

A painting of a watchman on a city wall. The watchman is a man with a beard and a headband, wearing a white tunic and a brown vest. He is blowing a long, wrapped horn. The background shows a sunset sky with warm orange and red tones. The wall is made of dark blue and white blocks.

A Message From

A Watchman

Rev. Charles E. Darnell, PhD

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Scripture quotations

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Throughout my works I have attempted to incorporate supporting scripture for the convenience of the reader. In doing such I may, or may not, follow the appropriate manuscript style as stated in the Fifth Edition of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (APA) or any other accepted manuscript guide. While acknowledging the authority of the APA there is a clause used in the stated manual which needs to be inserted herein:

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.

Who Rules?

Who is it that rules your life? Do you say that it is you who rules yourself? Do you say that it is your parents who rule? What about the government of your state or even the national government? Let's take this a step further. Do you say it is a church denomination that rules your life? So many questions and so many choices for an answer. Let's go all the way to the top of these choices and ask one more question. Are you following the teachings of God, or are you listening to the directions of Satan as to whom is influencing the rules over your life?

It seems that it does not matter the question being asked for there will always be at least two answers that can be given as a reply. There will always be a yes/no, up/down, right/wrong, Godly/Satanic choice which can be made to any question. Society, as a whole, has been changing, ever so slowly, to establish a new world order over all of mankind on the face of this planet.

Where are those who proclaim that they are Christian in all of the current madness? We are now in the seventh month of Israel's battle with Hamas. Every day seems to bring a new attack toward the nation of Israel, and those who proclaim to be Christian do not seem to be in sight. Where are they? I'll stand up and say, "Here I am Lord!" In my last booklet, I stated that it appears that God has made me a Watchman and I presented the tasks of a Watchman in that booklet. I must give warning to the people, danger is nearer than many would like to believe. It is my task to inform you of what is going on around the world. If I do not warn you, any person's blood who might die due to a lack of information is on my head. However, if I present the warning and you make the choice to ignore that warning, then if you die your blood is on your head and not mine.

Look around at the demonstrations being made and the chant "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free!" These words are being mouthed, in many cases, by children of Christian parents. Where is the morality? Where is the understanding of Christian teaching? Where is the truth? Truth can't even be found in the chant that is being shouted. **Israel is not fighting a war with Palestine**, nor with the Palestinian people. The current war is against a terror organization operating within the Gaza strip area and not against Palestine. If you're going to act stupid, at least get your facts correct before you open your mouth!

This entire situation, the world is currently in, is a portion of Satan's ongoing war against God. Satan hates God and anything that God has blessed, anointed or sanctified. Satan hates the Bible, it was first given to the Hebrew people through Moses during the forty years they wandered through the wilderness. Here's a fact for you from that portion of the Bible that we now call the Old Testament: The Hebrew people could have entered the Promised Land within three years of their leaving Egypt if they had kept the promised obedience to God's rules! This can be confirmed by two passages of Scripture. First, review Exodus 19:3-8, ³ *And Moses went up to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel: ⁴ 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself. ⁵ Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. ⁶ And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.'* *These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel."*

⁷ *So Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before them all these words which the Lord commanded him. ⁸ Then all the people answered together and said, "All that the Lord has spoken we will do." So Moses brought back the words of the people to the Lord. (NKJV) The second passage provides for us the consequences the Israelites brought upon themselves. We find this in Numbers 14:32-34, ³² *But as for you, your dead bodies shall fall in this wilderness. ³³ And your children shall be shepherds in the wilderness forty years and shall suffer for your faithlessness, until**

the last of your dead bodies lies in the wilderness. ³⁴ *According to the number of the days in which you spied out the land, forty days, a year for each day, you shall bear your iniquity forty years, and you shall know my displeasure.* (ESV) Let's go one better than this particular fact. If Adam had not taken any of the forbidden fruit from his wife, we don't even know the blessings that mankind might have gone through over the last 6000 years. Recall that it was Adam, the male, to whom God gave the instructions. It was up to Adam to tell these rules to his wife, Eve, and it was up to Adam to make the ultimate decision to obey or disobey. Satan did not approach Adam with his cunning statements and answers. He took his lies to the female to tempt her into performing the forbidden action. Notice that it was God's choice to have only two genders. This can be simply shown, even from the words of Christ, in Matthew 19: 4-5, ⁴ ***He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female,*** ⁵ *and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'?* (ESV) It is Satan who is behind the push to identify a multitude of genders, of which only two were created by God. It is also Yeshua whom Satan hates. Yeshua qualified to be the only victor capable of opening the seven sealed document held by God in heaven, Revelation 5:2-5, ² *Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?"* ³ *And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it.* ⁴ *So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it.* ⁵ *But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. **Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.**"* (NKJV)

Very quickly, let us establish two other important facts. The Marxist left agenda is a totalitarian ideology with the Satanic aim of destroying all things related to God. This includes all things that Christians would consider as moral, truthful and Holy to a Holy God. The second thing to consider is this game of Political Correctness. This is, once again, a cultural combat tactic of Satan to misinform and mislabel things of God as evil in lieu of being good and righteous.

Antisemitism

What in the world is going on? On October 7, 2023 early in the morning in Israel, we learned that Hamas had breached the border with Israel and murdered over 1,300 Israeli citizens. Later, we watched the television coverage of what had happened. The farming communities, within a couple of miles from the border, were entered and men and women were killed in their beds, at their breakfast table and even in their survival rooms. Pregnant women were cut open and the baby they carried was killed, children were beheaded, men and women were shot and then burned. An outdoor music festival was also attacked and many young people were either captured or killed. Most of the young women taken prisoner were raped before they even got to Gaza. The terrorist even made cell phone calls to their parents in Gaza and told how many Jews they had killed. Later on, we even learned that United Nations workers had participated in the terror attack. How can this world organization have any respect or any decency itself when its employees are a part of the terrorist attack? How do they justify the study material for children that they helped print calling for the extermination of all people of the Jewish state.

For the first week to ten days, the world stood by the side of Israel because of the horror of the incident. That was the first week or so. Then it began to change, and countries from South Africa to Venezuela were calling the actions from Israel genocide, and calling the Israelites the perpetrators who needed to be punished for the counterattack. The Government of sovereign countries around the world backed off and the table turned. Instead of Hamas being blamed and held accountable for the actions committed to Israel's people, Israel was suddenly the bad nation that had caused the attack. Somehow this whole thing got flipped. Go and ask the Palestinian people, who were employed by Israeli firms, whether they enjoyed the benefits of working in Israel? Go and speak with the young male Bedouins and ask them why they joined the IDF after this attack?

We learned that Hamas, Hezbollah, Houthis and Islamic Jihad were all supported from and by Iran. Oh yes! Iran, the home of the mullahs who hate Israel and the United States. They have funded these terrorist organizations for years. While Donald J. Trump was our President, they knew they faced a formidable foe. Therefore, they did not make any aggressive moves toward other nations, in the Middle East or otherwise. However, for the last three years, we have seen one weakened display after another from the Biden Administration. Look at the troop withdrawal from Afghanistan. The releasing of 10 Billion of sanction money back to Iran with the statements that this money can only be used for humanitarian purposes. Yeah, sure! Deceitful liars will tell you anything you want to hear!

After serving twenty-seven years in the Air Force of our nation, I learned something concerning Middle Eastern and Oriental customs and culture. To be respected, you had to take aggressive stands that were forceful enough to be taken seriously by your adversary. The adversary would respect a strong foe, especially one that showed force, but at the same time included a means for the adversary to save face and could back down gracefully. On the night of April 13-14, 2024, Iran did a sneak attack against Israel. Israel demonstrated this save face concept with great patience and no fanfare after Iran released over 300 missiles and drones toward Israel from Iranian soil. They did not use their proxies for this attack, they did it directly from inside Iran. Iran should be glad that I had nothing to do with the counterattack taken by Israel back toward Iran. I would have had two targets in mind from the moment the first missile entered Israeli air space. First, take out their nuclear facilities with bunker buster bombs or, second, fly in a stealth attack and bomb the homes of the mullahs and their top generals. It has been shown that the Iranian people themselves do not hate Israeli citizens, nor do they desire to destroy the country of Israel. That is the mindset of the leadership of Iran.

Once again, all of this that is currently going on in the Middle East is being led by Satan himself because of his great hatred against God. Christians around the world need to understand their basic

heritage and from where their knowledge of God comes from. Those Christian roots rest in the first five books of the Bible written by Moses. Yes, the Bible started out as a Jewish book with the Hebrew nation as God's selected people. If you are a New Testament believer who doesn't read or understand the Old Testament remember this, Jesus was a Jew and this is another reason why Satan hates the Jews so much. The Jews gave the world the Messiah. While we are at it, recall that it is Satan, the devil, who is the god of this world who blinds mankind from the truth of God's Word. 2 Corinthians 4:4, ***4 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*** (ESV)

Current newscasts indicate that there is public protest from the east coast to the west coast, at university after university, with a loud rant that Israel is the cause of their protest. They are all pro Gaza, pro Hamas and pro Palestine. Now, go and ask how many of these protestors are Moslem or have even been in the Middle Eastern countries? Continue the questions, and ask how many have read the entire Constitution of the United States, or even the first major speech of President George Washington about the grace from God that led him to become the President. This is nothing more than a Marxist maneuver to overthrow our way of life and "to change" this nation from a freedom loving, God fearing nation to a totalitarian Marxist state. Barak Obama made that part of his campaign rhetoric when he ran for President and his puppet, Joe Biden, has picked up that plan, and continues to follow the doctrine of changing American to this Marxist ideology. Surely both, President Obama and Biden, along with all these college students who are protesting their cause, forgot to view and understand Jesus' (Yeshua's) words in Matthew 24:4, ***4 And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you.*** (NKJV) That is the manner of presentation of Jesus' words from the New King James. Just so you understand the truth of the statement, I'm also repeating it in the English Standard Version and the New Living Translation so you may understand in the simplest of terms. Mt 24:4 (ESV), ***4 And Jesus answered them, "See that no one leads you astray.*** Mt 24:4 (NLT), ***4 Jesus told them, "Don't let anyone mislead you.*** It seems that you who are protesting have not learned that lesson. You have allowed professors and others to fill your mind with nonsense and untruths. Neither, did you understand Paul's warning to test all things to see if it was truth or a lie. Let's go back to the beginning question in this work. Who rules over you? Is it God or is it Satan? If you say that it is God and you are a New Testament believer you have been deceived! Go and look at Paul's full statement in 1 Thessalonians 5:14-22, ***14 Brothers and sisters, we urge you to warn those who are lazy. Encourage those who are timid. Take tender care of those who are weak. Be patient with everyone.***

15 See that no one pays back evil for evil, but always try to do good to each other and to all people. 16 Always be joyful. 17 Never stop praying. 18 Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.

19 Do not stifle the Holy Spirit. 20 Do not scoff at prophecies, 21 but test everything that is said. Hold on to what is good. 22 Stay away from every kind of evil. (NLT) Here is the same passage from the ESV, ***14 And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all. 15 See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone. 16 Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 19 Do not quench the Spirit. 20 Do not despise prophecies, 21 but test everything; hold fast what is good. 22 Abstain from every form of evil.***

If you claim to be a Christian, New Testament or otherwise, and you are protesting against Israel, you are no more than a fool and a liar who has been greatly deceived by Satan and his demons. Introspection is yourself inspecting both heart and soul to search out truth to see if you are really doing what you say you are. If you fail the inspection, you need to repent of what you are doing and accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior. If you feel I am being the fool, you need to go back and review that I am only a Watchman, or in other words, a messenger of God trying to get you to understand that God is very upset over mankind's actions, and just about ready to being forth His wrath against a disobedient

world. These books and booklets I write are what God sends to me to teach you His truth. These are warnings, and if you have a problem with what I write, take it up with God, not with me! Okay?

While we are at it, discussing current newscasts, let's take a look at the border situation. We know that over the past three years millions upon millions have crossed over our borders (both north with Canada and south with Mexico). Once inside our nation many have disappeared into many sanctuary cities such as New York and Chicago. We also know that thousands of Chinese infiltrators are among these individuals crossing the border. You can also expect many thousands of criminals and terrorist to be a portion of those crossing our borders. Many of these people are receiving free food, shelter, cash, medical care and even a driver license and in some places the right to vote.

The first big question is: "Who is paying for all of this extremely large burden upon our nation"? The correct answer is the American taxpayer. Americans can work from their teenage years all the way to their middle seventies, if they wish. They pay taxes every year on their earnings and must have insurance to cover sickness, home owner damage and auto accident coverage. Why should this be our burden, we did not ask for an open border, nor did we openly ask anyone from a foreign nation to cross over our border illegally. It seems to me that those of the Democratic political party see this as some means to insure votes will be cast for them and they can retain their government job. I really thought that the national government politicians took an oath to uphold the laws of the United States and to defend our Constitution. That has most assuredly been violated. Why in the world have we had an Army and a Navy to defend this nation since the beginning of our country in 1776 and now allow this invasion across our border to occur?

Christians may have a desire to see what the Bible says about the sojourner among us. There seems to be two Biblical answers to this question. The first pertains to the feast called Passover. We find this in Exodus 12:43-49. ⁴³ *And the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "This is the ordinance of the Passover: No foreigner shall eat it. ⁴⁴ But every man's servant who is bought for money, when you have circumcised him, then he may eat it. ⁴⁵ A sojourner and a hired servant shall not eat it. ⁴⁶ In one house it shall be eaten; you shall not carry any of the flesh outside the house, nor shall you break one of its bones. ⁴⁷ All the congregation of Israel shall keep it. ⁴⁸ And when a stranger dwells with you and wants to keep the Passover to the LORD, let all his males be circumcised, and then let him come near and keep it; and he shall be as a native of the land. For no uncircumcised person shall eat it. ⁴⁹ **One law shall be for the native-born and for the stranger who dwells among you.**" (ESV) The second passage does not pertain specifically to Passover but does have a similar answer. We find this in Numbers 15:15-16. ¹⁵ *For the assembly, there shall be one statute for you and for the stranger who sojourns with you, a statute forever throughout your generations. You and the sojourner shall be alike before the Lord. ¹⁶ **One law and one rule shall be for you and for the stranger who sojourns with you.**" (ESV) Therefore, it is the obligation of our government to establish the law of the land and the responsibility is upon the alien to learn and live by our laws. Of course, the ultimate obligation is upon every citizen of this land to live by the Commandments of God. That means all ten of those rules.**

We must, of necessity, also look at the special prosecutors, judges, lawyers, media outlets and special action committees all over this land to observe, identify and weed out those who are playing a game of political correctness with the lives of every American. So help me, the Constitution of this nation established that our government was: "Of the people, by the people and for the people!" Something got dropped, or removed, someplace along the way. The statement now seems to be: "Of the dictator, for the dictator and by the dictator!" There is more and more surveillance each and every day. Along with the surveillance there is more and more control over the lives of all citizens. Once again I ask: Why?

The remainder of this book will attempt to present to you the highlights of Bible verses in both the Old and New Testaments. In many situations, I will refer to either a book or a booklet that I have already written to provide you with more detailed information.

Highlights of the Bible

It would seem to me that there is a definite direction that I must take, and right after the beginning of this, I face the first question that demands an answer. Is there any truth to the statement that man evolved from something. My first answer must be: No! Man did not evolve from something. However, let's look at ancient history and what we know from Biblical text. In the first chapter of Genesis, we have God creating all things. This is presented in a day-to-day manner of creation. We must look at the facts. Fact: Godly belief states that mankind, from Adam and Eve, until today was over a period very close to 6,000 years. Ancient history will establish another fact. Biped humanoids have existed on this planet for many thousands of years beyond this number of 6,000. How do we resolve the difference? There are many people who are only going to believe that mankind evolved under the Darwin explanation. There are many others who are only going to believe the presentation given in Chapter 2 of the book of Genesis, beginning with the creation of Adam, first man, and Eve, first woman.

How long is a day to God? We really do not know. Even the Apostle Peter stated that a day was as a thousand years and a thousand years was as a day. We find this recorded in 2 Peter 3:8-9, ⁸ ***But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.*** ⁹ *The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.* (ESV) Since there is no statement in Genesis, other than the day-to-day creation of God, as recorded, we do not have an absolute answer. However, there is a clue toward a truthful answer. Look in Chapter 1 of Genesis. The first verse establishes that, ¹ *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.* (NKJV) Therefore, God spoke things into existence from what appears as nothing. There is an interesting statement made by Job in chapter 26, verse 7. ⁷ *He stretches out the north over empty space; He hangs the earth on nothing.* (NKJV) Job understood God's creative ability. He knew in his heart that God could stretch out empty space to place all the firmaments of the cosmos in their places where He desired to set them. That is one of the reasons that we are able to have full solar eclipse such as we had on April 8, 2024. God established the ratio of size and distance to allow the appearance of the moon's shadow to completely block out the sun's light as we observe it on the earth's surface. Another way of thinking about this is that God can take nothing, make it into something, and hang that something on nothing. Think about it!

Here is my explanation. Chapter 1, verses 26-31 contains a different viewpoint. ²⁶ *Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."* ²⁷ *So **God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.*** ²⁸ *Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "**Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.**"*

²⁹ *And God said, "See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food." ³⁰ Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is life, I have given every green herb for food"; and it was so. ³¹ Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. **So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.** (NKJV) Notice first, the usage of the identifying noun *Us*. This identifies the Trinity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Next, please notice the statement that **God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.** Notice, just as in verse 1, there is no indication in any manner of dating when God did this. Notice also that, He instructed these created beings to **Be fruitful and***

multiply. Once again, notice that they are to have dominion over the earth and the other creatures of God's creation. Finally, take full consideration, that at that time, God created both male and female of this species. Since there are no dates as to when this happened, why can't we accept God at His word, and that this did happen in a historical time prior to the forming of the special man. There are those who believe that there was a history in a pre-Adamic time. Cave drawings and foot prints in dried mud formations should prove that biped humanoids were on the earth long before God formed Adam and Eve. The statements made in Chapter 2 differ from Chapter 1. Many, who accept an unchangeable view of Chapter 2, state that Chapter 2 is only the individual steps on how God created the first man, Adam.

Let's continue with my viewpoint. In Chapter 2, verse 7, we observe the following statement.⁷ *And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.* (NKJV) Notice that the identifier is the *Lord God*, not *Us* as used in Chapter 1. Also notice, that *the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.* Notice that this single man was formed and not created. It is my viewpoint that God created Adam to be God's special man, to know His ways and to teach God's rules to those who were created in Chapter 1. God did not find a suitable helpmeet for His special man, so He formed woman from this specially formed man.

There is one more passage that I have in my viewpoint presentation. Turn over to Chapter 4 and review verse 17.¹⁷ *And Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch. And he built a city, and called the name of the city after the name of his son, Enoch.* (NKJV) Here is my question. Where did Cain get his wife? Notice in verse 16, that Cain moved from his family unit.¹⁶ *Then Cain went out from the presence of the Lord and dwelt in the land of Nod on the east of Eden.* (NKJV) Cain must have gotten his wife from the people living in Nod. I say this because there is no mention of Adam and Eve having daughters up to this point. Yes! Adam and Eve did have others sons and daughters, but I do not believe that God would establish marriage between one man and one woman (Chapter 2, verse 24) and the list of unlawful sexual relations that are given through Moses in Leviticus, Chapter 18. Why would God permit this act in Genesis and turn around and call it an abomination in Leviticus? That just doesn't sound like a just and fair God to me. God did create other biped humanoids, and that is where both Cain and Seth got their wives. While we are at it, I stated that marriage was between one man and one woman. This was established by God, Himself. Notice, in Chapter 4, verse 18, that Lamech took two wives. This violated God's instruction of one man and one woman. That statement does not mean only one at a time. It means the simple uniting of one single pair, a man and a woman. Lamech is the fourth generation in Cain's genealogy lineage.

There is one other item to briefly mention. Notice that there are two different genealogies given in Chapters 4 and 5 of Genesis. More will be addressed on this subject shortly. Let's go back to the actual tempting of this first married couple. There were two trees in the Garden, metaphorically the Tree of Life was a preincarnate visit of Yeshua (Jesus) to the Garden. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil was a metaphor for Satan. When we turn over to Chapter 3, we find the tempting discussion between Satan and Eve. There are many things to discuss in this Chapter. Each individual involved in this transaction has a curse placed upon them. The first one to be cursed is Satan. Notice verse 15,¹⁵ *And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.*" (NKJV) Did you understand that God placed enmity between Satan's seed and Eve's seed. Let's understand what this truly says. Satan's seed will be named Cain and Eve's seed will be named Abel. Adam's seed will be named Seth, and this will not take place until Chapter 5, verse 3.³ *And Adam lived one hundred and thirty years, and begot a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth.* (NKJV) Notice, in verse 3. that Seth, is of the likeness and image of Adam. Now, back to our discussion in Chapter 3. The second individual to receive a curse is Eve. Eve's specific curse is in verse 16,¹⁶ *To the woman He said: "I will greatly*

multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you.” (NKJV) Because of the wording in the New King James, I am also providing the same verse from the New Living Translation, ¹⁶ *Then he said to the woman, “I will sharpen the pain of your pregnancy, and in pain you will give birth. And you will desire to control your husband, but he will rule over you.”* (NLT) Here is my question: Where and why did we suddenly have seed, pregnancy, childbirth, and pain brought into this discussion between God, Satan, Adam and Eve, over what many would say was the eating of an apple? There is no apple tree mentioned in this entire discussion. The forbidden fruit has got to be carnal knowledge between these three, prior to God coming into the Garden, on that fateful day! Now, the last person to receive a curse was Adam. His part of the curse is recorded in verses 17-19. ¹⁷ *Then to Adam He said, “Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat of it’: “Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life. ¹⁸ Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field. ¹⁹ In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return.”* (NKJV) In similar manner, I am including the same verses from the New Living Translation. ¹⁷ *And to the man he said, “Since you listened to your wife and ate from the tree whose fruit I commanded you not to eat, the ground is cursed because of you. All your life you will struggle to scratch a living from it. ¹⁸ It will grow thorns and thistles for you, though you will eat of its grains. ¹⁹ By the sweat of your brow will you have food to eat until you return to the ground from which you were made. For you were made from dust, and to dust you will return.”* (NLT)

Chapter 4 begins with the birth of Cain and Abel. I do believe that they are the first set of twins mentioned in the Bible. Notice the wording in verses 1-2, ¹ *Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, “I have acquired a man from the Lord.” ² Then she bore again, this time his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.* (NKJV)

Now, if this is not the case, please explain how all of this happened? I have taken years and years to study the wording of the first five Chapters of Genesis and what they are really indicating. Even with what we have already viewed, please consider one more item in the history of the specially formed man. Notice that there are two different genealogies given in Chapters 4 and 5. In Chapter 4, we find the genealogy of Cain, and in Chapter 5, we find the genealogy of Seth. If Cain and Seth have the same father, why do they have different genealogies? It is my belief, from God’s text that, the father of Cain is Satan and the father of Abel is Adam. They are born as twins and Cain should hold the birthright because of being born first. Yet, we never have the term birthright mentioned. Taking that a little further, and reviewing Chapter 5, we find the birth of Seth, created in the image of his father, Adam, but never stated as the birthright holder. We have to assume that God intended for Abel to be the original birthright holder, however, Cain killed his brother, Abel. Seth became the inherited birthright holder. We will see many changes as to whom is holding the birthright in several different Biblical families.

I wrote a book entitled, *What Satan Doesn’t Want You to Know — The Answers for Those Who Search for Truth*. This book is on my website at www.vqpub.org under the tab “Our Books” and listed as *Genesis*. All of my material is in PDF file format and you may download any item for free. I only ask that you respect my copyrights. In that book, just mentioned above, I ask questions for each chapter in Genesis. The second section provides the answers to those questions directly from the Bible verses. The third, and final, section gives a commentary of the question and answer sequence. If you really would like to understand Genesis, go ahead and read the questions and answer the questions. Remember, there is a discussion section in the back of the book that gives my thoughts on each chapter of Genesis.

We have gone through the creation process of God and the forming of the special man and woman. We then went through the “fall from grace” as this couple disobeyed God’s instructions and were forced to leave the Garden and move to the land of Nod. We are now following the lineage of

Seth. The next story I'd like to tell you about is the story of the flood of Noah. As we begin this story, we have two items that should be of interest to all reading this work. First, in the lineage of Seth, we find Methuselah listed as the grandfather of Noah. Secondly, God witnessed the wickedness of mankind and finally made a decision to destroy mankind from off the face of the earth. We see this recorded in Genesis Chapter 6, verses 5-7. ⁵ *The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.* ⁶ *And the Lord was sorry that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart.* ⁷ *So the Lord said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them."* (ESV) There is a reason that mankind remains on the earth to this day. Look at the next verse, verse 8. ⁸ *But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.* (ESV)

Look around you today. Do you see a spirit of Godliness or do you see a Satanic influence present on college campuses across this great land that is crying out for the destruction of Israel and a victory to a terrorist organization? Can you, for even a moment, understand why God wanted to cleanse the earth of mankind and all the creatures that God had created? Remember, Satan is the god of this world. One place, we find this recorded, is in 2 Corinthians 4:4. ⁴ *In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.* (ESV) We can also get the jest of this in 2 Corinthians 11:14. ¹⁴ *And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.* (ESV) We read, in Genesis Chapter 6, verses 5-7 above, that the earth was full of wickedness and He was sad that He had created all living things, and was just about ready to destroy everything He had created.

Even so, we read in verse 8 that Noah found favor with the Lord. There is a lengthy instruction that God gave to Noah in verses 9-22. These verses are important and are fully included here. ⁹ *These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God.* ¹⁰ *And Noah had three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.*

¹¹ *Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence.* ¹² *And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth.* ¹³ *And God said to Noah, "I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence through them. Behold, I will destroy them with the earth.* ¹⁴ *Make yourself an ark of gopher wood. Make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and out with pitch.* ¹⁵ *This is how you are to make it: the length of the ark 300 cubits, its breadth 50 cubits, and its height 30 cubits.* ¹⁶ *Make a roof for the ark, and finish it to a cubit above, and set the door of the ark in its side. Make it with lower, second, and third decks.* ¹⁷ *For behold, I will bring a flood of waters upon the earth to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life under heaven. Everything that is on the earth shall die.* ¹⁸ ***But I will establish my covenant with you,** and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you.* ¹⁹ *And of every living thing of all flesh, you shall bring two of every sort into the ark to keep them alive with you. They shall be male and female.* ²⁰ *Of the birds according to their kinds, and of the animals according to their kinds, of every creeping thing of the ground, according to its kind, two of every sort shall come in to you to keep them alive.* ²¹ *Also take with you every sort of food that is eaten, and store it up. It shall serve as food for you and for them."* ²² *Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him.* (ESV)

We continue in Chapter 7, with Noah and his family group of eight living souls preparing the ark for the flood. We find the specific details for the number of clean and unclean animals and birds in the first five verses of Chapter 7. ¹ *Then the Lord said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you are righteous before me in this generation.* ² *Take with you seven pairs of all clean animals, the male and his mate, and a pair of the animals that are not clean, the male and his mate.* ³ *and seven pairs of the birds of the heavens also, male and female, to keep their offspring alive on the face of all the earth.* ⁴ *For in seven days I will send rain on the earth forty days and forty*

nights, and every living thing that I have made I will blot out from the face of the ground.” ⁵ *And Noah did all that the Lord had commanded him.* (ESV) There are two items of which we need to be aware. First, notice that the written record differs from the Bible story we heard in Sunday School class. In the church story, we heard that there were two by two of every creature that was taken into the ark. The Bible record states that there were seven pairs of all clean animals and all species of birds. There are only a single pair of the unclean animals on the ark. The second item, we need to be aware of, is the statement in verse 4 that God would release the flood in seven days. Why did God wait for seven days to release the flood? The answer goes back to my statement on the previous page pertaining to Methuselah. God was waiting for Methuselah to die prior to the coming of the flood. Methuselah was the resistance, or the holding element, that was holding the flood from coming. God respected the faith of Methuselah, and when he died God waited for seven days before the flood came. This was the traditional time of mourning for the Hebrew tribes.

After the waters of the flood receded, there were special items stated by God to Noah and his sons and their wives. In Chapter 8, verses 20-22, ²⁰ *Then Noah built an altar to the Lord and took some of every clean animal and some of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar.* ²¹ *And when the Lord smelled the pleasing aroma, the Lord said in his heart, “I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the intention of man’s heart is evil from his youth. Neither will I ever again strike down every living creature as I have done.”* ²² *While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.”* (ESV) God, because of His ability to know all things, understood and even stated that *the intention of man’s heart is evil from his youth.* Notice also, that as long as the earth exists, that the cycles of day and night and summer and winter will not cease.

