

Our Great Journey

Summer of 2016



Rev. Charles E. Darnell, PhD

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Someone once wrote: *A funny thing happened on the way to the Forum.* My wife and I were not on our way to the forum but we were on an extended summer vacation in our RV when we realized that God was traveling with us. Teri had diligently worked up a 70 page book providing information on sights to see, routes to take and little extras such as locations for RV dump sites along the route. Let's take a journey together and allow me to tell you what happened on our trip and why it is so important to give you specific information at this time.

Here is a question to begin: Do you think the moral values of the United States have declined? If you agree with us, your answer is a definite YES! With that said, do you think the world is in the Last Days? If you agreed with us a second time your answer was another YES! So how did our trip of 13,527.5 miles get changed and what happened along the way?

Our journey was planned to go through three states: Alaska, Idaho and Oregon. The reason we had selected these three was that these would complete Teri's visiting all 50 states of the United States. By route, we had to travel through other states to get to where we wanted to go and that meant that we had to travel toward the northwest to even think about visiting these three states. God changed some of our plans as we traveled and led us to other places to see things that only prove the greatness of God and the wonders of His handiwork in creating the world.

We left our home in Kentucky and traveled through Indiana, Illinois, Iowa and into Nebraska. At Royal, Nebraska we discovered our first wonderful truth located at Ashfall Fossil Beds. Part of the brochure reads as follows: Watch as paleontologists continue the discovery, unearthing intact skeletons of barrel-bodied rhinos, three-toed horses, llama-like camels and saber-toothed deer entombed by a supervolcanic eruption 12 million years ago.

There is a second brochure that tells a more complete story of the Ashfall Fossil Beds and reads as follows:

In 1971, heavy spring rains eroded a deep gully at the edge of Melvin Colson's cornfield. Later that year, paleontologist Mickle Voorhies happened to find the skull of a complete baby rhino protruding from the side of the gully. It lay near the bottom of a newly-exposed bed of sparkling gray ash and turned out to be the first of more than 100 rhino skeletons excavated by University of Nebraska State Museum crews at what became known as the Ashfall Site.

This wasn't the first time fossils had been found on the Colson farm. Long before the ash bed and its trove of skeletons were exposed to view, scattered bones had been collected from a bed of sandstone that formed a ledge beneath the ash bed. As early as the 1920's, local youngsters found bone fragments on the rocky hillsides. Then, in 1953, Donald Peterson found a partial rhino skull in the sandstone and reported it to the Museum.

The isolated skull found by Mr. Peterson is a good example of the sort of fossil that has made Nebraska's Niobrara River valley famous in the world of paleontology. For more than a 100 years, bone hunters have searched the sandstone walls of the Niobrara and its tributaries for remains of ancient mammals. This area contains North America's most complete record of the 20 million-year history of grassland animals.

Even by Niobrara valley standards, preservation of the skeletons in the ash bed is exceptional. Most fossils found elsewhere are incomplete, a jaw here, a leg bone there because natural decay and scavengers tend to break up and scatter skeletons soon after an animal dies.

It is extremely rare for whole herds of animals to die and be buried so quickly that their carcasses remain largely intact, as has happened at Ashfall.

Sweeping across the plains like a gray blizzard, the sudden fall of volcanic ash must have devastated the landscape. Scientists have shown that the ash that killed and eventually buried the animals at the park blew eastward from a huge volcanic eruption in what is now southwestern Idaho.

The list of animals found at Ashfall is impressive, however, what makes this site so exciting is the fact that the bones of these animals are still partially buried. There is no artificially created bone or image to depict what the animal may have looked like. These animals are actual, factual and lay in front of you for you to view with your own eyes. This was the first of many discoveries that it seems God wanted us to see. By the end of our amazing journey we felt we understood the reason God led us to particular places to see things because with the second coming of Christ, major changes may be made to the earth and certain things will disappear forever. We really don't know what to expect when Christ returns but we certainly can testify that there are multiple remains of Oreodont, Browsing Horse, Three Horned Deer, Giraffe Camel, Bone-Crushing Dog, Horned Rodent, Hornless Rhino and Four-Tusked Elephant, along with other animals, all buried at the Ashfall Site.

The awe of the Ashfall observations inspired us to have an increased enthusiasm to see more evidence of God's early creations. We didn't have to travel far for our next adventure. Just a short drive from Ashfall is Agate Fossil Beds National Monument. This site is also located in the Niobrara River basin and contains the remains of similar animals to those located at Ashfall. Part of the brochure from Agate follows:

From simple beginnings great numbers and varieties of life forms have evolved and populated the Earth. For 140 million years before the Cenozoic Era, dinosaurs held dominion over the land. Mammals also existed, but they were small and not abundant. However the mammals took center stage as the dinosaurs perished.

Scientists estimate that as many as 30 million species of animals and plants now inhabit the Earth. This is a mere fraction of all life forms that have ever existed. Scientists now predict that about 100 species will become extinct every day, a rate accelerated by human actions including pollution of the air and water; destruction of forests, grasslands, and other ecosystems. Adverse changes to Earth's environment challenge life's very ability to survive.

These fossils and these words caused us to stop and think about changes that have occurred to the animal and plant species all over the world including changes that may take place in the very near future. Mankind has failed to understand the simple task given to Adam as his job in the Garden of Eden. His only work was to tend the garden. We, as the descendants of Adam, have as our responsibility the management of all plant and animal life that still exists on Earth. If there is truly 100 species that become extinct each and every day, as is reported by scientists, we really have made a mess of our job to tend and subdue the Earth.

Stop and think for just a moment. The brochure above indicates that at one time there may have been as many as 30 million species of animals and plants. Turn to Genesis 2:19-20 and read what is recorded about Adam. Genesis 2:19-20 (NIV), *Now the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field.* How would you like to have the job of naming all the animals. I wonder how long it took to name that many species. We must remember

that God formed each species as its own kind. If there was anything such as evolution it took place over long periods of time. The evolving occurred from the DNA of that species and was not a mixture of any specific DNA with some other species' DNA. In other words a dog is a dog and a cat is a cat. The one did not evolve from the other or vice-versa.

Recall your school days when you were taught that the early elephants of North America's Ice Age were called Mastodons or Mammoths. It is these giants of the Ice Age that we next had the chance to stop and see. Travel from Nebraska to Hot Springs, South Dakota and you arrive at The Mammoth Site of Hot Springs. Once again you enter a dig area where Pre-Columbian and Woolly Mammoths are only partially uncovered. Here is a portion of the brochure from this site:

Travel back in time to the late Ice Age by taking a 30 minute guided tour indoors. Walk the edges of a sinkhole where Pre-Columbian and woolly mammoths, camels, wolves and giant short-faced bears became trapped 26,000 years ago, leaving an ancient treasure trove of fossil remains.

This actively working excavation site features the fossils of over 61 Columbian and woolly mammoths. The Ice Age exhibit hall displays full-sized replicas of mammoths and a giant short-faced bear.

We followed a trail that allowed us to see the remains of many different species of animal that lived as far back as 55 million years ago during the Eocene Era. It was during this period that the giant redwoods first appeared. Notice in the brochure from Agate Fossil Beds that these animals did not appear until after the dinosaurs perished. Since God was leading us on this adventure we didn't know where our journey would take us. How about the Cretaceous and Jurassic periods? Driving from South Dakota to Montana is only a hop, skip and a jump through Wyoming and you can travel the Montana Dinosaur Trail. This trail will take you through 14 different locations in Montana where there are dinosaur remains. Here is a brief extract from their brochure:

Today, Montana is filled with uncrowded spaces, but that wasn't necessarily the case when dinosaurs ruled the earth. In fact, Montana has yielded some of the world's most significant dinosaur discoveries. For instance, the Maiasaura nests found at Egg Mountain near Choteau have been hailed as one of the most important discoveries ever for dinosaur biology. The first Tyrannosaurus Rex fossil, as well as the largest Tyrannosaurus Rex ever unearthed, was found in Montana.

