year reign of Christ. Remember, we do not know the exact date that God alone has set as the date this will occur. Consider the following: The battle in Ukraine suddenly becomes World War III and Russia goes to the limit, in an attempt to win, and sets off a nuclear blast. The retaliation would mean even more nuclear blasts. Every nation on this planet that has nuclear weapons would be firing missiles toward someplace to retaliate. The destruction that we currently see in Ukraine would be around the globe and every country would look like today's Ukraine. The earth would be thrown back into the Stone Age. There would be no large cities, no great wealth of food, no electricity, no means of communications except personal conversations between people face to face. Continuing, there would be no vehicles or airplanes, no trains nor subways. We would either have a horse (beast of burden) or walk.

Why is it that mankind seems to be dead set that this is the path they want to follow? Well, really, mankind, in their thinking, doesn't believe that this would ever happen. Mankind has this false idea that they are better than God and they know best what mankind should follow. Within this false sense of security they see a day when a one world government and a one world religion would meet the needs of every person on earth. They have this crazy idea that their false gods of humanism, health, technology, and science will resolve all the problems of mankind. They believe in themselves and that they have, or can figure out, the best answers to the problems. Their idea is that evolution has been going on for billions of years and that the strongest and brightest will prevail and move humankind forward on the adventure of life. They believe that they will find, through science and health practices, how to overcome all pathogens. They will be able to replicate body parts from 3-D printers and combine human tissue to mechanical inventions. Life will be great in this utopia world of pure human endeavor that they believe is just around the corner.

STOP! Enough of this pie-in-the-sky idea that all would be great in this totally humanistic environment. I don't think so! I have not used my normal practice of providing Biblical scripture to support what I write in this portion of this chapter. Why should I? I have over 2000 pages of written material that is freely offered to mankind for knowledge and information. Yes! Those pages give God's perspective and insight for every one to find and they are not sold to further my wellbeing. My God has blessed me with His knowledge and understanding. It has taken the better part of my seventy plus years to come to that point. But, I understand that God created mankind for His pleasure, mankind did not create God for their pleasure. In fact, the reason that we are at the place that we are, as a human species, is because of our rebellion against a Holy, Living God who created all of us in His image. God only asked His creation, mankind, to obey ten rules and seven feast days through the year. These rules and feast were to be perpetual from generation to generation until the return of Christ, as Savior of the world. This will occur when He establishes His throne on the earth as King of kings and Lord of lords. Why should I try to give you easy answers that has taken years to find? You do not read the Bible, and you do not believe in God. You practice what it is that you think is best for you in your sexual immorality and abortions and you shun and belittle anyone who even attempts to show you truth. No wonder God is upset and ready to send His Son back to earth to get things straight.

No wonder you can't see the warnings that are happening all around us. There are droughts and flooding, hurricanes and tornadoes, wild fires and snow storms that have increased year by year. **You say it is because of global warming and climate change.** I say it is because God is in charge and is trying to get your attention so you will repent of your sins and change your actions and your mindset. I choose to view these things in a Godly viewpoint. You, on the other hand, want to view these things as something of nature that you can control and you do not see the influence of Satan in your viewpoint. It is as the Bible says: A time will come when society will view things of good as evil and things that are evil as good! **We have reached that point!** You refuse to take the time to review history! These things have happened in the past! God wanted you to learn from the mistakes of others so that you didn't have to go through these things once again. But, that would be an easy answer, to learn from the past. No! You are too good for that simple answer. It must be your way or else!

What will be the remnant of America? That is difficult to say. Jesus told his Apostles that there would be wars and rumor of wars, earthquakes and famines. Nation will rise against nation and there will be great wickedness at the time of the end. It is hinted that mountains will be leveled and volcanoes will erupt in various places. The book of Revelation in the Bible goes even further with the seal, trumpet and bowl judgments. In the opening of the fourth seal, one fourth of the population of the earth is killed. In one of the trumpet judgments, one third of the sea turned to blood and one third of the living creatures in the sea die. With another trumpet, one third of the rivers and streams turned to blood. With another trumpet, one third of the earth was burned up, one third of all trees were burned up and all the grass was burned up. Really! It would seem that many in the western part of the United States would understand that the wild fires over the last five or six years have been a warning and a preview of what will come during the tribulation period. At this point, mankind itself may not be killed off, but the food supply is getting smaller and smaller. At that time most of the fish would be gone, and the cattle would have no grass for food. Many of the trees that have nuts or fruit will have been burned up. At the time of the return of Jesus we end up with about one tenth of the current earth's population, maybe one billion people over the entire earth.

There are many evangelist who teach prophecy and some of these people have had visions of the results that will be in the coming years. There are four main disasters that will happen to the United States. One disaster will be tsunamis on our coast lines with massive waves destroying coastal cities and states. Another disaster will be earthquakes. Still another will be volcanoes and, finally, there will be major droughts in the Midwest croplands. Let's look at some of these more closely. On the west coast, we have major earthquake fault lines along with inactive volcanoes. What would happen if we had both an earthquake and a volcanic eruption to strike the west coast at the same time? What if that was followed up with an enormous tsunami that washed our three western states into the Pacific Ocean?

Our east coast and our southern coast have fault lines also running across that area. We could have both earthquake and tsunami disasters at the same time with the tsunami washing away great cities like New York and Washington, DC. In the Midwest, we have the New Madre fault line along the Mississippi River. It has been said that if a major earthquake happened on this fault line, much of Louisiana and Mississippi would be gone. There would be major impact to the eastern portion of states like Arkansas and Missouri and the western portion of Tennessee, Kentucky and Illinois. Finally, between our Midwestern states and our west coast states, we have the remains of a super volcano called Yellowstone. If Yellowstone blew, it could wipe out a two-hundred mile circle with ease. Put all of this together and you might begin to understand the seriousness of the situation. If all of this happened, we would not be the United States, we would just be America, or what would be left of it.

Here are my serious questions. How is it that mankind, with all of their humanistic, scientific thinking, is going to stop any one of these disasters? How do you stop an earthquake or a tsunami? Currently, you can't stop a raging forest fire in any quick manner, nor can you stop the lightning bolt

from starting such a fire. You can't cause it to rain in our Western states to relieve the drought conditions that now exist. You couldn't stop the two foot deep late May snow storm in Colorado in 2022. You didn't avoid the baby formula crisis that happened, and admitted that it could be a month to six weeks before you even have the thought of resolving that issue. You don't want to admit that there is a God who has control over every one of these issues. The ideas of a one world government is not the answer! A one world religion only wants you to praise and worship an evil overlord! Neither, will resolve any of what I'm trying to get you to understand. There are days, when those on the left tell people such as myself that we are intolerant of people's desires and don't understand true human emotions and needs. Free sex and free drugs, electric cars, more vaccinations, no guns and less police will be the answer to today's problems. Really? You need to pull your head out of your a—, oops, I can't say that, maybe I should say, out of the sand and look around you at what is actually happening and what mankind can, or should be able to control. Global warming, climate control or carbon footprints do not resolve these issues.

God provided the means whereby the earth has gas and oil reserves to last until Jesus returns. Mankind believes that electric cars are part of the answer. Tell me, when are you going to have the rare earth elements to create and furnish the computer parts and material for deep cycle electric batteries? When are you going to have the electric grid system set up to provide electricity for long distant travel? It has been said that the lack of this ability is only a portion of controlling people as a whole. Look at the status on the infant formula situation. God gave women two functioning breast to nurse their child. If mankind would only operate in accordance to God's ways, mankind would not have the problems that we are now facing. You refuse to look at history to see how the problems mankind faced were resolved. You want to destroy statues and documents of history so you can rewrite those things or remove those things that you do not seem to understand, or even want to know about. You go to the extreme and declare that there is racial bias and mistreatment of black Americans because of being Caucasian. Funny, history would have told you that there were many of our forefathers that left Europe because of tyrants who ruled or demanded they only were God in one manner or another. My forefathers came from England, Scotland, Ireland, Norway, France, Spain, Germany and other countries. On arrival here they intermarried with First Nation peoples, I have the genealogy records that show Pocahontas was one of my 10th great-grandmothers. Other documents will show that some of my ancestors were indentured servants who had an agreement to work for so long in exchange for paid passage to this nation. Black lives do matter, but so do all other lives! Stop and think! **We are all of one blood, one species!** We are the human race! Created in the image of a living, loving God! When mankind puts their trust in this God, and accepts Him as a Father figure who is watching over His children, we receive His blessings and He allows us to prosper. When we rebel against Him, He does what an earthly father would do. He corrects us and provides for us the ways and means to return to a prosperous life. If we continue to rebel, He gives us a spanking, **His way!** This usually means we will have to go through a period of God's wrath.

At the moment, mankind is in a state of great rebellion against God. If we, the entire human race, would evaluate our lifestyle, and truly repent of our wicked ways God would bless us, each and every one. This situation is a period of warning and we should understand what all this means. Ignore this warning and we can only expect greater corrective action through God's judgments.

At the beginning of this section, of this work, I showed you a chart of how there is a difference between our counting of a day and God's way of counting a day. Let's carry that forward and view some of the Biblical facts pertaining to days, months, seasons and years. When I stop and think about months and years, I am led to a calendar. But that alone brings up the first question. Which calendar? Should we look at the pagan calendar of the Romans, the Julian, the Gregorian, the lunar calendar of the Moslems, or the lunar solar time reckoning of the Jews? During my time of service in the military,

I had to perform maintenance inspections based upon the numbers 7 and 28. There were seven days in a week and 28 days to a month and that made a cycle of 13 months. My understanding is that there are 28 days in a lunar cycle of rotation. If my math is correct 13 times 28 equals 364 days for a year.