The covenant that God established with Noah continues into Chapter 9. It is interesting to me what God gives to mankind, and the change that is made between the animal kingdom and mankind. Up to this point it appears that mankind and animals still intermingled without fear of each other. Now, with Chapter 9, verses 2-5, we see a different perspective. ² *The fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth and upon every bird of the heavens, upon everything that creeps on the ground and all the fish of the sea. Into your hand they are delivered.* ³ *Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. And as I gave you the green plants, I give you everything.* ⁴ *But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood.* ⁵ *And for your lifeblood I will require a reckoning: from every beast I will require it and from man. From his fellow man I will require a reckoning for the life of man.* (ESV) Up to this point in time, mankind was not given meat to be a part of his diet. We could eat the fruit of the seed bearing trees, and the first change also permitted the addition of the grains of the field. Now with this second change, we also receive the ability to add meat to our diet. I have another booklet available on my website that gives much more information on the blood. There appears to be two different life forces functioning within mankind. First, there is the blood. Without blood in the body, there is no mortal life. We also need the breath to function as a mortal being, however, you can still have breath alone and have an immortal spirit being. Spirit beings without blood are unable to repent and seek forgiveness. That is why Satan and his demons cannot repent and be forgiven of their disobedience! Go to my website, www.vqpub.org and click on the tab “Our Booklets!” Find the book entitled, *By the Blood God Will Either Praise or Avenge!* Click on “More Info” and on the short summary page go to “Download Here” and click there to download the book. Once again, my material is in PDF file format and available for free download.

Just as a quick statement, look at almost the same wording in Chapter 9, verses 1 and 7. ¹ *And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.”* ⁷ *And you, be fruitful and multiply, teem on the earth and multiply in it.”* (ESV)

Chapter 9 holds a very significant promise from God that every person should understand and respect. We find the actual covenant, that God made with Noah and all mankind, in the verses from 8-17. ⁸ *Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹ “Behold, I establish my covenant with you and your offspring after you, ¹⁰ and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the livestock, and every beast of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark; it is for every beast of the earth. ¹¹ **I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.** ¹² And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³ I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴ When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵ I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh. And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶ When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” ¹⁷ **God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”** (ESV)*

Let’s look at these verses carefully. Wasn’t this a covenant between God and mankind for all the generations from Noah and his sons onward, or till the end of time as we know it? Didn’t this covenant also include all the animal kinds that were on the ark? I really need to ask one more question: What was it that caused Lucifer to transition from being a Morning Star angel to Satan, the devil? Wasn’t it PRIDE that caused his fall from grace? Now, add the statement from Chapter 8, verse 20. *“I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the intention of man’s heart is evil from his youth.* Now, let’s bring us up to today and look around at what is happening. Hasn’t the evil intent of man’s heart pushed mankind into atrocious disobedience toward improper pagan sexual activities, and hasn’t this group confiscated the sign of God’s covenant and claimed it to be their sign? What is it they call their movement? Isn’t it PRIDE? And in God’s sight, it will be their PRIDE, just like Satan’s, that will cause their downfall. I have written about many subjects over the period of the last thirty years. One booklet that is available on my website is entitled, *God’s Full Circle*. That booklet explains how mankind has gone from worship of pagan gods, through the overcoming of wickedness by Yeshua, and now back to a resurgence of the pagan gods of old. Go to my website, www.vqpub.org and click on the tab “Our Booklets!” From the dropdown menu select *God’s Full Circle*.

There are vast numbers of people who have never taken the time to read the Old Testament. Some claim to be New Testament believers and the laws, rules and instructions in the Old Testament do not need to be read, understood nor honored. Sorry, but even the statement from Jesus (Yeshua) would very quickly correct that idea. Look at Jesus’ words in Matthew, Chapter 5 and verses 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)

Doesn’t the LGBTQ+ crowd practice sexual activities that are pagan in nature? Haven’t they picked up the influences of Satan and his demons? Doesn’t God’s Holy Word call their practices an abomination? Does this group really believe in their heart that they are following what Jesus (Yashua) said in verse 20, just above? ²⁰ **For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.** Do you really think you are above the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees of Jesus’ time? I really don’t think so, and

I really believe that you need to view your personal life situation and where is it that you think you will spend eternity?

Time to move forward. The next item to discuss in Genesis is the story of Abram who becomes the friend of God, and his name is changed to Abraham. We find the story of Abraham in Chapter 12. We did not go through the table of nations, the descendants of Noah's sons, and how they spread out over what we now call the Middle East. Since we did not go through those names, we bypassed the name of Abram's father, Terah. In Chapter 12, verses 1-3, we learn how God instructed Abram to travel to a different land. Here are those three verses. ¹ *Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ² And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you **all the families of the earth shall be blessed.**"* (ESV) We find two truths in verse three. The first truth remains through the passage of time to today, and the statement applies to Israel, God's Promised Land. That statement is, *I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse.* We normally see this verse phrased slightly different. Here is verse 3 from the New King James, ³ *I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.*" (NKJV) The blessing, upon all the families of the earth, is referring to Yeshua (Jesus) as the Messiah.

On this journey that God sent Abram, there were other individuals that traveled with Abram. There was Abram's father, Terah, Abram's wife, Sarai, and Terah's grandson, or Abram's nephew, Lot. Their first stop was at Haran, presently located in southern Turkey. They remained at Haran until Terah died. The reason Abram did not continue, his God appointed travel, was because of the respect for his father. As long as Terah was alive, Abram followed the directions of his earthly father. When Terah died, he became the leader of this group and could go where God was directing him.

So, the second leg of their journey led them from Haran to Canaan. Lot and Abram both had very large flocks and herds, and it was difficult for the land to support them both. Abram told Lot to pick whichever direction he wanted to go, and Abram would go in the opposite direction. Lot chose the Jordan Valley, in the direction of Zoar, this was before God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.

There is an interesting article to this story given in the passage of Chapter 13, verses 14-18. ¹⁴ *And the Lord said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him: "Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are—northward, southward, eastward, and westward; ¹⁵ for **all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever.** ¹⁶ And **I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth;** so that if a man could number the dust of the earth, then your descendants also could be numbered. ¹⁷ Arise, walk in the land through its length and its width, for I give it to you." ¹⁸ Then Abram moved his tent, and went and dwelt by the terebinth trees of Mamre, which are in **Hebron**, and built an altar there to the Lord.* (NKJV) There are three things that we find in this passage. First, God gave Abram, and his descendants forever, all the land to the north, south, east and west that he, Abram, could view in his sight, and from where he stood. God also told Abram that the magnitude of his descendants would be as plentiful as the dust on the ground. The third thing was that Abram moved to Hebron. Interesting, today we find Hebron occupied by Palestinians in the West Bank. I'm sorry, even with all the anti-Semitic hate speech across the many universities of the United States, **Hebron belongs to Israel.** It was given to Israel by God, and I assure you that God will keep His promise to His people. Hebron will once again be part of Israel. Granted, it may not happen until the reign of Christ for the thousand years, but it will happen!

In Chapter 14, we see a group of five kings doing battle against four kings in verse 9, ⁹ *with Chedorlaomer king of Elam, Tidal king of Goiim, Amraphel king of Shinar, and Arioch king of Ellasar, **four kings against five.*** (ESV) In verse 12, we learn that these kings took Lot and all his possessions. ¹² *They also took Lot, the son of Abram's brother, who was dwelling in Sodom, **and his possessions,** and*

went their way. (ESV) We find the actions of Abram against this situation in verses 14-16,¹⁴ *When Abram heard that his kinsman had been taken captive, he led forth his trained men, born in his house, 318 of them, and went in pursuit as far as Dan.*¹⁵ *And he divided his forces against them by night, he and his servants, and defeated them and pursued them to Hobah, north of Damascus.*¹⁶ *Then he brought back all the possessions, and also brought back his kinsman Lot with his possessions, and the women and the people.* (ESV) After his victory and the return of Lot to his area, Abram meets Melchizedek, king of Salem and a priest of God Most High, verses 18-20. ¹⁸ *And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. (He was priest of God Most High.)*¹⁹ *And he blessed him and said, "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; ²⁰ and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand!"* **And Abram gave him a tenth of everything.** (ESV) Please understand the last sentence in verse 20. This verse does not state that Abram went back to his land in Hebron and that he took a tenth of his flocks, a tenth of his herds, a tenth of his gold, a tenth of his silver, a tenth of his men servants and a tenth of his female servants and gave them to Melchizedek as the priest of the Most High God. What this says is that Abram gave Melchizedek a tenth of the spoil from this battle. There are many pastors and priest who use this verse to instruct you. They incorrectly teach you that you are required to offer a tithe of your income and all that you possess to God, through the church, as an offering. That is not the case! A tithe is ten percent of what you have gained as a blessing from God. Period!

There is another interesting statement God made to Abram in Chapter 15. Please look in your Bible to see what verses 18-21 of Chapter 15 read. I will still place the verses here but I do ask that you confirm these verses in your own Bible. ¹⁸ *On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, "**To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates,***¹⁹ *the land of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites,*²⁰ *the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim,*²¹ *the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites and the Jebusites."* (ESV) God told Abram in Chapter 13 that He was giving Abram all the land he could see to the north, south, east and west. Now, God has made a covenant with Abram to give his descendants the land from the Nile (river of Egypt) to the Euphrates River. That takes up a lot more land than the land mass of present day Israel.

These protestors who are now screaming "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free!" have no idea what God has said and are only mimicking what Satan desires as his domain. It will never be that way! Anyone who thinks differently needs to do some serious reading of God's Word to see what the Most High God has declared!

There is one other item that was contained in Chapter 15. The passage of Scripture between verses 13-16 foretells, for Abram, that the Hebrew people, his descendants, will be enslaved by the Egyptians for four hundred years, also stated as the fourth generation. Here is that passage, ¹³ *Then the Lord said to Abram, "Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years.*¹⁴ *But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions.*¹⁵ *As for yourself, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age.*¹⁶ *And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.*" (ESV) It appears that God was doing two things at the time of Abram. First, Abram had found righteousness with God, and God was foretelling Abram the blessing over all the earth that would be a result of his righteousness before God. Second, God was granting time for the Amorites to repent and change their sinful, idolatrous worship of idols. They never did repent and God brought judgment on them.

Chapter 16 begins with the story of Sarai and Hagar. Since Sarai had been barren, she brought her Egyptian servant, Hagar, to Abram. Sarai told him she might be able to obtain children by Hagar. Hagar conceives and looks on Sarai with contempt. Sarai didn't like the contempt and dealt harshly with Hagar, and Hagar fled from Sarai. This story now changes somewhat. We find Hagar in the

wilderness and she is visited by an angel of the Lord. In verses 9-12, we find the instruction the angel gave to Hagar including the type of person she would have as a son. Here are those verses, ⁹ *The angel of the Lord said to her, "Return to your mistress and submit to her."* ¹⁰ *The angel of the Lord also said to her, "I will surely multiply your offspring so that they cannot be numbered for multitude."* ¹¹ *And the angel of the Lord said to her, "Behold, you are pregnant and shall bear a son. You shall call his name Ishmael, because the Lord has listened to your affliction."* **He shall be a wild donkey of a man, his hand against everyone and everyone's hand against him, and he shall dwell over against all his kinsmen.** (ESV) We shall see this last statement repeated in Chapter 25, verses 17-18.

Let's consider several things that are stated here. Verse 10 indicates that, Ishmael will be multiplied into a great multitude. The first assignment I received from God when I started writing was *The Adam and Eve Family Free*. This is a 60 by 40 inch chart covering the 75 generations from Adam and Eve to Yeshua (Jesus). It contains over 1500 individuals, and the family groups are identified along with a reference verse. Since Ishmael is the first born son of Abram, you will find him on this chart. At the same time you will not find Ishmael as the birthright holder. That designation will belong to Isaac, the only promised son of Abram and Sarai. Ishmael is the forefather of the Moslem world and that portion of humanity worships Allah as their God. It is sometimes confusing to understand that there are three religions that come from the loins of Abram. They are Jewish, Christian and Moslem. All three of their basic holy books identify Abraham (Ibrahim). I also researched the names to prepare a chart for Muhammad. Both charts are available on my website, www.vqpub.org, select the tab "Our Charts".

Chapter 17 brings us three important statements to understand. The first is the name change that God makes with Abram and Sarai. This is completed in two different verses. Abram's name is changed to Abraham in verse 5. ⁵ *No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations.* (ESV) Sarai's name is changed to Sarah in verse 15. ¹⁵ *And God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name."* (ESV) The second item to review is the covenant of circumcision as stated in verses 12-14. ¹² *He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised. Every male throughout your generations, whether born in your house or bought with your money from any foreigner who is not of your offspring,* ¹³ *both he who is born in your house and he who is bought with your money, shall surely be circumcised. So shall my covenant be in your flesh an everlasting covenant.* ¹⁴ *Any uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin shall be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant."* (ESV) The third item, found in Chapter 17, is the foretelling of the birth of Isaac. We find this in the passage from 16-17. ¹⁶ *I will bless her, and moreover, I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall become nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."* ¹⁷ *Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed and said to himself, "Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?"* (ESV) God answered Abraham in verse 19. ¹⁹ *God said, "No, but Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his offspring after him."* (ESV) With this verse, we have the promise from God that Isaac is to be the covenant or birthright holder.

In Chapter 18, we have the most unusual visit from the heavenly realm to Abraham. It says, in verse 2, ² *He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing in front of him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth.* (ESV) Of these three men, it is thought that two were angels, as indicated in the first verse of Chapter 19, and the other was Jesus (the Lord) in human form (long prior to His birth at Bethany). Abraham has Sarah prepare cakes and one of Abraham's young men prepares a calf. Abraham serves these three, and we see the Lord and two angels eating what Abraham had prepared for them. After their meal, and as they prepared to travel on to Sodom, the Lord questioned Himself. Should He tell Abraham what He was about to do? We find the Lord's answer in verses 20-21. ²⁰ *Then the Lord said, "Because the outcry against Sodom*

and Gomorrah is great and their sin is very grave, ²¹ I will go down to see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me. And if not, I will know.” (ESV) There is a reason that this is stated in the manner that it is. I hope that anyone reading this knows that an oath or truth is established on the statement of two or three witnesses. In this case, the Lord has already heard the outcry, through prayer. The two angels are to verify and confirm the works and manners of those living in Sodom and Gomorrah as the prayers have requested. If found to be true, destruction will occur, if otherwise, these cities will be spared. Abraham intercedes for the cities and speaks to the Lord. Abraham questioned with God to have the number of righteous people in these cities to be only ten righteous to save the cities. We see God’s answer in verse 32b. *“For the sake of ten I will not destroy it.”*

In Chapter 19, we find the two angels arriving at the gate to the city of Sodom. Lot, Abraham’s nephew, greeted the two and asked them to (verse 2a), *Please turn aside to you servants’s house and spend the night and wash your feet. Then you may rise up early and go on your way.* (ESV) The two angels asked Lot, the next morning, to go to anyone else he had in that city and get them out, because they were sent to destroy the city and could not do such until Lot was gone from there. If you looked at the request made by Abraham pertaining to righteous people in Sodom, and those at Lot’s house, Lot must have had three other daughters who were married. I say this because, Abraham interceded for ten people. Surely, he was thinking about Lot, his wife, the two unmarried daughters and three married daughters and their husbands. That would have made a total of ten people. The sons-in-law thought Lot was jesting. Therefore, only four people left and the city was destroyed. We also know, in verse 26, that Lot’s wife looked back and was turned into a pillar of salt.

The last portion, of Chapter 19, gives us another story surrounding Abraham and his nephew Lot. Lot is found camped out in a cave above the city of Zoar with his two daughters. These two daughters must have thought that the earth had been destroyed, and not just Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities on the plain. The older said to the younger in verses 31-32, ³¹ *And the firstborn said to the younger, “Our father is old, and there is not a man on earth to come in to us after the manner of all the earth.”* ³² *Come, let us make our father drink wine, and we will lie with him, that we may preserve offspring from our father.”* (ESV) Both daughters become pregnant, and the older daughter named her son, Moab, and the younger named her son, Ben-Ammi, father of the Ammonites.

Do you recall the statement made in Chapter 16, pertaining to Ishmael in verse 12? Here it is again. ¹² *He shall be a wild donkey of a man, his hand against everyone and everyone’s hand against him, and he shall dwell over against all his kinsmen.*” (ESV) Here is the truth! The Hagarites, the Ishmaelites, the Moabites, the Ammonites and the Edomites are all cousins to the Jews.

In Chapter 21, we find the birth of Abraham’s true offspring, Isaac. In verse 4, we learned that Abraham circumcised Isaac on the eighth day as God had instructed. When Isaac was weaned, Ishmael made fun of him, and Sarah demanded that Abraham send Hagar and Ishmael away. Reluctantly, Abraham did this, and once again the Lord heard Hagar, consoled her and the boy, and God kept His promise toward Ishmael.

Chapter 22 gives us the story of the sacrifice of Isaac. In many ways, this is a terrible Chapter. We understand that God is testing Abraham. I present the 19 verses in full to tell this story from God’s Word. ¹ *After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here am I.”* ² *He said, “Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.”* ³ *So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him.* ⁴ *On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar.* ⁵ *Then Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you.”* ⁶ *And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in*

his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. ⁷ And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here am I, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" ⁸ Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together.

⁹ When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰ Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. ¹¹ But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here am I." ¹² He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." ¹³ And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴ So Abraham called the name of that place, "The Lord will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided."

¹⁵ And the angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven 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." ¹⁹ So Abraham returned to his young men, and they arose and went together to Beersheba. And Abraham lived at Beersheba. (ESV) Every person who claims to be a Christian should understand this passage of Scripture. Abraham did not withhold his son Isaac from God's request. Later on, God did not withhold His Son Jesus as a sacrifice for the redemption of sin on behalf of everyone who accepts Christ as Lord and Savior.

Chapter 23 tells us of the death of Sarah at the age of 127, and that Abraham bought the cave of Machpelah, east of Mamre (that is Hebron), as a place he could bury his dead. To this day, this burial place is known at Hebron and there were many in Abraham's family buried there.

Chapter 24 presents the story of how Abraham obtained a wife for Isaac. Abraham had a servant swear that he would return to the area of Abraham's kin in Haran, and find a wife for Isaac from among Abraham's clan. This was done and Rebekah accepted the invitation to become Isaac's wife. Once again, in the manner of relationships, Rebekah was Isaac's 2nd cousin. In Chapter 11:27-29, we learn, ²⁷ Now these are the generations of Terah. Terah fathered Abram, Nahor, and Haran; and Haran fathered Lot. ²⁸ Haran died in the presence of his father Terah in the land of his kindred, in Ur of the Chaldeans. ²⁹ And Abram and Nahor took wives. The name of Abram's wife was Sarai, and the name of Nahor's wife, Milcah, the daughter of Haran the father of Milcah and Iscah. (ESV) Chapter 24:15, 47 informs us of the offspring of Nahor. ¹⁵ Before he had finished speaking, behold, Rebekah, who was born to Bethuel the son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother, came out with her water jar on her shoulder. (ESV) ⁴⁷ Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the ring on her nose and the bracelets on her arms. (ESV) There is a question within the story of Isaac. In today's society, would Isaac be considered a mama's boy? I ask this for two reasons. First, it was Abraham that was making a lot of decisions for Isaac. It was Abraham that had the servant swear that he would travel back to the area of Abraham's kin to find a wife for Isaac. Through the leading of God's hand upon that servant, Rebekah was identified as the perfect wife for Isaac. The second reason, and most amazing statement, is the last verse in Chapter 24, verse 67. ⁶⁷ Then Isaac brought her into the tent of Sarah his mother and took Rebekah, and she became his wife, and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death. (ESV) Why would Isaac marry Rebekah in his mother's tent and not in his father's tent? Did Isaac even have a tent of his own?

Chapter 25 tells us more about Abraham, his death and the transition to the next generation, Isaac and Rebekah. This Chapter begins with Abraham marrying a second time, after Sarah's death to Keturah. Remember that Abraham is over 100 years old. We see that his new wife Keturah gives birth to six additional sons. In verses 5-6, we learn the following. ⁵ *Abraham gave all he had to Isaac.* ⁶ *But to the sons of his concubines Abraham gave gifts, and while he was still living he sent them away from his son Isaac, eastward to the east country.* (ESV) In verse 7, we learn how old Abraham was when he died. We also learned that both Isaac and Ishmael buried their father. The story is contained in the verses from 7-11. ⁷ *These are the days of the years of Abraham's life, 175 years.* ⁸ *Abraham breathed his last and died in a good old age, an old man and full of years, and was gathered to his people.* ⁹ *Isaac and Ishmael his sons buried him in the cave of Machpelah, in the field of Ephron the son of Zohar the Hittite, east of Mamre,* ¹⁰ *the field that Abraham purchased from the Hittites. There Abraham was buried, with Sarah his wife.* ¹¹ *After the death of Abraham, God blessed Isaac his son. And Isaac settled at Beer-lahai-roi.* (ESV) In the portion between verse 12 and verse 18, we learn the names of Ishmael's twelve sons. To fully illustrate what God had promised to Hagar, concerning Ishmael, consider this fact. Ishmael had twelve male children and one female. Isaac was the same generation as Ishmael. Isaac and Rebekah had the twins Esau and Jacob. Esau sold his birthright to Jacob. Jacob's name was changed to Israel, and he had twelve male children and one daughter. God set things in motion so that both the Ishmaelites and the Israelites would begin their generations with the identical number of offspring. Both would have a large number of descendants. In verse 17, we learn the age of Ishmael when he died. ¹⁷ *(These are the years of the life of Ishmael: 137 years. He breathed his last and died, and was gathered to his people.)* (ESV) Verse 18 informs us where the Ishmaelites settled. ¹⁸ *They settled from Havilah to Shur, which is opposite Egypt in the direction of Assyria. **He settled over against all his kinsmen.*** (ESV) Haven't we seen this statement previously concerning Ishmael?

In verse 20, we learn that Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah. Verse 21 tells us that Rebekah was barren and after much prayer from Isaac, Rebekah conceived. Verses 22 and 23 give us an explanation of what was happening to Rebekah. ²² *The children struggled together within her, and she said, "If it is thus, why is this happening to me?" So she went to inquire of the Lord.* ²³ *And the Lord said to her, "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the older shall serve the younger."* (ESV) In verse 26, we find out that Isaac and Rebekah waited for twenty years to have a child, however, as a result twins were born. To get this length of time, text records the age of Isaac at the birth of the boys as sixty (verse 26b), and Isaac was forty when he married (verse 20).

We learn the traits of each son in verses, 27-28, ²⁷ *When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, dwelling in tents.* ²⁸ *Isaac loved Esau because he ate of his game, but Rebekah loved Jacob.* (ESV) There remains one more item in Chapter 25. In the verses from 29-34, we are informed of the means that Jacob used to obtain Esau's birthright. ²⁹ *Once when Jacob was cooking stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was exhausted.* ³⁰ *And Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stew, for I am exhausted!" (Therefore his name was called Edom.)* ³¹ *Jacob said, "Sell me your birthright now."* ³² *Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?"* ³³ *Jacob said, "Swear to me now." So he swore to him and sold his birthright to Jacob.* ³⁴ *Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.* (ESV)

At the early part of this review of the book of Genesis, I said there would be many places along the way that we would see the transfer of the birthright from the oldest offspring to one of the younger siblings. We saw this after Adam and Eve were expelled from the Garden, (1) righteous Seth over sinful Cain, to the sons of Abraham, (2) Ishmael and Isaac, exchanging their Godly covenant order. Now we arrive at the very next generation and we see the older brother, (3) Esau, selling his birthright to his

younger brother, Jacob (Israel), for something to eat. I guess a person could be that hungry to become so foolish as to sell their birthright for something to eat. This will not be the last time we observe how God makes selections as to whom is to take the lead in the desires of Almighty God. God does have a master plan and He placed everything, from the end, back to the beginning. He knows the appointed time, place and the associated individuals to transact through things at their appointed time.

Genesis contains fifty Chapters. We have now completed our review of twenty-five of these Chapters. We are half way through our study of Genesis. I can only pray that you have learned some new facts because of our review. Now for the second half of our study.

Chapter 26, We understand, from the beginning of this Chapter, that there is a famine in the land. God tells Isaac in verses 4-5, *⁴ I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and will give to your offspring all these lands. And in your offspring all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, ⁵ because Abraham obeyed my voice and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws.*” (ESV) Chapter 26 also informs us of the agreement made between King Abimelech and Isaac. There were some things that were deceptive on Isaac’s part and other things that were deceptive on the part of Abimelech’s herdsmen. God blessed Isaac, and he and Rebekah finally settled in Beersheba. The final statement, in Chapter 26, is made in verses 34-35. *³⁴ When Esau was forty years old, he took Judith the daughter of Beeri the Hittite to be his wife, and Basemath the daughter of Elon the Hittite, ³⁵ and they made life bitter for Isaac and Rebekah.* (ESV)

Chapter 27 presents to us a deceitful action within a family. We are still dealing with Isaac and Rebekah’s family. We know, from Chapter 25:28, that Isaac favored Esau and Rebekah favored Jacob. We also know, from Chapter 25:33, that Esau sold his birthright to Jacob. But, what is this deception that we are speaking about in Chapter 27? This begins with Isaac speaking to Esau and telling him that he is old, and that he would like to have a meal of delicious game that Esau prepared for his father on occasion. Esau left the house to hunt for the game. Now, Rebekah had overheard this conversation, and she instructs Jacob to go and get two young goats, bring them to her, and she would prepare the goats as delicious food that Isaac liked. Jacob objected because he would not be able to confuse his father into believing that he was Esau. Once again, Rebekah told Jacob what to do to be able to fool a near blind father into providing his blessing upon Jacob and not Esau. All of this preparation was completed, and Jacob took the meal to his father and presented it to Isaac in order to receive his blessing. Jacob completed his task and received his father’s blessing. Shortly after leaving his father, Esau comes with the meal that he has prepared for his father. Isaac is confused, because he has already eaten and given his blessing to another, unbeknownst, to Jacob. Esau is mentally hurt by this and wept. Isaac managed to create another blessing just for Esau. We find this blessing for Esau in verses 39-40. *³⁹ Then Isaac his father answered and said to him: “Behold, away from the fatness of the earth shall your dwelling be, and away from the dew of heaven on high. ⁴⁰ By your sword you shall live, and you shall serve your brother; but when you grow restless you shall break his yoke from your neck.”* (ESV) The interesting portion of this blessing lies in verse 40. Notice that it is stated that Esau shall serve his brother. However, the remainder of this verse is a release or way out of this servitude toward Jacob. When Esau gets strong enough or brave enough to go against his brother, he will break the yoke on his neck. Notice one other thing. It is stated that Esau shall serve Jacob. This was stated to Rebekah by God, in Chapter 25:23, after Rebekah had inquired of the Lord the reason for the turmoil inside her womb. Here is that verse again, *²³ And the Lord said to her, “Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the older shall serve the younger.”* (ESV) Esau was angry because of what had happened. We learn, in verse 41, what he held in his heart for Jacob. *⁴¹ Now Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing with which his father had blessed him, and Esau said to himself, “The days of mourning for my father are approaching; then I will kill my brother Jacob.”* (ESV) Rebekah learns of this statement by Esau and calls Jacob to herself. She instructed

Jacob that he really needed to go to his uncle Laban's house in Haran, stay there until Esau had calmed down, and then it would be safe for Jacob to return home. Rebekah completes her deception upon Isaac with the statement in verse 46. ⁴⁶ *Then Rebekah said to Isaac, "I loathe my life because of the Hittite women. If Jacob marries one of the Hittite women like these, one of the women of the land, what good will my life be to me?"* (ESV)

We close out Chapter 27 with these words from Rebekah to Isaac. We open Chapter 28 with Isaac calling Jacob to instruct him to go to his uncle Laban's house in Haran, and to marry one of his daughters, but not to marry a Canaanite woman. We read this in verses 28:1-5. ¹ *Then Isaac called Jacob and blessed him and directed him, "You must not take a wife from the Canaanite women. ² Arise, go to Paddan-aram to the house of Bethuel your mother's father, and take as your wife from there one of the daughters of Laban your mother's brother. ³ God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful and multiply you, that you may become a company of peoples. ⁴ May he give the blessing of Abraham to you and to your offspring with you, that you may take possession of the land of your sojournings that God gave to Abraham!" ⁵ Thus Isaac sent Jacob away. And he went to Paddan-aram, to Laban, the son of Bethuel the Aramean, the brother of Rebekah, Jacob's and Esau's mother.* (ESV)

On this occasion, Esau overheard the conversation and reacted. What he did is recorded in Chapter 28, verses 6-9. ⁶ *Now Esau saw that Isaac had blessed Jacob and sent him away to Paddan-aram to take a wife from there, and that as he blessed him he directed him, "You must not take a wife from the Canaanite women," ⁷ and that Jacob had obeyed his father and his mother and gone to Paddan-aram. ⁸ So when Esau saw that the Canaanite women did not please Isaac his father, ⁹ Esau went to Ishmael (his father's brother, Esau's uncle) and took as his wife, besides the wives he had, Mahalath (his cousin) the daughter of Ishmael, Abraham's son, the sister of Nebaioth.* (ESV)

The remainder of Chapter 28 contains one of the most significant passages in the entire Bible. We find Jacob on his journey toward Haran, and as night surrounded Jacob, he slept. We find the entire story in the verses from 10-22. ¹⁰ *Jacob left Beersheba and went toward Haran. ¹¹ And he came to a certain place and stayed there that night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place to sleep. ¹² And he dreamed, and behold, there was a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven. And behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it! ¹³ And behold, the Lord stood above it and said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring. ¹⁴ Your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed. ¹⁵ Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." ¹⁶ Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it." ¹⁷ And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."*

¹⁸ *So early in the morning **Jacob took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it.** ¹⁹ He called the name of that place Bethel, but the name of the city was Luz at the first. ²⁰ Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat and clothing to wear, ²¹ so that I come again to my father's house in peace, then the Lord shall be my God, ²² and this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God's house. And of all that you give me I will give a full tenth to you."* (ESV) I have underlined many parts of this passage. First, Jacob set a stone as his pillow for the night. Second, there was a ladder between earth and heaven. Third, God spoke to Jacob in his dream to give Jacob a promise, the covenant blessing promise that He had given to Abraham and to Isaac before him. Fourth, Jacob calls the place, and the stone, the house of God, Bethel. Fifth, in the morning Jacob set the stone up as a pillar and anointed it with oil, significant of the Holy Spirit. Finally, number six, Jacob made a promise

to God to give him a full tenth, a tithe, to God. This is the true tithe, it is to be a tenth of the blessing received from God. It is not a tenth of everything that you own.