Landscape and access are two keys to Montana's Paleo Treasures. Montana is, of course, known for its stunning variety of landscapes, ranging from the rugged peaks of the Rocky Mountains to the sweeping eastern plains. The folding and shifting that produced these varied landscapes also exposed rock formations from nearly every geologic era, including the Cretaceous and Jurassic periods, when dinosaurs lived.

Impressive, but the one place on our trip that stands out head and shoulders above the others was the Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum in Wembley, Alberta, Canada. The displays and variety of species displayed are magnificent. This is a very new museum and worth the trip to see this one site.

Finally, our last place to visit the Ice Age animals was Beringia, Yukon, Canada. Their brochure contains the following:

The lost subcontinent of Beringia dates back to the last great Ice Age. A region encompassing eastern Siberia, Alaska and Yukon remained untouched by glaciers while the rest of Canada lay frozen under massive sheets of ice. Sea levels dropped by as much as 125 meters and a grassy tundra appeared, supporting an astonishing variety of animal and plant life.

The Beringian steppe was home to a wide range of herbivores and carnivores. Most symbolic of Beringia is the woolly mammoth, predecessor of the modern Asiatic elephant. Standing three meters high at the shoulders, the height of a basketball hoop, these hairy, humpbacked giants roamed the steppe for thousands of years. They fed on the tundra's tough, dry grasses, and eluded predators, chiefly human hunters.

The scimitar cat, endowed with serrated upper fangs, was a lethal killing machine. This feline, built for speed and agility, specialized in ambushing its prey.

The short-faced bear towered more than a foot over today's grizzly and was the largest and most powerful land carnivore in North America during the last Ice Age.

The New World's earliest human inhabitants moved into what is now North America from western Beringia, following the various herds of animals. The First People were resourceful and well adapted to hunting the herds of woolly mammoth and giant bison. Ultimately, they survived them.

Our journey continued north as we traveled through Alberta, northern British Columbia (BC), Yukon and finally into Alaska. Since we desired to see as much of Alaska as we could we traveled across the corner of British Columbia to Skagway, Alaska. We stayed in Skagway for two days, then were ferried (us and the RV) over to Haines for another couple of days. We then traveled back across the tip of British Columbia through Haines Junction, BC into Yukon Territory, finally arriving at Tok in Alaska.

Our first journey of exploration in the main portion of Alaska was to travel through Fairbanks and head north on the Dalton highway to the Arctic Circle. I must stop for a moment and provide a little more information. My first assignment in the Air Force was to Alaska at Elmendorf Air Force Base located at Anchorage. That was in 1965-68 or in other words, 50 years ago. Alaska has changed greatly in those fifty years. In 1965 traveling the ALCAN highway was a major undertaking over mostly graveled roads that had to be leveled and re-graveled year after year. The heaving of the frozen tundra would literally move the roadbed up, down or any direction the ice wanted to go. Even four-wheel drive was not the most suited vehicle in the winter months and you dared not turn off the engine because you might not get started again until spring. Towns such as Wasilla were nothing more than a village with few people in them. To travel to Denali National Park was best done via the Alaska Railroad, and it was this rail service that connected most of the small villages between Anchorage and Fairbanks. I saw the extremes that the weather could reach back then with it being 101 degrees at Fairbanks in July, and 60 below zero in February on Saint Lawrence Island, that rests in the middle of the Bering Strait between Alaska and Russia.

The same could not be said on this trip. Alaska was hot and rainy on many days. We wore shorts and t-shirts and there was only two nights that we turned on the furnace in the RV because the temperature dropped down to near 50. Of course we were near the Arctic Circle and expected the temps to be somewhat cooler. We thought we would see wildlife roaming around on most any morning. Not so! We only saw moose on two mornings and never did see a bear in Alaska. It seemed that the only place where you could see wildlife was on an expensive guided bus tour in areas that was controlled for personal vehicles. Don't expect to see wildlife if you didn't want to spend hundreds of dollars on one of these trips. I came away from this trip with the expression that Alaska is now over hunted, over fished, over populated and certainly over visited. This trip to Alaska was very disappointing and the lack of wildlife was only one reason. That little town of Wasilla I mentioned earlier had four lane avenues running all over the place and they were widening the main road toward Denali into a six lane highway. Denali had grown into a tourist mecca with lodge after lodge and restaurant after restaurant. There must have been enough rooms to house over a thousand people a night at Denali. The people themselves had

also changed. The old ways were very laid back with country and western music played all the time and everyone was willing to help you if you needed any type of aid. On this trip it was the fast paced roads of city travel with the mighty little winged bird in your hand being shown you if you were not going fast enough to suit the new local Alaskan. It seemed that the new slogan should be, come spend your money but don't get in our way. It seems Alaska wants the tourist dollar but not the tourist.

Through what I've said about travel, it shouldn't be too hard to understand that Canada and Alaska have done major engineering feats to upgrade the ALCAN highway. Most of the ALCAN is now paved and in fairly good condition. Yes, we did run into several places that were being worked on or upgraded and we had to slow down to about 35 MPH to have a more pleasant ride in the RV. Many of the great ups and downs over steep mountain passes have been reworked so that they are not steep, with hair-raising sharp curves that have old names like suicide hill, etc.

We spent a total of almost three weeks in Alaska driving over 2000 miles as we crossed back and forth across the state. It was an adventure and we saw many changes that have taken place in the last fifty years. Another of those changes was the glaciers. We traveled all around the Wrangell-Saint Elias National Preserve. We saw the mountain peaks from the north as we traveled along the Copper River valley, a western view as we went through the Glenallen area, and a southern view as we traveled to Valdez. Many of these peaks had only small glaciers remaining. Portage glacier, east of Anchorage, had receded greatly and the only awesome glacier left was the massive Matanuska glacier north of Palmer as you travel toward Glenallen.

God left it up to us as the stewards of this planet to take care of His creation and to manage our actions so as not to destroy His handiwork. Trees and our National Forests were another concern God took the time to show us. The trees of the northern country, especially Canada, are a great concern. First, we saw the massive clear cutting that is occurring in Canada. We think that an 18 wheeler is a big truck in the states, but let me tell you what we saw on the roads in Canada. Around Whitecourt in Alberta, Fort St. John in BC and other places in Yukon, we saw 38 wheelers carrying trees and more trees. These rigs had extended tractors with three sets of dual wheels on the rear, the first trailer had three sets of dual wheels, then a second trailer with three sets of dual wheels. Both trailers would be full of trees and the entire length of these rigs had to be in excess of 100 feet. We watched in Whitecourt as trailer after trailer turned the corner at the RV center to a plant processing the trees. We saw two train loads of finished product leave the processing plant. Only God knows how many trees are cut down on any given day and yet the people will tell you they have plenty of trees. We can honestly say that we traveled many a mile where there were miles and miles of miles and miles of nothing but trees for as far as the eye could see. Even so, there is another concern that God showed us that we find to be very disturbing. There is some type of parasite that is attacking and killing the trees. This stuff appears to be similar to Spanish Moss that you can find down south but is found on Aspen, Pine, Fir and even on Redwoods. It was so disheartening to see whole sections of the forest destroyed by this stuff clinging to every branch of naked limb after naked limb. Maybe God wanted us to see this for ourselves to write this and let you know what is happening to the forest. Is it because of mankind's pollution that this stuff has managed to get such a foothold in the forest and do the damage that it has already done? Are we going to have forest remaining anyplace if this stuff keeps going and growing at the rate it appears to be going? Have you even heard of such stuff? Are you concerned that the trees are being destroyed?

Another portion of our journey rests on our southern return toward the states. Our return trip in Canada was mainly through British Columbia and we traveled over 1,300 miles in BC. We left Yukon at Watson Lake and headed south on highway 37 instead of the more heavily traveled highway 97. We will meet up with highway 97 at Prince George but highway 37 and 16 were our roads across the Rocky Mountains. We had a rewarding almost comical lunch one afternoon. Let me share!