What does the Bible say about these things? Look at the statement in Isaiah, ²³ *And it shall come to pass That from one New Moon to another, And from one Sabbath to another, All flesh shall come to worship before Me,” says the Lord.* Isaiah 66:23 (NKJV) We should see that this is a future event because of the wording, *it shall come to pass.* We can also see two other time elements. First, there is the New Moon to New Moon time frame that would indicate monthly. The second time element is *from one Sabbath to another*, indicating weekly. But, I must not take this out of context and give you an incorrect viewpoint. This will be a future event and it is stated just prior to verse 23. Here is the precursor verses, ¹⁸ *“For I know their works and their thoughts, and the time is coming to gather all nations and tongues. And they shall come and shall see my glory,* ¹⁹ *and I will set a sign among them. And from them I will send survivors to the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, who draw the bow, to Tubal and Javan, to the coastlands far away, that have not heard my fame or seen my glory. And they shall declare my glory among the nations.* ²⁰ *And they shall bring all your brothers from all the nations as an offering to the Lord, on horses and in chariots and in litters and on mules and on dromedaries, to my holy mountain Jerusalem, says the Lord, just as the Israelites bring their grain offering in a clean vessel to the house of the Lord.* ²¹ *And some of them also I will take for priests and for Levites, says the Lord.* ²² *“For as the new heavens and the new earth that I make shall remain before me, says the Lord, so shall your offspring and your name remain.* Isaiah 66:18-22 (ESV) Those left on earth at this time will all be gathered at Jerusalem and the Glory of the Lord will be seen by everyone there. The sign that God will set among them is Jesus, who will reign as King of kings and Lord of lords for one thousand years.

I have to build you another chart to show you another part of this somewhat bazaar timepiece.

Jewish Month	Number of Days
Nisan (April)	30
Iyar (May)	29
Sivan (June)	30
Tammuz (July)	29
Av (August)	30
Elul (September)	29
Tishrei (October)	30
Cheshvan (November)	29 or 30
Kislev (December)	30 or 29
Tevet (January)	29
Shevat (February)	30
Adar (March)	29

If you add the total number of days together to make a year, you will find out that on the Hebrew calendar there can be 353, 354, 355, 384 or 385 days in one year. There are reasons for this difference. Regular, common, years have 12 months with a total of 354 days. Leap years have 13 months and are 384 days long. Months with uneven numbers usually have 30 days and months with even numbers have 29 days. In addition to these regular (kesidrah) year lengths, both common and leap years can be a day shorter (cheserah or deficient year with 353/383 days) or a day longer (shlemah or complete year with 355/385 days). These alterations are designed to prevent Rosh Hashana and other holidays from falling on certain days of the week. In practice, a day is added to the 8th month or subtracted from the 9th month. In civil contexts, a new year on the Jewish calendar begins on Rosh Hashana, the 1st of Tishrei. However, for

religious purposes, the year begins on the 1st of Nisan. We can use this information to incorporate Biblical feast days. Exodus 12:1-2 establishes the month when Passover is to be held, look at how the verses reads, ¹ *The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt,* ² *“This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you.* Exodus 12:1-2 (ESV)

We are now in the 6th millennium, according to Hebrew time reckoning. The Hebrew year count began in the year 3761 **BCE**, which the 12th-century Jewish philosopher Maimonides established as the Biblical date of creation. Years in the Jewish calendar are designated AM to identify them as part of the *Anno Mundi* epoch, indicating the age of the world according to the Bible. For example, the beginning of the year 2023 in the Gregorian calendar converts to year 5783 AM in the Jewish calendar. Months in the Jewish calendar are based on the phases of the moon, like in the Islamic calendar. Each month begins with the appearance of the crescent moon after the New Moon phase and lasts for a full lunation, a moon cycle encompassing all phases of the moon.

We know from Biblical text that certain seasons correspond to certain feast days. In Leviticus, we find Passover, the Feast of Unleavened Bread and Firstfruits are all celebrated in the first month (Nisan) and that the grain harvest associated with Firstfruits is barley. Pentecost (Feast of Weeks) is celebrated 50 days after Firstfruits and is the season of the wheat harvest. In the fall season, we have the Feast of Tabernacles and this is in relationship to the harvest of oil (olives) and wine (grapes). So there are seasons that are associated with what we call time, or as Solomon would have put it, there is a season for all things. I'd like for you, the reader, to understand two things from the following verses, Leviticus 23:3, ³ *“Six days shall work be done, but on the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, a holy convocation. You shall do no work. It is a Sabbath to the Lord in all your dwelling places.* (ESV) Leviticus 25 provides to us another important instruction from God according to His time schedule. Read the following, Leviticus 25:2-7, ² *“Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘When you come into the land which I give you, then the land shall keep a sabbath to the Lord.* ³ *Six years you shall sow your field, and six years you shall prune your vineyard, and gather its fruit; ⁴ but in the seventh year there shall be a sabbath of solemn rest for the land, a sabbath to the Lord. You shall neither sow your field nor prune your vineyard. ⁵ What grows of its own accord of your harvest you shall not reap, nor gather the grapes of your untended vine, for it is a year of rest for the land. ⁶ And the sabbath produce of the land shall be food for you: for you, your male and female servants, your hired man, and the stranger who dwells with you, ⁷ for your livestock and the beasts that are in your land—all its produce shall be for food. (NKJV) Have you noticed that even the land gets a rest? Recall for yourself that the land is also a living entity. God establishes that even the land needs a rest. This instruction was given to the Israelites when they went into the “Promised Land,” however that was not kept. The people just went on planting and did not let the earth rest. God had told the Israelites that He would punish with a seven-fold payback. It was this disobedience that placed Judah in Babylon for 70 years.*

This seven year cycle has a name, it is a Shemitah and it is to be holy to the LORD. I am not Jewish and I hope this is right. There is one more year that we need to know about, that is the year of Jubilee. We find the following also in Leviticus chapter 25:8-12, ⁸ *“You shall count seven weeks of years, seven times seven years, so that the time of the seven weeks of years shall give you forty-nine years. ⁹ Then you shall sound the loud trumpet on the tenth day of the seventh month. On the Day of Atonement you shall sound the trumpet throughout all your land. ¹⁰ And you shall consecrate the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you, when each of you shall return to his property and each of you shall return to his clan. ¹¹ That fiftieth year shall be a jubilee for you; in it you shall neither sow nor reap what grows of itself nor gather the grapes from the undressed vines. ¹² For it is a jubilee. It shall be holy to you. You may eat the produce of the field. (ESV) Many will wonder how are you going to live if you give the land a rest on the seventh seven (49th year), and then also give it a rest on the fiftieth year. God gives provision for this and we can read it in Leviticus 25:18-22, ¹⁸ *“Therefore you shall do my statutes and keep**

my rules and perform them, and then you will dwell in the land securely. ¹⁹ *The land will yield its fruit, and you will eat your fill and dwell in it securely.* ²⁰ *And if you say, 'What shall we eat in the seventh year, if we may not sow or gather in our crop?'* ²¹ *I will command my blessing on you in the sixth year, so that it will produce a crop sufficient for three years.* ²² *When you sow in the eighth year, you will be eating some of the old crop; you shall eat the old until the ninth year, when its crop arrives.* (ESV)

Leviticus chapter 26 gives the Israelites fair warning that if they do not carry out God's commands that He will repay them seven times over for their sins. Read verses 18-19, ¹⁸ *And if in spite of this you will not listen to me, then I will discipline you again sevenfold for your sins,* ¹⁹ *and I will break the pride of your power, and I will make your heavens like iron and your earth like bronze.* (ESV) Continue with verse 21, ²¹ *"Then if you walk contrary to me and will not listen to me, I will continue striking you, sevenfold for your sins.* (ESV) This seven fold payback takes place in the book of Jeremiah. First, look at 25:11-12, ¹¹ *And this whole land shall be a desolation and an astonishment, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.* ¹² *'Then it will come to pass, when seventy years are completed, that I will punish the king of Babylon and that nation, the land of the Chaldeans, for their iniquity,' says the Lord; 'and I will make it a perpetual desolation.* (NKJV) We also see in Daniel that he understood the exile was to be seventy years. Read the following found in Daniel chapter 9:1-2, ¹ *In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, by descent a Mede, who was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans—* ² *in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, perceived in the books the number of years that, according to the word of the Lord to Jeremiah the prophet, must pass before the end of the desolations of Jerusalem, namely, seventy years.* (ESV) From Daniel's prophecy pertaining to the seventy weeks, we should all know that the last week represents the 7 years of the Tribulation. None of us know the time table that God has established and I have previously shown you the verse stated by Jesus, that not even the Son knows this date, only the Father knows the date this is to occur. With the building of time charts and illustrations of wrath that can, and will, be poured out upon mankind, it seems essential for everyone to understand a little more concerning those last seven years.

Between the prophecy of Daniel in chapter 9, verse 27 and the illustration shown in Jeremiah we should come to an understanding that king Zedekiah broke covenant with God and the punishment was carried out the following year as the king's sons were killed before the king, his eyes were put out and he was taken to Babylon in fetters (leg irons). Here are the verses, first from Daniel, ²⁷ *Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week* (this week is the seven year period of the tribulation); *But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate."* (NKJV) Next, from the book of Jeremiah. Here is a portion of the cause for the exile to Babylon. Notice that the wording would indicate that this is a Jubilee year. Jeremiah 34:14-16, ¹⁴ *"At the end of seven years let every man set free his Hebrew brother, who has been sold to him; and when he has served you six years, you shall let him go free from you."* *But your fathers did not obey Me nor incline their ear.* ¹⁵ *Then you recently turned and did what was right in My sight—every man proclaiming liberty to his neighbor; and you made a covenant before Me in the house which is called by My name.* ¹⁶ *Then you turned around and profaned My name, and every one of you brought back his male and female slaves, whom he had set at liberty, at their pleasure, and brought them back into subjection, to be your male and female slaves.'* (NKJV) The wording in these verses would indicate that this was a Jubilee year because of the setting the slaves free. Then the king made a covenant with God and finally they broke that covenant by taking back the slaves that had been freed. It is the following year after this that the Jews went into exile in Babylon.