Chapter 29, begins when Jacob met Rachel, at the well, as the flocks are watered. There are greetings exchanged and Rachel runs to tell her father, Laban, about meeting Jacob. Laban runs to meet Jacob, and Jacob is invited to the house of Laban. After a month with Laban, Laban asked Jacob if he would work for him and what should his wages be. Jacob tells Laban that he would work for him for seven years for his daughter, Rachel. Laban agrees and time passes. At the end of seven years, Jacob goes to Laban and tells him that his time is completed, and he would like to have his wife. Laban arranges a large feast and invites all the people of that area. Jacob is married and he goes in to her. The next morning he is greeted by his new wife, Leah. Jacob goes to Laban and demands to know why he had deceived him, and gave him Leah instead of Rachel. Laban tells Jacob that it is the custom of the people of that area that the older daughters are married before the younger. Jacob is not happy, but he agrees to be with Leah for her week, and then he would work for Laban for another seven years for Rachel. At the end of this week, Laban gave Rachel to Jacob as a wife. Each of these two daughters was given a female servant by their father Laban.

What we find in the children of Jacob is that all four of these women produced children. Of the thirteen children that Jacob fathered, Leah provided Jacob with six sons and his only daughter. Bilhah produced two, Zilpah produced two and Rachel produced two. That is a total of thirteen children. In order to see some of the children of Jacob, we had to cross over into Chapter 30. In verse 25, of Chapter 30, we find that, once Joseph was born, Jacob went to Laban and he asked Laban to allow him to leave and return to the land of Jacob's father. Laban admitted that through divination (an ancient pagan practice of fortune-telling) he learned that he had been blessed because of Jacob overseeing his flocks. Laban did not desire to have any changes made in the agreements between himself and Jacob. Jacob made an offer to Laban that day that he would divide the flocks, and all the unblemished sheep and goats would be Laban's, the spotted, striped or speckled would be Jacob's. Jacob moved three days journey away from Laban and his flocks so there would be no mixing of the two. What Laban didn't know was that an angel had visited Jacob. The angel had shown him to take strips of wood that were spotted or striped and place them before the rams as they mated, and the offspring would be blemished with spots or stripes. Jacob increased in prosperity by following God's instructions from the angel.

In Chapter 31, we learn that, because of the increase in Jacob's holdings, the sons of Laban, and even Laban, no longer regarded Jacob with favor. The Lord told to Jacob to return to his father's land and He would be with him. Jacob did as God instructed and fled from the presence of Laban, however, Jacob did not know that Rachel had stolen her father's household gods. After three days, Laban was told that Jacob had fled and he and his sons gave chase. God spoke to Laban, the night before he caught up with Jacob, and warned him not to say anything to Jacob either good or bad. The next day Laban caught up with Jacob and he questioned him as to why he had fled in secret. Jacob told him that he was afraid that he, Laban, would take away his wives by force. Laban also questioned Jacob as to why he had stolen his household gods. Jacob told Laban to search for them and, if found, that person would die. Jacob, once again, did not know that Rachel had stolen her father's household gods. Laban searched, and to hide her secret, Rachel sat on the camel saddle bag that the household gods were in. She told her father that she could not get up because the way of women was upon her. Afterward, Jacob and Laban established a covenant between themselves to not go past the heap and pillar set up at this location, to do harm to the other. Jacob and Laban went their own way the next day.

Chapter 32 finds Jacob preparing to meet his brother Esau, after being away from the family for twenty years. While Jacob had been gone from his father's house for these twenty years, he, Jacob, still did not know how Esau would greet him. He was somewhat afraid. He devised a plan to divide his family, and flocks, into two different groups, and to send presents to Esau long before the families

appeared. The drovers did as Jacob instructed them. One messenger returned and told Jacob that Esau was coming to meet him, and he had 400 men with him. Poor Jacob, he didn't know what to think about this news. Was Esau still mad? Would Esau attack and harm anyone of the divided family groups? Only time would tell, and Jacob spent the night alone. During the night he wrestled, I suppose in a dream, with a man, until the dawning of the next morning. When this person saw that he could not prevail against Jacob, He touched his hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint. The man demanded Jacob let him go, but Jacob would not, and asked the man his name. The man asked his name and Jacob said "Jacob". The man said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed."

In Chapter 33, Esau and Israel (his name was changed from Jacob) met one another. Esau was greatly surprised by the manner of presentation of the wives, children and servants of Israel. Esau continued to desire to help his brother return to Canaan. Israel was still unsure of Esau's mind set and went to the city of Shechem, instead of following Esau to Seir.

Chapter 34 is not filled with only good news, there is another story here. Recall that Israel had a daughter, Dinah, born to Leah. She was most likely in her late teens. The prince of the city of Shechem, also named Shechem, saw her, seized her, laid with her and humiliated her. Israel heard what had happened but held his peace until his sons were back from being with the livestock in the fields. When Israel's sons heard what had happened, they were indignant and very angry. Now, Hamor pleaded with them to allow his son, Shechem, to marry Dinah. Their answer was, verses 34:14-17, ¹⁴ *They said to them, "We cannot do this thing, to give our sister to one who is uncircumcised, for that would be a disgrace to us. ¹⁵ Only on this condition will we agree with you—that you will become as we are by every male among you being circumcised. ¹⁶ Then we will give our daughters to you, and we will take your daughters to ourselves, and we will dwell with you and become one people. ¹⁷ But if you will not listen to us and be circumcised, then we will take our daughter, and we will be gone."* (ESV) On the third day, after all the men of the city were circumcised, Simeon and Levi took their swords and killed every male of the city. All the sons of Israel came upon the city and plundered it, taking the women and the children along with all the flocks and herds.

This leads us to the next Chapter, Chapter 35. God, once again, visits Israel (Jacob) and tells him to take everyone with him, journey to Bethel and dwell there. In verses 2-4 of this Chapter, Israel said the following to his household and those who were with him, ² *"Put away the foreign gods that are among you, purify yourselves, and change your garments. ³ Then let us arise and go up to Bethel; and I will make an altar there to God, who answered me in the day of my distress and has been with me in the way which I have gone."* ⁴ *So they gave Jacob all the foreign gods which were in their hands, and the earrings which were in their ears; and Jacob hid them under the terebinth tree which was by Shechem.* (NKJV) In verses 9-15, we find the confirmation that God changed Jacob's name to Israel. There are a couple of other things, in these verses, which I will discuss after inserting the verses themselves. ⁹ *God appeared to Jacob again, when he came from Paddan-aram, and blessed him. ¹⁰ And God said to him, "Your name is Jacob; no longer shall your name be called Jacob, but Israel shall be your name." So he called his name Israel. ¹¹ And God said to him, "**I am God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply. A nation and a company of nations shall come from you, and kings shall come from your own body.** ¹² **The land that I gave to Abraham and Isaac I will give to you, and I will give the land to your offspring after you.**" ¹³ Then God went up from him in the place where he had spoken with him. ¹⁴ And Jacob set up a pillar in the place where he had spoken with him, a pillar of stone. He poured out a drink offering on it and poured oil on it. ¹⁵ So Jacob called the name of the place where God had spoken with him Bethel.* (ESV) I would like to address two different items in this passage. First, look at verse 11. Notice what God said. **"I am God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply. A nation and a company of nations shall come from you, and kings shall come from your own body."** Notice the second

sentence. What I am about to write will not be accepted by the majority of those who call themselves “Christians”. This verse is a prelude, or prophecy, pertaining to history and the revealing of things to come at a future time. This sentence foretells of England and America as a part of the land of Israel in the end times. Look at God’s statement. “A nation (America) and a company of nations (The British Empire) shall come from you, and kings (both in the house of Israel and the house of Judah) shall come from your own body. We will connect this back to the nation of Israel before we complete the study of Genesis.

We are still in Chapter 35. We find some sad, and maybe some important information at the same time. In verses 16-20, we learn of the birth of Israel’s last son and the death of his mother, as a result of childbirth. ¹⁶ *Then they journeyed from Bethel. When they were still some distance from Ephrath, Rachel went into labor, and she had hard labor.* ¹⁷ *And when her labor was at its hardest, the midwife said to her, “Do not fear, for you have another son.”* ¹⁸ *And as her soul was departing (for she was dying), she called his name Ben-oni; but his father called him Benjamin.* ¹⁹ *So Rachel died, and she was buried on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem),* ²⁰ *and Jacob set up a pillar over her tomb. It is the pillar of Rachel’s tomb, which is there to this day.* (ESV) It is always a sad fact when we learn that a mother has died in childbirth. The next statement seems to be completely out of place. Look at verse 22. ²² *While Israel lived in that land, Reuben went and lay with Bilhah his father’s concubine. And Israel heard of it.*

Now the sons of Jacob were twelve. (ESV) We will also see this statement later in our story in Genesis. The verses between 23 and 26 give us a good list of the sons of Israel and who their mother’s were. ²³ *The sons of Leah: Reuben (Jacob’s firstborn), Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, and Zebulun.* ²⁴ *The sons of Rachel: Joseph and Benjamin.* ²⁵ *The sons of Bilhah, Rachel’s servant: Dan and Naphtali.* ²⁶ *The sons of Zilpah, Leah’s servant: Gad and Asher. These were the sons of Jacob who were born to him in Paddan-aram.* (ESV) Note: I would not say that Benjamin was born in Paddan-aram, instead Ephrath (Bethlehem) as stated in verse 18 of this Chapter. There is one other fact we need to make note of in this passage. Please make a mental note that Joseph is identified in verse 24 of Chapter 35. From this point to the end of Chapter 50, most of these Chapters will be the story of one person, Joseph.

Now, before we complete Chapter 35, we learn of the death of Isaac, and that Esau and Israel (Jacob) buried their father. Verses 27-29, ²⁷ *And Jacob came to his father Isaac at Mamre, or Kiriath-arba (that is, Hebron), where Abraham and Isaac had sojourned.* ²⁸ *Now the days of Isaac were 180 years.* ²⁹ *And Isaac breathed his last, and he died and was gathered to his people, old and full of days. And his sons Esau and Jacob buried him.* (ESV)

Chapter 36 provides a detailed list of the sons of Esau and their down lines. If you care to read this genealogy, take your Bible and review Chapter 36. Otherwise, I’m going forward to Chapter 37.

Chapter 37 gives us two of Joseph’s dreams, and makes a statement concerning Israel’s love for Joseph, his first born son by Rachel. Our first passage is verses 2-8. ² *These are the generations of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was pasturing the flock with his brothers. He was a boy with the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father’s wives. And Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father.* ³ *Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his sons, because he was the son of his old age. And he made him a robe of many colors.* ⁴ *But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peacefully to him.*

⁵ *Now Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers they hated him even more.* ⁶ *He said to them, “Hear this dream that I have dreamed: ⁷ Behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and behold, my sheaf arose and stood upright. And behold, your sheaves gathered around it and bowed down to my sheaf.”* ⁸ *His brothers said to him, “Are you indeed to reign over us? Or are you indeed to rule over us?”* *So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words.* (ESV)

Joseph had a second dream, and he told this dream to his father and his brothers. The dream is given in verses 9-11. ⁹ *Then he dreamed another dream and told it to his brothers and said, “Behold, I*

have dreamed another dream. Behold, the sun, the moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to me.”¹⁰ But when he told it to his father and to his brothers, his father rebuked him and said to him, “What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall I and your mother and your brothers indeed come to bow ourselves to the ground before you?”¹¹ And his brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the saying in mind. (ESV)

After Joseph tells this second dream, we learn more of the story concerning Joseph. We know from previous text that Israel loved Joseph strongly, that the other brothers are jealous of Joseph, and also that Israel had made Joseph a coat of many colors. In our reading of Chapter 37, we learn of what Joseph’s brothers did to him to have their problem go away. Verses 12-17 gives us the beginning of this part of Joseph’s story. Here are those verses.¹² Now his brothers went to pasture their father’s flock near Shechem.¹³ And Israel said to Joseph, “Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them.” And he said to him, “Here I am.”¹⁴ So he said to him, “Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock, and bring me word.” So he sent him from the Valley of Hebron, and he came to Shechem.¹⁵ And a man found him wandering in the fields. And the man asked him, “What are you seeking?”¹⁶ “I am seeking my brothers,” he said. “Tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock.”¹⁷ And the man said, “They have gone away, for I heard them say, ‘Let us go to Dothan.’” So Joseph went after his brothers and found them at Dothan. (ESV) Joseph’s brothers saw Joseph coming. I suppose they knew it was Joseph because of the coat of many colors he was wearing. Verses 18-24 informs us of the plan the brothers hatched against Joseph.¹⁸ They saw him from afar, and before he came near to them they conspired against him to kill him.¹⁹ They said to one another, “Here comes this dreamer.²⁰ Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits. Then we will say that a fierce animal has devoured him, and we will see what will become of his dreams.”²¹ But when Reuben heard it, he rescued him out of their hands, saying, “Let us not take his life.”²² And Reuben said to them, “Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but do not lay a hand on him”— that he might rescue him out of their hand to restore him to his father.²³ So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the robe of many colors that he wore.²⁴ And they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it. (ESV) Once Joseph was stripped of his outer garment and placed in the pit, the brothers sat down to eat. We find out what they did next in verses 25-28.²⁵ Then they sat down to eat. And looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels bearing gum, balm, and myrrh, on their way to carry it down to Egypt.²⁶ Then Judah said to his brothers, “What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood?²⁷ Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and let not our hand be upon him, for he is our brother, our own flesh.” And his brothers listened to him.²⁸ Then Midianite traders passed by. And they drew Joseph up and lifted him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver. They took Joseph to Egypt. (ESV) So, with these verses, we learn that Joseph was sold into slavery and taken to Egypt. The story in Chapter 37 is not finished, yet. Recall that Reuben, Israel’s first born, making him the oldest of all the brothers, had rescued Joseph in verses 21-22, above. Notice that there is no discussion between Reuben and the other brothers, especially Judah in verse 26. There is an obvious question here, where was Reuben while the brothers were having something to eat? We learn part of this, pertaining to Reuben, in the verses from 29-36. We also learn in these verses what the brothers did to present a story to their father, Israel. Finally, we learn what happened to Joseph after arriving in Egypt. Here are the remaining verses of Chapter 37.²⁹ When Reuben returned to the pit and saw that Joseph was not in the pit, he tore his clothes³⁰ and returned to his brothers and said, “The boy is gone, and I, where shall I go?”³¹ Then they took Joseph’s robe and slaughtered a goat and dipped the robe in the blood.³² And they sent the robe of many colors and brought it to their father and said, “This we have found; please identify whether it is your son’s robe or not.”³³ And he identified it and said, “It is my son’s robe. A fierce animal has devoured him. Joseph is without doubt torn to pieces.”³⁴ Then Jacob

tore his garments and put sackcloth on his loins and mourned for his son many days. ³⁵ *All his sons and all his daughters rose up to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted and said, “No, I shall go down to Sheol to my son, mourning.” Thus his father wept for him.* ³⁶ *Meanwhile the Midianites had sold him in Egypt to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the guard.* (ESV) We know that Joseph is alive and well, even if he is now a slave, in Egypt.

Chapter 38 appears to be a sidebar story that doesn't relate to the current story of Joseph. Please bear with me as we go through the remainder of the book of Genesis. The story in Chapter 38 will become part of the connections that I am attempting to show to you, my readers. The beginning of Chapter 38 indicates, that at about the same time as this incident with Joseph's coat, there is another story with Judah. Let's examine this story in Chapter 38. Verses 1-5 tells of Judah having three sons. ¹ *It happened at that time that Judah went down from his brothers and turned aside to a certain Adullamite, whose name was Hirah.* ² *There Judah saw the daughter of a certain Canaanite whose name was Shua. He took her and went in to her,* ³ *and she conceived and bore a son, and he called his name Er.* ⁴ *She conceived again and bore a son, and she called his name Onan.* ⁵ *Yet again she bore a son, and she called his name Shelah. Judah was in Chezib when she bore him.* (ESV) I must admit that there is a speeded up time factor in this story. In these first five verses, we have the birth of three sons. Reasoning would tell us that, most likely, this would be over the course of at least three years. The verses between 6 and 11 play with time even more than the time factor of the birth of the three sons. Notice that Judah takes (selects) a wife for his first son, Er, in verse 6. Er is wicked in the sight of the Lord and Er dies. Judah tells his second son, Onan, to go into Er's wife and “perform the duty of a brother-in-law to her”. Onan is also wicked in his actions and the Lord caused him to also die. There is another question that should be asked. What are the ages of these three brothers? It would appear that there is at least one year between each son as stated above. More important is the ages between the second and third son. I state this because Judah tells his daughter-in-law, Tamar, to remain a widow in her father's house until Shelah, the third son, grows up. We find all of this retold in the verses from 6-11. ⁶ *And Judah took a wife for Er his firstborn, and her name was Tamar.* ⁷ *But Er, Judah's firstborn, was wicked in the sight of the Lord, and the Lord put him to death.* ⁸ *Then Judah said to Onan, “Go in to your brother's wife and perform the duty of a brother-in-law to her, and raise up offspring for your brother.”* ⁹ *But Onan knew that the offspring would not be his. So whenever he went in to his brother's wife he would waste the semen on the ground, so as not to give offspring to his brother.* ¹⁰ *And what he did was wicked in the sight of the Lord, and he put him to death also.* ¹¹ *Then Judah said to Tamar his daughter-in-law, “Remain a widow in your father's house, till Shelah my son grows up”—for he feared that he would die, like his brothers. So Tamar went and remained in her father's house.* (ESV)

In the verses between 12 and 19, we have some interesting facts presented. First, we learn that Judah's wife died, and after some time Judah was comforted and went to Timnah to shear his sheep. Tamar was told what Judah was going to do and she quickly changed from her widow clothes, covered herself with a veil and sat at the entrance to Enaim, which is on the road to Timnah. This is recorded in verse 14, along with the statement that she saw that Shelah was grown up and she had not been given to Shelah as his wife. When Judah saw her, he thought she was a prostitute. There were words exchanged between the two and Tamar allowed Judah to come into her in exchange for his signet, cord and staff, which were a pledge that he would send her a young goat from the flock. Remember she was covered with a veil, and Judah did not know that it was Tamar with whom he was dealing. From this union, Tamar conceived, and afterwards she returned to her father's house and put on her widow garments. Here are those verses, ¹² *In the course of time the wife of Judah, Shua's daughter, died. When Judah was comforted, he went up to Timnah to his sheepshearers, he and his friend Hirah the Adullamite.* ¹³ *And when Tamar was told, “Your father-in-law is going up to Timnah to shear his sheep,”* ¹⁴ *she took off her widow's garments and covered herself with a veil, wrapping herself up, and sat at the entrance*

to Enaim, which is on the road to Timnah. For she saw that Shelah was grown up, and she had not been given to him in marriage. ¹⁵ When Judah saw her, he thought she was a prostitute, for she had covered her face. ¹⁶ He turned to her at the roadside and said, “Come, let me come in to you,” for he did not know that she was his daughter-in-law. She said, “What will you give me, that you may come in to me?” ¹⁷ He answered, “I will send you a young goat from the flock.” And she said, “If you give me a pledge, until you send it—” ¹⁸ He said, “What pledge shall I give you?” She replied, “Your signet and your cord and your staff that is in your hand.” So he gave them to her and went in to her, and she conceived by him. ¹⁹ Then she arose and went away, and taking off her veil she put on the garments of her widowhood. (ESV)

When Judah got home, he prepared to send the woman the young goat by his friend the Adullamite to take back the pledge. When his friend got to Enaim, he could not find the woman and he asked the men of that place where she was. He was told that there was no prostitute at that location. Judah’s friend returned to Judah and told him what had happened. Judah said, “let her keep the pledge.” We are told by Scripture this portion of the story in verses 20-23. ²⁰ When Judah sent the young goat by his friend the Adullamite to take back the pledge from the woman’s hand, he did not find her. ²¹ And he asked the men of the place, “Where is the cult prostitute who was at Enaim at the roadside?” And they said, “No cult prostitute has been here.” ²² So he returned to Judah and said, “I have not found her. Also, the men of the place said, ‘No cult prostitute has been here.’” ²³ And Judah replied, “Let her keep the things as her own, or we shall be laughed at. You see, I sent this young goat, and you did not find her.” (ESV)

About three months later, Judah was told that Tamar was pregnant. Judah said to bring Tamar out and burn her. Tamar showed a particular signet, cord and staff, and said she was pregnant by the owner of those three items. She wanted them identified and claimed. Judah had to admit that the items were his, and that he had not given Tamar to his son Shelah. We find these words in verses 24-26. ²⁴ About three months later Judah was told, “Tamar your daughter-in-law has been immoral. Moreover, she is pregnant by immorality.” And Judah said, “Bring her out, and let her be burned.” ²⁵ As she was being brought out, she sent word to her father-in-law, “By the man to whom these belong, I am pregnant.” And she said, “Please identify whose these are, the signet and the cord and the staff.” ²⁶ Then Judah identified them and said, “She is more righteous than I, since I did not give her to my son Shelah.” And he did not know her again. (ESV)

The final portion of Chapter 38 relates to the birth of Tamar’s children. I say children instead of child because Tamar was carrying twins. In this birth process, we have a strange twist. While in labor, one of the twins stuck out a hand. Unusual, but the midwife declared that the babe who stuck out the hand had opened the birth canal, and she placed a red thread on the bare hand. The hand disappeared and the other child is delivered. This child is named Perez, and afterward his brother is delivered and named Zerah. This portion of the story is given in the verses between 27-30. ²⁷ When the time of her labor came, there were twins in her womb. ²⁸ And when she was in labor, one put out a hand, and the midwife took and tied a scarlet thread on his hand, saying, “This one came out first.” ²⁹ But as he drew back his hand, behold, his brother came out. And she said, “What a breach you have made for yourself!” Therefore his name was called Perez. ³⁰ Afterward his brother came out with the scarlet thread on his hand, and his name was called Zerah. (ESV) To most people, the birth of Tamar’s twins means nothing to them. They do not see connections to other stories in the book of Genesis. I assure you, there is much to say about this birth of twins. However, this is not the time to show you the connection. Please set this story down in your memory bank, for later recall. It will be most revealing when you learn the answer.

Chapter 39 reverts back to the story of Joseph. We left Joseph in Egypt as a slave to be sold by the Ishmaelite traders. A man named Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the guard had bought Joseph, and God caused Joseph to be very successful in all that he did. Potiphar was so pleased

with Joseph that he placed him in charge of his entire house and all that he had. Verses 1-6 records this part of the story. ¹ *Now Joseph had been brought down to Egypt, and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the guard, an Egyptian, had bought him from the Ishmaelites who had brought him down there.* ² *The Lord was with Joseph, and he became a successful man, and he was in the house of his Egyptian master.* ³ *His master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord caused all that he did to succeed in his hands.* ⁴ *So Joseph found favor in his sight and attended him, and he made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all that he had.* ⁵ *From the time that he made him overseer in his house and over all that he had the Lord blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; the blessing of the Lord was on all that he had, in house and field.* ⁶ *So he left all that he had in Joseph's charge, and because of him he had no concern about anything but the food he ate.*

Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance. (ESV) That seems to be a strange place to break the thought and end the verse. It is the verses from 7 through the end of this Chapter, with verse 23, that we find Joseph being lied about by Potiphar's wife, and Joseph ends up in prison because of false charges. But, text confirms that God was with Joseph, and he was placed in charge over the prison and what was done there. Verses 19-23 confirms these facts. ¹⁹ *As soon as his master heard the words that his wife spoke to him, "This is the way your servant treated me," his anger was kindled.* ²⁰ *And Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined, and he was there in prison.* ²¹ *But the Lord was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison.* ²² *And the keeper of the prison put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners who were in the prison. Whatever was done there, he was the one who did it.* ²³ *The keeper of the prison paid no attention to anything that was in Joseph's charge, because the Lord was with him. And whatever he did, the Lord made it succeed.* (ESV)

While in prison Joseph was placed with Pharaoh's chief cupbearer and chief baker. These two men had committed an offense against the king and were placed in prison. One morning these two seemed troubled, and Joseph asked them why they were downcast. They told Joseph that they had dreamed the night before, and there was no one to interpret their dream. Joseph asked each man to tell him their dream, and the cupbearer told his first. Joseph told the cupbearer that in three days the king would restore him to his previous position. And he asked the cupbearer to remember him to Pharaoh. The baker was pleased to hear the report given to the cupbearer, and he told his dream to Joseph. Joseph told the baker that in three days the king would hang him. You can read the full story of both men in Chapter 40.