We were looking for a place to have lunch when we spotted a roadside gravel pit that the highway department had beside the road. As we started to turn in we saw a golden eagle resting at the peak of one of the piles of fine gravel. Traveling further into the area we turned toward a second gravel pile and at the base were several ground squirrel tunnel holes with one ground squirrel standing as a sentinel on guard watching the eagle on the next gravel pile. The eagle didn't move, it just sat there ready to swoop down and nab an unaware ground squirrel. On the other hand the guard had already sent the signal to hide and he just stood his post watching the eagle. On occasion another ground squirrel would venture out of their burrow and look around but one bark from the guard and everyone was again back underground. Finally, after 30 to 40 minutes the eagle flew off to greener hunting. When the eagle flew off, it took only a moment for the ground squirrels to reappear and they proceeded to have a party. They would run from the one pile to the other and into a burrow tunnel. They would jump up in the middle of their run as if to say we are free and you didn't catch us today Mr. eagle. Cutest exhibition of a Mexican standoff as I've seen in my seventy plus years. But, it was just another side trip that God showed us the pleasures of His creation and the battles that go on daily along the food chain. What will it be like when Christ returns and the lion will lay down with the lamb and there will be peace between all the animals and not the hunting of one by another? Maybe it will be more fun to watch the animals play and not have to hide and be warned that an enemy is near. Are you aware of these teachings and are you desiring for those days to come?

While in Alaska we talked about going into northern California to see our granddaughter and great granddaughter. So with that in mind, we changed our route to take us down through BC and into Washington, Oregon and northern California on highway 97. The same highway 97 that we could have taken at Watson Lake, Yukon. Traveling south from Prince George, BC, we would travel through Oliver and Osoyoos and on into Washington state. We learned another interesting fact as we planned and traveled these last few miles in southern BC. The AAA guidebook gives information of important sights and places all along any highway and that is true for the guidebook for BC. Oliver and Osoyoos have an interesting feature concerning their location. To many Americans, when you speak of the Sonoran Desert, we think about California, Nevada and Arizona. The AAA guidebook will inform you that the northern tip of the Sonoran Desert is Oliver, British Columbia. Therefore the last two towns we drove through in BC were part of the desert, but, so is much of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, a small portion of Montana and also northern California. We spent five days to get from Kamloops, BC to Crescent City, California. It wasn't that we couldn't have made it in a shorter period of time, it was the fact that God was again dealing with us and showing us things that we would never have expected.

One fact was the magnitude of the Sonoran Desert. Yes, there is tumbleweed and sage brush from Oliver, BC to at least Yuba City, California because we traveled the roads and can tell you it is true. If it wasn't for mighty dams along the Columbia and Snake Rivers, there wouldn't be the vineyards and orchards in Washington, Oregon and California. Stop at Grand Coulee Dam in northern Washington to see the power of hydroelectric plants. Observe the vast reclamation project in the Columbia River basin. Under the authority of the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation we know the following:

About 10,000 years ago, a huge glacier dammed a river gorge in Idaho creating a 3,000 square mile lake in western Montana. When the ice dam broke, a wall of water nearly 2,000 feet high and traveling 65 miles per hour carved new river paths across Idaho, Washington and Oregon in a matter of days. Ancient ravines were left high and dry above today's Columbia River after the water receded. Over time, the wind gradually deposited a rich layer of soil. Early homesteaders tried to work the land in arid conditions but the area's average annual precipitation of 6 to 10 inches doomed their efforts.

Congress passed the Reclamation Act in 1902 to boost development of the arid West. Reclamation began its task of creating water storage and irrigation networks by looking into locally supported projects. President Roosevelt gave Reclamation permission in 1933 to begin building Grand Coulee Dam to create jobs and provide inexpensive power. Congress authorized the Columbia Basin Project in 1943, although building the irrigation system did not start until after the end of World War II. Water was first pumped from the Columbia River in 1948 and the irrigation system did not carry water from Grand Coulee Dam, until 1952.

We can testify to the results of this great Ice Age dam and lake and the results of the breakup of the dam, especially in Washington. Dry Falls, Washington remains as a reminder of the above mentioned Ice Age flooding. The brochure of Sun Lakes-Dry Falls State Park records the following:

Dry Falls is one of the great geological wonders of North America. Carved by Ice Age floods that long ago disappeared, the former waterfall is now a stark cliff, 400 feet high and 3.5 miles wide.

Stop and think about the size of this Ice Age waterfall. It would be over twice the height of Niagara Falls (170 feet) and about seven times wider than Horseshoe Falls (2,200 feet). Can you visualize the size of this giant waterfall?

There is one more item I'd like to tell you about in Washington. The last two inserts tell about massive Ice Age flooding and the results in the landscape. What isn't said is that highway 97 leads you through a canyon as you travel south toward Oregon. This is a massive canyon, easily rivaling the Grand Canyon in Arizona. The Grand Canyon was cut by the Colorado River and this canyon in Washington was cut by the Columbia River. The one major difference is that you can drive through this canyon to see the beauty, you can't do that at the Grand Canyon.

The next step of our travels covers a five day period as we traveled from Kamloops, BC to Crescent City, California. Our plan was to travel straight down highway 97 into northern California. God had a different idea. We felt the urge to go and see the redwood forest of northern California. So at Klamath Falls, Oregon we took another detour and headed out across Oregon 66 toward the Pacific coast. We changed roads to Oregon 99 and finally US 199. Along the route we passed field after field of hops and other fields of hay and wheat. There are large farms out west that depend totally upon the irrigation system to allow them to grow anything at all.

We discovered that the Jedediah Smith and Prairie Creek Redwoods are California State Parks that have been incorporated into the Redwood National Park along with the Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park. Humboldt Redwoods State Park remains as a California State Park and not yet a portion of the Redwoods National Park. We saw the giant Redwoods in three of the four parks and did not travel through the Del Norte section. There were places in these parks that you just cannot take an RV. We were much too wide and too tall to go through some of the park system. No, we were not able to drive through a giant redwood. Yes, there were roads, especially in the Jedediah Smith Park on Walker Road, that we traveled through and cleared between two or three trees with but inches to spare on the side mirrors. In the Agate Fossil Beds brochures we read that the Redwoods first appeared during the Eocene period some 35 to 55 million years ago. We also know that redwoods can grow up to about 370 feet in height, making them the tallest plant on earth, and an average of 20 feet across at the base of the trunk. Just one more of God's wonders that He led us to go and see.

We traveled south to Yuba City and then east to Grass Valley, California for lunch with the granddaughter. From here, we once again set out in a northern direction to travel back up to Oregon and across the southern tip of Oregon to get to Idaho, the last state needed to complete a visit to all fifty

states for Teri. As we traveled across Idaho we visited the Craters of the Moon National Monument and observed the miles and miles of lava flow that remains over the landscape. This was the second National Monument where we stopped to see ancient lava flows. Our first stop was in Oregon at Newberry National Volcanic Monument. There was certainly an understanding of the tourist brochures indicating that a massive volcanic eruption in Idaho caused the gray ashfall blizzard in Nebraska that trapped and killed the ancient animals living at that time in Nebraska. Leaving the plains of lava flows we traveled on toward Idaho Falls. We ran into another one of those: You must stop here locations between Arco and Atomic City. It's called EBR-1 and is on the list as a National Historic Landmark site. But what is EBR-1 and why is it located in the middle of a prairie plain. EBR-1 stands for Experimental Breeder Reactor number 1. The self-guided tour reads in part:

On December 20, 1951, EBR-1 became the first power plant in the world to produce usable electricity using atomic energy. After that day until decommissioning in 1964, EBR-1 generated enough electricity to supply all the power for its own building whenever the reactor operated.

A new exhibit suite opened in 2011, acknowledging the many achievements of EBR-1's successor, EBR-2. EBR-2 began operations in 1964 and continued on until 1994. EBR-2 was both larger and much more capable than its older sibling.

Visitors can also see and hear from those who followed in the EBR-1 pioneers' footsteps, building on the success of EBR-1, designing an inherently safe reactor, improving efficiency and economics, and recycling used nuclear fuel. EBR-2 was on the cutting edge of advanced nuclear research for over three decades.