Remember what Solomon said, that there is nothing new under the sun. Thus meaning that history will and does repeat itself. We have gone through history of the Hebrew people and see some of what has occurred by obedience and also disobedience. The result is either God's blessings or God's wrath. We have also seen some of the strangeness of the structure of the Hebrew calendar, but along the way, we should have understood that God's timetable is based upon His Ordained Feast Days. I believe that Jesus was born on the

Day of Atonement and died on Passover. I also believe that Jesus spent the full three days and three nights in the tomb as Jonah spent in the great fish. That alone would mean that Jesus was crucified on a Wednesday and arose on a Sabbath (not the first day of the week).

I must now bring to a conclusion what it is that I am trying to get you to understand. Remember, I am not Jewish, so I really do not know if I have all of this correct. I pray that God has lead my mind to understand these things and I said at the beginning of this work that I would give you good reason to read, repent, and be obedient to God's rules. I have one more issue to complete to fulfill that message.

Allow me to try and explain the Shemitah cycle a little more clearly. Because of the differences between the Hebrew and Gregorian calendars any attempt to show them together must mean that two years must be shown on the Gregorian calendar in relationship to the Hebrew calendar. Here are three Shemitah cycles to try to show this:

1st year	2nd year	3rd year	4th year	5th year	6th year	7th year
2015-2016 5776	2016-2017 5777	2017-2018 5778	2018-2019 5779	2019-2020 5780	2020-2021 5781	2021-2022 5782
2022-2023 5783	2023-2024 5784	2024-2025 5785	2025-2026 5786	2026-2027 5787	2027-2028 5788	2028-2029 5789
2029-2030 5790	2030-2031 5791	2031-2032 5792	2032-2033 5793	2033-2034 5794	2034-2035 5795	2035-2036 5796

Now, let me see if I can explain this clearly, I pause and ask the Holy Spirit to lead me in what I am about to type. This is God's rules, please understand and do not complain to me if you do not like this, take it up with God directly, I'm only a messenger. Maybe a bold one, but still a messenger. On September the 7th of 2021 mankind entered the Hebrew year 5782. If you take out your calculator and divide this number by seven you get 826, a round number and the beginning of a Shemitah cycle. To have you to understand that there is a warning here make note that Daniel's seventieth year must start on the first year of a Shemitah cycle. You must also understand that this will be a Jubilee year with the blowing of the shofar on Yon Kippur. Put these two facts together and understand that the beginning of the Tribulation could begin on Rosh Hashanah to bring in the Hebrew year of 5783. Two statements to go: That could mean that the Rapture would have to occur prior to that date. If that does not happen this year, then it will have to begin in 2029, 2036 or 2042, etc. What is the date of Rosh Hashanah for this year? It is September 26th, 2022. That my friends, and dear readers, is why it is so important that you understand the nearness of the close of this age, the rapture of Bible Believers, and the return of Christ!

I believe that every Bible Believer should know God's Ordained Feast Days. I believe this because of the statement made that **every man is to observe these feast in all of mankind's generations**. We, as a species, have not stopped producing generations, therefore our requirement is to honor God's feast days. Here are those feast days:

The Passover and Unleavened Bread — Passover April 14th, Feast April 15th (Nisan)

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, rather this is identifying the beginning month of the sacred year. The name for that month is Abib or Nisan and represents, for the most part, 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 (NIV), *“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.”*

Leviticus 23:4-8 (NIV), *“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.”*

We must also remember that God established a 24 hour period in an evening, then daylight order. There was no AM or PM or even a midnight to midnight order for a day.

Firstfruits — April (Nisan) — the day after the sabbath (always on a Sunday)

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 (NKJV), *“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 (NKJV), *‘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 (KJV), *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.* 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 main Feast started on a sabbath. I respect Perry Stone and have a copy of his Old Testament Perry Stone Hebraic Prophetic Study Bible. He included a table illustrated on page 143 showing the Hebrew Feast Days. This table indicates that Firstfruits is the first sabbath after Passover. Now, we have something that we can build upon and bring the prototype of firstfruits into this discussion. Under the New Covenant Jesus is the Passover sacrifice and upon His resurrection He is the first of God's firstfruits. Look once again at the passage from Leviticus that states *you shall offer on that day, when you wave the sheaf, a male lamb of the first year.* Isn't Jesus that lamb? Doesn't He represent the spiritual firstfruit? Then let us take facts and see if we can figure out a little more about this feast called Firstfruits. We know by Jesus' own words that He must spend three days and three nights in the tomb as Jonah spent in the great fish. I have explained elsewhere that Jesus must die on Wednesday as our current calendar is set up for everything to work as it is recorded in the Bible. With Jesus dying about three in the afternoon on Wednesday and taking into account the full three days and three nights that He must spend in the tomb, He would arise at three in the afternoon **on the first sabbath after Passover.** Therefore, this makes Jesus Lord of the Sabbath and the firstfruit of the resurrection, thus fulfilling the statements made in the Bible pertaining to firstfruits. Recall that Jesus told Mary (at the tomb) not to touch Him because He

had not been to His Father's house yet. John 20:17, ¹⁷ *Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'*" (ESV) Jesus had to present Himself to His Father as the Firstfruit on the day after the sabbath.

Feast of Firstfruits — To commemorate the coming in of barley. It appears to be the first day after the sabbath after Passover. (Lev 23:9-14) From Leviticus: ⁹ *And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying,* ¹⁰ *"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.* (NKJV) Because of the agrarian culture at the time of Moses this was an appointed festival; however, present day society is not that agrarian and there seems to be great confusion over how to determine this on any calendar. The mystery reveals that this feast day will depend on what day of the week is designated as Passover. We may revert back to observing this festival during the reign of Christ. Because of the confusion over when this feast is celebrated, I am inserting an additional review of firstfruits.

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. As stated in Luke 24:1, *' But on the **first day of the week**, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared.* (ESV)
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):

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

E. Jesus is the firstfruits.

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

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." ²⁴Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, ²⁵and 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?

Second Passover — May 14 (Iyar)

Moses was approached and asked: How can a person who has buried a dead body eat the Passover meal when they are unclean. Moses said he would inquire of the Lord. Numbers 9:9-12 (NIV), *Then the Lord said to Moses, “Tell the Israelites: When any of you or your descendants are unclean because of a dead body or are away on a journey, they may still celebrate the Lord’s Passover. They are to celebrate it on the fourteenth day of the second month at twilight. They are to eat the lamb, together with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. They must not leave any of it till morning or break any of its bones. When they celebrate the Passover, they must follow all the regulations.”*

Feast of Weeks, also known as Pentecost — June 5 (Sivan)

Leviticus 23:15-22 (NIV), *“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.”

This feast also has a grain offering as a portion of its regulations. The firstfruit grain in this case is wheat.

Feast of Trumpets — 1st of Tishrei (late September or early October) Rosh Hashanah

Leviticus 23:23-25 (NIV), *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.”*

Remember, the first month is April (Nisan), therefore, the seventh month is October (Tishrei).

Day of Atonement — 10th of Tishrei (early October) Yom Kippur

Leviticus 23:26-32 (NIV), *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.”*

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 — 15th Tishrei (toward the middle of October) Sukkot I

Leviticus 23:33-43 (NIV), *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.”

There is another firstfruit offering to be made within the Feast of Tabernacles. The firstfruit for this offering is grapes (wine) and olives (oil).

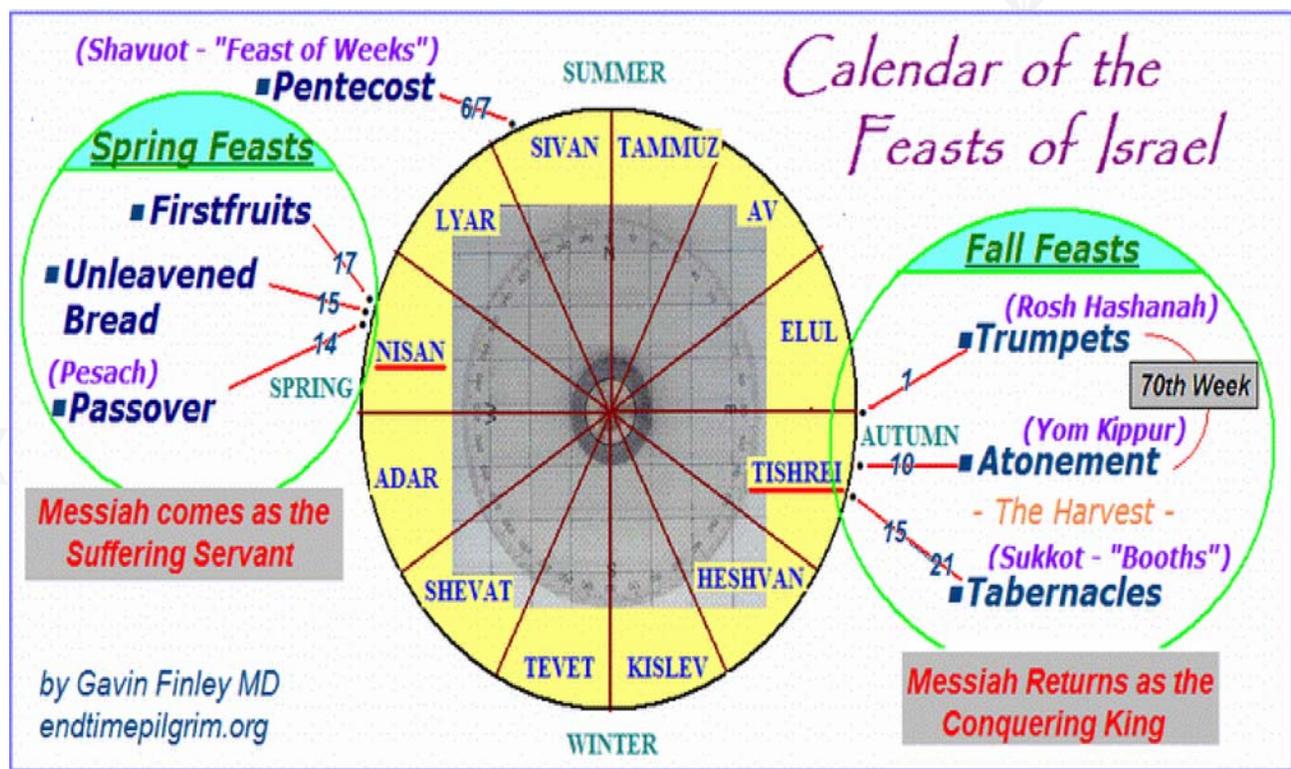
The procedures of the feast ceremonies require sacrifice and burnt offerings as documented throughout the 23rd chapter of Leviticus. Now, we can bring Jesus into the picture and what He did for us. We must remember that Jesus did not come to destroy the Law, instead to fulfill it. Matthew 5:17-18 (NIV), *“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." 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 (NIV), *At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split.* Mark 15:38 (NIV), *The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.* Luke 23:45 (NIV), *For the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two.* 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 that we do not celebrate these feasts 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 (NIV), *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.* That would indicate that Jesus was taken from the earth just before Pentecost on or about the 27th of May.