Chapter 41 starts with the statement that two years later Pharaoh had a dream and he was troubled over it. Pharaoh called for the magicians and wise men of Egypt to interpret the dream, but there were none who could interpret the dream. It was then that the chief cupbearer remembered Joseph and told the story pertaining to the dream that he and the chief baker had, and that Joseph interpreted the dreams accurately. Pharaoh was impressed and called for Joseph to be brought before him. Joseph was cleaned up and made presentable to be before the king, and was taken to Pharaoh. Pharaoh said he had heard about him, and that he could interpret dreams. Joseph answered and said, "It is not in me, God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer." Pharaoh tells Joseph the dream and Joseph gives him the interpretation. Joseph continues, and makes the following statement to Pharaoh in verses 33-36. ³³ *Now therefore let Pharaoh select a discerning and wise man, and set him over the land of Egypt.* ³⁴ *Let Pharaoh proceed to appoint overseers over the land and take one-fifth of the produce of the land of Egypt during the seven plentiful years.* ³⁵ *And let them gather all the food of these good years that are coming and store up grain under the authority of Pharaoh for food in the cities, and let them keep it.* ³⁶ *That food shall be a reserve for the land against the seven years of famine that are to occur in the land of Egypt, so that the land may not perish through the famine.* (ESV)

Pharaoh was so impressed with the suggestion that he asked all his servants, who were present around the throne, the following in verses 37-45. ³⁷ *This proposal pleased Pharaoh and all his servants.* ³⁸ *And Pharaoh said to his servants, "Can we find a man like this, in whom is the Spirit of God?"* ³⁹ *Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has shown you all this, there is none so discerning and wise as you are.* ⁴⁰ *You shall be over my house, and all my people shall order themselves as you command. Only as regards the throne will I be greater than you."* ⁴¹ *And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt."* ⁴² *Then Pharaoh took his signet ring from his hand and put it on Joseph's hand, and clothed him in garments of fine linen and put a gold chain about his neck.* ⁴³ *And he made him ride in his second chariot. And they called out before him, "Bow the knee!" Thus he set him over all the land of Egypt.* ⁴⁴ *Moreover, Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I am Pharaoh, and without your consent no one shall lift up hand or foot in all the land of Egypt."* ⁴⁵ *And Pharaoh called Joseph's name Zaphenath-paneah. And he gave him in marriage Asenath, the daughter of Potiphera priest of On. So Joseph went out over the land of Egypt.* (ESV) We still have much to learn about Joseph, as well as how much of his story connects back to the foretelling of the bondage of the Hebrew people that was told by God to Abraham. At the same time, there is so much to learn about the future of the people of the country of Israel and their descendants. At the moment, we are seeing the blessing and the promises that God gave to Joseph. In the verses from 46 through 49, we see the actions that Joseph took to gather the grain during the years of plenty. ⁴⁶ *Joseph was thirty years old when he entered the service of Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh and went through all the land of Egypt.* ⁴⁷ *During the seven plentiful years the earth produced abundantly,* ⁴⁸ *and he gathered up all the food of these seven years, which occurred in the land of Egypt, and put the food in the cities. He put in every city the food from the fields around it.* ⁴⁹ *And Joseph stored up grain in great abundance, like the sand of the sea, until he ceased to measure it, for it could not be measured.* (ESV)

We also learn that Joseph had two sons who were born to Asenath prior to the years of famine. We find this in the verses from 50-52. ⁵⁰ *Before the year of famine came, two sons were born to Joseph. Asenath, the daughter of Potiphera priest of On, bore them to him.* ⁵¹ *Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh. "For," he said, "God has made me forget all my hardship and all my father's house."* ⁵² *The name of the second he called Ephraim, "For God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction."* (ESV) We have learned, in this Chapter, that Joseph was 30 years old when he became a servant of Pharaoh. We also learned that Joseph was appointed governor of all Egypt and that Pharaoh gave Asenath, the daughter of the priest of On, to Joseph as his wife. Furthermore, Asenath had two sons by Joseph during the years of plenty. Finally, the years of plenty were over and the years of famine came, just as Joseph had told Pharaoh it would happen. We close out Chapter 41 with the years of famine in the land of Egypt. This is found in verses 53-57. ⁵³ *The seven years of plenty that occurred in the land of Egypt came to an end,* ⁵⁴ *and the seven years of famine began to come, as Joseph had said. There was famine in all lands, but in all the land of Egypt there was bread.* ⁵⁵ *When all the land of Egypt was famished, the people cried to Pharaoh for bread. Pharaoh said to all the Egyptians, "Go to Joseph. What he says to you, do."*

⁵⁶ *So when the famine had spread over all the land, Joseph opened all the storehouses and sold to the Egyptians, for the famine was severe in the land of Egypt.* ⁵⁷ *Moreover, all the earth came to Egypt to Joseph to buy grain, because the famine was severe over all the earth.* (ESV)

In Chapter 42, we return to Israel (Jacob) to observe what has been going on with Joseph's father, and his brothers. In the verses from 1-5, Israel instructs his sons to go and buy grain in Egypt. ¹ *When Jacob learned that there was grain for sale in Egypt, he said to his sons, "Why do you look at one another?"* ² *And he said, "Behold, I have heard that there is grain for sale in Egypt. Go down and buy grain for us there, that we may live and not die."* ³ *So ten of Joseph's brothers went down to buy grain in Egypt.* ⁴ *But Jacob did not send Benjamin, Joseph's brother, with his brothers, for he feared*

that harm might happen to him.⁵ Thus the sons of Israel came to buy among the others who came, for the famine was in the land of Canaan. (ESV)

I am well aware that things do happen for a reason. I looked at the calendar this morning (May 9, 2024) and it is labeled **Ascension**. I know the Bible says that Christ ascended forty days after his resurrection from the grave. I went backward through the dates on the calendar and the fortieth day prior is Easter. I fully understand that mankind is playing with **traditional dates** that men have come up with. These dates have nothing to do with the dates of God's ordained feast days! Mankind today do not believe that they are following a counterfeit religious system developed by the mind of men under the influence of Satan. I know that many people reading this just slammed it down and labeled me as an idiot that doesn't know what I'm talking about. Please bear with me, and allow me to explain the truth to you. God established His feast of Passover on the 14th day of Nisan (the first month of the spiritual year; March-April on our calendar), Exodus 12:6. Moses and Aaron were preparing the Hebrew people for their release from Egyptian bondage. Under God's direction, Moses and Aaron had given the Hebrews in Egypt the instruction to choose a lamb from the flock on the 10th day of Nisan, verse 3. The lamb was to be killed and eaten on the evening of the 14th of Nisan, verse 6. God stated, in verse 11, the manner that this feast shall be eaten. In verse 12, God gives the reason for this feast and what He will do. ¹¹ *In this manner you shall eat it: with your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. And you shall eat it in haste. It is the Lord's Passover.* ¹² *For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord.* (ESV) God takes His instructions one step further in verse 14. ¹⁴ **"This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the Lord; throughout your generations, as a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast.** (ESV)

Did you see the word **Easter** in any of those verses? Did you see the date as being something that is moveable over a twenty-eight day variant? Passover is set as the 14th day of Nisan (for this year, 2024, that would have been Monday, April 22nd on our calendar)! Easter is a manmade date that was established in 325 C.E. by the Emperor Constantine. It was also this same Emperor that changed God's Holy Sabbath, which is from Friday at dusk to Saturday at dusk, to Sunday, the day of the sun. All of these changes were made 1700 years ago, and they have become mankind's traditions and not God's ordained feast days. With this being done 1700 years ago, we all have fallen under the thought that our parents were correct, our grandparents were correct and our great grandparents were correct in what they taught us! But, was it correct in the eyes of God who ordained and established these feast days according to His time and standard? I have learned how mankind has established a rule to determine when Easter will fall on our calendar each year. I call the answer to my research The Folly of Easter, and I am inserting that presentation here so you may also understand why Easter moves over various days during March and April.

The Folly of Easter — March 21st to as late as April 25th

Because of the misunderstanding between the term sabbath and Sabbath, Satan found an opening to change what God said and what Jesus did. When we find sabbath spelled with a lower case s it indicates the weekly sabbath of Saturday. When we find Sabbath spelled with an upper case S or termed a sacred assembly or a holy convocation this is a high holy day. We must also remove this foolishness of Jewish reckoning. Jesus said He had to spend three days and three nights in the tomb as Jonah spent in the great fish. Matthew 12:40 (NIV), *"For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."* To not accept this as truth, and with full understanding, means we are calling Jesus a liar who did not

mean what He said! I'm sorry, but I prefer to accept Jesus' own words, not those of men identifying the number of days and nights He would be in the grave. Besides, there is no possible way Friday to Sunday completes three days and three nights. This totals only about forty hours, or not even a two day period. Along with this fact, there is one other fact that aids 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 (NIV), *The next day, the one after Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate. "Sir," they said, "we remember that while he was still alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise again.' So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first."*

"Take a guard," Pilate answered. "Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how." So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard.

Recall the order of the feast. Passover is the 14th, and the high holy day of the 1st day of Unleavened Bread is on the 15th. Firstfruits is the first sabbath after Passover. There is to be no work on the high holy day of the 15th. If Jesus is crucified on Passover the 14th, 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. We clearly see the Chief Priest going to Pilate and requesting a guard be placed at the tomb. 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. Make note of what is said in verse 4 (NKJV), ⁴ *And the guards shook for fear of him, 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 (NKJV), ¹¹ *Now while they were going, behold, some of the guard came into the city and reported to the chief priests all the things that had happened.* ¹² *When they had assembled with the elders and consulted together, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers,* ¹³ *saying, "Tell them, 'His disciples came at night and stole Him away while we slept.'* ¹⁴ *And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will appease him and make you secure."* ¹⁵ *So they took the money and did as they were instructed; and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until 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.

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. Constantine charged the bishops at Alexandria to determine a fixed date for Easter at the Council of Nicea in 325 C.E. 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, so there is another rule given. **What I desire for you to understand is that, mankind has set a date for a feast to be equivalent to Passover.** But, it is not according to the dates ordained by God and quoted in the Bible. If we use the structure given here, we should all see that if the Spring Equinox was on the 20th of March, a full moon was that night, and the next day was Sunday, the parameters are met. We can see that the earliest Easter could be is the 21st of March. On the other end of this equation, we should see that **if** the full moon was the night before the Spring Equinox, 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 25th.

I know, there are those who have read this far, placed some thought to what I have said and my explanation of the truth. Those people still do not believe that I know what I am saying, because they are New Testament believers, and all that stuff from Exodus was Old Testament, and therefore does not apply to today's church. Let me ask you this: Who is it that you claim, in your religion, you are following? Don't you claim to be a Christian? With that statement, aren't you claiming to be following Christ (Jesus, or His Hebrew name, Yeshua)? What feast day was it that the disciples asked where Christ wanted to eat this meal? Matthew 26:17, 19, ¹⁷ *Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Where will you have us prepare for you to eat the **Passover**?" . . . ¹⁹ And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the **Passover**.* (ESV)

Let's look at Mark's writings. Mark 14:12, 16, ¹² *And on the first day of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrificed the **Passover** lamb, his disciples said to him, "Where will you have us go and prepare for you to eat the **Passover**?" . . . ¹⁶ And the disciples set out and went to the city and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the **Passover**.* (ESV)

What about the writings of Luke? Luke 22:7-16, ⁷ *Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the **Passover** lamb had to be sacrificed. ⁸ So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and prepare the **Passover** for us, that we may eat it."*

⁹ *They said to him, "Where will you have us prepare it?"*

¹⁰ *He said to them, "Behold, when you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him into the house that he enters ¹¹ and tell the master of the house, 'The Teacher says to you, Where is the guest room, where I may eat the **Passover** with my disciples?' ¹² And he will show you a large upper room furnished; prepare it there." ¹³ And they went and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the **Passover**.*

¹⁴ *And when the hour came, he reclined at table, and the apostles with him. ¹⁵ And he said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this **Passover** with you before I suffer. ¹⁶ For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God."* (ESV)

We seem to find just a little bit more information of this special evening meal with the change of going through the Gospels. Matthew gave us the basis, Mark confirmed and added a word or two. Luke amplified the Lord's Supper even more, and now we arrive at the Gospel of John. John provides a slightly different viewpoint of what the Last Supper is really all about. We are to serve each other, under the love of Christ, as He gives us an example to follow. We find this in John 13:1-30. ¹ *Now before the Feast of the **Passover**, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.*

² *During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, ³ Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, ⁴ rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. ⁵ Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him.*

⁶ *He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?"*

⁷ *Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand."*

⁸ *Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet."*

Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me."

⁹ *Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!"*

¹⁰ Jesus said to him, “The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you.” ¹¹ For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, “Not all of you are clean.”

¹² When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, “Do you understand what I have done to you? ¹³ You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. ¹⁴ If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. ¹⁵ **For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.** ¹⁶ **Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.** ¹⁷ If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

¹⁸ I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But the Scripture will be fulfilled, ‘He who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.’

¹⁹ I am telling you this now, before it takes place, that when it does take place you may believe that I am he. ²⁰ Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever receives the one I send receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me.”

²¹ After saying these things, Jesus was troubled in his spirit, and testified, “Truly, truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me.”

²² The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he spoke. ²³ One of his disciples, whom Jesus loved (that would be John), was reclining at table close to Jesus, ²⁴ so Simon Peter motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking.

²⁵ So that disciple, leaning back against Jesus, said to him, “Lord, who is it?”

²⁶ Jesus answered, “It is he to whom I will give this morsel of bread when I have dipped it.” So when he had dipped the morsel, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. ²⁷ Then after he had taken the morsel, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him,

“What you are going to do, do quickly.” ²⁸ Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. ²⁹ Some thought that, because Judas had the moneybag, Jesus was telling him, “Buy what we need for the feast,” or that he should give something to the poor. ³⁰ So, after receiving the morsel of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night. (ESV)

It appears the disciples had not picked up on the statements that were made. There are two references given to whom the betrayer would be. First, look at Matthew 26:25. ²⁵ Judas, who would betray him, answered, “Is it I, Rabbi?” He said to him, “You have said so.” (ESV) Second, look at John 13:21-27. ²¹ After saying these things, Jesus was troubled in his spirit, and testified, “Truly, truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me.”

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“What you are going to do, do quickly.”

It appears that even if no one else understood who would betray Christ, at least Peter and John should know without any question. Here is another point to remember. Recall what Jesus (Yeshua) said in verse 1. ^{1b} having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. Please recall one other thing, remember that Jesus gave mankind, through His followers, a new commandment. That commandment is also recorded in the Gospel of John. Please read John 13:34-35, ³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (ESV)

I have given you the truth pertaining to Jesus, the New Testament and the ordained feast of Passover. God established this feast with the Hebrews while they were in Egypt. He stated through Moses and Aaron that this was a memorial feast that was to be done in all generations until the coming of the end. Pray tell, have we, mankind, stopped having generations? Maybe that is the reason that there are so many screaming that they have a right to have an abortion! Mankind can surely stop all the forthcoming generations if every child is aborted! Satan would love that! By the betrayal of men, Satan would win the throne of God by default, there would be no more generations! I have even deeper questions for you to think about. Have you, except for the King James Version, in the book of Acts, ever seen the term Easter written in any Scripture? Now, one more question: Have you ever thought through that, by having a date on a calendar exactly forty days after the resurrection of Jesus, now termed Easter, that you are re-crucifying Christ every year on a different date? Don't you understand that Jesus was only crucified once, arose from the grave only once, exactly three days and three nights after He died on the cross and He ascended to the Father, God, as the First-fruit of the Resurrection only once! He did not do this according to mankind's made up days that have become traditions.

Our forefathers were devout men and women who lived as God-fearing people. They taught their offspring as they had been taught! But, you have to realize, they also were deceived! Review the facts! At the time of Emperor Constantine, there was only one dominating denominational movement making up the church, that would have been the Roman Catholic school of thought! They are the ones who established the rules for when Easter should be and presented it to the Emperor. Remember there was no Bible at that time, and it was only the Priest, Bishops and Pope who had the training in any religious belief. Yes, there were the written records of the Torah and the Prophets. But, society as a whole, just as we see today, have this vague concept that any mention of those items means it is only Jewish. Surely, you jest. Paul wrote most of the New Testament, and he taught only in the Jewish places of worship and only on the Sabbath (Saturday). In fact, you cannot go through the New Testament and find any mention of Jews or Gentiles meeting for worship on the first day of the week. Satan enjoys the fact that you are easily deceived, and accept the impulse to establish what it is that you want to do. You would rather do things your own personal way, by your own thoughts, and not by God's ways. Go read the Revelation of Christ with understanding concerning the beast and the false prophet. There are many people who make the statement that mankind cannot understand the Revelation of Jesus as given to John. Oh! But you can! There are many who have taken the time to simplify each and every Chapter of Revelation so it can be read and understood by the masses of humanity. Folks, if you don't believe that we are in the end times, pull your head out of the sand, and look around you at what is going on. PRIDE, abortions, woke ideas and even a one world government are all the thought of the day. Yes! There will be a one world government but its king will be Jesus (Yeshua), the Christ who will have Satan bound for a thousand years while Christ presents a just, fair and sinless world to humanity. Maranatha, come Lord Jesus. Has it occurred to you that each and every time you say the Lord's Prayer you are asking for this to be done? Recall what it says, "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven." Alright! I'll get off my rant. It is just that it drives me crazy when I observe what mankind is doing to themselves because of the veil that Satan has over your eyes and your heart. I'll return to our study of Genesis and the story of Joseph. We left off at Chapter 42 with Israel (Jacob) learning that grain is available for sale in Egypt.

In Chapter 42, we find Israel telling his sons to go to Egypt and buy grain so they might have food to eat. We find this in the verses from 1-5. ¹ *When Jacob learned that there was grain for sale in Egypt, he said to his sons, "Why do you look at one another?"* ² *And he said, "Behold, I have heard that there is grain for sale in Egypt. Go down and buy grain for us there, that we may live and not die."* ³ *So ten of Joseph's brothers went down to buy grain in Egypt.* ⁴ *But Jacob did not send Benjamin, Joseph's brother, with his brothers, for he feared that harm might happen to him.* ⁵ *Thus the sons of Israel came*

to buy among the others who came, for the famine was in the land of Canaan. (ESV) We know that Pharaoh had made Joseph the governor over all Egypt, and it was Joseph that was selling the grain. When Joseph's brothers arrived before him, they did not recognize him, but he most certainly recognized them. Notice what is recorded in verse 6, ⁶ *Now Joseph was governor over the land. He was the one who sold to all the people of the land. And Joseph's brothers came and bowed themselves before him with their faces to the ground.* (ESV) With the words of this verse, don't we have the fulfillment of Joseph's first dream? Recall what we found in Chapter 37, verses 6-7. ⁶ *He said to them, "Hear this dream that I have dreamed: ⁷ Behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and behold, my sheaf arose and stood upright. And behold, your sheaves gathered around it and bowed down to my sheaf."* (ESV) Joseph spoke roughly to them and accused them of being spies. They said they were not spies and told of their father and their other brothers, not knowing that they were before their brother Joseph. If we attempt to do a little figuring, we could say that Joseph was now thirty-seven years old and his brothers had not seen him for twenty years. Here are the dates to establish Joseph's age and to show how long he had been separated from the family. Genesis 37:2 gives Joseph's age as seventeen, ² *These are the generations of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was pasturing the flock with his brothers. He was a boy with the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives. And Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father.* (ESV) In Genesis 41:46, it says Joseph is thirty, ⁴⁶ *Joseph was thirty years old when he entered the service of Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh and went through all the land of Egypt.* (ESV) We know from text that there was to be seven years of plenty and then seven years of famine. Verse 41:53 tells us the seven years of plenty were over, ⁵³ *The seven years of plenty that occurred in the land of Egypt came to an end,* (ESV) If we accept that Joseph is now thirty-seven, and we subtract his age of seventeen from Genesis 37:2, we see that there really has been a twenty year period that Joseph and his brothers had not seen each other. Joseph continues with his statement that they were spies. He then says he was going to test them and he had them all confined for three days. After the three days, Joseph said in verses 18-20, ¹⁸ *On the third day Joseph said to them, "Do this and you will live, for I fear God: ¹⁹ if you are honest men, let one of your brothers remain confined where you are in custody, and let the rest go and carry grain for the famine of your households, ²⁰ and bring your youngest brother to me. So your words will be verified, and you shall not die."* *And they did so.* (ESV) Simeon is bound and placed back in custody and the remainder of the brothers pack up their donkeys to return to Canaan. Along their journey, they stopped for lodging and one of the brothers opened his sack of grain, he found his money for the grain at the top of his sack. It appears that none of the other brothers opened their sack at this time, and they quickly completed their journey and told Israel (Jacob) all that had happened. In verse 35, we find the following text. ³⁵ *As they emptied their sacks, behold, every man's bundle of money was in his sack. And when they and their father saw their bundles of money, they were afraid.* (ESV)

We turn to Chapter 43, and must understand that the brothers did not immediately return to Egypt. In fact, they ate up all the grain they bought on the first trip to Egypt. Verse 10 tells us, ¹⁰ *If we had not delayed, we would now have returned twice.* (ESV) Israel had to make a decision concerning sending Benjamin along with his brothers on their return trip to Egypt. Jacob finally told his sons that if it had to be, it had to be, verses 11-14. ¹¹ *Then their father Israel said to them, "If it must be so, then do this: take some of the choice fruits of the land in your bags, and carry a present down to the man, a little balm and a little honey, gum, myrrh, pistachio nuts, and almonds. ¹² Take double the money with you. Carry back with you the money that was returned in the mouth of your sacks. Perhaps it was an oversight. ¹³ Take also your brother, and arise, go again to the man. ¹⁴ May God Almighty grant you mercy before the man, and may he send back your other brother and Benjamin. And as for me, if I am bereaved of my children, I am bereaved."* (ESV) Joseph has Simeon brought out, and all eleven are told that they are to eat with Joseph, at his house, at noon. The brothers were amazed when they are served according to the birthright, and the youngest according to his youth.

In Chapter 44, we find Joseph, once again, testing his brothers. On this occasion, Joseph has the money returned to their sack of grain, provisions are given to them for their return trip to Canaan, and Joseph's silver cup is placed in Benjamin's sack. In the morning they depart, and shortly after they depart from the city, Joseph sends his servant after the brothers and accuses them of stealing the Governor's silver cup. They denied the charge against them, and a search was made from the oldest to the youngest. When Benjamin's sack is opened, the cup is found and the brothers tear their clothes. The donkeys are reloaded and the men returned to the city. Joseph was still at his house, and Judah pleaded with Joseph to hear him out concerning the disappearance of their brother, and the shared burden that all the brothers have upon themselves.

Ah, we have arrived at Chapter 45. Joseph can stand it no more. He directs that all his servants are to leave him. They do and Joseph declares, in tears, that he is their brother. Verse 2 indicates that Joseph wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it in the house and in Pharaoh's household, ² *And he wept aloud, so that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it.* (ESV) Joseph continued his admission to his brothers and called them to himself, verse 3. ³ *And Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence.* (ESV) The remaining portion of Chapter 45 provides for us the full story of how Joseph and Pharaoh provided for Joseph's family to travel to Egypt. Once they were in Egypt, they would be welcomed and would live with their flocks and herds at Goshen. Verses 4-28, ⁴ *So Joseph said to his brothers, "Come near to me, please." And they came near. And he said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵ And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶ For the famine has been in the land these two years (now age 39), and there are yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷ And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸ So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹ Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; do not tarry. ¹⁰ You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, and your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹ There I will provide for you, for there are yet five years of famine to come, so that you and your household, and all that you have, do not come to poverty.' ¹² And now your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see, that it is my mouth that speaks to you. ¹³ You must tell my father of all my honor in Egypt, and of all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." ¹⁴ Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept upon his neck. ¹⁵ And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them. After that his brothers talked with him.*

¹⁶ *When the report was heard in Pharaoh's house, "Joseph's brothers have come," it pleased Pharaoh and his servants. ¹⁷ And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Say to your brothers, 'Do this: load your beasts and go back to the land of Canaan, ¹⁸ and take your father and your households, and come to me, and I will give you the best of the land of Egypt, and you shall eat the fat of the land.' ¹⁹ And you, Joseph, are commanded to say, 'Do this: take wagons from the land of Egypt for your little ones and for your wives, and bring your father, and come. ²⁰ Have no concern for your goods, for the best of all the land of Egypt is yours.' "*

²¹ *The sons of Israel did so: and Joseph gave them wagons, according to the command of Pharaoh, and gave them provisions for the journey. ²² To each and all of them he gave a change of clothes, but to Benjamin he gave three hundred shekels of silver and five changes of clothes. ²³ To his father he sent as follows: ten donkeys loaded with the good things of Egypt, and ten female donkeys loaded with grain, bread, and provision for his father on the journey. ²⁴ Then he sent his brothers away, and as they departed, he said to them, "Do not quarrel on the way."*

²⁵ So they went up out of Egypt and came to the land of Canaan to their father Jacob. ²⁶ And they told him, "Joseph is still alive, and he is ruler over all the land of Egypt." And his heart became numb, for he did not believe them. ²⁷ But when they told him all the words of Joseph, which he had said to them, and when he saw the wagons that Joseph had sent to carry him, the spirit of their father Jacob revived. ²⁸ And Israel said, "It is enough; Joseph my son is still alive. I will go and see him before I die." (ESV)

We now turn to Chapter 46, where we find an interesting statement made by God to Israel (Jacob) in the first four verses. *¹ So Israel took his journey with all that he had and came to Beersheba, and offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac. ² And God spoke to Israel in visions of the night and said, "Jacob, Jacob." And he said, "Here am I." ³ Then he said, "I am God, the God of your father. Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for there I will make you into a great nation. ⁴ I myself will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also bring you up again, and Joseph's hand shall close your eyes." (ESV)* Oh my! What a wonderful vision to have received. God Himself spoke to Israel. Look at what God says to him in verse 4. There are three promises that I see in this verse. First, God promised that He would be with Israel, Jacob, the person, and also as the great nation that He promised to make out of Israel, now speaking about the country. Second, God promised that He would bring Israel up again out of Egypt to the Promised Land. We can see this also as being a personal and a national statement. When Israel (Jacob, the person) died his body would be taken and buried with his fathers in Hebron. On the national side, a promise was given to Abraham in Chapter 15, verse 13, *¹³ Then the Lord said to Abram, "Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years." (ESV)* As it turns out, the Hebrews were slaves in Egypt for 360 years before the Exodus. Third, this is a very personal promise that is made to Israel (Jacob). God assures Israel that his son Joseph will be with him and will close his eyelids when he passes. The love of father and son goes all around. God loves and watches over Israel, Israel loves his son Joseph, whom he hadn't seen for twenty years, and Joseph loves his father and he is there beside him when he dies. There truly is a loving God. Verse 27 informs us that there were a total of seventy Hebrew people in Egypt. In verses 28-30, Joseph and Israel (Jacob) are reunited and Jacob was happy and ready to die. In verses 31-34, Joseph explains what he is going to tell Pharaoh. He tells his brothers, that when asked their occupation, to tell Pharaoh that they are keepers of livestock and to not tell Pharaoh that they were shepherds. The reason for this was that Egyptians held shepherds as an abomination.

In Chapter 47, we learn that Joseph had taken his brothers and father for presentation to Pharaoh. The brothers were truthful when asked what their occupation was, and they told Pharaoh they were shepherds. Jacob, Joseph's father, was presented to Pharaoh, and Pharaoh asked him his age. Jacob told him that he was 130 years old. Jacob blessed Pharaoh, and Joseph settled his father and brothers at Rameses, as Pharaoh had commanded. Joseph provided food to his kin, and he returned to the duties of governor over the land of Egypt. All went well, and they settled in Goshen. As we continue with Chapter 47, we find the Egyptians have spent all their money in order to buy grain from Joseph. This must be about the sixth year of the famine, and Joseph tells them that he will give them grain if they would exchange their livestock as payment. This was done for that year. The next year the Egyptians had no money and their livestock had been given to Pharaoh for food. They once again went before Joseph and pleaded for food, and Joseph asked for their land and their service in exchange. This must be the seventh year of the famine because Joseph also gave them seed to sow the land, along with the charge that one fifth of the harvest was to be returned to Pharaoh. The only land that Joseph did not buy for Pharaoh was that land which belonged to the priest of Egypt. After Jacob had lived in Goshen for seventeen years, he called for Joseph to see him. Together, Jacob requested Joseph to swear to him that

he would not bury him in Egypt, instead he was to be buried at Hebron. Joseph swore that he would do as his father requested.

Chapters 48 through 50 hold so many facts and statements concerning Israel (Jacob), Joseph, Joseph's sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, Joseph's brothers, and the blessings Jacob placed on each son, and the death of Joseph that I'm inserting the full verses for each Chapter.

Chapter 48, ¹ *After this, Joseph was told, "Behold, your father is ill." So he took with him his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim.* ² *And it was told to Jacob, "Your son Joseph has come to you." Then Israel summoned his strength and sat up in bed.* ³ *And Jacob said to Joseph, "God Almighty appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan and blessed me, ⁴ and said to me, 'Behold, I will make you fruitful and multiply you, and I will make of you a company of peoples and will give this land to your offspring after you for an everlasting possession.'* ⁵ *And now your two sons, who were born to you in the land of Egypt before I came to you in Egypt, are mine; Ephraim and Manasseh shall be mine, as Reuben and Simeon are.* ⁶ *And the children that you fathered after them shall be yours. They shall be called by the name of their brothers in their inheritance.* ⁷ *As for me, when I came from Paddan, to my sorrow Rachel died in the land of Canaan on the way, when there was still some distance to go to Ephrath, and I buried her there on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem)."*

⁸ *When Israel saw Joseph's sons, he said, "Who are these?"* ⁹ *Joseph said to his father, "They are my sons, whom God has given me here." And he said, "Bring them to me, please, that I may bless them."* ¹⁰ *Now the eyes of Israel were dim with age, so that he could not see. So Joseph brought them near him, and he kissed them and embraced them.* ¹¹ *And Israel said to Joseph, "I never expected to see your face; and behold, God has let me see your offspring also."* ¹² *Then Joseph removed them from his knees, and he bowed himself with his face to the earth.* ¹³ *And Joseph took them both, Ephraim in his right hand toward Israel's left hand, and Manasseh in his left hand toward Israel's right hand, and brought them near him.* ¹⁴ *And Israel stretched out his right hand and laid it on the head of Ephraim, who was the younger, and his left hand on the head of Manasseh, crossing his hands (for Manasseh was the firstborn).* ¹⁵ *And he blessed Joseph and said, "The God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, the God who has been my shepherd all my life long to this day, ¹⁶ the angel who has redeemed me from all evil, bless the boys; and in them let my name be carried on, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth."*

¹⁷ *When Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand on the head of Ephraim, it displeased him, and he took his father's hand to move it from Ephraim's head to Manasseh's head.* ¹⁸ *And Joseph said to his father, "Not this way, my father; since this one is the firstborn, put your right hand on his head."* ¹⁹ *But his father refused and said, "I know, my son, I know. **He also shall become a people, and he also shall be great. Nevertheless, his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his offspring shall become a multitude of nations.**"* ²⁰ *So he blessed them that day, saying, "By you Israel will pronounce blessings, saying, 'God make you as Ephraim and as Manasseh.' "* **Thus he put Ephraim before Manasseh.** ²¹ *Then Israel said to Joseph, "Behold, I am about to die, but God will be with you and will bring you again to the land of your fathers." ²² Moreover, I have given to you rather than to your brothers one mountain slope that I took from the hand of the Amorites with my sword and with my bow." (ESV)*

Chapter 49, ¹ *Then Jacob called his sons and said, "Gather yourselves together, that I may tell you what shall happen to you in days to come." ² "Assemble and listen, O sons of Jacob, listen to Israel your father.*

³ *"Reuben, you are my firstborn, my might, and the firstfruits of my strength, preeminent in dignity and preeminent in power. ⁴ Unstable as water, you shall not have preeminence, because you went up to your father's bed; then you defiled it—he went up to my couch!*

⁵ *"Simeon and Levi are brothers; weapons of violence are their swords. ⁶ Let my soul come not into their council; O my glory, be not joined to their company. For in their anger they killed men, and*

in their willfulness they hamstrung oxen. ⁷ Cursed be their anger, for it is fierce, and their wrath, for it is cruel! I will divide them in Jacob and scatter them in Israel.