Under Idaho National Laboratory (INL) nuclear energy programs they continue to build upon its legacy responsibilities, infrastructure and expertise. INL's current nuclear energy mission is to lead and integrate development of advanced nuclear technologies that provide abundant, affordable and reliable energy to the United States and the world. Just think, it all began with Enrico Fermi's 1942 discovery of controlled nuclear fission.

Impressive, but there were a couple of panels in this new display that were left out of the brochure that I'd like to add for your knowledge. One panel gives details of the construction of EBR-2 and states that there would never have been a nuclear accident if Three Mile Island, Chernobyl and the Japanese Fukushima Daiichi Plant had been constructed to EBR-2 standards of design. The second statement made is that the design of EBR-2 is 300 to 500 percent safer than EBR-1 and/or those three locations that have experienced a nuclear accident. Stop and think about this: Our nuclear Navy has been operating subs and air craft carriers for over fifty years without a nuclear accident!

We are now in the midst of a political voting process for a new president and the one party selectee states that everything will be done to advance wind and solar power so this nation will not be dependent upon fossil-based fuels. First off, this nation has the largest reserve of fossil-based fuel in the entire world. Second, we already have an established alternative energy source that is now in excess of sixty years old and we know that it can sustain itself indefinitely into the future. Why, other than for political and personal financial reasons, would it be necessary to venture into a new field for energy production. Let's stop for a moment and look at the start up cost for each system and the annual operational cost for these systems. Let me ask you this: Did you know about EBR-1? Did you know that with EBR-2 we have a safe atomic energy system? Isn't all the fuss over nuclear energy because of the three accidents the world has experienced? If the truth concerning EBR-2's safety factor was known, would you be willing to expand our nuclear energy capability? If INL produced a community size, or even a home size nuclear energy source, would you consider one close to you or even in your own home? Think about this and make up your own mind!

Why did God lead us to particular locations to see the sights at that location? Why tell you of our summer vacation? The simple answer is that we are in the midst of a great change about to occur. All indications are that the second coming of Christ is about to take place unless we repent of our sins and change our attitude toward God. If this occurs there will be changes that will be made to the world and to those living upon the earth at that time. Here are some important questions that each reader must answer for themselves.

1. Do you believe that you are a Christian and are following God's ordained rules?
2. Do you know God or do you know of God?
3. Do you understand any of the prophetic statements in the Bible?
4. Do you understand that the United States is part of ancient Israel?
5. Do you understand the sorting of sheep and goat nations that will take place at the second coming of Christ?

These questions are for you to answer truthfully to yourself. I cannot answer any of these for you, but I assure you that you must answer them for yourself. Why am I concerned? I'm concerned because I believe that God put this upon my heart to attempt to reach those who are unsure and desire to know the truth. I must give you the truth quickly and as concisely as possible. Let us now get down to the business at hand and attempt to understand some of the facts that are in the Bible. Turn with me as we begin to answer some questions.

The Law Given to Moses

It is now time to take a serious look at the contribution that Moses gave to us. We should understand that everyone of the Hebrew nation was not happy with Moses. We actually could take Abraham Lincoln's quote about pleasing people and apply it to Moses: the people were just not pleased all the time.

Even so there's an article that Moses carried off the mountain that we need to look at and we can find the information recorded in Exodus 20 and in Deuteronomy 5. These two excerpts are God's simple rules for living life. Exodus 20:1-17, *And God spoke all these words, saying: "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before Me. 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; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments. 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. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it. Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's."*

Stated slightly different we find the following in Deuteronomy 5:1-22, *And Moses called all Israel, and said to them: "Hear, O Israel, the statutes and judgments which I speak in your hearing today, that you may learn them and be careful to observe them. The Lord our God made a covenant with us in Horeb. The Lord did not make this covenant with our fathers, but with us, those who are here today, all of us who are alive. The Lord talked with you face to face on the mountain from the midst of the fire. I stood between the Lord and you at that time, to declare to you the word of the Lord; for you were afraid because of the fire, and you did not go up the mountain."*

He said: "I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before Me. You shall not make for yourself a carved image--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; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments. 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. Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy, as the Lord your God commanded you. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your ox, nor your donkey, nor any of your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates, that your male servant and your female servant may rest as well as you. And remember that you

were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God brought you out from there by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm; therefore the Lord your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day. Honor your father and your mother, as the Lord your God has commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may be well with you in the land which the Lord your God is giving you. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife; and you shall not desire your neighbor's house, his field, his male servant, his female servant, his ox, his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's."

"These words the Lord spoke to all your assembly, in the mountain from the midst of the fire, the cloud, and the thick darkness, with a loud voice; and He added no more. And He wrote them on two tablets of stone and gave them to me." Either way we normally call these commands the Ten Commandments.

Currently in today's world, I think it is a shame that we Americans have permitted Satan to blind us to the point that we allow groups such as the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) to challenge the posting of this document. The posting may be in schools, in courtrooms and on monuments erected on government owned land. The ACLU claims this document has something to do with religion and, therefore, we must observe a separation between church and state. Pray tell, how did we become so confused over what this document really is?

First, and foremost this is not a religious document! **Period!** This is a moral document and nothing more. Why is it that because these words are found in the Bible that they have suddenly become a religious document? The instructions on how to construct the Tabernacle, the Temple or the observances performed by the priests would be religious by their very nature. But how is it when most of the wording in the Ten Commandments could be easily found in the statutes of every state and commonwealth in the union that we call this a religious document? Don't we have laws that state that stealing, lying and adultery are punishable crimes? Don't we have state agencies that protect our youngest and oldest members of society? And if you really get down to those commands pertaining to the observance of the Sabbath, did you find anything that says you must be of one particular faith or the observance must be on such and such a day?

I've heard the ACLU state in open court that this is a religious document because it is supported by the Christian faith and no other. Isn't that a total scream! The document wasn't even given to those of the Christian faith. At the time it was given, I'd be willing to say that you could take well over a million people off on a one-on-one discussion of their religion and they wouldn't even know about what it was you were asking questions. The Hebrew people did not see these instructions as being part and parcel a portion of being Jewish. They saw them as being moral instructions from God. Now, are you going to try to take this further and tell me: therefore, anything written that implies it is an instruction from a deity is religious? Somehow I would say that there would be much more confusion among mankind if that was the case. Every instruction from any one deity would not be considered binding upon another group who did not adhere to the teaching of that deity. Thus for the sake of sanity within any moral society these are not religious teachings, they are moral teachings!

There is another question that I must address. Why is it that Christians seem to have this idea they are not to live by the laws that God handed down through Moses? How many times have you heard a Christian say, "I'm a New Testament believer, that doesn't apply to me," or "We're a New Testament church and the old covenant doesn't apply to us?" Once again, I'm lead to believe there are many who missed the point. Christians may be under the New Covenant given by Jesus but that does not exempt them from the principles of the law. Understand this statement! Jesus himself uttered five of the commandments of Moses verbatim. If the principles of the law do not apply under the new covenant, I have several verses to show you to provoke thought.

Let us look at the statement of Jesus in Matthew 5:17, *“Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.”* How does an individual fulfill any law? Isn't it in the observance of that law? Don't we, as a society have many laws, that we call statutes, written at town, city, county, state and federal level? Don't we as citizens of that town, city, county, state or country fulfill the law by respecting the law, observing the law and by obeying the law. We break the law when we do not obey the law. Isn't that exactly what Moses gave to the Hebrews at Mt. Sinai? Isn't that what Jesus meant when He said, He came *not to destroy, but to fulfill*? Seriously, is this a religious instruction or a moral instruction? It is time that mankind figured out that to be righteous in God's eye is to be moral in man's eye by following the laws that have been handed down. Stop and think, if mankind had followed the laws given by Moses there would have been no reason to issue further laws (on heaven-only-knows what subjects). Jesus did not come to set up a religion: He came, as heir to the throne, to illustrate to mankind how to worship God the Father by being obedient to the law and to the teachings of the prophets.

For the sake of illustration let's go through the teachings of Jesus to see which of the Ten Commandments He also taught. The first commandment is *“You shall have no other gods before Me.”* For this illustration I'll show you the two verses that give the Ten Commandments in the Old Testament and also the verse or verses that Jesus taught. For those commands that Jesus spoke verbatim I'll underline the commandment number.