It is hard for me to practice these required feast days for the simple reason, 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 and recognizing who the people of the United States truly are.



Can you find anyplace in all the Bible that indicates that Jesus was born on the 25th day of December, or that His crucifixion took place on a Friday with His being raised from the dead on a Sunday? Why do you believe all this manmade nonsense without studying to see what the actual facts really are in both cases? 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 or 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 (which will occur around the beginning of the month we call October). 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 (which will occur around the middle of the month we call April). Jesus was not resurrected on the day that mankind calls Easter! See the following (The Folly of Easter) for clarification.

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 solstices 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 day Christ arose. 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 and we are teaching our children these things.

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. One more point before we review the facts on Easter, did you ever see even one verse in the Bible that Jesus celebrated His birthday?

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 the following 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 fail to 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 of Nisan (mid April), the 1st day of Unleavened Bread is on the 15th and is a high holy day. 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. However, the date mankind selected is not according to the date ordained by God and quoted in the Bible for Passover. 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 explanation for Passover and Unleavened Bread. Why have we allowed ourselves to listen to men and not to God?

Here's another "I believe" statement. God's Word is the inspired Word of God. I accept this because of a simple example: Consider the entire Bible. There are 1188 chapters among the 66 books that make up the Bible (Word of God). So, if I look at simple thought, what book of the Bible contains the most chapters? Wouldn't it have to be the book of Psalms? If I used these four numbers and looked

at Psalms, what chapter and verse can I come up with? Well, let's see Psalms 1:188? No! Psalms 1 only contains 6 verses. What about Psalms 11:88? No! Psalms 11 only contains 7 verses. What about 118:8? Oh my! There are 29 verses in Psalms 118 and verse 8 reads the following: **It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man.** (NKJV) Isn't that a true fact? Well, what about the shortest and the longest chapters in the Bible? Would you believe that the shortest chapter in the Bible is Psalms 117, having only 2 verses and the longest chapter is Psalms 119, having 176 verses. Amazing! Oh, by the way, the shortest verse in the Bible is John 11:35, **Jesus wept.**

Here's another "I believe" fact. The book of Jeremiah contains a great amount of information that **every** Bible Believer should know. It is through the teachings of the prophet Jeremiah that we see the uprooting, the tearing down, the destruction, and the overthrowing of the king's throne in the Kingdom of Judah. What we do not find in the book of Jeremiah is the fulfillment of the last two portions of Jeremiah's commission? **Where** is the **planting** and the **rebuilding**? Here is the commission that God assigned to Jeremiah: ¹ The words of Jeremiah the son of Hilkiah, of the priests who were in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin, ² to whom the word of the Lord came in the days of Josiah the son of Amon, king of Judah, in the thirteenth year of his reign. ³ It came also in the days of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, until the end of the eleventh year of Zedekiah the son of Josiah, king of Judah, until the carrying away of Jerusalem captive in the fifth month. ⁴ Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying: ⁵ "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations." ⁶ Then said I: "Ah, Lord God! Behold, I cannot speak, for I am a youth." ⁷ But the Lord said to me: "Do not say, 'I am a youth,' For you shall go to all to whom I send you, And whatever I command you, you shall speak. ⁸ Do not be afraid of their faces, For I am with you to deliver you," says the Lord. ⁹ Then the Lord put forth His hand and touched my mouth, and the Lord said to me: "Behold, I have put My words in your mouth. ¹⁰ See, I have this day set you over the nations and over the kingdoms, To root out and to pull down, To destroy and to throw down, **To build and to plant.**" Jer 1:1-10 (NKJV) Every Bible Believer needs to have an understanding of the book of Jeremiah. You were adopted into the family of God through your faith in Christ. Therefore, you have a kinship with both the house of Israel and the house of Judah. The book of Jeremiah illustrates the warnings and finally the judgment that befell the Kingdom of Judah. Bible Believers of today are following the same path that Judah took. We all need to understand that we are headed for the same type of judgment, if we do not change our ways and repent of our iniquities.

I pray you now have a better understanding of God's feast days and the importance of observing them. In our next chapter, we will undertake a study of the Beast of the Apocalypse.

The Beast of the Apocalypse

Let's begin this chapter with an overview of what the Apostle John saw in a vision while he was imprisoned on the Island of Patmos:

John was transported through time to write of strange, awesome things he saw in his vision concerning the Apocalypse. He was instructed to write this vision by Jesus Christ for all of humanity to read and understand what was to come in the end of time. Today, we call the written vision the book of Revelation, which is the last book of the Bible.

John wrote, *"Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name."* Revelation 13:1 (NKJV). *"So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, 'Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?'"* (verse 4-NKJV). *"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."* Revelation 19:20 (NKJV).

Something so powerful, so gigantic, that it is worshipped because of its vast military power; something that stands up to fight the returning, conquering Christ at His coming is obviously a political, economic, and military power that exists at the time of the end, as we know it! But who? Where? **The prophet Daniel saw it first**, a monster which: *After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns.* Daniel 7:7 (NKJV)

Then John saw it, at the end of the first century; a seven-headed, ten-horned monster rising from the sea, blaspheming God, and making *"war against the saints."* What is the Beast? Where did it first plant its feet? Where did it go? Follow, now, from the annals of history and from the pages of Bible prophecy, the trail of the Beast, and come to understand its frightening prophetic significance of our time! **We are in the "Season of the Lord's Return!"**

So, we begin! The beast John saw in his vision seemed to rise out of an ocean. It had seven heads and ten horns. The horns featured ten crowns, while the heads were decorated with names which are blasphemous in God's sight. What is the meaning of this seven-headed, ten-horned creature?

John said, *"Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority."* Revelation 13:2 (NKJV) John wrote what he was shown, without comprehending all the meaning. As a reporter, or a biographer, he was faithfully recounting what he saw in a vision. A strange creature, indeed; terrible in aspect, threatening, powerful. The power and authority from this many-headed, many-horned composite creature came from a dragon.

What is meant by a "dragon?"

Dragons, purely mythological creatures, remind one of serpentine monsters with huge, bat-like wings; a fierce head with blazing, snake-like eyes; heavy, clawed feet like those of a crocodile; and rows of wickedly gleaming, sharply pointed teeth, breathing roaring tongues of fire from their mouth.

But we need not speculate about what is meant by the dragon which empowers the beast, for the Bible plainly tells us what it is: *⁷Then there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against*

the dragon and his angels. ⁸ And the dragon lost the battle, and he and his angels were forced out of heaven. ⁹ This great dragon—the ancient serpent called the devil, or **Satan**, the one deceiving the whole world—was thrown down to the earth with all his angels. Revelation 12:7-9 (NLT) Plainly stated, the dragon is a symbol for Satan.

Jesus said in Luke 10:18-19, ¹⁸ And He said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. ¹⁹ Behold, **I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.** (NKJV) The Apostle Paul said the following in Ephesians 2:1-3, ¹ And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, ² in which you once walked according to the course of this world, **according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,** ³ among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. (NKJV), Paul also stated in 2nd 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) John recorded the following, as a small portion of his vision, in Revelation 12:10-12, ¹⁰ Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, “Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. ¹¹ And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. ¹² 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.**” (NKJV) The Apostle Peter tells us what the dragon is now doing on earth in 1st Peter 5:8-9, ⁸ Be sober, be vigilant; because **your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.** ⁹ Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. (NKJV)

The many-headed, ten-horned beast is empowered and guided by Satan! As such, it is the Spirit of Antichrist, against God, against His Holy Laws, the Ten Commandments and His Feast Days, His Sabbath Days, and viciously, hatefully against His people called the saints. It is against those who are performing the work of God on this earth. It is total rebellion against God’s ways. Instead, the pride of humanistic endeavors become the rule pushed by Satan, the Antichrist, the False Prophet and the harlot of Babylon.