⁸ “Judah, your brothers shall praise you; your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; your father’s sons shall bow down before you. ⁹ Judah is a lion’s cub; from the prey, my son, you have gone up. He stooped down; he crouched as a lion and as a lioness; who dares rouse him? ¹⁰ The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples. ¹¹ Binding his foal to the vine and his donkey’s colt to the choice vine, he has washed his garments in wine and his vesture in the blood of grapes. ¹² His eyes are darker than wine, and his teeth whiter than milk.

¹³ “Zebulun shall dwell at the shore of the sea; he shall become a haven for ships, and his border shall be at Sidon.

¹⁴ “Issachar is a strong donkey, crouching between the sheepfolds. ¹⁵ He saw that a resting place was good, and that the land was pleasant, so he bowed his shoulder to bear, and became a servant at forced labor.

¹⁶ “Dan shall judge his people as one of the tribes of Israel. ¹⁷ Dan shall be a serpent in the way, a viper by the path, that bites the horse’s heels so that his rider falls backward. ¹⁸ I wait for your salvation, O Lord.

¹⁹ “Raiders shall raid Gad, but he shall raid at their heels.

²⁰ “Asher’s food shall be rich, and he shall yield royal delicacies.

²¹ “Naphtali is a doe let loose that bears beautiful fawns.

²² “Joseph is a fruitful bough, a fruitful bough by a spring; his branches run over the wall. ²³ The archers bitterly attacked him, shot at him, and harassed him severely, ²⁴ yet his bow remained unmoved; his arms were made agile by the hands of the Mighty One of Jacob (from there is the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel), ²⁵ by the God of your father who will help you, by the Almighty who will bless you with blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep that crouches beneath, blessings of the breasts and of the womb. ²⁶ The blessings of your father are mighty beyond the blessings of my parents, up to the bounties of the everlasting hills. May they be on the head of Joseph, and on the brow of him who was set apart from his brothers.

²⁷ “Benjamin is a ravenous wolf, in the morning devouring the prey and at evening dividing the spoil.”

²⁸ All these are the twelve tribes of Israel. This is what their father said to them as he blessed them, blessing each with the blessing suitable to him. ²⁹ Then he commanded them and said to them, “I am to be gathered to my people; bury me with my fathers in the cave that is in the field of Ephron the Hittite, ³⁰ in the cave that is in the field at Machpelah, to the east of Mamre, in the land of Canaan, which Abraham bought with the field from Ephron the Hittite to possess as a burying place. ³¹ There they buried Abraham and Sarah his wife. There they buried Isaac and Rebekah his wife, and there I buried Leah— ³² the field and the cave that is in it were bought from the Hittites.” ³³ When Jacob finished commanding his sons, he drew up his feet into the bed and breathed his last and was gathered to his people. (ESV)

Chapter 50, ¹ Then Joseph fell on his father’s face and wept over him and kissed him. ² And Joseph commanded his servants the physicians to embalm his father. So the physicians embalmed Israel. ³ Forty days were required for it, for that is how many are required for embalming. And the Egyptians wept for him seventy days.

⁴ And when the days of weeping for him were past, Joseph spoke to the household of Pharaoh, saying, “If now I have found favor in your eyes, please speak in the ears of Pharaoh, saying, ⁵ My father made me swear, saying, ‘I am about to die: in my tomb that I hewed out for myself in the land of Canaan, there shall you bury me.’ Now therefore, let me please go up and bury my father. Then I will

return.”⁶ And Pharaoh answered, “Go up, and bury your father, as he made you swear.”⁷ So Joseph went up to bury his father. With him went up all the servants of Pharaoh, the elders of his household, and all the elders of the land of Egypt,⁸ as well as all the household of Joseph, his brothers, and his father’s household. Only their children, their flocks, and their herds were left in the land of Goshen.⁹ And there went up with him both chariots and horsemen. It was a very great company.¹⁰ When they came to the threshing floor of Atad, which is beyond the Jordan, they lamented there with a very great and grievous lamentation, and he made a mourning for his father seven days.¹¹ When the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites, saw the mourning on the threshing floor of Atad, they said, “This is a grievous mourning by the Egyptians.” Therefore the place was named Abel-mizraim; it is beyond the Jordan.¹² Thus his sons did for him as he had commanded them,¹³ for his sons carried him to the land of Canaan and buried him in the cave of the field at Machpelah, to the east of Mamre, which Abraham bought with the field from Ephron the Hittite to possess as a burying place.¹⁴ After he had buried his father, Joseph returned to Egypt with his brothers and all who had gone up with him to bury his father.

¹⁵ When Joseph’s brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, “It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him.”¹⁶ So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, “Your father gave this command before he died,¹⁷ ‘Say to Joseph, Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.’ And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father.” Joseph wept when they spoke to him.¹⁸ His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, “Behold, we are your servants.”¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, “Do not fear, for am I in the place of God?²⁰ As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.²¹ So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones.” Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

²² So Joseph remained in Egypt, he and his father’s house. Joseph lived 110 years.²³ And Joseph saw Ephraim’s children of the third generation. The children also of Machir the son of Manasseh were counted as Joseph’s own.²⁴ And Joseph said to his brothers, “I am about to die, but God will visit you and bring you up out of this land to the land that he swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.”²⁵ Then Joseph made the sons of Israel swear, saying, “God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here.”²⁶ So Joseph died, being 110 years old. They embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt. (ESV)

You may ask, “Why have I taken so much time to go through the entire 50 Chapters of the book of Genesis?” It actually is a very simple answer. Because Genesis is the beginning, the start or the origin of God’s message to mankind. There is so much, so very much, that is established in Genesis that very few people take the time to study and fit the pieces of the puzzle together. For example, I used the statement from God to Abraham in Chapter 15, verse 13, concerning the length of stay the Hebrews would spend in Egypt, and brought it forward to Chapter 46, verse 4, where God tells Israel (Jacob) that He, God, would bring them, the Hebrew people, back out of Egypt, and return them to the Promised Land. That, to me, is just a very simple illustration of the complexity of God’s promises, and mankind’s lack of understanding of what God has said. There is a much deeper promise that has been placed in Genesis, and given to mankind to understand, that is normally overlooked and denied. I have alluded to this fact as we went through the individual Chapters of Genesis, but I did not fully link the pieces of the puzzle together when we went through the Chapters. It is now time to do exactly that, link the pieces together!

There are two sets of puzzle pieces that we need to link together. The first is the shifting birthright. I introduced this to my readers in association with Chapter 25 on pages 17-18. In that particular statement, I gave you three transfers of the birthright and brought it down to Esau and Jacob. Let us continue with this shifting birthright. The firstborn of Jacob is Reuben. This is shown in Genesis 35:22-23.²² *While Israel lived in that land, Reuben went and lay with Bilhah his father’s concubine. And Israel heard of it. Now the sons of Jacob were twelve.*²³ *The sons of Leah: Reuben (Jacob’s firstborn), Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, and Zebulun.* (ESV) Repeated in the blessing of his sons in Genesis 49:3-4.³ “Reuben,

you are my firstborn, my might, and the firstfruits of my strength, preeminent in dignity and preeminent in power. ⁴ Unstable as water, you shall not have preeminence, because you went up to your father's bed; then you defiled it—he went up to my couch! (ESV) We locate the final conformation that the birthright was transferred to Joseph in 1 Chronicles 5:1-2. ¹ *The sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel (for he was the firstborn, but because he defiled his father's couch, his birthright was given to the sons of Joseph the son of Israel, so that he could not be enrolled as the oldest son; ² though Judah became strong among his brothers and a chief came from him, yet the birthright belonged to Joseph),* (ESV) That makes the fourth transfer of the birthright from Adam. The fifth transfer is between the two sons of Joseph that Jacob (Israel) adopts as his own sons. This is shown in Chapter 48:20. ²⁰ *So he blessed them that day, saying, "By you Israel will pronounce blessings, saying, 'God make you as Ephraim and as Manasseh.' " Thus he put Ephraim before Manasseh.* (ESV) We also learn in Ezekiel that Joseph was to inherit two portions of the Promised Land. This is found in Ezekiel 47:13. ¹³ *Thus says the Lord God: "This is the boundary by which you shall divide the land for inheritance among the twelve tribes of Israel. Joseph shall have two portions.* (ESV) The sixth, and final, transfer of this birthright is the most difficult to link together. Its origin is in the book of Genesis, but the transfer is hidden in the mystery of Jeremiah and a riddle in Ezekiel. Recall in Genesis Chapter 38 that Tamar had twins by Judah. The birth of these twins is in Genesis 38:27-30. ²⁷ *When the time of her labor came, there were twins in her womb. ²⁸ And when she was in labor, one put out a hand, and the midwife took and tied a scarlet thread on his hand, saying, "This one came out first."* ²⁹ *But as he drew back his hand, behold, his brother came out. And she said, "What a breach you have made for yourself!" Therefore his name was called Perez. ³⁰ Afterward his brother came out with the scarlet thread on his hand, and his name was called Zerah.* We also learn from other entries of text that Judah is the father of the line that makes up the kings of Judah and the line in which the Christ child is born. We find this in Matthew 1:3. ³ *and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram,* (ESV) Verse 28 of Genesis 38 shows that Zerah was the twin that opened the birth canal. However, it was Perez who was actually born first. This is shown in the Matthew account that Perez is in the line of Judah, or what we also call, the royal line of kings over the House of Judah, the Jews.

There is a mystery that rests in the royal line of the House of Judah. King Zedekiah is the last king to set on the throne of Judah. We see in the book of Jeremiah that the king's sons are all killed before his eyes, his eyes are put out and he is taken to Babylon. Jeremiah 39:5-7, ⁵ *But the army of the Chaldeans pursued them and overtook Zedekiah in the plains of Jericho. And when they had taken him, they brought him up to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, at Riblah, in the land of Hamath; and he passed sentence on him. ⁶ The king of Babylon slaughtered the sons of Zedekiah at Riblah before his eyes, and the king of Babylon slaughtered all the nobles of Judah. ⁷ He put out the eyes of Zedekiah and bound him in chains to take him to Babylon.* (ESV) However, this action does not eradicate the full royal line of the House of Judah. Looking a little further, in the book of Jeremiah, we find another statement in Jeremiah 41:10. ¹⁰ *Then Ishmael took captive all the rest of the people who were in Mizpah, the king's daughters and all the people who were left at Mizpah, whom Nebuzaradan, the captain of the guard, had committed to Gedaliah the son of Ahikam. Ishmael the son of Nethaniah took them captive and set out to cross over to the Ammonites.* (ESV) In Jeremiah 43:6, we see that the daughters of king Zedekiah and the Prophet Jeremiah are together. ⁶ *the men, the women, the children, the princesses, and every person whom Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard had left with Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, son of Shaphan; also Jeremiah the prophet and Baruch the son of Neriah.* (ESV) All of this group of people were told not to go to Egypt. That all who did go to Egypt would die, except those who escaped. Jeremiah and only a few others, including the princesses were the ones to escape, Jeremiah 44:14. ¹⁴ *so that none of the remnant of Judah who have come to live in the land of Egypt shall escape or survive or return to the land of Judah, to which they desire to return to dwell there. For*

they shall not return, **except some fugitives.**” (ESV) The amazing part, concerning the book of Jeremiah, is that it really has no ending. Chapter 51, verse 64 gives us a strange statement. ⁶⁴ *and say, ‘Thus shall Babylon sink, to rise no more, because of the disaster that I am bringing upon her, and they shall become exhausted.’* “**Thus far are the words of Jeremiah.**” (ESV) If the words of Jeremiah end with Chapter 51, who wrote Chapter 52? Where did Jeremiah and the king’s daughters disappear? It has been said that Jeremiah, his scribe, Baruch, and the king’s daughters all left the area of Judah and traveled to Ireland. One of the princesses married a prince of the red thread, the line of Zerah, whereby the riddle in Ezekiel 17:24 completes the sixth transfer of birthright. ²⁴ *And all the trees of the field shall know that I am the Lord; I bring low the high tree (Perez), and make high the low tree (Zerah), dry up the green tree, and make the dry tree flourish. I am the Lord; I have spoken, and I will do it.*” (ESV)

All of this pertaining to the transfer of birthright between Perez and Zerah has to do with the second puzzle that lies in the book of Genesis. We should all know that the royal line of Israel, the nation, is through the descendants of Judah. We just learned that there are two lines of descent from Judah. One such line is through Perez, and the other line is through Zerah. While we went through Genesis, we ran across the other puzzle that pertains to the House of Israel. We know that there was a division made between the House of Judah (the Jews) and the House of Israel (the ten tribe northern nation) that was taken into captivity by the Assyrians. We should also recall that with the transfer of birthright from Reuben to Joseph, there is Joseph’s double portion in his two sons of Ephraim and Manasseh. We also see that there is the statement, in Genesis 35:11, concerning Jacob (Israel). ¹¹ *And God said to him, “I am God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply. **A nation and a company of nations shall come from you, and kings shall come from your own body.**”* (ESV) This statement is further supported in Genesis 48:19. ¹⁹ *But his father refused and said, “I know, my son, I know. **He also shall become a people, and he also shall be great. Nevertheless, his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his offspring shall become a multitude of nations.**”* (ESV)

The two nations of the United States and Great Britain fulfill these two passages of Scripture like no other two nations on the face of this planet. In many examples, these two nations are called brothers. I must admit, when I first encountered this fact, I couldn’t get my head around the fact that the United States constituted Manasseh, and Great Britain was Ephraim. Why was it that the older son became the younger nation, and the younger son became the older nation? Then the fact hit me. God made the younger son the lead through the blessing. They became the older nation from whose peoples came the leaders of the older son, as that group of people became the great single nation, just as it is stated in verse 19 above.

Over the last thirty years of writing what God has sent to me to write, I have written three books developing and documenting these facts from God’s Word. The first book was entitled “The Thirteenth Tribe of Israel,” The second book was entitled, “Jeremiah’s Mystery” and the last writing entitled “Ezekiel and the Weird Hovering Object.” All three are available on my website at www.vqpub.org in PDF file format and are free for download. My only request is that all who download files please respect my copyrights.

I continue to write and express what God has shown to me. Now, it seems that God has made me a watchman. I am to warn those who will listen about what is to happen. The days of mankind’s six thousand years of rebellion against God are coming to a close. At the same time, Lucifer (Satan) also understands that his time, of deceiving the world, is also getting shorter. Here’s a simple statement and a reason that Satan hates mankind so much. We are made in the image of God and Satan hates that. He lies, deceives, causes pain and suffering upon God’s created individuals and he continues to mislead mankind into sins. He clutters up the mind so that your ears get tickled by what he says and how he lies to you. Take a stand and be bold! Read this work with the thought that you might find something that you need to know before the day of Christ’s return happens.

I will attempt to give you a clearer picture of Lucifer in the next chapter.

Lucifer

Do you believe that Satan is real? If I take the words of the Bible, God's Holy Word, and show you who Satan is, how he acts and what he can and cannot do, would you be interested enough to read these pages? Let's do this together.

Satan was one of God's three principal angels, in fact he may have been the most important angel that God created. To fully explain the text from Ezekiel 28 I will use two different versions of the Bible. The passage from the ESV will be in blue italics, and the translation from the NKJV will be in black italics. My notes will be in plain black text. We find this view in Ezekiel 28:11-19. ¹¹ *Moreover, the word of the Lord came to me:* ¹² *"Son of man, raise a lamentation over the king of Tyre, (This is a metaphor for Satan. It appears that the king of Tyre and Satan had the same traits. Pride caused both to fail and fall!) and say to him, Thus says the Lord God: "You were the signet of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.*

¹³ *You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering, sardius, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper,*

sapphire, emerald, and carbuncle; Lucifer was a bright and shining Morning Star angel. and crafted in gold were your settings

and your engravings. The NKJV wording is inserted here to show a little more of Lucifer's duties. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes Was prepared for you on the day you were created. (NKJV) It may be that Lucifer was the Morning Star angel in charge of the music, or even the worship service, in Heaven.

On the day that you were created they were prepared.

¹⁴ ***You were an anointed guardian cherub.** You were the anointed cherub who covers; (NKJV) This may mean that Lucifer was the guard who watched over the throne of God.*

I placed you; you were on the holy mountain of God; in the midst of the stones of fire you walked.

¹⁵ *You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created,*

***till unrighteousness was found in you.** This is the point where Lucifer becomes Satan by his own pride, and choice.*

¹⁶ *In the abundance of your trade you were filled with violence in your midst, and you sinned; so I cast you as a profane thing from the mountain of God, and I destroyed you, O guardian cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.*

¹⁷ ***Your heart was proud because of your beauty;***

***you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor.** We see the danger PRIDE caused!*

I cast you to the ground;

I exposed you before kings, to feast their eyes on you.

¹⁸ *By the multitude of your iniquities, in the unrighteousness of your trade you profaned your sanctuaries;*

so I brought fire out from your midst;
it consumed you,
and I turned you to ashes on the earth
in the sight of all who saw you.
¹⁹ All who know you among the peoples
are appalled at you;
**you have come to a dreadful end
and shall be no more forever.**” (ESV)

We find this next passage in Isaiah 14:4-23.

⁴ you will take up this taunt against the king of Babylon:

“How the oppressor has ceased,
the insolent fury ceased!

⁵ The Lord has broken the staff of the wicked,
the scepter of rulers,

⁶ that struck the peoples in wrath
with unceasing blows,
that ruled the nations in anger
with unrelenting persecution.

⁷ The whole earth is at rest and quiet;
they break forth into singing.

⁸ The cypresses rejoice at you,
the cedars of Lebanon, saying,
‘Since you were laid low,
no woodcutter comes up against us.’

⁹ Sheol beneath is stirred up
to meet you when you come;
it rouses the shades to greet you,
all who were leaders of the earth;
it raises from their thrones
all who were kings of the nations.

¹⁰ All of them will answer
and say to you:
‘You too have become as weak as we!
You have become like us!’

¹¹ Your pomp is brought down to Sheol,
the sound of your harps;
maggots are laid as a bed beneath you,
and worms are your covers.

¹² “How you are fallen from heaven,
O Day Star, son of Dawn!

How you are cut down to the ground,
you who laid the nations low!

¹³ **You said in your heart,
‘I will ascend to heaven;
above the stars of God
I will set my throne on high;**

Lucifer was a Morning Star angel.

The bold text fully illustrates Lucifer’s PRIDE.

*I will sit on the mount of assembly
in the far reaches of the north;
¹⁴ I will ascend above the heights of the clouds;
I will make myself like the Most High.’*

*¹⁵ But you are brought down to Sheol,
to the far reaches of the pit.*

*¹⁶ Those who see you will stare at you
and ponder over you:*

*‘Is this the man who made the earth tremble,
who shook kingdoms,*

*¹⁷ who made the world like a desert
and overthrew its cities,*

who did not let his prisoners go home?’

*¹⁸ All the kings of the nations lie in glory,
each in his own tomb;*

*¹⁹ but you are cast out, away from your grave,
like a loathed branch,
clothed with the slain, those pierced by the sword,
who go down to the stones of the pit,
like a dead body trampled underfoot.*

*²⁰ You will not be joined with them in burial,
because you have destroyed your land,
you have slain your people.*

*“May the offspring of evildoers
nevermore be named!*

*²¹ Prepare slaughter for his sons
because of the guilt of their fathers,
lest they rise and possess the earth,
and fill the face of the world with cities.”*

²² “I will rise up against them,” declares the Lord of hosts, “and will cut off from Babylon name and remnant, descendants and posterity,” declares the Lord. ²³ “And I will make it a possession of the hedgehog, and pools of water, and I will sweep it with the broom of destruction,” declares the Lord of hosts. (ESV)

We find in the book of Luke that the earth was delivered to Satan. Luke 4:5-8. ⁵ *And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, ⁶ and said to him, “To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. ⁷ If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” ⁸ And Jesus answered him, “It is written, “‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.’” (ESV) John declares that Satan is the ruler of this world, John 12:31. ³¹ *Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. (ESV) Jesus also declares Satan to be the father of lies, John 8:42-44. ⁴² Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. ⁴³ Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. ⁴⁴ You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. (ESV) Paul spoke of Satan in 2 Corinthians 4:4. ⁴ *In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. (ESV)***

Paul goes further in 2 Corinthians 11:12-15. ¹² *And what I do I will continue to do, in order to undermine the claim of those who would like to claim that in their boasted mission they work on the same terms as we do.* 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, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds.* (ESV) Jesus Himself gives us the final outcome of Satan in Revelation 12:7-9. ⁷ *Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back,* ⁸ *but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven.* ⁹ *And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world— he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.* (ESV)

Warnings

It is time to take up my position as a watchman and attempt to illustrate to you, and for you, those things which are happening now including what may happen because of those things happening now. The whole of earth seems to be in turmoil. Rebellion against God, the Father, is not new. Quickly look back through human history of the past 6,000 years of mankind's self-determination as to whom is in charge. The rebellion began in the Garden of Eden when Adam took of the forbidden fruit. Lucifer, a Morning Star angel, had already made his change of heart, allowed his personal pride to take control of his actions and he became the devil, Satan, the self guided destructive force over the earth. He managed to deceive the helpmeet of the specially formed man whose only job was to tend the garden. It was not the female that God gave specific instructions to, it was the male whom God spoke to, and it was God who told him about the two trees at the center of the garden. The male was told that the touching, or taking, of the one tree would cause spiritual death and separation from God. The male had to tell the female what God's rule was. Satan approached the female and lied to her by rearranging the words of the rule, and deceived her into taking of the forbidden tree. When the female offered the fruit of that tree to the male, and he took it, he violated God's rule and mankind's rebellion against God began. With that rebellion came spiritual death. It would mean that every person born after this action would have a heart and mindset that they were in charge of their own decisions and the outcome of those decisions. We should be able to see this with the fact that Cain made the choice, by himself, to kill his brother, Abel.

We should also come to an understanding that God had a plan for this specially formed man and his mate. They were to be the example of obedience toward God's instructions. However, once sin was introduced to mankind, all things took on a different meaning. Pagan practices of worship were introduced with its idolatry, sexual practices of expressing one's own choice of rebellion against God's concepts of marriage, one man and one woman, and of family, including the position of parents raising offspring in the context of righteousness.

God provided mankind with a concept of righteousness. But, it was up to man, as a free-will being to choose what they would do. Noah was one such person. If it had not been for Noah's choice to be honest with God and to follow His ways and instructions, there would not be any person on the face of this planet today. There were only eight persons who were allowed to survive the flood that covered the earth. Abram (later his name was changed to Abraham) was a friend of God, who followed his instructions without question. There is an interesting observation in the life and time of Abraham. When we went through our study of the book of Genesis, we saw that Abram/Abraham built altars and made sacrifices to God, even to the point of obeying God to sacrifice his son Isaac. Where was the command from God that a sin required a sacrifice to atone the sin? It is most interesting that the first time an altar is mentioned in the Bible is, in Genesis 8:20, when Noah built an altar and made an offering to God. Look once again at the verses from Genesis 8:18-22. ¹⁸ *So Noah went out, and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him. ¹⁹ Every beast, every creeping thing, and every bird, everything that moves on the earth, went out by families from the ark.*

²⁰ *Then Noah built an altar to the Lord and took some of every clean animal and some of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar. ²¹ And when the Lord smelled the pleasing aroma, the Lord said in his heart, "I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the intention of man's heart is evil from his youth. Neither will I ever again strike down every living creature as I have done. ²² While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease."* (ESV) Abram built more than one altar to God, but text does not indicate that an offering was made. Look at Genesis 12:7. ⁷ *Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him.* (ESV)

We find Abram building another altar in the very next verse. Genesis 12:8, *8 From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the Lord and called upon the name of the Lord.* (ESV) We find Abraham had knowledge about a burnt offering because those words, burnt offering, are used at the time Abraham received instructions from God to offer Isaac as a burnt offering in Genesis 22:2. *2 He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."* (ESV) We know that Isaac also knows what a burnt offering is from the words of Genesis 22:7. *7 And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here am I, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?"* (ESV)

We have looked to find where the term altar is first used and we have also looked to see about a burnt offering, but where is the term offering first used? We find the term offering first used in the story of Cain and Abel in Genesis 4:3-5. *3 In the course of time Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground, 4 and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering, 5 but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell.* (ESV)

Where is all of this going? What do altars or blessings or even offerings have to do with a warning? What we really need to see is that a burnt offering, under the law of Moses, is the requirement to cover an offence against God, or in other words, to cover a committed sin. Those requirements are outlined in Exodus more than any other place. Exodus also gives to mankind the Ten Commandments. Now, let's bring that forward to the New Testament. In today's world, there are those people who do not believe that the Ten Commandments are still a requirement of being obedient to God's ways and rules. They, furthermore, believe that, if they call themselves "Christians," they are covered by that word and they really do not have to be obedient to Jesus' words or teachings. Jesus tells us to not be deceived by anyone, and yet, people believe as they do, in their own mindset, that they are in charge of themselves and they are forgiven in their pagan practices, sexual perversions and prideful concepts.

God has been tasking me with writing assignments covering the Ten Commandments, God's feast days, God's sign for mankind to know, the reason for blood, the mark of the Beast, the world under the Antichrist, the resurgence of pagan gods, prophecy for today from the four major prophets, and other mysteries such as we are marching to hell by our own choices. All of these subjects are on my website and are free for the download. All files are in 8 1/2 by 11 inch pages in PDF file format. I'm sorry, God never showed me how to exchange the books and booklets from PDF to e-book format. If I could figure that one out, it would be a great help to everyone who uses a smart phone. That's another one of my quirks, we, my wife and I, do not use, nor have, a smart phone. We still make phone calls on our landline, and we continue to use our home computers on Windows system 7 operating systems. If I add our ages together, we have over 150 man years of church attendance. We have discovered that under the New Testament, God has offered and provided for mankind to have a means to breach the gap that was created by the first Adam in the Garden of Eden. That healing can be accomplished through a personal belief and relationship with Jesus, the Christ, Savior and only son of God. It is by the sinless blood of Christ, shed for mankind as a payment to atone all of mankind's sins, through all the ages past.

We should also know that upon the second coming of Jesus that Satan will be bound for 1,000 years. Those who are true believers of Christ will assist Him in governing the earth for that 1,000 year period. At the end of the 1,000 year period, Satan will be released from the abyss, to test mankind, to see if those who were born during the period of peace desire to continue following Jesus, or if they want to follow their own ideas and ways which deny the teachings of Jesus. The words of the Bible indicate that Satan will deceive the whole world at that time, and that mankind will be gathered for one final war before the end of all earthly time. That is another article that God has had me to write. I feel that it would be very useful to go through that study to see where mankind is headed.

Israel, in particular, and the world, at large are now in the eighth month of the Israel/Gaza conflict. So much has happened in these last eight months. For the first few weeks of this conflict, the world, for the most part, stood with Israel to have the right to protect itself and eradicate the terror organization that was behind this attack. Israel was not fighting a war with the Palestinian people, they were only fighting against Hamas. Then the world started to change and to accuse Israel of genocide. I started this work with about the same statement, and the anti-Semitism that has taken place since. But let's go a little deeper and see the setup of this war from the viewpoint of the Bible. We find a sequence of nine wars that are spoken of in the latter days. From all appearances, this war between Israel and Gaza begins the final slope that mankind will slide through to get to the end of time. We find this war in the book of Psalms.

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

Battle One

The first battle may be titled Israel's Extermination, or the Battle of Neighbors, and is found in Psalm 83. You wouldn't expect to find a battle concerning Israel in Psalms, would you? We read, in Psalm 83:2-8, the following, ² *For behold, Your enemies make a tumult; And those who hate You have lifted up their head.* ³ *They have taken crafty counsel against Your people, And consulted together against Your sheltered ones.* ⁴ *They have said, "Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation, That the name of Israel may be remembered no more."* ⁵ *For they have consulted together with one consent; They form a confederacy against You:* ⁶ *The tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites; Moab and the Hagrites;* ⁷ *Gebal, Ammon, and Amalek; Philistia with the inhabitants of Tyre;* ⁸ *Assyria also has joined with them; They have helped the children of Lot.* (NKJV)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Phillistia - Philistines, today known as **Gaza**. Actually, it is the terrorist element of Hamas that is the real threat. Hamas, officially the Islamic Resistance Movement, is a Sunni Islamist political and military organization governing the Gaza Strip of the Palestinian territories. While it is headquartered in Gaza City, it also has a presence in the West Bank, Samaria to the Israelites.

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

Assyria - Syria

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

There should be a warning inserted, at this point, pertaining to this war. Notice that the attack made by **Gaza**, early on October 7, 2023, was only the one nation that attacked Israel. The warning should be that there are other nations named in this passage of scripture from Psalms 83. Israel could be fighting a war on many fronts before this is over.