Commandment One: Exodus 20:3, *“You shall have no other gods before Me.”* Deuteronomy 5:7, *“You shall have no other gods before Me.”* Jesus used, thus taught, this commandment in the following manner; Matthew 4:10, *Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.’”*

Commandment Two: Exodus 20:4, *“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.”* Deuteronomy 5:8, *“You shall not make for yourself a carved image—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.”* Jesus never used this statement directly, according to the Gospels, and the one verse that I can come up with is the same one that He spoke to Satan. Matthew 4:10, *Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.’”* Jesus also taught the following in Matthew 22:20-21, *And He said to them, “Whose image and inscription is this?”*

They said to Him, “Caesar’s.”

And He said to them, “Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.”

Commandment Three: Exodus 20:7, *“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.”* Deuteronomy 5:11, *“You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.”* Once again, we have one of the commandments that Jesus did not speak verbatim; however, Jesus did teach the following: Matthew 5:33-37, *“Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to the Lord.’ But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God’s throne; nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black. But let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No,’ ‘No.’ For whatever is more than these is from the evil one.”* Also in Matthew 23:16-22, *“Woe to you, blind guides, who say, ‘Whoever*

*swears by the temple, it is nothing; but whoever swears by the gold of the temple, he is obliged to perform it.' Fools and blind! For which is greater, the gold or the temple that sanctifies the gold? And, 'Whoever swears by the altar, it is nothing; but whoever swears by the gift that is on it, he is obliged to perform it.' Fools and blind! For which is greater, the gift or the altar that sanctifies the gift? Therefore he who swears by the altar, swears by it and by all things on it. He who swears by the temple, swears by it and by Him who dwells in it. And he who swears by heaven, swears by the throne of God and by Him who sits on it." And also in Matthew 26:63-64, *But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest answered and said to Him, "I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!"**

Jesus said to him, "It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven."

Commandment Four: Exodus 20:8, *"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy."* Deuteronomy 5:12, *"Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy, as the Lord your God commanded you."* In reading the Gospels one finds that Jesus did many things on the Sabbath, in fact, it was one of the major reasons that the Jews wanted to kill Jesus. Jesus spoke the following in Mark 2:27, *And He said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath."* We can also see the manner of the Jewish rulers in the following: Luke 13:14, *But the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath; and he said to the crowd, "There are six days on which men ought to work; therefore come and be healed on them, and not on the Sabbath day."* Today we see great conflict among mankind over the Sabbath. Is it on Friday, or Saturday or is it Sunday that makes the Sabbath? What if we observed the statement that there are six days to work and one day to honor God? If we followed the instructions as they are given, we must honor the Sabbath as being our Saturday.

Commandment Five: Exodus 20:12, *"Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you."* Deuteronomy 5:16, *"Honor your father and your mother, as the Lord your God has commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may be well with you in the land which the Lord your God is giving you."* This one command was quoted more by Jesus than any other and can be found verbatim in five different verses. Matthew 15:4, *"For God commanded, saying, 'Honor your father and your mother; and, He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.'" Matthew 19:19, "Honor your father and your mother, and, you shall love your neighbor as yourself." Mark 7:10, For Moses said, "Honor your father and your mother; and, He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death." Mark 10:19, "You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery, Do not murder, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and your mother.'" Luke 18:20, "You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery, Do not murder, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and your mother.'"*

Commandment Six: Exodus 20:13, *"You shall not murder."* Deuteronomy 5:17, *"You shall not murder."* Jesus spoke the following: Matthew 5:21, *"You have heard that it was said to those of old, you shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment."* Matthew 19:18, *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." Paul also spoke about this commandment in the following: Romans 13:9 *For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, You shall not covet, and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, You shall love your neighbor as yourself."*

I must ask another question: Why does mankind have so much confusion over this one commandment? One can find division between people, between denominations and certainly between church and state over this one command. You don't think so! Okay, explain to me why there is so much said on both sides of the capital punishment issue or over abortion rights. If you take the stand that both are murder and against the commandment, I have to raise another question. Why did God direct the Hebrews to kill, murder if you will, complete groups of people? There is a great problem in the argument! Either God does not follow His own laws and He is a liar or there is another answer. Let's reverse the statement and answer the second point first. We find in the following two verses that God cannot lie. Titus 1:2, *In hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began.* Hebrews 6:18, *That by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us.*

Now, let's address the other point. There are different translations of the Bible and different words used in both Greek and Hebrew that can mean kill. If you view the NIV, NRSV or the NKJV the word used in this command is murder. If you view the KJV verse for this command the word used is kill. To further explain the differences look at Strong's Concordance. In looking under the word *kill* there are no less than 14 different words that translate kill (8 in the Hebrew and 6 in the Greek). Understandably when there are 14 various words translated to kill it would seem that murder is the more correct translation than that used in the King James; however, by so doing this the verses where God directs the Hebrews to kill places a conflict in the minds of men. We can even see that this was the reason that King Saul was removed from the throne. 1 Samuel 15:16-23, *Then Samuel said to Saul, "Be quiet! And I will tell you what the LORD said to me last night."*

And he said to him, "Speak on."

So Samuel said, "When you were little in your own eyes, were you not head of the tribes of Israel? And did not the LORD anoint you king over Israel? Now the LORD sent you on a mission, and said, 'Go, and utterly destroy the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are consumed.' Why then did you not obey the voice of the LORD? Why did you swoop down on the spoil, and do evil in the sight of the LORD?"

And Saul said to Samuel, "But I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and gone on the mission on which the LORD sent me, and brought back Agag king of Amalek; I have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. But the people took of the plunder, sheep and oxen, the best of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice to the LORD your God in Gilgal."

So Samuel said: "Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from being king."

We should understand that God does cleanse sin from what is His and that may include the killing of the sinner. That does not violate the law, for it is directed destruction and is not murder. Murder has the implied intent to do harm. Therefore, there is a difference between someone killing in a time of war, or on the other side of the fence, than in killing someone to get revenge, the intent to do harm against another individual because you think you have been wronged and must make amends. Do I hear that God is a loving God and wouldn't do this? God may be a loving God, but even more so God is a righteous God. Out of righteousness one can find love. Out of deception, lead by Satan, one can find the change of thought to lead many astray from being righteous to being what they perceive to be right. Every one of us should take the time to read and study this one command to see if our personal thoughts are in accord with the intent of the Bible, or if they are in accord with tradition that may lead us away from what the Bible actually teaches.

Commandment Seven: Exodus 20:14, “*You shall not commit adultery.*” Deuteronomy 5:18, “*You shall not commit adultery.*” We see Jesus speaking this commandment in the following, Matthew 5:27, “*You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’*” and in Matthew 19:18, *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.” Paul continued the teaching in the following verse. Romans 13:9, *For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, You shall not covet, and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”*

Commandment Eight: Exodus 20:15, “*You shall not steal.*” Deuteronomy 5:19, “*You shall not steal.*” Jesus spoke these words in the following: Matthew 19:18, *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.” Paul spoke them in Romans 13:9, *For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, You shall not covet, and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”*

Commandment Nine: Exodus 20:16, “*You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.*” Deuteronomy 5:20, “*You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.*” Jesus spoke this command in Matthew 19:18, *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.” Mark 10:19, “*You know the commandments: ‘Do not commit adultery, Do not murder, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and your mother.’*” Luke 18:20, “*You know the commandments: ‘Do not commit adultery, Do not murder, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and your mother.’*” Paul taught in Romans 13:9, *For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, You shall not covet, and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”*

Commandment Ten: Exodus 20:17, “*You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's.*” Deuteronomy 5:21, “*You shall not covet your neighbor's wife; and you shall not desire your neighbor's house, his field, his male servant, his female servant, his ox, his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's.*” Jesus did not speak this command directly, and furthermore there are many who do not understand what this command means. We don't use the word covet that often anymore, but if you associate the act of greed, plus personal desire, in this command you should have something on the order of: You shall not be (greedy, desire, wish for, lust for or long for) (about/for) your neighbor's house; you shall not be (greedy, desire, wish for, lust for or long for) (over/for) your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his car, or his boat or anything that is your neighbor's.