Why did Daniel and John see this beast as a leopard? Why were its feet like those of a bear? Why did its head look like that of a lion? For centuries, Bible scholars have known that the prophecies of Daniel and those of John in the Apocalypse are inseparable; that one interprets the other. To trace the trail of the Beast from the time it first stood upon the earth until the time of the end, when it is said, “*make war with the saints,*” and to fight Christ at His return. We must know what God revealed to Daniel.

Daniel, together with three royal princes of the throne of Judah, were taken captive when Jerusalem fell to Neduchadnezzar, king of Babylon. Daniel 1:3, ³ ***And the king spake unto Ashpenaz the master of his eunuchs, that he should bring certain of the children of Israel, and of the king's seed, and of the princes;*** (KJV) Who is not familiar with the story of “Daniel in the Lion’s Den,” which we were told as children? The book of Daniel contains lengthy pronouncements from Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, who not only fulfilled the prophecy of the first beast, but is symbolic of the whole system of pagan, Gentile kingdoms under Satan’s control. The symbolism is shown in Revelation 17:5, ⁵ ***And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.*** (KJV) The Beast is pictured in collusion with a great false religion called the “*mother of harlots and abominations of the earth.*” Daniel’s prophecy

also contains a lengthy announcement from a heavenly messenger in chapters eleven and twelve, actual first-person quotations from an archangel of God.

The first chapter of the book of Daniel relates to Daniel's capture and his condition in captivity, and informs us God had given Daniel and the three princes knowledge and wisdom: ¹⁷ *As for these four young men, God gave them knowledge and skill in all literature and wisdom; and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.* (NKJV) The second chapter tells us of Nebuchadnezzar's dream. Daniel 2:29-35, ²⁹ *“While Your Majesty was sleeping, you dreamed about coming events. He who reveals secrets has shown you what is going to happen.* ³⁰ *And it is not because I am wiser than anyone else that I know the secret of your dream, but because God wants you to understand what was in your heart.*

³¹ *“In your vision, Your Majesty, you saw standing before you a huge, shining statue of a man. It was a frightening sight.* ³² *The head of the statue was made of fine gold. Its chest and arms were silver, its belly and thighs were bronze,* ³³ *its legs were iron, and its feet were a combination of iron and baked clay.* ³⁴ *As you watched, a rock was cut from a mountain, but not by human hands. It struck the feet of iron and clay, smashing them to bits.* ³⁵ *The whole statue was crushed into small pieces of iron, clay, bronze, silver, and gold. Then the wind blew them away without a trace, like chaff on a threshing floor. But the rock that knocked the statue down became a great mountain that covered the whole earth.* (NLT)

To Nebuchadnezzar, the image towered into the sky! The brilliant reflections of gold, silver and brass were dazzling. Like a comet falling, a stone then smashed into the feet of mixed iron and clay. As the image collapsed, the iron, brass, silver, and gold seemed to completely disintegrate, forming a vast pile of metallic dust. The wind blew and the particles of metal were whisked away. Then, Nebuchadnezzar's astonished mind seemed to see the stone which had smashed into the feet begin to grow larger until it seemed to literally fill the whole earth! No wonder this Babylonian king was astonished. No wonder he was overcome with eager curiosity to learn what such a vision could mean!

Daniel informed the king the following (verses 36-38), ³⁶ *“That was the dream. Now we will tell the king what it means.* ³⁷ *Your Majesty, you are the greatest of kings. The God of heaven has given you sovereignty, power, strength, and honor.* ³⁸ *He has made you the ruler over all the inhabited world and has put even the wild animals and birds under your control. You are the head of gold.* (NLT)

Notice several important points:

(1) It was the Great God (I AM) who had allowed Nebuchadnezzar to become a “king of kings,” having subjugated many other surrounding nations; taking their peoples captive, and forcing other governments to bow to his will. Daniel told this Babylonian king that it was God who decided the course of world events and who set up or deposed rulers.

(2) Nebuchadnezzar was the first real world dictator, for Daniel acknowledged that he ruled over the known, inhabited earth.

(3) Nebuchadnezzar was the “head of gold,” which meant that, as king, he stood for and represented the Babylonian kingdom. Notice the proof in verse 39, ³⁹ *“But after your kingdom comes to an end, another kingdom, inferior to yours, will rise to take your place. After that kingdom has fallen, yet a third kingdom, represented by bronze, will rise to rule the world.* (NLT) King and kingdom were synonymous.

(4) Babylon epitomizes the Beast's power down through history. The Babylonian “mystery” religion, handed down from Nimrod continues down through history, masquerading as “the one true church,” which controls the political and military power of the end-time Beast.

(5) The Apocalypse predicts that the final union of church and state that will fight Christ at His coming will be like an end-time Babylon. The “woman” or false church which sits on the Beast, is

called “*MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.*”

(6) Ancient Babylon was destroyed. Today, its ruins are a tourist attraction near Baghdad, Iraq. Yet, the Apocalypse says that the great city, which represents the end-time Beast’s power and false church, is nevertheless called Babylon. Review Revelation 18:1-10, ¹ *After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory. ² And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird! ³ For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury." 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. ⁵ For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities. ⁶ Render to her just as she rendered to you, and repay her double according to her works; in the cup which she has mixed, mix double for her. ⁷ In the measure that she glorified herself and lived luxuriously, in the same measure give her torment and sorrow; for she says in her heart, 'I sit as queen, and am no widow, and will not see sorrow.' ⁸ Therefore her plagues will come in one day—death and mourning and famine. And she will be utterly burned with fire, for strong is the Lord God who judges her.*

⁹ *"The kings of the earth who committed fornication and lived luxuriously with her will weep and lament for her, when they see the smoke of her burning, ¹⁰ standing at a distance for fear of her torment, saying, 'Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour your judgment has come.'* (NKJV)

When John received these prophecies, ancient Babylon had lain in utter ruin for approximately six hundred and thirty-nine years! This prophecy could not refer to ancient ruins, but to an end-time modern city which is called the “seat of the Beast,” or the capital city of the Beast’s power, which is ridden or controlled, by the “mother of harlots,” arrayed in scarlet. Thus, though Babylon, under Nebuchadnezzar, was the first of the four great world-ruling empires, the name of Babylon is permanently stamped upon the whole system, until the time of the Second Coming of Christ.

After predicting another kingdom, inferior to Babylon (the Medo-Persian Empire of history), and yet a third kingdom of brass (the Greco-Macedonian Empire under Alexander). Daniel described the fourth kingdom, which was Rome in Daniel 2:40-45, ⁴⁰ *Following that kingdom, there will be a fourth one, as strong as iron. That kingdom will smash and crush all previous empires, just as iron smashes and crushes everything it strikes. ⁴¹ The feet and toes you saw were a combination of iron and baked clay, showing that this kingdom will be divided. Like iron mixed with clay, it will have some of the strength of iron. ⁴² But while some parts of it will be as strong as iron, other parts will be as weak as clay. ⁴³ This mixture of iron and clay also shows that these kingdoms will try to strengthen themselves by forming alliances with each other through intermarriage. But they will not hold together, just as iron and clay do not mix.*

⁴⁴ *"During the reigns of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed or conquered. It will crush all these kingdoms into nothingness, and it will stand forever. ⁴⁵ That is the meaning of the rock cut from the mountain, though not by human hands, that crushed to pieces the statue of iron, bronze, clay, silver, and gold. The great God was showing the king what will happen in the future. The dream is true, and its meaning is certain." (NLT)*

Obviously, though uttered thousands of years ago, this prophecy shows that there will be an endtime combination of ten nations represented by the ten toes of the great image who will be smashed into oblivion by the returning, conquering Christ!

It is called “Babylon the Great” in the Apocalypse, yet is the end-time resurrection of what became the “Holy Roman Empire,” which will consist of ten nations. The ten horns of Revelation 17:12 are the same as the ten toes of the great image.

Now, let’s come to understand Daniel’s important seventh chapter, with his depiction of these same world-ruling kingdoms as beasts: three of them known creatures; and the fourth a surrealistic, satanic-looking creature like no living animal.

These remarkable prophecies, including Daniel’s God-given interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream, were uttered and later written long prior to 538 B.C. the time of the collapse of the Babylonian Empire. As the decades and centuries passed, it became clear, as a result of the rise and fall of city-states, nations, and empires, what was meant by the kingdoms of silver, brass, iron and iron and clay. First, God revealed to Daniel the meaning of the king’s dream. Later, God gave Daniel a dream, which he carefully wrote down, and which forms chapter 7. This was during Belshazzar’s reign, near the end of the Babylonian supremacy.

We now turn to Daniel chapter 7 and read the following in verses 1-7, ¹ *Earlier, during the first year of King Belshazzar’s reign in Babylon, Daniel had a dream and saw visions as he lay in his bed. He wrote down the dream, and this is what he saw.*

² *In my vision that night, I, Daniel, saw a great storm churning the surface of a great sea, with strong winds blowing from every direction.* ³ *Then four huge beasts came up out of the water, each different from the others.*

⁴ *The first beast was like a lion with eagles’ wings. As I watched, its wings were pulled off, and it was left standing with its two hind feet on the ground, like a human being. And it was given a human mind.*

⁵ *Then I saw a second beast, and it looked like a bear. It was rearing up on one side, and it had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. And I heard a voice saying to it, “Get up! Devour the flesh of many people!”*

⁶ *Then the third of these strange beasts appeared, and it looked like a leopard. It had four bird’s wings on its back, and it had four heads. Great authority was given to this beast.*

⁷ *Then in my vision that night, I saw a fourth beast—terrifying, dreadful, and very strong. It devoured and crushed its victims with huge iron teeth and trampled their remains beneath its feet. It was different from any of the other beasts, and it had ten horns. (NLT)*

We clearly see, the end-time Beast portrayed in Revelation 13:1-2 embodies all the strongest characteristics of these beasts, and represents the culmination of all the Gentile world-ruling kingdoms; governments ruled by men with minds like those of wild animals.