Battle Two

This battle may be an escalation from battle one to battle two because of the media placing blame on Israel as the cause of battle one. Also, there is the possibility that battle one may become a multifront attack with Hezbollah on the north and the Palestinians on the West Bank. This could push Russia and Iran into believing that any weakness shown by Israel could indicate that they could enter the war and rid the earth of the Jews. That will not happen, but, the war will be fought because God says so! Therefore, the next battle that we have to deal with is the first battle of Gog of Magog, as shown in Ezekiel 38 and 39. The players for this battle are named in verses 2, 3, 5 and 6 of Ezekiel 38. ² *"Son of man, set your face against Gog, of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal, and prophesy against him,* ³ *and say, 'Thus says the Lord God: "Behold, I am against you, O Gog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal". . . .* ⁵ *Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya are with them, all of them with shield and helmet;* ⁶ *Gomer and all its troops; the house of Togarmah from the far north and all its troops—many people are with you.* (NKJV) These are an outer ring of countries led by Russia that will attack Israel. In these verses, I will show why this war will be fought at least three and a half years before the start of the tribulation. First, here is a list of the players:

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

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

Persia - modern day Iran.

Put - modern day Lybia.

Cush - modern day Sudan and Ethiopia.

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

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

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

Continuing with chapter 39, we read the outcome of Gog in verse 11. ¹¹ “And I will make a vast graveyard for Gog and his hordes in the Valley of the Travelers, east of the Dead Sea. It will block the way of those who travel there, and they will change the name of the place to the Valley of Gog’s Hordes.” (NLT) The next verse, verse 12, shows us how long it takes Israel to bury the dead. Verse 13 indicates that Israel is victorious. ¹² It will take seven months for the people of Israel to bury the bodies and cleanse the land.¹³ Everyone in Israel will help, for it will be a glorious victory for Israel when I demonstrate my glory on that day, says the Sovereign LORD. (NLT)

Toward the latter part of chapter 39, we find the reason God does this. Ezekiel 39: 21-24, ²¹ “In this way, I will demonstrate my glory to the nations. Everyone will see the punishment I have inflicted on them and the power of my fist when I strike.²² And from that time on the people of Israel will know that I am the LORD their God.²³ The nations will then know why Israel was sent away to exile—it was punishment for sin, for they were unfaithful to their God. Therefore, I turned away from them and let their enemies destroy them.²⁴ I turned my face away and punished them because of their defilement and their sins.” (NLT) Then, we see the restoration of Israel in verses 25-29. ²⁵ “So now, this is what the Sovereign LORD says: “I will end the captivity of my people; I will have mercy on all Israel, for I

*jealously guard my holy reputation!*²⁶ *They will accept responsibility for their past shame and unfaithfulness after they come home to live in peace in their own land, with no one to bother them.*²⁷ *When I bring them home from the lands of their enemies, I will display my holiness among them for all the nations to see.*²⁸ *Then my people will know that I am the LORD their God, because I sent them away to exile and brought them home again. I will leave none of my people behind.*²⁹ *And I will never again turn my face from them, for I will pour out my Spirit upon the people of Israel. I, the Sovereign LORD, have spoken!”* (NLT)

Battle Three

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

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

Stop for a moment and think about what this truly says. We are approaching a total population of the earth at 10 billion. Verse 8 above says one fourth of earth's population is to be killed in this battle. I must inject one other factor when I start giving figures. There are approximately 2 billion Christians now on earth. If they are removed in the Rapture, we must start viewing our figures at 8 billion and not 10 billion. Therefore, we are seeing the warning that 2 billion people are to be killed in this battle. With the fifth seal, we see the Christians and Jews who are martyred during this war. Revelation 6:11, ¹¹ *Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.* (NKJV) The sixth seal brings us to the escalation of this battle to the point that it goes nuclear. Revelation 6:12-14, ¹² *I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood.* ¹³ *And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind.* ¹⁴ *Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place.* (NKJV)

Battle Four

This is the nuclear portion of the above war and/or the trumpet judgments of Revelation 8 and 9. We find one-third used repeatedly in these two chapters, and we also see the demonic locusts, the

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

Battle Five

Our fifth battle does not take place on earth, instead we jump to the Heavenly War. Read with me as we look at Revelation 12:7-9. ⁷ *And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought,* ⁸ *but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer.* ⁹ *So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.* (NKJV) Revelation 12:12 informs us that Satan is thrown out of heaven for the last time and he is furious. 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)

Battle Six

This battle represents the Antichrist's battle against the Saints and the Jews. Since Satan has been thrown out of heaven, he goes after those who believe in Jesus as the Son of God. He continues to think that he can overpower God and take away His throne. He knows his time is short, and he thinks that if he can destroy the saints and the Jews, he can gain God's throne. We can see some of this in Revelation 12:13-17. ¹³ *Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child.* ¹⁴ *But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.* ¹⁵ *So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood.* ¹⁶ *But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth.* ¹⁷ *And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.* (NKJV) The woman, in verse 13, is Israel, Christ is the male child, her place in the wilderness may be the city of Petra in Jordan, and her other offspring are the saints (Christians). We must also remember that the

tribulation period is mainly for the Jews to come to acceptance that Jesus is Israel's savior and the one that they pierced. Many of those who accept Jesus as savior during the tribulation will be those martyred in Revelation, chapter 7. These actions by Satan will be the second holocaust of the Jews, and we may see this in Zechariah 13:8-9. ⁸ *And it shall come to pass in all the land, Says the LORD, "That two-thirds in it shall be cut off and die, But one-third shall be left in it: ⁹ I will bring the one-third through the fire, Will refine them as silver is refined, And test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, And I will answer them. I will say, 'This is My people'; And each one will say, 'The LORD is my God.'* " (NKJV)

Battle Seven

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

Battle Eight

This sets up the battle that everyone seems to know about, the battle of Armageddon. The Antichrist and his forces are waiting for the others to gather from the north and from the east. Revelation 16:12, ¹² *Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared.* (NKJV) Finally, we get to the second rider on a white horse coming out from heaven in Revelation 19:11-21. ¹¹ *Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. ¹² His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. ¹³ He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. ¹⁴ And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. ¹⁵ Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. ¹⁶ And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. ¹⁷ Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, "Come and gather together for the supper of the great God, ¹⁸ that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, both small and great." ¹⁹ And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. ²⁰ Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received*

*the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. **These two were cast alive into the lake of fire** burning with brimstone. ²¹ **And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse.** And all the birds were filled with their flesh. (NKJV) So! With the understanding of these verses, everyone should know that there is no Battle of Armageddon. Why? Because all those who had gathered to fight against Jesus were destroyed with one word from His mouth.*

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

Battle Nine

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

It Is Your Choice!

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

Through the presentation of information that is presented in these few pages, every person reading this should see the deception that Satan is using to get us to deny that God is real, or that there is a necessity to accept Jesus as your personal Savior. We should all see the influence the Black Lives Matter leaders, along with Antifa, have made within our society to instill violence, rioting and looting as a portion of their political anarchy agenda. We should also see the biased objectives of the media to present what suits their opinion, and how they criticize any word or action that doesn't go along with their political game plan.

God is also performing His work as only He can. The Bible says many things about the living, supreme God. He cannot lie! He does not desire for anyone to will themselves into Hell, yet that is what

you are doing by your own actions and decisions. To encourage mankind to repent and humbly seek forgiveness, God sent the COVID-19 pandemic upon the earth to get all of mankind to stop and review our personal actions. We had three hurricanes to hit the Gulf coast. We had forest fires burning in nine states. We had a snow storm in Colorado, and it was only the first week in September. We had an earthquake in South Carolina and one in New Jersey. At that time the air quality in three western states was the worst in the world, and the Liberal minority wants to declare that it is all due to global warming. Folks who think things like this surely do not believe in God. Everything that we are seeing happen that pertains to weather is under the control of God.

Here is the bottom line decision that you must make. If you enjoy what happened with the COVID-19 pandemic, the weather, the riots, the looting and the deprived ideas of humanity, you don't have to do a thing. You will fit right in with the plans of Satan. However, if, on the other hand, you would like to return to some semblance of life as we knew it, you need to evaluate your life. You need to see if there is something for which you need to ask God to forgive you, and for you to repent. Maybe you need to make a change in your life and accept Jesus as your personal Savior. It is through the blood sacrifice that Jesus made on your behalf that gives you an Intercessor to stand before His Father and vouch for you. Remember, it is not by our works that gets us into heaven, it is only by the accepted blood sacrifice of Christ that we have a means to spend eternity with our Creator. Once again I will say it!

It is your choice! Choose wisely!

In October 2023, Hamas, as the terrorist arm of Gaza, entered Israel and killed over 1,300 Israelis. We still do not yet know which direction the next step may be. Only time will tell, but remember this, God has a plan. His Word will stand, Man's word will fail. We must remember what the prophecy of the Bible says and that God is not a liar. The actions of today, only help, set up the conditions necessary for Ezekiel 38 to take place. Here is what the Lord says, Ezekiel 38:1-23. ¹ *This is another message that came to me from the LORD:* ² *"Son of man, turn and face Gog of the land of Magog, the prince who rules over the nations of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him.* ³ *Give him this message from the Sovereign LORD: Gog, I am your enemy!* ⁴ *I will turn you around and put hooks in your jaws to lead you out with your whole army—your horses and charioteers in full armor and a great horde armed with shields and swords.* ⁵ *Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya will join you, too, with all their weapons.* ⁶ *Gomer and all its armies will also join you, along with the armies of Beth-togarmah from the distant north, and many others.* ⁷ *"Get ready; be prepared! Keep all the armies around you mobilized, and take command of them.* ⁸ *A long time from now you will be called into action. In the distant future you will swoop down on the land of Israel, which will be enjoying peace after recovering from war and after its people have returned from many lands to the mountains of Israel.* ⁹ *You and all your allies—a vast and awesome army—will roll down on them like a storm and cover the land like a cloud.* ¹⁰ *"This is what the Sovereign LORD says: At that time evil thoughts will come to your mind, and you will devise a wicked scheme.* ¹¹ *You will say, 'Israel is an unprotected land filled with unwalled villages! I will march against her and destroy these people who live in such confidence!' ¹² I will go to those formerly desolate cities that are now filled with people who have returned from exile in many nations. I will capture vast amounts of plunder, for the people are rich with livestock and other possessions now. They think the whole world revolves around them!' ¹³ But Sheba and Dedan and the merchants of Tarshish will ask, 'Do you really think the armies you have gathered can rob them of silver and gold? Do you think you can drive away their livestock and seize their goods and carry off plunder?' ¹⁴ "Therefore, son of man, prophesy against Gog. Give him this message from the Sovereign LORD:*

When my people are living in peace in their land, then you will rouse yourself. ¹⁵ You will come from your homeland in the distant north with your vast cavalry and your mighty army, ¹⁶ and you will attack my people Israel, covering their land like a cloud. At that time in the distant future, I will bring you against my land as everyone watches, and my holiness will be displayed by what happens to you, Gog. Then all the nations will know that I am the LORD. ¹⁷ "This is what the Sovereign LORD asks: Are you the one I was talking about long ago, when I announced through Israel's prophets that in the future I would bring you against my people? ¹⁸ But this is what the Sovereign LORD says: When Gog invades the land of Israel, my fury will boil over! ¹⁹ In my jealousy and blazing anger, I promise a mighty shaking in the land of Israel on that day. ²⁰ All living things—the fish in the sea, the birds of the sky, the animals of the field, the small animals that scurry along the ground, and all the people on earth—will quake in terror at my presence. Mountains will be thrown down; cliffs will crumble; walls will fall to the earth. ²¹ I will summon the sword against you on all the hills of Israel, says the Sovereign LORD. Your men will turn their swords against each other. ²² I will punish you and your armies with disease and bloodshed; I will send torrential rain, hailstones, fire, and burning sulfur! ²³ In this way, I will show my greatness and holiness, and I will make myself known to all the nations of the world. Then they will know that I am the LORD. (NLT)

As long as there is peace, things work as they should. Allow things to escalate into a warfare footing, and either technology, or God Himself will come into play. Look at verses 21-22 in the above passage to see if this isn't so. Remember what Jesus said in Matthew 24. Matthew 24:6-14, ⁶ *And you will hear of wars and threats of wars, but don't panic. Yes, these things must take place, but the end won't follow immediately.* ⁷ *Nation will go to war against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in many parts of the world.* ⁸ *But all this is only the first of the birth pains, with more to come.* ⁹ *"Then you will be arrested, persecuted, and killed. You will be hated all over the world because you are my followers.* ¹⁰ *And many will turn away from me and betray and hate each other.* ¹¹ *And many false prophets will appear and will deceive many people.* ¹² *Sin will be rampant everywhere, and the love of many will grow cold.* ¹³ *But the one who endures to the end will be saved.* ¹⁴ *And the Good News about the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it; and then the end will come.* (NLT)

I have one more speculation to make. All this rioting and looting in America, that is called protesting, will come to a screaming halt. By God's grace, Police agencies all across America will arrest those who are causing these things to happen. Mayors and Governors will be chastised by those they are serving. Remember those in elected office in this nation are servants of the people who put them in the positions they are holding. They are not elevated royalty who make all the rules and everything is to be their way or no way. We must return to being a God fearing, lawful nation with a moral backbone. There are still freedoms, today, but we must return to the original idea that the majority rules, and not the rule of every quack that comes down the road with a different viewpoint. Without repentance, and a change of attitude, in this nation we, Americans, are about to that point where God will step in, take charge and pour out His wrath against us!

We have reviewed the wars that appear in God's Word. We have also reviewed the words of Jesus that He spoke in Matthew 24. But, if you look around at the situations that are occurring around the world, are you aware of what is really happening? The House of Israel remains as the descendants of the ten tribe northern nation of the land of Israel who were taken into exile by the Assyrians. As the Assyrians moved across, what is today Europe, so also the ten tribe people moved. They ended up meeting the foreseen prophecy made mention of by Jacob. These two statements are recorded in the following repeated verses. We see the statement, in Genesis 35:11, concerning Jacob (Israel). ¹¹ *And God said to him, "I am God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply. A*

nation and a company of nations shall come from you, and kings shall come from your own body. (ESV) This statement is further supported in Genesis 48:19. ¹⁹ *But his father refused and said, "I know, my son, I know. He also shall become a people, and he also shall be great. Nevertheless, his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his offspring shall become a multitude of nations."* (ESV)

Let's be bold and state which nations are the actual nations that fulfill some of these two verses. Everyone who reads the Bible should have an understanding that America is the one great nation and the British Empire made up the company of nations. Today, the British descended nations would be Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. But we must look deeper into these nations. Canada has gone extreme left in their national image. Australia became a police state during the COVID-19 pandemic. We rarely hear anything about New Zealand. That leaves South Africa. Major changes have occurred in South Africa. The descendants of the original English speaking farmers of South Africa have basically been forced to give up their land and leave the country to get away from those who now form the government of South Africa. With the Israel/Hamas war, we now see the strong anti-Semitism within the current governing body of South Africa. Plainly stated, South Africa is against Israel completely, and they are doing everything they can to bring charges of genocide to the World Court against Israel.

Let's look at Europe for a moment. What many people do not understand are the changes of names for different countries. Basically, in the beginning, the nations that made up the full country of Israel were the House of Judah and the House of Israel. The House of Judah was the southern kingdom, and it was composed of the tribes of Judah, Benjamin and Levi. The House of Israel was the northern kingdom and it was composed of the remaining tribes. There will be many people who read this and make the statement that, if there are twelve tribes that make up the male children of Jacob, and there are three tribes that compose the House of Judah, that only leaves NINE, and not TEN, tribes to compose the northern kingdom. You overlooked the change that was made when Jacob adopted Joseph's two sons. The full account of the tribes composing the northern kingdom are: Reuben, Simeon, Zebulun, Issachar, Dan, Gad, Asher, Naphtali, Ephraim and Manasseh. Joseph was replaced by his two sons, thus the double portion given to Joseph. This was also the reason that I entitled my book, on how the ten northern tribes were scattered, *The Thirteenth Tribe of Israel*. There really are thirteen tribes. To understand the manner that God scattered the northern tribes, read my book, *The Thirteenth Tribe of Israel*. I understand that many people will say that this never happened, simply because they have never heard, or were taught, from their denomination that this was, and is, a fact. There will also be a few who will say that this is some type of fantasy story created by Herbert W. Armstrong and a doctrine of the various Church of God denominations. I'm sorry but Herbert Armstrong is not, nor was not, the source of material for my book, referenced just above. My main source for information, that developed into my book, was a book entitled "Judah's Sceptre and Joseph's Birthright" written by Rev. J. H. Allen and the copyright reads: Entered according to Act of Congress in the year 1902 By J. H. Allen, in the office of the Librarian of Congress, at Washington, D. C. Copyright 1917 by A. A. Beauchamp. I supplemented Rev. Allen's book with information from, "The Scottish Declaration of Independence" by E. Raymond Capt, M.A., A.I.A., F.S.A., Scot., copyrighted 1983 by Artisan Sales and a map entitled, "Israel's Wanderings" and prepared by the Rev. Fredk. Aston, H. H. Pain and 'Oxonian' Rev. W. M. H. Milner, MA in 1900. From these references, it should be obvious that my material was not developed from Mr. Armstrong's teachings. The fact is Herbert W. Armstrong was born in 1892 in Des Moines, IA and died in 1986 in Pasadena, CA. That would indicate that Mr. Armstrong would have been 8 years old when the map was drawn and 10 years old when Rev. Allen's book was entered into the Library of Congress.

While we are speaking of Herbert Armstrong, and the various Church of God denominations, I have two areas of their teaching with which I personally do not agree. I must admit that they have some

wonderful teaching material, but I just can't accept their doctrine on two subjects. The first is the feast of Firstfruits. They teach that Firstfruits is the day that I understand is taught as Pentecost in the book of Leviticus. Here are the Scriptures that I used to instruct me in a completely different manner. Leviticus provides the structure for honoring God on His feast days, or His Sabbaths. Leviticus 23:3 tells of the weekly sabbath. Verses 4-8 proclaim the feast days of Passover and Unleavened Bread. Verses 9-12 illustrate the wave offering of the sheaf for firstfruits. Notice, in verse 11, that it says: *On the day after the Sabbath* the priest shall wave it. Now, continue in verses 15-17. Notice, in verse 15, the following, ¹⁵ *You shall count seven full weeks from the day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering.* (ESV) To some extent, I can understand how firstfruits was changed. Look at the details of the Feast of Weeks (Pentecost), in verses 16b-17, ^{16b} *Then you shall present a grain offering of new grain to the Lord.* ¹⁷ *You shall bring from your dwelling places two loaves of bread to be waved, made of two tenths of an ephah. They shall be of fine flour, and they shall be baked with leaven, as firstfruits to the Lord.* (ESV) Read carefully, firstfruits is a sheaf of grain to be waved, Pentecost is baked bread to be waved. Firstfruits is tied to Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread, there is to be no leaven in your house during this feast period of seven days. Fifty days later, on Pentecost, the baked bread to be waved must contain leaven. Apparently, what is misunderstood is which grain is associated with which feast. Firstfruits is associated with the harvest of Barley. Pentecost is associated with the harvest of Wheat (fine flour for baking).

Everyone should understand that seven is God's number. It took God seven days, of His time, to complete creation. God also gave to mankind seven different feasts to be remembered every year. To most people, who read the Bible, there are three feasts in the spring of the year, the single Feast of Weeks or Pentecost, and the three feasts in the fall of the year. The associated Church of God denominations change this structure to two feasts in the spring, Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the harvest feast that they call Firstfruits, and four feasts in the fall, Feast of Trumpets, Day of Atonement, Feast of Booths, and at the end of the Feast of Booths, a day of rest that they call the Day of the Lord. There is a Day of the Lord that is mentioned in several places within Scripture, but it is not an annual feast day. That Day of the Lord is the second resurrection when all unsaved persons stand before the Lord God and are judged. Read what is recorded in Leviticus 23:39. ³⁹ *On the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when you have gathered in the produce of the land, you shall celebrate the feast of the Lord seven days. On the first day shall be a solemn rest, and on the eighth day shall be a solemn rest.* (ESV)

The second item that I disagree with the leaders of the Church of God is their doctrine that not every one is called to Christ Jesus during their lifetime. They contend that at the second resurrection, those who have never heard the name Jesus will be given an opportunity to accept Jesus as their Savior. Here is a quote from their magazine, Tomorrow's World, Questions and Answers, May-June 2024 issue, page 9:

In the book of Revelation, we read of two distinct groups of people who will be resurrected. One will be resurrected to eternal life as a part of God's divine family, while the other will be resurrected to renewed physical life and have their first opportunity to accept Jesus Christ as Savior and live in obedience to God's loving commands (Revelation 20:4-6, 11-13). All who respond to this opportunity will later be resurrected as everlasting Spirit-beings, living on into eternity as members of the Family of God. Those who do not take this opportunity, but instead choose to rebel against God while having full knowledge of the consequences, will be executed in the Lake of Fire and never live again (vv. 14-15).

Here is what those verses actually read. 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.* Verses 11-13, ¹¹ *Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them.* ¹² *And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done.* ¹³ *And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done.* Verses 14-15, ¹⁴ *Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.* ¹⁵ *And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.* (ESV) Another portion of their Questions and Answers page stated the following quote:

But the Bible assures us that a time will come when everyone will hear the true Gospel and have the opportunity to respond (Ezekiel 37:1-14; Romans 11:26).

Here is what the text reads for Ezekiel 37:1-14, ¹ *The hand of the Lord was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones.* ² *And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry.* ³ *And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord God, you know."* ⁴ *Then he said to me, "Prophesy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord.* ⁵ *Thus says the Lord God to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live.* ⁶ *And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord."*

⁷ *So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone.* ⁸ *And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them.* ⁹ *Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live."* ¹⁰ *So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.*

¹¹ *Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are indeed cut off.'* ¹² *Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel.* ¹³ *And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people.* ¹⁴ *And **I will put my Spirit within you,** and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the Lord; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the Lord." (ESV) Here is what Romans 11:26 reads. ²⁶ *And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; (NKJV) My question is this, "How did you determine the quote from the actual reading of the text?"**

I really have great difficulty understanding how the statements pertaining to the text from Ezekiel have any indication that there is a second opportunity for those who have never heard about Jesus to return to physical life to hear the Word of God concerning His Son, Jesus, the Christ! There are many reasons to make this statement in this manner! First, God has the ability to change the body of His creation from terrestrial to celestial. We are told this by Paul in 1 Corinthians 15:39-40. ³⁹ *All flesh is not the same flesh, but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of animals, another of fish, and another of birds.* ⁴⁰ *There are also celestial bodies and terrestrial bodies; but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another.* (NKJV) God can take dry bones and connect them back together, He can put flesh over those bones and He can go so far as to put breath in these reformed bodies. **But did you notice what He didn't do?** God did not put blood back into these reformed bodies. In other words, this mighty group of individuals are in spirit or celestial bodies. It is the blood that makes the difference. What was it that God had His Son do to show the love of God for His creation? Wasn't it the blood of Jesus that was shed (forfeited) as the payment for mankind's sins (past, present and future). It is the blood that makes the difference! I believe that I can illustrate my statement clearly if you will give me a little time and some sound reasoning. There are several passages of Scripture that seem to apply to two different individuals as the story from the Bible is told. Consider that God has two witnesses proclaiming the Good News in Jerusalem during the tribulation. Some people believe that these two could be Elijah and Enoch because they were taken by God. Text does not say that they died, but God took them. There is also the story of the transfiguration of Jesus on the mount and He spoke to Moses and Elijah. Some believe that these two men could be the two witnesses that are mentioned above. Let's consider something a little different. Recall from the Bible that there were two people who were brought back to physical life from death. These are Jonah and Lazarus. In the case of Jonah, he drowned in the belly of the great fish and God had the fish to vomit him out. Then God brought him back to life after three days and three nights. In the case of Lazarus, Jesus waited until the fourth day before He called him out of the tomb. In every case pertaining to these five individuals, their blood remained in their body at the moment of death. Even so, we must remember that in today's world most people who die are embalmed, in other words, their blood is drained from the body. If my mind serves me correctly, there were two men in the Bible who were embalmed, those two are Joseph and his father Jacob. They both were embalmed in Egypt.

However, with the case of the dry bones in Ezekiel, and even with the crucifixion of Jesus, their blood is not in their body. We should be able to see this in the passage of Scripture in Ezekiel 37. Recall that God filled them with His Spirit, but He did not place any blood in them. Let's go a little deeper with our discussion and view the death of Jesus. Jesus was scourged by the Romans. This is a savage whipping with a whip that has sharp pieces of metal or glass that cuts and tears the skin and body tissue as the individual is being whipped. Then Jesus is crowned with a thorny crown that tears the skin on His head. Jesus is so weak from the loss of blood that the Romans had to have a different man to carry the cross. When they finally get to the place for the actual crucifixion, Jesus is nailed to the cross through His wrists and also His feet. All of these terrible acts only cause more and more blood loss to occur. Finally, Jesus is speared under His ribs and His heart is pierced. **Payment for mankind's sins has been paid.** Three days and three nights later, God brought Jesus back to the world of the living. However, Jesus is now in His celestial body, which gives Him the ability to go through locked doors and walls, and to be unrecognized by many who met Him after He arose. The difference in these two viewpoints is the physical presence of a person's blood being in their body or not. Why does that matter? Repentance is only available when blood is present in the body! That is why Satan, and all his demons, cannot repent. They are all spirits and spirits do not have any blood. That is also why Jesus was sent to earth in the manner that He was. He could not come as a Spirit, because spirits do not die, nor have blood. He could not have an earthly father because mankind's heart, under the influence of

Satan and through the sin committed in the Garden, is against God. To heal this breach between mankind and God, there had to be an individual of human flesh that was sinless to sacrifice life to receive atonement. That was fulfilled by Jesus because of the love of God for His creation of mankind in the image of Himself. This is also why Satan is doing everything he can to destroy the people of God.

God's people may be considered in two different categories. Israel, the present day country of 15 million people, is God's chosen people, the Jews. It is an absolute travesty that the world wants to rid itself of this one percent of humanity. Of course, God also has scattered the northern kingdom, also known as the House of Israel, but Satan knows who they are, just as much as God Himself knows who they are. It is these scattered peoples that do not acknowledge that they are descendants of the Ten Tribes of Israel, and that makes up the scattered tribes of the House of Israel. When these people used the Bible to construct their constitutions and moral laws, they were blessed as God promised to Abraham that He would bless his descendants. Apart from the blessings, we also find the disobedience that these nations have been following, and the removal of the hedge around these nations. These nations have not taken seriously the passages of Scripture in Leviticus and Deuteronomy. There is a point that disobedience will lead to God's wrath. Please allow me to give you one example.

When the rich young man asked Jesus what he must do to enter the kingdom of Heaven, Jesus told him to first, **keep the commandments**. Matthew 19:16-22, 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**."* ¹⁸ *He said to Him, "Which ones?"* Jesus said, *"You shall not murder,' 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not bear false witness,'* ¹⁹ *'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'* ²⁰ *The young man said to Him, "All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?"* ²¹ *Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."* ²² *But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.* (NKJV) Notice that Jesus, at first, told him to keep the commandments. Then Jesus went on to give him specific instructions. Let's look at this a little more. Jesus told him to keep the commandments. There are ten, and if we include the one extra commandment that Jesus gave us in John 13:34-35: ³⁴ *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.* ³⁵ *By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.* (ESV) there would be a total of eleven. Here is another question: Are you aware of God's one test for mankind? It has to do with the Ten Commandments and also a relationship to the "Mark of the Beast".

God gave the Ten Commandments to Moses in Exodus Chapter 20:1-17. ¹ *And God spoke all these words, saying,* ² *"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.* ³ *"You shall have no other gods before me.* ⁴ *"You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.* ⁵ *You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me,* ⁶ *but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.* ⁷ *"You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.* ⁸ *"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.* ⁹ *Six days you shall labor, and do all your work,* ¹⁰ *but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates.* ¹¹ *For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.* ¹² *"Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.* ¹³ *"You shall not murder.* ¹⁴ *"You shall not commit*

adultery. ¹⁵ “You shall not steal. ¹⁶ “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. ¹⁷ “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor’s.” (ESV) This is the full text as God spoke these words, to the Hebrews, in the wilderness. It is a little different from the pictures you see in some places that represent the Ten Commandments. If we go to the book of Revelation, we also know that there is the mark of the beast that mankind is not to accept. Those who accept that mark are destined to go to the Lake of Fire. But, there is a counter, to that worthless mark, in the sign of God that is given to mankind eleven chapters later in the book of Exodus. Look at the specific test that God established with mankind. We find this in Exodus 31:12-18. ¹² *And the Lord said to Moses,* ¹³ “*You are to speak to the people of Israel and say, ‘Above all you shall keep my Sabbaths, for this is a sign between me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I, the Lord, sanctify you. ¹⁴ You shall keep the Sabbath, because it is holy for you. Everyone who profanes it shall be put to death. Whoever does any work on it, that soul shall be cut off from among his people. ¹⁵ Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, holy to the Lord. Whoever does any work on the Sabbath day shall be put to death. ¹⁶ Therefore the people of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, observing the Sabbath throughout their generations, as a covenant forever. ¹⁷ It is a sign forever between me and the people of Israel that in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested and was refreshed.’* ¹⁸ “*And he gave to Moses, when he had finished speaking with him on Mount Sinai, the two tablets of the testimony, tablets of stone, written with the finger of God.* (ESV)

Now, do you understand why it is so very important to observe the Sabbath as God instructed mankind to do? Catholic Church fathers presented to Emperor Constantine a change for worship services in 325 C. E. They suggested that the Sabbath of the Jews be changed to a Sabbath on the first day of the week for Christians. Constantine was very happy to do this because he was a worshipper of the sun god cult. So, Sunday became the new day of worship without any reference from God’s Holy Word. It remains that way today without any guidance from God to change His Holy day. Just one more attempt by Satan to destroy all things of God. From His creation of mankind to His Holy Sabbaths, Satan is doing all he can to deceive mankind into being disobedient to God’s instructions. I know that there will be many people who disagree with me and say they are not Jewish and do not have to honor the seventh day Sabbath. Once again, it appears that Satan has deceived you on another thought, idea or rule. If you have accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior, you are a child of God, therefore, a spiritual Jew and this rule applies to you. If you continue to feel that you do not have to be obedient to observing the seventh day Sabbath, just remember what the consequences will be.