To see this in a Biblical verse look at the following: Deuteronomy 7:25, “*You shall burn the carved images of their gods with fire; you shall not covet the silver or gold that is on them, nor take it for yourselves, lest you be snared by it; for it is an abomination to the LORD your God.*” To see how Jesus applied this command look at the following. In this first verse we see the overall intent that covetousness, or desire may cause. Luke 12:15, *And He said to them, “Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.”* In the second

verse we can see the desire of lust, even for your neighbor's wife, illustrated by Jesus. Matthew 5:28, *"But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart."* Paul did speak more about this command in the following: Romans 7:7, *What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, "You shall not covet."* Romans 13:9, *For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, You shall not covet, and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, You shall love your neighbor as yourself."*

Blessings for Obedience

If one really wants to see the intent of the law and the righteousness of obedience to God it is easy to find in the following verses. Deuteronomy 28:1-14, *"Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the LORD your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the LORD your God: Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the country. Blessed shall be the fruit of your body, the produce of your ground and the increase of your herds, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flocks. Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out.*

The LORD will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before your face; they shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways. The LORD will command the blessing on you in your storehouses and in all to which you set your hand, and He will bless you in the land which the LORD your God is giving you. The LORD will establish you as a holy people to Himself, just as He has sworn to you, if you keep the commandments of the LORD your God and walk in His ways. Then all peoples of the earth shall see that you are called by the name of the LORD, and they shall be afraid of you. And the LORD will grant you plenty of goods, in the fruit of your body, in the increase of your livestock, and in the produce of your ground, in the land of which the LORD swore to your fathers to give you. The LORD will open to you His good treasure, the heavens, to give the rain to your land in its season, and to bless all the work of your hand. You shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow. And the LORD will make you the head and not the tail; you shall be above only, and not be beneath, if you heed the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you today, and are careful to observe them. So you shall not turn aside from any of the words which I command you this day, to the right or the left, to go after other gods to serve them." Do I hear some say that this does not apply to them because they are not Jewish? Better go back and review how your line of descent ties you into the covenant God gave to Abraham.

Curses for Disobedience

Deuteronomy 28:15-29:1, *"But it shall come to pass, if you do not obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you: Cursed shall you be in the city, and cursed shall you be in the country. Cursed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. Cursed shall be the fruit of your body and the produce of your land, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flocks. Cursed shall you be when you come in, and cursed shall you be when you go out.*

The LORD will send on you cursing, confusion, and rebuke in all that you set your hand to do, until you are destroyed and until you perish quickly, because of the wickedness of your doings in which

you have forsaken Me. The LORD will make the plague cling to you until He has consumed you from the land which you are going to possess. The LORD will strike you with consumption, with fever, with inflammation, with severe burning fever, with the sword, with scorching, and with mildew; they shall pursue you until you perish. And your heavens which are over your head shall be bronze, and the earth which is under you shall be iron. The LORD will change the rain of your land to powder and dust; from the heaven it shall come down on you until you are destroyed.”

“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 become troublesome to all the kingdoms of the earth. Your carcasses shall be food for all the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth, and no one shall frighten them away. The LORD will strike you with the boils of Egypt, with tumors, with the scab, and with the itch, from which you cannot be healed. The LORD will strike you with madness and blindness and confusion of heart. And you shall grope at noonday, as a blind man gropes in darkness; you shall not prosper in your ways; you shall be only oppressed and plundered continually, and no one shall save you.”

“You shall betroth a wife, but another man shall lie with her; you shall build a house, but you shall not dwell in it; you shall plant a vineyard, but shall not gather its grapes. Your ox shall be slaughtered before your eyes, but you shall not eat of it; your donkey shall be violently taken away from before you, and shall not be restored to you; your sheep shall be given to your enemies, and you shall have no one to rescue them. Your sons and your daughters shall be given to another people, and your eyes shall look and fail with longing for them all day long; and there shall be no strength in your hand. A nation whom you have not known shall eat the fruit of your land and the produce of your labor, and you shall be only oppressed and crushed continually. So you shall be driven mad because of the sight which your eyes see.”

“The LORD will strike you in the knees and on the legs with severe boils which cannot be healed, and from the sole of your foot to the top of your head. The LORD will bring you and the king whom you set over you to a nation which neither you nor your fathers have known, and there you shall serve other gods; wood and stone. “And you shall become an astonishment, a proverb, and a byword among all nations where the LORD will drive you.”

“You shall carry much seed out to the field but gather little in, for the locust shall consume it. You shall plant vineyards and tend them, but you shall neither drink of the wine nor gather the grapes; for the worms shall eat them. You shall have olive trees throughout all your territory, but you shall not anoint yourself with the oil; for your olives shall drop off. You shall beget sons and daughters, but they shall not be yours; for they shall go into captivity. Locusts shall consume all your trees and the produce of your land.”

“The alien who is among you shall rise higher and higher above you, and you shall come down lower and lower. He shall lend to you, but you shall not lend to him; he shall be the head, and you shall be the tail.”

“Moreover all these curses shall come upon you and pursue and overtake you, until you are destroyed, because you did not obey the voice of the LORD your God, to keep His commandments and His statutes which He commanded you. And they shall be upon you for a sign and a wonder, and on your descendants forever.”

“Because you did not serve the LORD your God with joy and gladness of heart, for the abundance of everything, therefore you shall serve your enemies, whom the LORD will send against you, in hunger, in thirst, in nakedness, and in need of everything; and He will put a yoke of iron on your neck until He has destroyed you. The LORD will bring a nation against you from afar, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flies, a nation whose language you will not understand, a nation of fierce countenance, which does not respect the elderly nor show favor to the young. And they shall eat the increase of your

livestock and the produce of your land, until you are destroyed; they shall not leave you grain or new wine or oil, or the increase of your cattle or the offspring of your flocks, until they have destroyed you.”

“They shall besiege you at all your gates until your high and fortified walls, in which you trust, come down throughout all your land; and they shall besiege you at all your gates throughout all your land which the LORD your God has given you. You shall eat the fruit of your own body, the flesh of your sons and your daughters whom the LORD your God has given you, in the siege and desperate straits in which your enemy shall distress you. The sensitive and very refined man among you will be hostile toward his brother, toward the wife of his bosom, and toward the rest of his children whom he leaves behind, so that he will not give any of them the flesh of his children whom he will eat, because he has nothing left in the siege and desperate straits in which your enemy shall distress you at all your gates. The tender and delicate woman among you, who would not venture to set the sole of her foot on the ground because of her delicateness and sensitivity, will refuse to the husband of her bosom, and to her son and her daughter, her placenta which comes out from between her feet and her children whom she bears; for she will eat them secretly for lack of everything in the siege and desperate straits in which your enemy shall distress you at all your gates.”

“If you do not carefully observe 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, then the LORD will bring upon you and your descendants extraordinary plagues; great and prolonged plagues; and serious and prolonged sicknesses. Moreover He will bring back on you all the diseases of Egypt, of which you were afraid, and they shall cling to you. Also every sickness and every plague, which is not written in this Book of the Law, will the LORD bring upon you until you are destroyed. You shall be left few in number, whereas you were as the stars of heaven in multitude, because you would not obey the voice of the LORD your God. And it shall be, that just as the LORD rejoiced over you to do you good and multiply you, so the LORD will rejoice over you to destroy you and bring you to nothing; and you shall be plucked from off the land which you go to possess.”

“Then the LORD will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other, and there you shall serve other gods, which neither you nor your fathers have known; wood and stone. And among those nations you shall find no rest, nor shall the sole of your foot have a resting place; but there the LORD will give you a trembling heart, failing eyes, and anguish of soul. Your life shall hang in doubt before you; you shall fear day and night, and have no assurance of life. In the morning you shall say, ‘Oh, that it were evening!’ And at evening you shall say, ‘Oh, that it were morning!’ because of the fear which terrifies your heart, and because of the sight which your eyes see.”