The first beast, like a lion with eagle’s wings, that was made to stand upon its feet as a man, and had a man’s heart given unto it, represented Nebuchadnezzar, at the head of the first world-ruling empire in all history, Babylon.

Details of the seven years of Nebuchadnezzar’s insanity are given in Daniel 4. Nebuchadnezzar became completely insane. The Bible records in Daniel 4:33, ³³ *“That same hour the judgment was fulfilled, and Nebuchadnezzar was driven from human society. He ate grass like a cow, and he was drenched with the dew of heaven. He lived this way until his hair was as long as eagles’ feathers and his nails were like birds’ claws. (NLT)*

At the end of those seven years, his reasoning was returned to him by a miracle from God. We see this in Daniel 7:34-37, ³⁴ *“After this time had passed, I, Nebuchadnezzar, looked up to heaven. My sanity returned, and I praised and worshiped the Most High and honored the one who lives forever. His rule is everlasting, and his kingdom is eternal.* ³⁵ *All the people of the earth are nothing compared to him. He does as he pleases among the angels of heaven and among the people of the earth. No one can stop him or say to him, ‘What do you mean by doing these things?’* ³⁶ *“When my sanity returned to me,*

so did my honor and glory and kingdom. My advisers and nobles sought me out, and I was restored as head of my kingdom, with even greater honor than before. ³⁷ **“Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and glorify and honor the King of heaven. All his acts are just and true, and he is able to humble the proud.”** (NLT)

The Babylonian Empire was destroyed by Persian armies under Cyrus, conceivably in October, 538 B.C. The second kingdom, **represented by the chest and arms of silver in the great image, and by a bear** (Daniel 7:5), ruled over the known world. This was the kingdom of Medo-Persia ruled by Cyrus “the Great.” Cyrus dated his years from 538 B.C. calling himself “king of Babylon and king of the countries,” meaning “king of the world.” The remarkable prophecies of Isaiah 44 and 45 were written about 150 years before Cyrus was born, and yet mention him by name (Isaiah 45:1-6). In these two chapters, Cyrus was directed to set the Jews free to rebuild the Temple, though the Temple had not yet been destroyed when Isaiah wrote the prophecies!

The third empire, represented by a leopard-like beast, had “four wings of a fowl” on its back and four heads. Daniel saw this beast as Alexander’s Greco-Macedonian Empire. A tremendous amount of literature exists about the time of Alexander who was a student of Aristotle. He was the son of Philip II of Macedon, and his mother was named Olympus. Alexander conquered the known world, leading his Greek, Macedonian, Spartan, and other troops into the faraway lands of modern-day Iraq and Iran, into India, through Palestine, and into Egypt. As Daniel foretold (verse 7:6), *6 Then the third of these strange beasts appeared, and it looked like a leopard. It had four bird’s wings on its back, and it had four heads. Great authority was given to this beast.* (NLT) True to this prophecy, Alexander’s kingdom was divided up into four kingdoms shortly after his death. Illustrated by the four wings (land territory) and the four heads (authority).

Notice how Daniel’s prophecies of the fourth beast, which is identified as Rome, repeatedly culminate in the setting up of Christ’s kingdom, just as chapter 2 of Daniel shows how the ten toes of the whole Babylonian system are smashed by the ‘stone cut out without hands’ that represents the returning, conquering Christ. Daniel’s prophecy continues in Daniel 7:8-10, *8 As I was looking at the horns, suddenly another small horn appeared among them. Three of the first horns were torn out by the roots to make room for it. This little horn had eyes like human eyes and a mouth that was boasting arrogantly*

9 I watched as thrones were put in place and the Ancient One sat down to judge. His clothing was as white as snow, his hair like purest wool. He sat on a fiery throne with wheels of blazing fire, 10 and a river of fire was pouring out, flowing from his presence. Millions of angels ministered to him; many millions stood to attend him. Then the court began its session, and the books were opened. (NLT)

Horns are symbols of human leaders of governments. Notice that Daniel describes the Ancient of Days almost exactly as does John in Revelation 1:13-15, *13 and in the midst of the seven lamp stands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. 14 His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; 15 His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters;* (NKJV) Some commentaries think the Ancient One described above in Daniel 7:8-10 is the Father, rather than Christ, because they see only the Father as conducting the Great White Throne Judgment as stated in Revelation 20:11-12, *11 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.* (NKJV) Whether it refers to Christ or the Father, it is obvious it refers to the time of the setting up of the Kingdom of God on earth. This is after the “little horn” succeeds in overthrowing the first of the ten succeeding kingdoms. Daniel continued in verse 7:11, *11 I watched*

then because of the sound of the pompous words which the horn was speaking; I watched till the beast was slain, and its body destroyed and given to the burning flame. (NKJV)

When is the Beast slain?

We find the answer 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. (NKJV)*

Time and again Daniel saw how the dreadful fourth Beast, the Roman Empire, and the little horn, which is the False Prophet, continue until the time of the Second Coming of Christ and the establishment of the Kingdom on God on earth, Daniel 7:19-22, ¹⁹ *Then I wished to know the truth about the fourth beast, which was different from all the others, exceedingly dreadful, with its teeth of iron and its nails of bronze, which devoured, broke in pieces, and trampled the residue with its feet;* ²⁰ *and the ten horns that were on its head, and the other horn which came up, before which three fell, namely, that horn which had eyes and a mouth which spoke pompous words, whose appearance was greater than his fellows.* ²¹ *I was watching; and the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them,* ²² *until the Ancient of Days came, and a judgment was made in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom. (NKJV)*

These scriptures demonstrate that the ten horns of Daniel 7 are ten successive governments, ten revivals of the Beast system down through history. How remarkable that Daniel's prophecies, written over five hundred years before the time of Christ, should be so specifically detailed, so accurate! Christ Himself referred to Daniel's prophecies in Matthew 24:15, ¹⁵ *"So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), (ESV)*

What is the identity of the little horn? The little horn had eyes like a man, a mouth speaking great things, names of blasphemy, and will think to change times and laws. This little horn, masquerading as the "False Prophet," persecutes God's saints endlessly, makes war against them and engages in every kind of brutality and mass murder?

There is much disagreement about which three governments were "plucked up by the roots" by the little horn, that is identified as the papacy. Some believe they were the Vandals, Ostrogoths, and the Heruli. The important point is that this little horn, is seen to have a "look stouter than its fellows," and is specifically identified as persecuting and making war against the saints of God and functions as a state. It is a government with power to overthrow other governments.

Referring back to the vision of John in Revelation 13:1 John wrote, ¹ *Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name.* (NKJV) It was only after the little horn had overthrown the first three of the ten horns, leaving seven remaining, that the title “holy” was attached to the whole governmental system.

“And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard (its overall bodily characteristics were lithe, powerful, like a leopard, reference to Alexander’s kingdom), and his feet were as the feet of a bear (referring to the strongest characteristics of a bear; the powerful paws, that can roll over huge rocks, smash logs, or disembowel a large range animal; reference to Cyrus’ Medo-Persian empire), and his mouth as the mouth of a lion (reference to the huge head of a male lion; its powerful jaws, depicting Nebuchadnezzar’s Babylonian kingdom): and the dragon (Satan) gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.”

“And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death (this was the collapse of the Roman Empire in A.D. 476); and his deadly wound was healed (the restoration of the Holy Roman Empire in A.D. 554); and all the world wondered after the beast. And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast, and they worshipped the beast saying who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him? . . . And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those that dwell in heaven. And it was given unto him to make war with the saints and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindred, and tongues, and nations.” Abstracted from Revelation 13:1-7

This is nothing short of state worship: a gigantic socio-economic, military, and industrial power that evokes awe and worship among its citizens and rises to such power and prestige that it is a true world power. This is the description that John saw in the vision of the final end-time Beast that embodies all the strongest characteristics of the first three beast; Babylon, Persia, and Greece.

But, who is the “spokesman” for this system? Who is it who blasphemes God and persecutes God’s people?

Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon. Revelation 13:11 (NKJV) Here is a government that appears outwardly “Christ-like” for it has lamb-like characteristics. Yet, it speaks as directly motivated by Satan. This lamb-like beast, which is counterfeit Christianity, utilizes the economic, industrial, and military power of the civil government of the first Beast. However, this is the second beast of Revelation 13. This is the False Prophet! The first Beast, the Man of Lawlessness, will fight Christ at His second coming.

Revelation 13:12-18, ¹² *He exercised all the authority of the first beast. And he required all the earth and its people to worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed.* ¹³ *He did astounding miracles, even making fire flash down to earth from the sky while everyone was watching.* ¹⁴ *And with all the miracles he was allowed to perform on behalf of the first beast, he deceived all the people who belong to this world. He ordered the people to make a great statue of the first beast, who was fatally wounded and then came back to life.* ¹⁵ *He was then permitted to give life to this statue so that it could speak. Then the statue of the beast commanded that anyone refusing to worship it must die.*

¹⁶ *He required everyone—small and great, rich and poor, free and slave—to be given a mark on the right hand or on the forehead.* ¹⁷ *And no one could buy or sell anything without that mark, which was either the name of the beast or the number representing his name.* ¹⁸ *Wisdom is needed here. Let the one with understanding solve the meaning of the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man. His number is 666.* (NLT)

This is obviously an ecclesiastical government under a human leader. It corresponds to the “mystery of lawlessness” foreseen by the Apostle Paul in his warning to the church in Thessalonica. 2nd Thessalonians 2:7-9, ⁷ *For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he who now restrains*

it will do so until he is out of the way. ⁸ And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming. ⁹ The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, (ESV)

The little horn of Daniel 7 represents the papacy, as does the lamb-like beast of Revelation 13. The “man of sin” (2nd Thessalonians 2:3-9) and the False Prophet of Revelation 19:20 are assumed to be one and the same, commonly called the Antichrist. However, there is no specific Bible verse that clearly labels the “man of sin” and the “false prophet” as the Antichrist. This is an assumption. While it may be an accurate assumption, it is nevertheless an assumption.