Since we are speaking about the Sabbath, there is another Sabbath of which we need to be aware. Do you recall, in any verse or story from the Bible, that the land also has a Sabbath rest? It really does, and the verses that we need to study next are taken from Leviticus 25:1-7. ¹ *The Lord spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai, saying,* ² “*Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, When you come into the land that I give you, the land shall keep a Sabbath to the Lord. ³ For six years you shall sow your field, and for six years you shall prune your vineyard and gather in its fruits, ⁴ but in the seventh year there shall be a Sabbath of solemn rest for the land, a Sabbath to the Lord. You shall not sow your field or prune your vineyard. ⁵ You shall not reap what grows of itself in your harvest, or gather the grapes of your undressed vine. It shall be a year of solemn rest for the land. ⁶ The Sabbath of the land shall provide food for you, for yourself and for your male and female slaves and for your hired servant and the sojourner who lives with you, ⁷ and for your cattle and for the wild animals that are in your land: all its yield shall be for food.* (ESV) The Hebrew word for this seven year cycle is Shemitah, and it literally means “release”. If we turn over to Leviticus 26:17-46, we will find the importance of this seven-year cycle as God warns the nation of Israel, of the consequences of disobedience to His laws, when He states several times that they will be punished seven times more for their sins. This is the reason that the

House of Judah went into exile in Babylon for seventy years. Israel had disobeyed God, for 490 years, and it resulted in their exile to Babylon. To prove this, let's look at the verses which tell us this story. First, look at Leviticus 26:17-46 that was referenced above. ¹⁷ *I will set my face against you, and you shall be struck down before your enemies. Those who hate you shall rule over you, and you shall flee when none pursues you.* 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.* ²⁰ *And your strength shall be spent in vain, for your land shall not yield its increase, and the trees of the land shall not yield their fruit.*

²¹ *“Then if you walk contrary to me and will not listen to me, **I will continue striking you, sevenfold for your sins.*** ²² *And I will let loose the wild beasts against you, which shall bereave you of your children and destroy your livestock and make you few in number; so that your roads shall be deserted.*

²³ *“And if by this discipline you are not turned to me but walk contrary to me, ²⁴ then I also will walk contrary to you, and **I myself will strike you sevenfold for your sins.*** ²⁵ *And I will bring a sword upon you, that shall execute vengeance for the covenant. And if you gather within your cities, I will send pestilence among you, and you shall be delivered into the hand of the enemy.* ²⁶ *When I break your supply of bread, ten women shall bake your bread in a single oven and shall dole out your bread again by weight, and you shall eat and not be satisfied.*

²⁷ *“But if in spite of this you will not listen to me, but walk contrary to me, ²⁸ then I will walk contrary to you **in fury**, and **I myself will discipline you sevenfold for your sins.*** ²⁹ *You shall eat the flesh of your sons, and you shall eat the flesh of your daughters.* ³⁰ *And I will destroy your high places and cut down your incense altars and cast your dead bodies upon the dead bodies of your idols, and my soul will abhor you.* ³¹ *And I will lay your cities waste and will make your sanctuaries desolate, and I will not smell your pleasing aromas.* ³² *And I myself will devastate the land, so that your enemies who settle in it shall be appalled at it.* ³³ *And **I will scatter you among the nations**, and I will unsheathe the sword after you, and your land shall be a desolation, and your cities shall be a waste.*

³⁴ *“Then the land shall enjoy its Sabbaths as long as it lies desolate, while you are in your enemies' land; then the land shall rest, and enjoy its Sabbaths.* ³⁵ *As long as it lies desolate it shall have rest, the rest that it did not have on your Sabbaths when you were dwelling in it.* ³⁶ *And as for those of you who are left, I will send faintness into their hearts in the lands of their enemies. The sound of a driven leaf shall put them to flight, and they shall flee as one flees from the sword, and they shall fall when none pursues.* ³⁷ *They shall stumble over one another, as if to escape a sword, though none pursues. And you shall have no power to stand before your enemies.* ³⁸ *And you shall perish among the nations, and the land of your enemies shall eat you up.* ³⁹ *And those of you who are left shall rot away in your enemies' lands because of their iniquity, and also because of the iniquities of their fathers they shall rot away like them.*

⁴⁰ *“But if they confess their iniquity and the iniquity of their fathers in their treachery that they committed against me, and also in walking contrary to me, ⁴¹ so that I walked contrary to them and brought them into the land of their enemies—if then their uncircumcised heart is humbled and they make amends for their iniquity, ⁴² then I will remember my covenant with Jacob, and I will remember my covenant with Isaac and my covenant with Abraham, and I will remember the land.* ⁴³ *But the land shall be abandoned by them and enjoy its Sabbaths while it lies desolate without them, and they shall make amends for their iniquity, because they spurned my rules and their soul abhorred my statutes.* ⁴⁴ *Yet for all that, when they are in the land of their enemies, I will not spurn them, neither will I abhor them so as to destroy them utterly and break my covenant with them, for I am the Lord their God.* ⁴⁵ *But I will for their sake remember the covenant with their forefathers, whom I brought out of the land of Egypt in the sight of the nations, that I might be their God: I am the Lord.”*

⁴⁶ *These are the statutes and rules and laws that the Lord made between himself and the people of Israel through Moses on Mount Sinai.* (ESV) These are the statements of God that He made to Moses on Mount Sinai. Do you see the importance of obeying God laws? Do you see the consequences for disobedience? Would it become even clearer if I showed you the fulfillment of God's Word toward the House of Judah in the book of Jeremiah? Read what is recorded in Jeremiah 29:1-14. ¹ *These are the words of the letter that Jeremiah the prophet sent from Jerusalem to the surviving elders of the exiles, and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people, whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon.* ² *This was after King Jeconiah and the queen mother, the eunuchs, the officials of Judah and Jerusalem, the craftsmen, and the metal workers had departed from Jerusalem.* ³ *The letter was sent by the hand of Elasah the son of Shaphan and Gemariah the son of Hilkiyah, whom Zedekiah king of Judah sent to Babylon to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon. It said:* ⁴ *“Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon:* ⁵ *Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce.* ⁶ *Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease.* ⁷ *But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.* ⁸ *For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let your prophets and your diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream,* ⁹ *for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, declares the Lord.*

¹⁰ *“For thus says the Lord: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place.* ¹¹ *For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.* ¹² *Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you.* ¹³ *You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.* ¹⁴ *I will be found by you, declares the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.* (ESV) We also need to bring the House of Israel into these statements of God. We do that in the book of Ezekiel, Chapter 37:15-23. ¹⁵ *The word of the Lord came to me:* ¹⁶ *“Son of man, take a stick and write on it, ‘For Judah, and the people of Israel associated with him’; then take another stick and write on it, ‘For Joseph (the stick of Ephraim) and all the house of Israel associated with him.’”* ¹⁷ *And **join them one to another into one stick, that they may become one in your hand.*** ¹⁸ *And when your people say to you, ‘Will you not tell us what you mean by these?’”* ¹⁹ *say to them, Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I am about to take the stick of Joseph (that is in the hand of Ephraim) and the tribes of Israel associated with him. And I will join with it the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, that they may be one in my hand.* ²⁰ *When the sticks on which you write are in your hand before their eyes,* ²¹ *then say to them, Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I will take the people of Israel from the nations among which they have gone, and will gather them from all around, and bring them to their own land.* ²² *And I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel. And one king shall be king over them all, and they shall be no longer two nations, and no longer divided into two kingdoms.* ²³ *They shall not defile themselves anymore with their idols and their detestable things, or with any of their transgressions. But I will save them from all the backslidings in which they have sinned, and will cleanse them; and they shall be my people, and I will be their God.* (ESV) Now that we have this information, let's see what we have. We know that the land also requires a period of rest, that would be every seven years as a portion of the Shemitah cycle.

Once I found all of this information and understood what it meant, I took it upon myself to learn what I could about this Shemitah cycle, including what year was what in the beginning and ending of each cycle. I learned that over the last eight cycles, the dates for the various 1st year were 1973, 1980, 1987, 1994, 2001, 2008, 2015, 2022. Now, let's get very serious. We know that there are wars and

rumors of wars that are to occur. We also know that God's Word, the Holy Bible, informs us that there is to be a seven year tribulation period prior to the return of Christ. Since God does things according to His established dates and cycles, it would seem most likely that the seven year tribulation period would start on a Shemitah cycle. We also know that this year, 2024, is an election year, and we already have the players named though we haven't gone through the primary voting season nor the political party conventions. We shall see Trump and Biden go against each other as they did in 2020. Let's bring in a couple more dates. The United Nations has an agenda that they desire a one world government to be in effect in 2035. A group in Arizona operating as a ministry called "Faith Comes by Hearing" has an aggressive agenda to have all 7,140 languages of the earth to have the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John translated into the native, or heart language for every language on earth completed by 2033. It seems to me that God has many things planned around the time of the mid 2030's. So, let's take all of this and view it in the perspective of Shemitah cycles. In our Presidential election cycles, we would have the next election in 2028, and the newly elected President would take his/her office on January 20th of 2029. The next Shemitah cycle will begin in 2029, and the length of the tribulation is seven years. If the Rapture took place prior to the beginning of the Shemitah cycle in 2029, the seven year tribulation could fit into the seven year Shemitah cycle that would begin in 2029 and end in 2035. Stop and think! That really is not that far away. I have said that I am not a prophet, and I am not suggesting that the rapture and the tribulation will happen in the next five years. I'm only trying to fulfill my appointment as a watchman, and also to give you a warning of what could be. Remember, the choice is yours as a free-will agent of God. I can only pray that you choose wisely in your decisions over the next few years.

Within the pages of this work, there are several statements that make reference to the Revelation of Jesus, the Christ, as told to the Apostle John while he was imprisoned on the Isle of Patmos in the Aegean Sea. We also know that the Revelation was written to the seven churches named in the province of Asia. Since the time of writing, the seven churches mentioned can be found in the present day country of Turkey. It has also been said that these seven churches identify seven different styles of church doctrine, or even seven different church ages since the time of Christ. Here is my present question pertaining to the last church age. Isn't that the period of time when we see the seventh, and final, revision of the Roman Empire? Do you have an understanding of Bible prophecy, or is your understanding something on the vague side of things? The prophet Daniel interpreted King Nebuchadnezzar's dream of the image that the king saw in his dream. There were five, actually six, kingdoms illustrated in the image of the king's dream. The head was for Babylon, the chest was for Persia, the abdomen for Greece, the loin and legs for Rome and the feet and toes for the revised Roman Empire at the end of mankind's agenda of time on planet earth. The sixth kingdom is the stone that was not made by hands that destroyed the image, that kingdom is the Kingdom of God which shall remain for eternity. Who might be some of the players at that time? First, we know that the world superpower at that time will come from Europe. The one country that is dominating the EU is Germany, and with the Ukraine and Israel conflicts, Germany is dominate in many areas and changing the game plans that have been in effect since the end of World War II. England and America were determined to stop and control Germany's war making capability. One of the reasons for NATO was to have a unified shield over Europe to control Germany's war making capability. Remember, it was Germany who had built up their armies to the point of being the country that started World War I and II. Now with the situation being what it is, in both Ukraine and Israel, we see Germany once again building up its military strength, defense budget and technologically advanced weapons. Germany is taking the lead in the EU to push for more military forces that are strictly European and leave Great Britain, Canada and the United States out of that picture. In fact, if you really went deep in the apparent plans of Germany, you would find the idea of Germany rebuilding the Roman Empire, and someone of Germany descent that becomes

the Antichrist, and the attacking of both Great Britain and the United States by a German led attack. Once this occurs Germany will be in the position of being the king of the north in the prophecy of Ezekiel 38-39. The German Antichrist will be the one to establish the final peace agreement made with Israel, and 3 1/2 years later will break that treaty. Look back at the writings of the wars to be fought from the pages of the Bible and see if you can't visualize this as a reality that just could be true. This is a warning for you to understand.

Watch carefully and observe the tactics of Germany and Russia as the days progress. That might be difficult to do since the media of our nation is set to control what the left agenda dictates. It will be difficult to gather information from any specific nation. Oh! Israel will be mentioned, the United Nations will be mentioned, but unless there is a change in journalism, Americans will be in the dark as to what is happening around the globe.

Consider the invisible war that China is fighting against the United States right now. The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) is using fentanyl against America in the "supreme act of war." Chinese infiltration of the United States is costing the death of about 300 Americans each and every day. Ha! I bet you didn't even understand that we were under attack, or that there was a war going on. To date, the slain, so far in this war, total more than the combat deaths in Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan combined. There is an American dying every seven minutes from an overdose of fentanyl.

But how is this war being run and manipulated? There is no army in uniforms, no guns pointed at our people, but by our own decisions and desire to do things our way, and not God's way, we are choosing to kill ourselves by drug overdose, and we didn't know that would happen. Here is most likely what you don't know.

Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is about 50 times more potent than heroin and 100 times more potent than morphine. Fentanyl is also easier and cheaper than making heroin, since it's entirely synthetic and doesn't require growing poppies, or dealing with related agricultural complications. The U.S. fentanyl crisis does not begin south of the Rio Grande, but 7,000 miles east of the America heartland in Shijiazhuang, China. Companies there produce some 40 percent of the precursor chemicals from which illicit fentanyl is made. Another 55 percent of those chemicals are manufactured in several other cities across China. It is important to understand that in China, even firms that are not officially "state-owned" still operate at the discretion of the authoritarian government, and function as weapons of statecraft. Many think that making precursors is where China's involvement in the U.S. fentanyl crisis ends. It is actually only the beginning.

From Shijiazhuang and other cities, China then ships these chemicals across the Pacific Ocean to Manzanillo, a major port northwest of Mexico City. The international terminal at this port, like several others in Mexico, is not run by Mexican companies, but by a Chinese company called CK Hutchison Holdings. Hutchison also controls the railroad terminals in Manzanillo. Its employees keep a steady flow of trains hauling car after car of precursors up to Culiacán, a small town in northern Mexico.

Approximately 2,000 Chinese nationals, many of them chemists, have a permanent presence in Culiacán. They work with Mexican drug cartels to convert those precursor chemicals coming from Manzanillo into the toxic cocktail called fentanyl. This attack doesn't stop there.

After the fentanyl is successfully synthesized, it needs to be pressed into pill form for easy smuggling, distribution and ingestion. Again, China lends a helping hand to Mexico by selling the drug cartels the needed pill presses at cost. Many of the pill presses made by China include the specific metal cast dies that are needed to imprint the pills with counterfeit codes, such as "10/352". That's the imprint code placed on genuine Percocet pills. Once the fake pills are ready for distribution the cartels zip across our Swiss-cheese border and distribute the pills throughout our nation. The final step is giving cartel blood money an appearance of legitimacy so it can be spent on weapons, bribes and

anything else that will expand their vicious drug empires. Chinese operatives launder billions of fentanyl dollars for cartels each year. They do this at rates of 1 to 2 percent commission. Just to show you how bad this invisible war really is, look at these figures. In 2023 the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) seized more than 79.5 million fentanyl-laced fake pills, and nearly 12,000 pounds of fentanyl powder. Those seizures were equivalent to over 376.7 million lethal doses of fentanyl—more than enough to kill every American. Think about it!

We have jumped around God's Holy Word in an attempt to have you understand more of God's Word and, at the same time, to grasp many things from the Old Testament. There are two other areas that I'd like to have you, the reader, look at. At one point, I gave the Scripture for the full Ten Commandments of God. Have you understood what Jesus meant when He was asked what was the greatest commandment? I began this work with a question of who do you think rules you? At the time of Jesus' first appearance on earth, there almost seems to be a game of who rules whom between the scribes, Pharisees, Sadducees and Christ. Look at Matthew 22:34-40. ³⁴ *But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together.* ³⁵ *And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him.* ³⁶ *“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?”* ³⁷ *And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.* ³⁸ *This is the great and first commandment.* ³⁹ *And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.* ⁴⁰ *On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”* (ESV) Wait a minute, aren't there Ten Commandments? How did Jesus reduce ten down to two? Look carefully at the wording that Jesus spoke to the Pharisee lawyer. The first command that Jesus gave the lawyer paid full respect to the first four commandments of God's Ten Commandments. These first four commandments have to do with God, just as Jesus said in verses 37 and 38. The second command that Jesus gave the lawyer fully incorporated the moral code of the other six commandments of God's Ten Commandments. Bring into this discussion the remaining verses in Matthew 22 where Jesus asked a question to test the Pharisees that were gathered. Here are the verses from 41-46. ⁴¹ *Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question,* ⁴² *saying, “What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?”* *They said to him, “The son of David.”* ⁴³ *He said to them, “How is it then that David, in the Spirit, calls him Lord, saying,* ⁴⁴ *“The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet”?* ⁴⁵ *If then David calls him Lord, how is he his son?”* ⁴⁶ *And no one was able to answer him a word, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.* (ESV) It would seem that Jesus was able to craft an answer and then form a question that completely caused a flip-flop among the Pharisees. I wonder what they would think if Jesus had instructed them to follow His one new commandment. John 13:34-35, ³⁴ *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.* ³⁵ *By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”* (ESV)

While we are discussing the Ten Commandments, I'd like to ask you another question. How strongly did King David feel about the Ten Commandments? I know, that seems like a silly question. Not only does that seem strange, but where would you even look for an answer? King David was the second king over all Israel (Both houses: the House of Judah and the House of Israel). He wrote a lot of the Psalms, and there is, one Psalm that should show us an answer. Look at Psalm 119. I know this Psalm has 176 verses. In fact, let's have a little fun with this before I place that full Psalm into this work. How many Chapters are there in the entire Bible? What is the shortest Chapter in the Bible? What is the middle Chapter in the Bible? What is the longest Chapter in the Bible? What is the middle verse in the entire Bible? What is the shortest verse in the Bible? Okay, here are the answers. There are a total of 1,188 Chapters in the entire Bible. The shortest Chapter is Psalm 117. The middle Chapter is Psalm 118. The longest Chapter is Psalm 119. The middle verse in the Bible is Psalm 118:8, which reads, ⁸ *It is better to trust in the Lord Than to put confidence in man.* (NKJV) The shortest verse in the

Bible is John 11:35,³⁵ *Jesus wept.* (ESV) Now let's look at Psalm 119.¹ *Blessed are the undefiled in the way, Who walk in the law of the Lord!*² *Blessed are those who keep His testimonies, Who seek Him with the whole heart!*³ *They also do no iniquity; They walk in His ways.*⁴ *You have commanded us To keep Your precepts diligently.*⁵ *Oh, that my ways were directed To keep Your statutes!*⁶ ***Then I would not be ashamed, When I look into all Your commandments.***⁷ *I will praise You with uprightness of heart, When I learn Your righteous judgments.*⁸ *I will keep Your statutes; Oh, do not forsake me utterly!*⁹ *How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word.*¹⁰ ***With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments!***¹¹ *Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You!*¹² *Blessed are You, O Lord! Teach me Your statutes!*¹³ *With my lips I have declared All the judgments of Your mouth.*¹⁴ *I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies, As much as in all riches.*¹⁵ *I will meditate on Your precepts, And contemplate Your ways.*¹⁶ *I will delight myself in Your statutes; I will not forget Your word.*¹⁷ *Deal bountifully with Your servant, That I may live and keep Your word.*¹⁸ *Open my eyes, that I may see Wondrous things from Your law.*¹⁹ *I am a stranger in the earth; **Do not hide Your commandments from me.***²⁰ *My soul breaks with longing For Your judgments at all times.*²¹ ***You rebuke the proud—the cursed, Who stray from Your commandments.***²² *Remove from me reproach and contempt, For I have kept Your testimonies.*²³ *Princes also sit and speak against me, But Your servant meditates on Your statutes.*²⁴ *Your testimonies also are my delight And my counselors.*²⁵ *My soul clings to the dust; Revive me according to Your word.*²⁶ *I have declared my ways, and You answered me; Teach me Your statutes.*²⁷ *Make me understand the way of Your precepts; So shall I meditate on Your wondrous works.*²⁸ *My soul melts from heaviness; Strengthen me according to Your word.*²⁹ *Remove from me the way of lying, And grant me Your law graciously.*³⁰ *I have chosen the way of truth; Your judgments I have laid before me.*³¹ *I cling to Your testimonies; O Lord, do not put me to shame!*³² ***I will run the course of Your commandments,***³³ *For You shall enlarge my heart.*³⁴ *Teach me, O Lord, the way of Your statutes, And I shall keep it to the end.*³⁵ *Give me understanding, and I shall keep Your law; Indeed, I shall observe it with my whole heart.*³⁶ ***Make me walk in the path of Your commandments,***³⁷ *For I delight in it.*³⁸ *Incline my heart to Your testimonies, And not to covetousness.*³⁹ *Turn away my eyes from looking at worthless things, And revive me in Your way.*⁴⁰ *Establish Your word to Your servant, Who is devoted to fearing You.*⁴¹ *Turn away my reproach which I dread, For Your judgments are good.*⁴² *Behold, I long for Your precepts; Revive me in Your righteousness.*⁴³ *Let Your mercies come also to me, O Lord—Your salvation according to Your word.*⁴⁴ *So shall I have an answer for him who reproaches me, For I trust in Your word.*⁴⁵ *And take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth, For I have hoped in Your ordinances.*⁴⁶ *So shall I keep Your law continually, Forever and ever.*⁴⁷ *And I will walk at liberty, For I seek Your precepts.*⁴⁸ *I will speak of Your testimonies also before kings, And will not be ashamed.*⁴⁹ ***And I will delight myself in Your commandments,***⁵⁰ *Which I love.*⁵¹ ***My hands also I will lift up to Your commandments,***⁵² *Which I love, And I will meditate on Your statutes.*⁵³ *Remember the word to Your servant, Upon which You have caused me to hope.*⁵⁴ *This is my comfort in my affliction, For Your word has given me life.*⁵⁵ *The proud have me in great derision, Yet I do not turn aside from Your law.*⁵⁶ *I remembered Your judgments of old, O Lord, And have comforted myself.*⁵⁷ *Indignation has taken hold of me Because of the wicked, who forsake Your law.*⁵⁸ *Your statutes have been my songs In the house of my pilgrimage.*⁵⁹ *I remember Your name in the night, O Lord, And I keep Your law.*⁶⁰ *This has become mine, Because I kept Your precepts.*⁶¹ *You are my portion, O Lord; I have said that I would keep Your words.*⁶² *I entreated Your favor with my whole heart; Be merciful to me according to Your word.*⁶³ *I thought about my ways, And turned my feet to Your testimonies.*⁶⁴ ***I made haste, and did not delay To keep Your commandments.***⁶⁵ *The cords of the wicked have bound me, But I have not forgotten Your law.*⁶⁶ *At midnight I will rise to give thanks to You, Because of Your righteous judgments.*⁶⁷ *I am a companion of all who fear You, And of those who keep Your precepts.*⁶⁸ *The earth, O Lord, is full of Your mercy; Teach me Your statutes.*⁶⁹

You have dealt well with Your servant, O Lord, according to Your word.⁶⁶ Teach me good judgment and knowledge, **For I believe Your commandments.**⁶⁷ Before I was afflicted I went astray, But now I keep Your word.⁶⁸ You are good, and do good; Teach me Your statutes.⁶⁹ The proud have forged a lie against me, But I will keep Your precepts with my whole heart.⁷⁰ Their heart is as fat as grease, But I delight in Your law.⁷¹ It is good for me that I have been afflicted, That I may learn Your statutes.⁷² The law of Your mouth is better to me Than thousands of coins of gold and silver.⁷³ Your hands have made me and fashioned me; **Give me understanding, that I may learn Your commandments.**⁷⁴ Those who fear You will be glad when they see me, Because I have hoped in Your word.⁷⁵ I know, O Lord, that Your judgments are right, And that in faithfulness You have afflicted me.⁷⁶ Let, I pray, Your merciful kindness be for my comfort, According to Your word to Your servant.⁷⁷ Let Your tender mercies come to me, that I may live; For Your law is my delight.⁷⁸ Let the proud be ashamed, For they treated me wrongfully with falsehood; But I will meditate on Your precepts.⁷⁹ Let those who fear You turn to me, Those who know Your testimonies.⁸⁰ Let my heart be blameless regarding Your statutes, That I may not be ashamed.⁸¹ My soul faints for Your salvation, But I hope in Your word.⁸² My eyes fail from searching Your word, Saying, "When will You comfort me?"⁸³ For I have become like a wineskin in smoke, Yet I do not forget Your statutes.⁸⁴ How many are the days of Your servant? When will You execute judgment on those who persecute me?⁸⁵ The proud have dug pits for me, Which is not according to Your law.⁸⁶ **All Your commandments are faithful;** They persecute me wrongfully; Help me!⁸⁷ They almost made an end of me on earth, But I did not forsake Your precepts.⁸⁸ Revive me according to Your lovingkindness, So that I may keep the testimony of Your mouth.⁸⁹ Forever, O Lord, Your word is settled in heaven.⁹⁰ Your faithfulness endures to all generations; You established the earth, and it abides.⁹¹ They continue this day according to Your ordinances, For all are Your servants.⁹² Unless Your law had been my delight, I would then have perished in my affliction.⁹³ I will never forget Your precepts, For by them You have given me life.⁹⁴ I am Yours, save me; For I have sought Your precepts.⁹⁵ The wicked wait for me to destroy me, But I will consider Your testimonies.⁹⁶ I have seen the consummation of all perfection, **But Your commandment is exceedingly broad.**⁹⁷ Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.⁹⁸ **You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies;** For they are ever with me.⁹⁹ I have more understanding than all my teachers, For Your testimonies are my meditation.¹⁰⁰ I understand more than the ancients, Because I keep Your precepts.¹⁰¹ I have restrained my feet from every evil way, That I may keep Your word.¹⁰² I have not departed from Your judgments, For You Yourself have taught me.¹⁰³ How sweet are Your words to my taste, Sweeter than honey to my mouth!¹⁰⁴ Through Your precepts I get understanding; Therefore I hate every false way.¹⁰⁵ Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.¹⁰⁶ I have sworn and confirmed That I will keep Your righteous judgments.¹⁰⁷ I am afflicted very much; Revive me, O Lord, according to Your word.¹⁰⁸ Accept, I pray, the freewill offerings of my mouth, O Lord, And teach me Your judgments.¹⁰⁹ My life is continually in my hand, Yet I do not forget Your law.¹¹⁰ The wicked have laid a snare for me, Yet I have not strayed from Your precepts.¹¹¹ Your testimonies I have taken as a heritage forever, For they are the rejoicing of my heart.¹¹² I have inclined my heart to perform Your statutes Forever, to the very end.¹¹³ I hate the double-minded, But I love Your law.¹¹⁴ You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in Your word.¹¹⁵ Depart from me, you evildoers, **For I will keep the commandments of my God!**¹¹⁶ Uphold me according to Your word, that I may live; And do not let me be ashamed of my hope.¹¹⁷ Hold me up, and I shall be safe, And I shall observe Your statutes continually.¹¹⁸ You reject all those who stray from Your statutes, For their deceit is falsehood.¹¹⁹ You put away all the wicked of the earth like dross; Therefore I love Your testimonies.¹²⁰ My flesh trembles for fear of You, And I am afraid of Your judgments.¹²¹ I have done justice and righteousness; Do not leave me to my oppressors.¹²² Be surety for Your servant for good; Do not let the proud oppress me.¹²³ My eyes fail from seeking Your salvation And Your righteous word.¹²⁴ Deal with Your servant according to Your mercy, And teach me Your statutes.¹²⁵ I am Your servant; Give me

understanding, That I may know Your testimonies.¹²⁶ It is time for You to act, O Lord, For they have regarded Your law as void.¹²⁷ Therefore **I love Your commandments** More than gold, yes, than fine gold!¹²⁸ Therefore all Your precepts concerning all things I consider to be right; I hate every false way.¹²⁹ Your testimonies are wonderful; Therefore my soul keeps them.¹³⁰ The entrance of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple.¹³¹ I opened my mouth and panted, **For I longed for Your commandments**.¹³² Look upon me and be merciful to me, As Your custom is toward those who love Your name.¹³³ Direct my steps by Your word, And let no iniquity have dominion over me.¹³⁴ Redeem me from the oppression of man, That I may keep Your precepts.¹³⁵ Make Your face shine upon Your servant, And teach me Your statutes.¹³⁶ Rivers of water run down from my eyes, Because men do not keep Your law.¹³⁷ Righteous are You, O Lord, And upright are Your judgments.¹³⁸ Your testimonies, which You have commanded, Are righteous and very faithful.¹³⁹ My zeal has consumed me, Because my enemies have forgotten Your words.¹⁴⁰ Your word is very pure; Therefore Your servant loves it.¹⁴¹ I am small and despised, Yet I do not forget Your precepts.¹⁴² Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, And Your law is truth.¹⁴³ Trouble and anguish have overtaken me, **Yet Your commandments are my delights**.¹⁴⁴ The righteousness of Your testimonies is everlasting; Give me understanding, and I shall live.¹⁴⁵ I cry out with my whole heart; Hear me, O Lord! I will keep Your statutes.¹⁴⁶ I cry out to You; Save me, and I will keep Your testimonies.¹⁴⁷ I rise before the dawning of the morning, And cry for help; I hope in Your word.¹⁴⁸ My eyes are awake through the night watches, That I may meditate on Your word.¹⁴⁹ Hear my voice according to Your lovingkindness; O Lord, revive me according to Your justice.¹⁵⁰ They draw near who follow after wickedness; They are far from Your law.¹⁵¹ You are near, O Lord, And **all Your commandments are truth**.¹⁵² Concerning Your testimonies, I have known of old that You have founded them forever.¹⁵³ Consider my affliction and deliver me, For I do not forget Your law.¹⁵⁴ Plead my cause and redeem me; Revive me according to Your word.¹⁵⁵ Salvation is far from the wicked, For they do not seek Your statutes.¹⁵⁶ Great are Your tender mercies, O Lord; Revive me according to Your judgments.¹⁵⁷ Many are my persecutors and my enemies, Yet I do not turn from Your testimonies.¹⁵⁸ I see the treacherous, and am disgusted, Because they do not keep Your word.¹⁵⁹ Consider how I love Your precepts; Revive me, O Lord, according to Your lovingkindness.¹⁶⁰ The entirety of Your word is truth, And every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever.¹⁶¹ Princes persecute me without a cause, But my heart stands in awe of Your word.¹⁶² I rejoice at Your word As one who finds great treasure.¹⁶³ I hate and abhor lying, But I love Your law.¹⁶⁴ Seven times a day I praise You, Because of Your righteous judgments.¹⁶⁵ Great peace have those who love Your law, And nothing causes them to stumble.¹⁶⁶ Lord, I hope for Your salvation, And **I do Your commandments**.¹⁶⁷ My soul keeps Your testimonies, And I love them exceedingly.¹⁶⁸ I keep Your precepts and Your testimonies, For all my ways are before You.¹⁶⁹ Let my cry come before You, O Lord; Give me understanding according to Your word.¹⁷⁰ Let my supplication come before You; Deliver me according to Your word.¹⁷¹ My lips shall utter praise, For You teach me Your statutes.¹⁷² My tongue shall speak of Your word, For **all Your commandments are righteousness**.¹⁷³ Let Your hand become my help, For I have chosen Your precepts.¹⁷⁴ I long for Your salvation, O Lord, And Your law is my delight.¹⁷⁵ Let my soul live, and it shall praise You; And let Your judgments help me.¹⁷⁶ I have gone astray like a lost sheep; Seek Your servant, For **I do not forget Your commandments**. (NKJV)