“And the LORD will take you back to Egypt in ships, by the way of which I said to you, ‘You shall never see it again.’ And there you shall be offered for sale to your enemies as male and female slaves, but no one will buy you.”

These are the words of the covenant which the LORD commanded Moses to make with the children of Israel in the land of Moab, besides the covenant which He made with them in Horeb.

So there, you have a choice: abundant life or existence; freedom or slavery; lender or borrower. It is all left up to each of us to make our own choice whether we will be obedient to God’s commands or not. Each of us will make a choice and each will see the results of that choice. What will yours be, abundant life through obedience, or existence through disobedience?

Still not assured of the promises? Okay, what does Jesus teach us?

The Greatest Teacher

My quest drove me on to find verses needed to write this sub-chapter. Oh sure! I could easily sit down at the computer and do a word search on bread, or life, or living water or even light and come up with verses that could go here.

I could run a search on all the miracles or on all the healings and there would be pages of information to discuss.

But that wee small voice called to me and said KIS (Keep It Simple). God's way is not complex, it's simple. We, being mankind, are the cause of the complexity to the will of God. In all of my journeys, in all of my study and research there are a handful of Bible verses that state the truth beyond comparison. First and foremost, are the statements recorded about Jesus that were made by God:

Matthew 3:17 *And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."*

Matthew 17:5, *While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!"*

Mark 1:11, *Then a voice came from heaven, "You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."*

Luke 3:22, *And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, "You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased."*

You can study all the great religions upon the earth and this is the only case, about the only person, that you can find this statement being made. There are two other situations that need to be added to these verses. Outside of the disciples Jesus admitted that He was the Messiah to only two people: one was a man and the other was a woman. It's found in the story of the woman at the well in John 4:25-26, *The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming (who is called Christ). When He comes, He will tell us all things."*

Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am He."

It's in the story of the blind man that was healed on the Sabbath in John 9:34-37, *They answered and said to him, "You were completely born in sins, and are you teaching us?" And they cast him out. Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said to him, "Do you believe in the Son of God?"*

He answered and said, "Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?"

And Jesus said to him, "You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you."

No other prophet, no other religious leader has ever been so bold as to admit they were the promised Messiah, the Son of God, and the Savior of the World. And no other has had it backed up by a voice from Heaven; but yet, Jesus did!

Surely, I could go on and on and on to provide verses to you to show that the promises made about Jesus are real and that you can rest assured that they are all true. Instead I'll give you the only additional command that Jesus left with us to understand.

John 13:34, *"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another."* Only one command, or as I've said on many occasions only one new rule by which to live our lives. Stop and think about what is said in this one rule. If every person would only live by this rule there would not be the problems that we all are now seeing.

These two sections should give you the importance of observing God's feast days and His ten rules for living life. Jesus carried the rules over to His teaching under the New Covenant and added one rule that really incorporates all the previous rules. Now let's answer the question pertaining to knowing God or that you only know of Him.

Do You Know God or Do You Know of God?

That seems to be an odd question, especially to a nation that says it is a Christian nation. Really! Maybe we should take a serious look at our country and ourselves. When this land was being settled by European immigrants in the 1600's they brought with them the older Geneva Bible and not the new King James Translation. The reason for this was because of the hatred for the King of England. These settlers thought of the King as a tyrant and did everything possible to get away from his influence. They went so far that they even suggested they change the language from English to Hebrew. Yes! Hebrew! Your history books will prove this out if you search diligently.

When George Washington was elected as the first president he made a speech to Congress that we should also understand. In that speech he tells Congress that this nation shall have the riches of Heaven as long as we obey God's rules and that God's grace will be lifted from this land if we fail to keep God in our thoughts, deeds, and actions. These are my words paraphrasing what the President said. Here is the entire inaugural speech:

WASHINGTON'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS

OF 1789

A Transcription

[April 30, 1789]

Fellow Citizens of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Among the vicissitudes incident to life, no event could have filled me with greater anxieties than that of which the notification was transmitted by your order, and received on the fourteenth day of the present month. On the one hand, I was summoned by my Country, whose voice I can never hear but with veneration and love, from a retreat which I had chosen with the fondest predilection, and, in my flattering hopes, with an immutable decision, as the asylum of my declining years: a retreat which was rendered every day more necessary as well as more dear to me, by the addition of habit to inclination, and of frequent interruptions in my health to the gradual waste committed on it by time. On the other hand, the magnitude and difficulty of the trust to which the voice of my Country called me, being sufficient to awaken in the wisest and most experienced of her citizens, a distrustful scrutiny into his qualifications, could not but overwhelm with despondence, one, who, inheriting inferior endowments from nature and unpracticed in the duties of civil administration, ought to be peculiarly conscious of his own deficiencies. In this conflict of emotions, all I dare aver, is, that it has been my faithful study to collect my duty from a just appreciation of every circumstance, by which it might be affected. All I dare hope, is, that, if in executing this task I have been too much swayed by a grateful remembrance of former instances, or by an affectionate sensibility to this transcendent proof, of the confidence of my fellow-citizens; and have thence too little consulted my incapacity as well as disinclination for the weighty and untried cares before me; my error will be palliated by the motives which misled me, and its consequences be judged by my Country, with some share of the partiality in which they originated.

Such being the impressions under which I have, in obedience to the public summons, repaired to the present station; it would be peculiarly improper to omit in this first official Act, my fervent supplications to that Almighty Being who rules over the Universe, who presides in the Councils of Nations, and whose providential aids can supply every human defect, that his benediction may consecrate to the liberties and happiness of the People of the United States, a Government instituted by themselves for these essential purposes: and may enable every instrument employed in its administration to execute with success, the functions allotted to his charge. In tendering this homage to the Great Author of every public and private good I assure myself that it expresses your sentiments not less than my own; nor those of my fellow-citizens at large, less than either. No People can be bound to acknowledge and adore the invisible hand, which conducts the Affairs of men more than the People of the United States. Every step, by which they have advanced to the character of an independent nation, seems to have been distinguished by some token of providential agency. And in the important revolution just accomplished in the system of their United Government, the tranquil deliberations and voluntary consent of so many distinct communities, from which the event has resulted, cannot be compared with the means by which most Governments have been established, without some return of pious gratitude along with an humble anticipation of the future blessings which the past seem to presage. These reflections, arising out of the present crisis, have forced themselves too strongly on my mind to be suppressed. You will join with me I trust in thinking, that there are none under the influence of which, the proceedings of a new and free Government can more auspiciously commence.

By the article establishing the Executive Department, it is made the duty of the President "to recommend to your consideration, such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient." The circumstances under which I now meet you, will acquit me from entering into that subject, farther than to refer to the Great Constitutional Charter under which you are assembled; and which, in defining your powers, designates the objects to which your attention is to be given. It will be more consistent with those circumstances, and far more congenial with the feelings which actuate me, to substitute, in place of a recommendation of particular measures, the tribute that is due to the talents, the rectitude, and the patriotism which adorn the characters selected to devise and adopt them. In these honorable qualifications, I behold the surest pledges, that as on one side, no local prejudices, or attachments; no separate views, nor party animosities, will misdirect the comprehensive and equal eye which ought to watch over this great assemblage of communities and interests: so, on another, that the foundations of our National policy will be laid in the pure and immutable principles of private morality; and the pre-eminence of a free Government, be exemplified by all the attributes which can win the affections of its Citizens, and command the respect of the world.

I dwell on this prospect with every satisfaction which an ardent love for my Country can inspire: since there is no truth more thoroughly established, than that there exists in the economy and course of nature, an indissoluble union between virtue and happiness, between duty and advantage, between the genuine maxims of an honest and magnanimous policy, and the solid rewards of public prosperity and felicity: Since we ought to be no less persuaded that the propitious smiles of Heaven, can never be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right, which Heaven itself has ordained: And since the preservation of the sacred fire of liberty, and the destiny of the Republican model of Government, are justly considered as deeply, perhaps as finally staked, on the experiment entrusted to the hands of the American people.