John saw a woman sitting astride a monstrous beast. The woman symbolizes a great false church; a church that rules over kings and governments; a church that has political intercourse with the civil governments of this world. This “Great Harlot” is the Roman Catholic Church. Look at history and you will find the truth. She has daughters, that came from her, called “harlots.” These daughters are the off-shoot denominations founded and established during the Protestant Reformation. It could be said that there are even grand-daughters of the Great Harlot, because there have been break-off denominations from the first group. As we saw in Daniel 7, the little horn was depicted as continually making war with the saints.

It has been said that Pope Innocent III (1198-1216) was the “Most Powerful of all the Popes.” He claimed to be the “Vicar of Christ,” “Vicar of God,” “Supreme Sovereign of the Church and the World.” Claimed the right to depose kings and princes; and that “All things on earth and in heaven and in hell are subject to the Vicar of Christ.” Even as it has been recorded about Pope Innocent III prophecy has not been totally fulfilled.

God’s Word prophesied an end-time martyrdom of saints; a time in the future when the Abomination of Desolation will be seated in the “holy place” in Jerusalem: Jerusalem will be surrounded with armies, and the Great Tribulation will have begun.

Look around you at the condition of the earth today. The major cities of the United States are seeing increases in just about every sector of criminal activities. We see increases in the price of food due to many reasons from inflation, bird flu, the war in Ukraine and weather conditions here in America. If you think the pictures you are seeing on the television concerning the war in Ukraine or the results of the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria are horrible to view you need to review the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation to see the results of God’s wrath to be poured out on the earth. Ninety percent of the earth’s population will be removed through the wrath that is to come.

Hopefully, you have read all these pages up to this point and have a better understanding of what God desires, and what will happen if mankind does not repent and turn back toward God. Actually, I fear that mankind has gone past the breaking point and God is preparing His judgment against humanity because they still will not obey God and follow His guidelines, rules, Commandments and Feasts.

In my final chapter, I will attempt to give you a better understanding of the “mark of the Beast” and what it really is.

The Mark of the Beast

What is the Mark of the Beast? Let's see if we can find an answer! Millions of people have heard about the dreaded Mark of the Beast and its number 666. There are many theories of what it might be. Some people have alleged that the number 666 is on the papal crown. Others have alleged that the number will be inserted under your skin by means of a microchip. Many believe it has something to do with a new form of money, or the coming "cashless society" that will replace cash. I've even seen a grid chart formed in a square of six boxes by six boxes with all the letters of the alphabet along with the numbers 0 through 9 placed in the boxes and the statement made that the Mark of the Beast will be contained in that grid of 6 by 6 by 6 (this last six boxes is made up of the diagonal boxes).

a b c d e f
g h i j k l
m n o p q r
s t u v w x
y z 0 1 2 3
4 5 6 7 8 9

The Bible contains stern warnings about those who receive the mysterious Mark of the Beast. It was the Apostle John who received the visions from Christ about the Mark of the Beast, Revelation 16:1-2, ¹ *Then I heard a loud voice from the temple telling the seven angels, "Go and pour out on the earth the seven bowls of the wrath of God."* ² *So the first angel went and poured out his bowl on the earth, and harmful and painful sores came upon the people who bore the mark of the beast and worshiped its image.* (ESV) Notice that it is not only those who receive the Mark of the Beast, but also those who "worship his image" who will come under the wrath of God. So, if there is a Mark of the Beast, we must have a Beast and an image of the Beast. What is the Beast? What is the "image of the Beast?" How can we recognize it? How can you insure that you do not receive the Mark of the Beast so that you do not come under God's wrath?

Weird, ridiculous theories about the meaning of the Mark of the Beast are legend. We just listed above some of the thoughts of what the Mark of the Beast may be. To others it seems it is a way for the government to keep track of everyone. It seems to be the harbinger of this mark and many have begun wondering whether it could be the first step toward a national identity card. This "deep state" or "big brother" identity card would spy on everyone of us who was carrying such a card. Through it the government would know everything we do, where we go, what we buy, to which church we belong, and be aware of everything about our individual private lives. This paranoid fear of surveillance convinces many that various forms of personal identification such as drivers license, social security cards, credit cards and the like are the Mark of the Beast.

Some have gone so far as to suggest that the bar code label that appears on practically any item you purchase is the Mark of the Beast. There are those who have been convinced that these striations on their packages are threatening to them. Actually, each bar represents a letter, or a number, like a code. The laser scanner instantly reads the code, and displays it on a small screen attached to the electronic cash register. The purchaser may then watch an electronic display of each item, such as a can of string beans accompanied by the price appearing. A computer is automatically reducing the inventory in the store by one can of beans, thus saving the old-fashioned method of painstakingly counting all the cans remaining on the shelf and, at the same time, computing the sales of the day. Such modern methods have greatly reduced man-hours of labor: helped us get through check-out lines much faster; and are far more accurate than human fingers on a cash register.

This modern, much simpler and faster, development in computer-age technology is in no way threatening to anyone. Yet, some people who tend toward paranoia are fair game for religious hucksters who like to play upon people's fears. Some paranoids believe super computers are watching them, somehow; believe black helicopters with no rotor-blade noise are spying on them; and they believe they must be constantly on alert lest some government agency sneakily label them with the Mark of the Beast. All of this is sheer foolishness, of course, but there are hucksters of fear who continually spread their warnings or allegations of government surveillance and spying. We can actually see the play, the standards and the control, such a system would look like by the vast interconnected surveillance camera system all over China. It is time you swept away all this Babylon of confusion, and looked directly into the Word of God to see what really **IS** the mysterious Mark of the Beast, and what it is **NOT!**

Obviously, before one can understand the Mark of the Beast, one must understand who or what is the Beast! We went through God's Word in the last chapter to present you with the meaning of the Beast. Hopefully, you have come to an understanding that the Beast was a two-fold entity of a composite government driven by a religious leader. The government portion of this social, economic and military entity would be a personification of the "man of sin" ruling the revised Holy Roman Empire. The religious portion of this two-part entity would be the "false prophet," and together they encompass the "Antichrist" under the direct influence of Satan.

The Beast is a symbol of a great, super government (a future version of the European Union as a revised Holy Roman Empire). That the beast rose up out of the sea indicates it derived its power from masses of people. The seven heads are seven revivals or stages of this beast's power. The ten horns are symbols of individual governments, each presided over by a king or absolute ruler, symbolized by the "crowns." Finally, the label on each of these seven successive governments was the "name of blasphemy" indicating its alignment with a spiritual power that was called in Revelation 17:5, ***And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.*** (NKJV)

Therefore, this end-time Beast is the final resurrection of the same old Babylonian system that was to reemerge many times down through history. Its final version shall be a revised Holy Roman Empire just before the beginning of the Great Tribulation, the Day of the Lord and the Second Coming of Christ.

This great political, military and ecclesiastical power will have a SIGN, an identifying label, a MARK that it will seek to impose on all who will submit to its will. It will not be a "secret" sign, or mark, but an obvious, outward, easily recognized sign, that the whose system wears just like a label! The "little horn" of Daniel is the spokesman of this evil mystery religion. Daniel 7:25, ***He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, Shall persecute the saints of the Most High, And shall intend to change times and law.*** Then the saints shall be given into his hand For a time and times and half a time. (NKJV) He had all intention of changing times and laws. This ecclesiastical ruler has done just that. They have changed God's laws, abolished His divinely appointed Sabbaths and His annual holy days.

This great false church has adopted the labels associated with SUN worship and changed God's weekly Sabbath for SUNDAY, the day of the sun, and forced upon millions of unsuspecting believers the PAGAN holidays of Ishtar (Easter) and the Saturnalia (Christmas). For centuries countless thousands were brutally martyred, tortured, burnt alive, killed in the most horrifying ways for **refusing** to accept the Mark of the Beast, instead clinging to God's holy Sabbath and His annual feast days.

For many centuries, those who continued to observe God's Passover on the fourteenth of Abib, or Nisan, the first month of the sacred year, were labeled "Judaizers," and relentlessly hunted down and slain! This had to do with TIMES and LAWS! The TIME for observing "communion," or the Lord's Supper, as it came to be called, was to be observed on the 14th day of the first month according to the

Jewish Sacred Calendar. But the apostate church issued a decree that Christians should not be found “Judaizing” by keeping God’s holy Passover exactly as Jesus had, but should substitute pagan Easter instead! Easter is celebrated amid symbols of sex and fertility, rabbits and eggs, and is known to be of wholly PAGAN ORIGINS! Thus, by decree, backed up by force of arms, the now paganized apostate church ENFORCED the changing of “times and laws” on those who, fearful of their very lives, would submit! The Bible shows that the identifying SIGN of the Beast and the Image of the Beast is something that has been around for many centuries! It is something that has already caused the death of countless thousands who refused to accept it! It is NOT something that is of modern invention, such as computer chips or identity cards.