Most amazing passage of Scripture I think I have ever taken the time to fully explore. Out of 176 verses there is not one verse that doesn't have a word that could be taken as a cross reference or metaphor for God's law, the Ten Commandments. I have gone through these verses and underlined the words which would refer to the Ten Commandments. In those verses where the word Commandment(s) is used, I have underlined and made bold those twenty entries. There should be no wonder in anyone's thinking as to why King David was called the apple of God's eye. Stop and think about the question that Jesus spoke to the Pharisees pertaining to the term "Lord". If they would have gone back to the

book of Psalms and read this passage they might have understood what Jesus was telling them about God's Ten Commandments, and His reply to them as to why He only stated two commandments. Jesus reduced God's, the Father's, Law from ten down to two. Jesus did better than that when He gave them a new Commandment, reducing the Law from ten down to one. Turn over to John 13:34-35, and see if this new Commandment wouldn't fulfill all ten of the original. John 13:34-35, ³⁴ *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.* ³⁵ *By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.*" (ESV)

I would like for you to consider the verses from Psalms 119 a little further. Consider David, He began life as a shepherd. In those days of being a shepherd, he had to protect the flock from wild animals and he became very accurate with a sling. When he carried food to his brothers, who were fighting the Philistines, he was shocked to find all the men of Israel afraid of the champion of the Philistines. He told King Saul that, by faith, he would go and fight this giant. David slew the giant and at a different time was selected by God to be the king to replace Saul. Now, David had been in the service of King Saul and played music to calm his soul on many occasions. When Saul realized that his kingship had been stripped from him and given to David, he did all he could to kill David. God was with David, and David did become king of all Israel. He served in that position for forty years. Now, consider how David might have written Psalms 119. The Torah, the first five books written by Moses, was known to David. The books of the Prophets were also written. David knew the Law and the Ten Commandments, and as king, he ruled by those guidelines. Yes, David sinned, and God held the one sin against David, but surely God forgave David of that sin, because David is to return, at the return of Christ when He becomes the King of the earth, and David becomes king over Jerusalem. If God had not forgiven David he would not have a position to hold in the kingdom of Heaven. Remember, no sin is allowed to enter that kingdom. This is another very, very important understanding that every person must make a decision toward. Do you seek forgiveness, repent of your sins and honor God's ways or do you chose a different path? It is up to you!

There are many people who now call themselves a New Testament believer and have no idea what the Old Testament teachings may even be about. King David could be considered one of those areas from the Old Testament, just as you should have some idea of the time of Moses or the teachings of any of the Prophets. Remember this, much of what is going on in today's world was told as a prophecy long, long ago. Without the study of the Old Testament, you really don't know prophecy and you should if you are really a disciple of Christ Jesus (Yeshua).

I must also consider the assignment of being a watchman and the task of warning of impending war or some other turmoil. I have attempted to give you a warning of things going on in Europe, the Middle East and even China. However, I must ask a question. Do you have any serious thought as to what the wrath of God could bring to your state, your city, your neighborhood or even your personal life? Once again, I feel I must turn to the Old Testament to even give you a partial answer. There are two locations in the Bible that God gives the blessings for obedience, and the wrath for rebellion. To give you all the verses that are a portion of the blessing/wrath situation will take up a few more pages. I feel I would fail in my assignment if I did not do this. It is necessary for you to at least know what is there, and what decision you have to make pertaining to what will happen at the end of time as we now know it.

The first location for this information is in Leviticus Chapter 26. God gave Moses instructions that followed and supported the Ten Commandments. Here are the blessings for obedience and the punishment for disobedience. Notice the difference in the length of verses for obedience as compared to the number of verses for disobedience. Didn't we read something about a seven fold increase for disobedience? Read, and make up your own mind! Leviticus 26:1-46, ¹ *"You shall not make idols for yourselves or erect an image or pillar, and you shall not set up a figured stone in your land to bow*

down to it, for I am the Lord your God. ² You shall keep my Sabbaths and reverence my sanctuary: I am the Lord. ³ “If you walk in my statutes and observe my commandments and do them, ⁴ then I will give you your rains in their season, and the land shall yield its increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit. ⁵ Your threshing shall last to the time of the grape harvest, and the grape harvest shall last to the time for sowing. And you shall eat your bread to the full and dwell in your land securely. ⁶ I will give peace in the land, and you shall lie down, and none shall make you afraid. And I will remove harmful beasts from the land, and the sword shall not go through your land. ⁷ You shall chase your enemies, and they shall fall before you by the sword. ⁸ Five of you shall chase a hundred, and a hundred of you shall chase ten thousand, and your enemies shall fall before you by the sword. ⁹ I will turn to you and make you fruitful and multiply you and will confirm my covenant with you. ¹⁰ You shall eat old store long kept, and you shall clear out the old to make way for the new. ¹¹ I will make my dwelling among you, and my soul shall not abhor you. ¹² And I will walk among you and will be your God, and you shall be my people. ¹³ I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that you should not be their slaves. And I have broken the bars of your yoke and made you walk erect.

Punishment for Disobedience

¹⁴ “But if you will not listen to me and will not do all these commandments, ¹⁵ if you spurn my statutes, and if your soul abhors my rules, so that you will not do all my commandments, but break my covenant, ¹⁶ then I will do this to you: I will visit you with panic, with wasting disease and fever that consume the eyes and make the heart ache. And you shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it. ¹⁷ I will set my face against you, and you shall be struck down before your enemies. Those who hate you shall rule over you, and you shall flee when none pursues you. 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. ²⁰ And your strength shall be spent in vain, for your land shall not yield its increase, and the trees of the land shall not yield their fruit.

²¹ “Then if you walk contrary to me and will not listen to me, I will continue striking you, **sevenfold for your sins**. ²² And I will let loose the wild beasts against you, which shall bereave you of your children and destroy your livestock and make you few in number, so that your roads shall be deserted.

²³ “And if by this discipline you are not turned to me but walk contrary to me, ²⁴ then I also will walk contrary to you, and I myself will strike you **sevenfold** for your sins. ²⁵ And I will bring a sword upon you, that shall execute vengeance for the covenant. And if you gather within your cities, I will send pestilence among you, and you shall be delivered into the hand of the enemy. ²⁶ When I break your supply of bread, ten women shall bake your bread in a single oven and shall dole out your bread again by weight, and you shall eat and not be satisfied.

²⁷ “But if in spite of this you will not listen to me, but walk contrary to me, ²⁸ then I will walk contrary to you in fury, and I myself will discipline you **sevenfold** for your sins. ²⁹ You shall eat the flesh of your sons, and you shall eat the flesh of your daughters. ³⁰ And I will destroy your high places and cut down your incense altars and cast your dead bodies upon the dead bodies of your idols, and my soul will abhor you. ³¹ And I will lay your cities waste and will make your sanctuaries desolate, and I will not smell your pleasing aromas. ³² And I myself will devastate the land, so that your enemies who settle in it shall be appalled at it. ³³ And I will scatter you among the nations, and I will unsheathe the sword after you, and your land shall be a desolation, and your cities shall be a waste.

³⁴ “Then the land shall enjoy its Sabbaths as long as it lies desolate, while you are in your enemies’ land; then the land shall rest, and enjoy its Sabbaths. ³⁵ As long as it lies desolate it shall have rest, the rest that it did not have on your Sabbaths when you were dwelling in it. ³⁶ And as for those of you who are left, I will send faintness into their hearts in the lands of their enemies. The sound of a

driven leaf shall put them to flight, and they shall flee as one flees from the sword, and they shall fall when none pursues.³⁷ They shall stumble over one another, as if to escape a sword, though none pursues. And you shall have no power to stand before your enemies.³⁸ And you shall perish among the nations, and the land of your enemies shall eat you up.³⁹ And those of you who are left shall rot away in your enemies' lands because of their iniquity, and also because of the iniquities of their fathers they shall rot away like them.

⁴⁰ "But if they confess their iniquity and the iniquity of their fathers in their treachery that they committed against me, and also in walking contrary to me,⁴¹ so that I walked contrary to them and brought them into the land of their enemies—if then their uncircumcised heart is humbled and they make amends for their iniquity,⁴² then I will remember my covenant with Jacob, and I will remember my covenant with Isaac and my covenant with Abraham, and I will remember the land.⁴³ But the land shall be abandoned by them and enjoy its Sabbaths while it lies desolate without them, and they shall make amends for their iniquity, because they spurned my rules and their soul abhorred my statutes.⁴⁴ Yet for all that, when they are in the land of their enemies, I will not spurn them, neither will I abhor them so as to destroy them utterly and break my covenant with them, for I am the Lord their God.⁴⁵ But I will for their sake remember the covenant with their forefathers, whom I brought out of the land of Egypt in the sight of the nations, that I might be their God: I am the Lord."⁴⁶ These are the statutes and rules and laws that the Lord made between himself and the people of Israel through Moses on Mount Sinai. (ESV)

I understand that this is the second time I have used this passage of Scripture. My loving wife, who was an active teacher (NBCT) for over forty years, has told me and told me that you have to repeat a new teaching nine times before it is committed to memory. Maybe, through the many books and booklets that I've written over the last thirty years, I've met that condition for getting these truths of God's Word to a lot of people who do not want to believe or be obedient toward God's Word.

I said there were two places that this blessing/wrath situation could be seen. This first passage was found in Leviticus and the second passage is found in Deuteronomy, Chapter 28:1-68. ¹ *"And if you faithfully obey the voice of the Lord your God, being careful to do all his commandments that I command you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth.² And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the voice of the Lord your God.³ Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the field.⁴ Blessed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground and the fruit of your cattle, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock.⁵ Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl.⁶ Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out.*

⁷ *"The Lord will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before you. They shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways.⁸ The Lord will command the blessing on you in your barns and in all that you undertake. And he will bless you in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.⁹ The Lord will establish you as a people holy to himself, as he has sworn to you, if you keep the commandments of the Lord your God and walk in his ways.¹⁰ And all the peoples of the earth shall see that you are called by the name of the Lord, and they shall be afraid of you.¹¹ And the Lord will make you abound in prosperity, in the fruit of your womb and in the fruit of your livestock and in the fruit of your ground, within the land that the Lord swore to your fathers to give you.¹² The Lord will open to you his good treasury, the heavens, to give the rain to your land in its season and to bless all the work of your hands. And you shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow.¹³ And the Lord will make you the head and not the tail, and you shall only go up and not down, if you obey the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you today, being careful to do them,¹⁴ and if you do not turn aside from any of the words that I command you today, to the right hand or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them.*

Curses for Disobedience

¹⁵ “But if you will not obey the voice of the Lord your God or be careful to do all his commandments and his statutes that I command you today, then all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you. ¹⁶ Cursed shall you be in the city, and cursed shall you be in the field. ¹⁷ Cursed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. ¹⁸ Cursed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock. ¹⁹ Cursed shall you be when you come in, and cursed shall you be when you go out.

²⁰ “The Lord will send on you curses, confusion, and frustration in all that you undertake to do, until you are destroyed and perish quickly on account of the evil of your deeds, because you have forsaken me. ²¹ The Lord will make the pestilence stick to you until he has consumed you off the land that you are entering to take possession of it. ²² The Lord will strike you with wasting disease and with fever, inflammation and fiery heat, and with drought and with blight and with mildew. They shall pursue you until you perish. ²³ And the heavens over your head shall be bronze, and the earth under you shall be iron. ²⁴ The Lord will make the rain of your land powder. From heaven dust shall come down on you until you are destroyed.

²⁵ “The Lord will cause you to be defeated before your enemies. You shall go out one way against them and flee seven ways before them. And you shall be a horror to all the kingdoms of the earth. ²⁶ And your dead body shall be food for all birds of the air and for the beasts of the earth, and there shall be no one to frighten them away. ²⁷ The Lord will strike you with the boils of Egypt, and with tumors and scabs and itch, of which you cannot be healed. ²⁸ The Lord will strike you with madness and blindness and confusion of mind, ²⁹ and you shall grope at noonday, as the blind grope in darkness, and you shall not prosper in your ways. And you shall be only oppressed and robbed continually, and there shall be no one to help you. ³⁰ You shall betroth a wife, but another man shall ravish her. You shall build a house, but you shall not dwell in it. You shall plant a vineyard, but you shall not enjoy its fruit. ³¹ Your ox shall be slaughtered before your eyes, but you shall not eat any of it. Your donkey shall be seized before your face, but shall not be restored to you. Your sheep shall be given to your enemies, but there shall be no one to help you. ³² Your sons and your daughters shall be given to another people, while your eyes look on and fail with longing for them all day long, but you shall be helpless. ³³ A nation that you have not known shall eat up the fruit of your ground and of all your labors, and you shall be only oppressed and crushed continually, ³⁴ so that you are driven mad by the sights that your eyes see. ³⁵ The Lord will strike you on the knees and on the legs with grievous boils of which you cannot be healed, from the sole of your foot to the crown of your head.

³⁶ “The Lord will bring you and your king whom you set over you to a nation that neither you nor your fathers have known. And there you shall serve other gods of wood and stone. ³⁷ And you shall become a horror, a proverb, and a byword among all the peoples where the Lord will lead you away. ³⁸ You shall carry much seed into the field and shall gather in little, for the locust shall consume it. ³⁹ You shall plant vineyards and dress them, but you shall neither drink of the wine nor gather the grapes, for the worm shall eat them. ⁴⁰ You shall have olive trees throughout all your territory, but you shall not anoint yourself with the oil, for your olives shall drop off. ⁴¹ You shall father sons and daughters, but they shall not be yours, for they shall go into captivity. ⁴² The cricket shall possess all your trees and the fruit of your ground. ⁴³ The sojourner who is among you shall rise higher and higher above you, and you shall come down lower and lower. ⁴⁴ He shall lend to you, and you shall not lend to him. He shall be the head, and you shall be the tail.

⁴⁵ “All these curses shall come upon you and pursue you and overtake you till you are destroyed, because you did not obey the voice of the Lord your God, to keep his commandments and his statutes that he commanded you. ⁴⁶ They shall be a sign and a wonder against you and your offspring forever. ⁴⁷ Because you did not serve the Lord your God with joyfulness and gladness of heart, because of the

abundance of all things,⁴⁸ therefore you shall serve your enemies whom the Lord will send against you, in hunger and thirst, in nakedness, and lacking everything. And he will put a yoke of iron on your neck until he has destroyed you.⁴⁹ The Lord will bring a nation against you from far away, from the end of the earth, swooping down like the eagle, a nation whose language you do not understand,⁵⁰ a hard-faced nation who shall not respect the old or show mercy to the young.⁵¹ It shall eat the offspring of your cattle and the fruit of your ground, until you are destroyed; it also shall not leave you grain, wine, or oil, the increase of your herds or the young of your flock, until they have caused you to perish.

⁵² “They shall besiege you in all your towns, until your high and fortified walls, in which you trusted, come down throughout all your land. And they shall besiege you in all your towns throughout all your land, which the Lord your God has given you.⁵³ And you shall eat the fruit of your womb, the flesh of your sons and daughters, whom the Lord your God has given you, in the siege and in the distress with which your enemies shall distress you.⁵⁴ The man who is the most tender and refined among you will begrudge food to his brother, to the wife he embraces, and to the last of the children whom he has left,⁵⁵ so that he will not give to any of them any of the flesh of his children whom he is eating, because he has nothing else left, in the siege and in the distress with which your enemy shall distress you in all your towns.⁵⁶ The most tender and refined woman among you, who would not venture to set the sole of her foot on the ground because she is so delicate and tender, will begrudge to the husband she embraces, to her son and to her daughter,⁵⁷ her afterbirth that comes out from between her feet and her children whom she bears, because lacking everything she will eat them secretly, in the siege and in the distress with which your enemy shall distress you in your towns.

⁵⁸ “If you are not careful to do all the words of this law that are written in this book, that you may fear this glorious and awesome name, the Lord your God,⁵⁹ then the Lord will bring on you and your offspring extraordinary afflictions, afflictions severe and lasting, and sicknesses grievous and lasting.⁶⁰ And he will bring upon you again all the diseases of Egypt, of which you were afraid, and they shall cling to you.⁶¹ Every sickness also and every affliction that is not recorded in the book of this law, the Lord will bring upon you, until you are destroyed.⁶² Whereas you were as numerous as the stars of heaven, you shall be left few in number, because you did not obey the voice of the Lord your God.⁶³ And as the Lord took delight in doing you good and multiplying you, so the Lord will take delight in bringing ruin upon you and destroying you. And you shall be plucked off the land that you are entering to take possession of it.

⁶⁴ “And the Lord will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other, and there you shall serve other gods of wood and stone, which neither you nor your fathers have known.⁶⁵ And among these nations you shall find no respite, and there shall be no resting place for the sole of your foot, but the Lord will give you there a trembling heart and failing eyes and a languishing soul.⁶⁶ Your life shall hang in doubt before you. Night and day you shall be in dread and have no assurance of your life.⁶⁷ In the morning you shall say, ‘If only it were evening!’ and at evening you shall say, ‘If only it were morning!’ because of the dread that your heart shall feel, and the sights that your eyes shall see.⁶⁸ And the Lord will bring you back in ships to Egypt, a journey that I promised that you should never make again; and there you shall offer yourselves for sale to your enemies as male and female slaves, but there will be no buyer.” (ESV)

Do the words in these two passages of Scripture bring cheer to your heart or your mind? If this is what you desire your life to be, and the lives of your children, and grandchildren just keep on doing what you are doing and that is what you will have as your life. Do you really think there could be that day that you would eat your sons and your daughters? God has said this at least twice, in these two passages. On the other side of this coin, do you desire to have a life of plenty, having understanding among your neighbors and within your own family? Do you also desire a life with freedom such as our founding fathers proposed and wrote in our Constitution? Think about the day when you will not have

freedom of speech, nor the right to bear arms, or even the right to worship God as the Bible says you should. All of that is just around the corner, if we don't stop, look, and decide that we need to make a serious change. What we need is an old fashioned revival that is nationwide and with deep faith and belief in God and His Son, Jesus.

Here are some things you need to consider! In a moving statement that reveals His love for mankind and His desire to bestow blessings on those who will obey Him, God informs us in 2 Chronicles 7:14: *"If my people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."* Most likely that would indicate that the whole nation would have to yield to God and turn to follow Him and His ways. Know this! You can't change the world at large, or even the nation we live in, but you can change your world. If your life is empty, frustrating, and lacks the happiness, sense of purpose and hope for the future, you can do something about it! While the world around you won't turn to God, ***you can!***

Be forewarned of the unbridled spending of our government that must be brought under control. The Bible talks about putting money into "a bag with holes." Consider what it says in Haggai 1:5-6. ⁵ *Now, therefore, thus says the Lord of hosts: Consider your ways. ⁶ You have sown much, and harvested little. You eat, but you never have enough; you drink, but you never have your fill. You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm. And he who earns wages does so to put them into a bag with holes.* (ESV) Isn't this a sign of a sick and weak economy, as it is now in this nation? Since the majority of excessive spending is being done by our government, shouldn't it be a concern of every citizen? It seems we are entangled in a web of spending and there is no mention of turning back. Any sane person looking at this picture knows it will one day kill the republic. Look at the figure of \$48.3 trillion. The "United States is currently adding about \$1 trillion in new debt every three months. No one really understands how much money one trillion is, much less that of 48 trillion. There seems to be nothing that you or I can do to correct this in our lifetime today. Like our statement above, there seems to be no way to correct this situation at the national level, however, we can take charge of sound financial management of our personal income. It is within your means to learn, use and master these principles. The Bible speaks well of the saver, noting the ant wisely stores up food for the winter in Proverbs 6:6-8. ⁶ *Go to the ant, you sluggard! Consider her ways and be wise, ⁷ Which, having no captain, Overseer or ruler, ⁸ Provides her supplies in the summer, And gathers her food in the harvest.* (NKJV) Also consider Proverbs 13:22. ²² *A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children, but the sinner's wealth is laid up for the righteous.* (ESV) You cannot change out of control government spending, but you can *change your own spending* and reap the tangible blessings.

Consider the parable of the minas in Luke 19:12-27. ¹² *He said therefore, "A nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and then return. ¹³ Calling ten of his servants, he gave them ten minas, and said to them, 'Engage in business until I come.'* ¹⁴ *But his citizens hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, 'We do not want this man to reign over us.'* ¹⁵ *When he returned, having received the kingdom, he ordered these servants to whom he had given the money to be called to him, that he might know what they had gained by doing business. ¹⁶ The first came before him, saying, 'Lord, your mina has made ten minas more.'* ¹⁷ *And he said to him, 'Well done, good servant! Because you have been faithful in a very little, you shall have authority over ten cities.'* ¹⁸ *And the second came, saying, 'Lord, your mina has made five minas.'* ¹⁹ *And he said to him, 'And you are to be over five cities.'* ²⁰ *Then another came, saying, 'Lord, here is your mina, which I kept laid away in a handkerchief; ²¹ for I was afraid of you, because you are a severe man. You take what you did not deposit, and reap what you did not sow.'* ²² *He said to him, 'I will condemn you with your own words, you wicked servant! You knew that I was a severe man, taking what I did not deposit and reaping what I did not sow? ²³ Why then did you not put my money in the bank, and at my coming I might have*

collected it with interest?’²⁴ And he said to those who stood by, ‘Take the mina from him, and give it to the one who has the ten minas.’²⁵ And they said to him, ‘Lord, he has ten minas!’²⁶ ‘I tell you that to everyone who has, more will be given, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.’²⁷ But as for these enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, bring them here and slaughter them before me.’ “ (ESV)

Jesus is using money here as an example of spiritual growth. The money and opportunity given here represents living within your means and using what you’ve been given to grow in knowledge, character and experience, in short, making changes in life and becoming a productive and profitable servant. All change begins in our mind and heart where we consider our lives and what we do. None of us can change the world at large, but you can change yourself.

Consider modern day psychologists who would argue that human character is a product of biological urges, mental health issues and social dynamics, dismissing the issue of morality as bringing harmful stress and guilt. Yet, at the same time, morality and the Biblical topic of sin is vital to understanding human nature. If mankind would turn back to a living and loving God, many of today’s problems could be solved. Until Jesus Christ returns to earth, God is allowing Satan to continue as the “god of this age” and the “ruler of this world”. Satan is a vicious liar who “deceives the whole world” to believe and “call evil good, and good evil”. At times he misleads people directly, but he increases his deception further by letting it spread, with many people acting as his unwitting agents. Satan and his demons operate behind the governments and other institutions of this world. They control the media, education and religions. They operate among the masses and in individuals. Those who believe human nature is basically good come up with many excuses for people’s destructive behavior. They often blame circumstances like poverty or race, rather than holding each evildoer personally accountable, promoting a victim mentality among perpetrators. Elitists, seeking tyrannical power over others, reason that the inferior ignorant masses need their wise guidance. Recognize the deceitfulness of human nature, by avoiding placing too much trust in leaders, in other people and in yourself. Satan’s world is arrayed against us, and the chief agent in that world is our own human nature. We are our own worst enemy!

Look at America’s border disaster! Those individuals that are true asylum seekers, and even those just looking for better opportunities, should be welcome. However, there must be a careful, lawful process for immigration for the safety and well-being of all parties concerned. Nonenforcement of immigration laws, as part of an effectively open border policy, promotes increased lawlessness and a real threat to our national security. The current situation began soon after Joe Biden took office, as president, in January 2021. In line with campaign promises, he immediately began reversing the enforcement measures of the former president, Donald Trump, canceling 64 border related executive orders that had reduced illegal immigration to its lowest level in 45 years.

Border agents can only check U.S. and some allies’ crime and terrorism databases, but can’t investigate such data about migrants coming from Russia, China and other nations that may be hostile to America, with the migrants possibly acting as foreign agents. Of those processed at official ports of entry, there were 227 terror database hits with individuals processed along the southern border in fiscal year 2023. The Border Patrol encountered nearly 73,000 special interest aliens from October 2021 to October 2023. In 2023, more than 37,000 Chinese citizens crossed into our country, which is nearly 10 times the total in 2022, and more than double that of the entire previous decade. With the control China exercises over its people, it seems extremely unlikely that such numbers could come in large groups on their own accord.

Why is this happening? We can’t see all the reasons. A lot can be said regarding the desire of some to gain more political power though changed constituencies; of causing economic harm and increased unease; to expand government dependence; of corporate interests looking for cheap labor;

and of foreign and globalist interests that would like to see a weakened America, supposedly to bring greater equality among the nations.

The only real solution to such problems is a return to God and a heartfelt plea for His forgiveness and deliverance. Thankfully, every person can look forward to a magnificent coming time when the ultimate solution to all the troubles of humankind will finally take place, at the return of Christ Jesus. At that time, we will learn to live in peace with each other, and no one will need to flee their home country. Indeed, all will be fully satisfied with no fear. Let us eagerly anticipate and spiritually prepare for that coming marvelous future age!

Understand this! God wants a relationship with you as a part of His eternal family. The Holy Spirit is the very essence of the nature of God, and He puts that within us when we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior. The Holy Spirit is the agency of spiritual conception into a profound relationship with God. Romans 8:13-17 states the truth for us. *¹³ For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.* (ESV)

Recall once again the very fact that God takes the stick of the House of Judah, and the stick of the House of Israel, and puts them together as the whole house of all Israel. Then He brings all from wherever they were scattered to the land of their spiritual birth.

Accept the warnings, understand the teachings, search your very soul to see if you are living by the Commandments of God, the Father, through the shed blood of Jesus the Christ for all mankind to be the children of God. If you do not have a relationship with God you need to do three things: Repent of your sins; be baptized; and receive the Holy Spirit. Acts 2:38, *³⁸ And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.* (ESV)

Maranatha



VQP



VQP



VQP