Remember it is not only those who receive the Mark of the Beast who will suffer God’s wrath in the Day of the Lord. It will also be those who “worship his image.” Recall what Revelation 13:11-18 reveals, ¹¹ *Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon.* ¹² *And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.* ¹³ *He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men.* ¹⁴ *And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived.* ¹⁵ *He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed.* ¹⁶ *He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads,* ¹⁷ *and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.* ¹⁸ *Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666.* (NKJV)

This second beast is able to CAUSE WORSHIP! It is therefore a political and religious system! It encourages state worship! It points to the great economic, industrial and military power of the first beast! It urges loyalty, servitude, cooperation, and worship by all of its followers toward this great ten-nation union. We have seen Audio-animatronics coupled with robots at Disney World and watched presentations of historical U. S. presidents make speeches and move. We know of holographs that can mimic human sight and sound. Sprinkle a little Satanic influence over the image of the beast and you would have awe and wonder at the magic the image conveys.

Notice this scripture and think deeply about what you will read! This scripture is Revelation 20:4, ⁴ *And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, **who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands.** And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.* (NKJV) Observe this: There is a conscious choice that is to be made! These who were beheaded refused to have anything to do with the beast, the mark of the beast or the image of the beast. That tells me that they knew what the mark was! They made a reasoned, conscious choice to refuse!

Just as happened during the infamous “Inquisition,” when hundreds of thousands were put to death for refusing to give up their Bible-based faith, so the Beast and the False Prophet will be attempting to FORCE Christians to bow down to them in worship. True Christians will refuse, choosing to OBEY GOD rather than man, and they will be martyred because of that choice! Make no mistake, the Mark of the Beast is definitely something that will be enforced! It will be a matter of law and people will be ordered to obey it! That choice will be either submit, to give in and cooperate with the coming socio/economic, military/spiritual system, or under pain of DEATH to refuse to cooperate and refuse the Mark of the Beast.

We have seen that a mark is a stamp, a sign, a symbol, an identifying label! Anciently, Almighty God designated a great SIGN that would identify His people! That sign was created at the end of the creation week. Here is what God said about **His special SIGN** between Himself and His people, Exodus 31:12-17, ¹² *And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying,* ¹³ *"Speak also to the children of Israel, saying: 'Surely My Sabbaths you shall keep, for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I am the Lord who sanctifies you.* ¹⁴ *You shall keep the Sabbath, therefore, for it is holy to you. Everyone who profanes it shall surely be put to death; for whoever does any work on it, that person shall be cut off from among his people.* ¹⁵ *Work shall be done for six days, but the seventh is the Sabbath of rest, holy to the Lord. Whoever does any work on the Sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death.* ¹⁶ *Therefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations as a perpetual covenant.* ¹⁷ ***It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever; for in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He rested and was refreshed.*** " (NKJV)

Did you recognize God's special SIGN? I know that there will be those who reject the statements made here and especially concerning the scripture verse of Exodus 31:17 just above. They will make the claim that this does not apply to them because they are New Testament Christians and not "children of Israel" How foolish can you become in the falsehood that has been pulled over your eyes. If you claim to be Christian, that makes you a follower of Jesus the Christ! Jesus the Jew! Jesus the Lion of the tribe of Judah! Jesus the son of David, the son of Abraham, the son of Adam, the son of God!

Let's review a few things. First, look at a portion that the Apostle John declared concerning Jesus in the first chapter of the Gospel of John, John 1:10-13, ¹⁰ *He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.* ¹¹ *He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.* ¹² *But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:* ¹³ *who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.* (NKJV) Do you understand that verse 11 basically says that Jesus came to the Jews and they refused to accept Him as their Messiah. Verse 12 says that those who believed in Jesus were given the right to become "children of God"

This entire work was a study to have you better understand we are in the "Season of the Lord's Return." We have looked at who the Antichrist is; what is the Christian Sabbath; what are God's Ordained Feast Days; Who or what is the Beast of the Apocalypse; and, What is the Mark of the Beast.

Jesus spoke the following in Matthew 24:4-14, ⁴ *And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you.* ⁵ *For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many.* ⁶ *And 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.* ⁷ *For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places.* ⁸ *All these are the beginning of sorrows.* ⁹ *Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake.* ¹⁰ *And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another.* ¹¹ *Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.* ¹² *And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.* ¹³ *But he who endures to the end shall be saved.* ¹⁴ *And 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.* (NKJV)

The Apostle Paul spoke the following in 2nd Corinthians 11:15, ¹³ *For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ.* ¹⁴ *And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.* ¹⁵ *Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.* (NKJV)

The Apostle John coined a new word in 1st John 4:3-4. ³ *and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the **Antichrist**, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.* ⁴ *You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.* (NKJV)

Jesus, in revealing the Revelation to John provided the following for John to record in Revelation 18: 4-8, 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.**"* ⁵ *For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.* ⁶ *Render to her just as she rendered to you, and repay her double according to her works; in the cup which she has mixed, mix double for her.* ⁷ *In the measure that she glorified herself and lived luxuriously, in the same measure give her torment and sorrow; for she says in her heart, 'I sit as queen, and am no widow, and will not see sorrow.'* ⁸ *Therefore her plagues will come in one day—death and mourning and famine. And she will be utterly burned with fire, for strong is the Lord God who judges her.* (NKJV)

Here is a summary of the Beasts of Revelation:

The first great beast that comes out of the sea is a future revival of the Holy Roman Empire as a ten-nation European Union. The leader of this earthly superpower will be the final dictator of the world and called “the man of lawlessness (sin).

The second beast coming out of the earth will be the ecclesiastical ruler of that time and called “the False Prophet.” This church leader will be working in conjunction with the Beast and forcing everyone who will yield to the doctrine of this apostate church to worship the Beast. Those who do not yield to the will of this apostate church will be killed.

The apostate church will wear the title of Babylon the Great. The image of this church is that of a woman riding a dragon and called a prostitute. This church will practice many of the pagan traditions of ancient Babylon and use the name of the Roman Catholic Church. The daughters of this false church are the harlot religious denominations formed during the time of the Protestant Reformation. These titles are the blasphemy spoken against God.

I plead with all who practice the Catholic faith. If you have any desire to be with Jesus in heaven, please, listen to what the Holy Spirit has led men to write in God’s Word. You must return back to God’s Commandments and God’s Feast Days! To continue to follow the Pope’s of history and the traditions of the counterfeit church only marks you a rebel against God. 2nd Peter 3:9, ⁹ *The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, **not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*** (NKJV) Jesus can and will forgive you of all sins if you repent and accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior. No human is your spiritual “Father,” only God is “Father” and no human can stand in your place before the Father on the Day of the Lord to act as your defence attorney, Jesus can, if you have a personal relationship with Him. Remember it is your choice whether you want to be with Jesus in heaven, or if you will spend eternity with Satan in the lake of fire.

Make it a good choice!

Maranatha

I have now been writing what God has taught me over the course of the last 45 years. The books and booklets represent about 2500 letter size pages. That is equivalent to 5 reams of paper. It has taken that long to even begin to understand what God has given to me to comprehend. Now, with this work I'm attempting, with the guidance and assistance of the Holy Spirit, to pass all that accumulated knowledge to you in a condensed version.

I have one final subject to bring to your attention. If Jesus returned to earth today would He consider your church to be one of His churches? Would He even want to open the front door of your church? Would He come in to remove your church's lampstand because of unbelief?

Considered these five things Jesus' church is built upon. Now, ask yourself if your church meets these requirements.

1. Christ's church is built upon a rock. Who is that rock? If you answered Peter your answer is wrong? Let's look at Scripture, Matthew 16:15-19, ¹⁵ *He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"* ¹⁶ *Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."* ¹⁷ *Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.* ¹⁸ *And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.* ¹⁹ *And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."* (NKJV) I thought you might go to that verse for your answer. Peter is a little rock according to the statement of Jesus. John 1:42, ⁴² *And he brought him to Jesus. Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, "You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas" (which is translated, A Stone).* (NKJV) Do you see where Jesus calls Simon (Peter) a stone—not a rock. Now look at the description that Paul uses to identify who in reality is the rock. Ephesians 2:20-22, ²⁰ *having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone,* ²¹ *in whom the whole building, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord,* ²² *in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.* (NKJV) Paul declares that Jesus is the foundation and the corner stone. Jesus is the Rock the church is built upon.

2. Teach the same things Jesus taught—The Kingdom of God. Consider Mark 16:15-16, ¹⁵ *And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.* ¹⁶ *He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.* (NKJV) Please look at Mark 1:14-15, ¹⁴ *Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God,* ¹⁵ *and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."* (NKJV) Look at Luke 4:43 ⁴³ *but He said to them, "I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, because for this purpose I have been sent."* (NKJV)

3. Teach God's Laws. View Matthew 5:17-20, ¹⁷ *"Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.* ¹⁸ *For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.* ¹⁹ *Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.* ²⁰ *For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.* (NKJV) Also, Matthew 19:16-17 ¹⁶ *Now behold, one came and said to Him, "Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?"* ¹⁷ *So He said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments."* (NKJV)

4. Teach repentance of sin. Sin is rebellion against God. Review 2nd Corinthians 11:3-4, ³ *But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.* ⁴ *For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted—you may well put up with it!* (NKJV) Another way to state this is that sin is a violation of God's Commandments. 1 John 2:3-6, ³ *Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.* ⁴ *He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.* ⁵ *But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.* ⁶ *He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.* (NKJV)

5. Jesus' church will be an assembly of unity. View Ephesians 4:1-6, ¹ *I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,* ² *with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love,* ³ *endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.* ⁴ *There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling;* ⁵ *one Lord, one faith, one baptism;* ⁶ *one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.* (NKJV) Finally, Ephesians 4:11-16, ¹¹ *And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,* ¹² *for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,* ¹³ *till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;* ¹⁴ *that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,* ¹⁵ *but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—* ¹⁶ *from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.* (NKJV)

People are the church, not the building. The Kingdom of God is here and now within those who truly believe. Every Bible Believer needs to stand bravely and boldly and proclaim everything Jesus taught and not this false nonsense that man wants to teach from the influence of Satan.



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