Besides the ordinary objects submitted to your care, it will remain with your judgment to decide, how far an exercise of the occasional power delegated by the Fifth article of the Constitution is rendered expedient at the present juncture by the nature of objections which have been urged against the System, or by the degree of inquietude which has given birth to them. Instead of undertaking particular recommendations on this subject, in which I could be guided by no lights derived from official opportunities, I shall again give way to my entire confidence in your discernment and pursuit of the public good: For I assure myself that whilst you carefully avoid every alteration which might endanger the benefits of a United and effective Government, or which ought to await the future lessons of experience; a reverence for the characteristic rights of freemen, and a regard for the public harmony, will sufficiently influence your deliberations on the question how far the former can be more impreguably fortified, or the latter be safely and advantageously promoted.

To the preceding observations I have one to add, which will be most properly addressed to the House of Representatives. It concerns myself, and will therefore be as brief as possible. When I was first honored with a call into the Service of my Country, then on the eve of an arduous struggle for its liberties, the light in which I contemplated my duty required that I should renounce every pecuniary compensation. From this resolution I have in no instance departed. And being still under the impressions which produced it, I must decline as inapplicable to myself, any share in the personal emoluments, which may be indispensably included in a permanent provision for the Executive Department; and must accordingly pray that the pecuniary estimates for the Station in which I am placed, may, during my continuance in it, be limited to such actual expenditures as the public good may be thought to require.

Having thus imported to you my sentiments, as they have been awakened by the occasion which brings us together, I shall take my present leave; but not without resorting once more to the benign parent of the human race, in humble supplication that since He has been pleased to favor the American people, with opportunities for deliberating in perfect tranquility, and dispositions for deciding with unparalleled unanimity on a form of Government, for the security of their Union, and the advancement of their happiness; so His divine blessing may be equally conspicuous in the enlarged views, the temperate consultations, and the wise measures on which the success of this Government must depend.

G Washington

Let us all remember that the only requirement God made of mankind was to be obedient to His rules and ordinances. He did not require religion. Religion is a man-made concept with its pomp and circumstance. This nation, these United States, sought to rid itself of a tyrant government and establish freedom and liberty as the basis for its being and the first President said so in his inaugural address. Today we see the decline in our moral values from the chief house of our elected leader to the halls of Congress and down through every level of government. We take our following from the actions of our leaders. We say we are a God fearing nation but we really have no idea what it means to know God. Instead, we know of God. We know that God is somewhere in heaven. We attend church and think that our association with a church makes us Godly. We really know of God and have no idea what it means to know God.

Consider these facts: God is our heavenly father and author of creation. Jesus as the Son of God is the actual creator of all things and the groom to His bride, the church. This church is not a denomination. This church is the body of believers who act in accord with God's desires, regardless of denomination and follow God's rules in obedience. As the bride of Christ, this church is faithful to only her

husband and does not conduct themselves as whoremongers or adulterers sleeping with every false religion and earthly ruler as they can find. This church knows when things are right and when things are wrong and will stand up and say NO to those things that are not right. Consider some of the words of Jesus:

Matthew 5:17-20 (NIV), *Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. Anyone who breaks 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 practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.*

Jesus indicated that He had a small flock in the following: Luke 12:32-34 (NIV), *Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

Jesus tells us that most people are traveling down the broad highway and fail to find the narrow gate to locate Him: Matt 7:13-14 (NIV), *Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.*

Finally, Jesus tells us that He alone is the life, the truth and the way to get to His Father: John 14:6-7 (NIV), *Jesus answered, " I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."*

Search yourself. Do you really know God or do you know of God? Do you stand up for what is right or do you go along with the crowd to coexist?

Do You Understand Any of the Prophetic Statements in the Bible?

Our understanding of prophetic statements needs to consider several of our earthly nations of today. The Bible is full of prophecy and there are many nations that are mentioned in the Bible. Some of these nations are the same today as they were when the Word of God was given to a prophet. Take for example Syria. Syria of the Bible is Syria of today. Egypt is Egypt and Judah is Judah. When we mention Judah we are only speaking about the Jews and not the present day country of Israel.

There seems to be five hot spots in the world that are the major points and places to help understand how close we are to the second coming of Christ and as these hot spots increase in activity we should know that the time for the second coming is near.

First, there is Syria. ISIS is now the major faction in the Middle East that wants to have control over the land and over the prophecies of Islam. They feel that their actions are pushing the world closer and closer to the prophecies in the Hadith. There are last day prophecies that are told in the Hadith. The Hadith is not the Quran. The Hadith is a collection of sayings attributed to the Prophet Muhammad and is the other holy book of Islam. Some of the prophecies foretell of the Mahdi, the expected messiah of Muslim tradition, and the recreation of a caliphate, the office or dominion of a caliph (a successor of Muhammad as temporal and spiritual head of Islam), with a recreation of ancient Babylon as its center of governing the world. ISIS has, as one desire, to recapture the area of Syria and Iraq to establish a new caliphate in the area of ancient Babylon.

Secondly, there is Persia or the present day country of Iran. Persia has long been a stronghold of a principality of evil. Look at what Daniel recorded pertaining to Persia. Daniel 10:12-14 (NIV), *Then he continued, "Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them. But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia. Now I have come to explain to you what will happen to your people in the future, for the vision concerns a time yet to come."*

Iran is one country that practices terrorism and supports Hezbollah and Hamas along with the nations of Libya and Syria. They have also been at war with Iraq and want control over that land. Between ISIS and Iran you can find the place for most of the world's problems. In 1979 when Iran took the people at our embassy captive, the United States froze billions of dollars belonging to Iran and placed sanctions against Iran. In some ways the United States used the money as a bargaining chip in dealing with Iran. The Presidents since Jimmy Carter have kept the money secured up to President Obama. President Obama has released billions back to Iran and even granted them the right to explore a small nuclear program for electrical energy purposes. Now if you believe that Iran will only use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, you really do want to coexist in the world. You must have forgotten that ISIS, Syria, Iran, and the Palestinians have all called for the destruction of Israel and call us the great satan and want to also destroy us as well. Why would any country want to destroy the United States?

One other reason that Iran wants the United States destroyed is over Saudi Arabia. Iran and Saudi Arabia are bitter enemies even though both are Muslim nations. The ideology is completely different between these two nations. The United States has struck a deal with the House of Saud that if they will continue to provide us oil at a reasonable price, we will protect their country from Iran.

Thirdly, there is the country of Jordan. It is interesting to see the makeup of the people of Jordan. The Jordanians are cousins to Judah and one of the nations that has retained friendly relations with Israel. Why do I say that the Jordanians are cousins to Judah. Easy, its in the Bible. Go read the story of Esau, Jacob's brother and the illegitimate sons of Lot through his daughters. The Moabites are

now living in Moab, Esau's descendents are living in Edom and the children of Ben-Ammi are living in Ammon. So, it really does seem that the Jordanians are cousins to Judah. There is a statement pertaining to these three locations in Jordan of which you need to be aware. The statement is recorded in Daniel 11:40-41 (NIV), *At the time of the end the king of the South will engage him in battle, and the king of the North will storm out against him with chariots and cavalry and a great fleet of ships. He will invade many countries and sweep through them like a flood. He will also invade the Beautiful Land. Many countries will fall, but Edom, Moab and the leaders of Ammon will be delivered from his hand.* Why would these three locals escape from this king, or this Antichrist? There are many who believe that there will be a remnant of Jews, who, during the Great Tribulation take refuge in Petra located in Jordan. It is for this reason that these three groups are left untouched.

Fourthly, we have Jerusalem itself. Many would have placed Jerusalem as the first hot spot for many reasons. It is the center of ideology for three religions: Jewish, Islam and Christianity. Each wants to be the force in control over Jerusalem and all claim that the city belongs to them. The Bible identifies Jerusalem as the point where God has made a covenant with His chosen people. All the prophecies of the Bible have something relative to Jerusalem and all the hot spots have something that ties them to Jerusalem directly or indirectly.

Lastly, we have the United States. Why the United States? It is not in the Middle East. It is not identified in the Bible as being a part of the Great Tribulation or anything having to do with the Revelation. That's not exactly true. The names of America or the United States are not in the Bible, however the mind-set and actions of people are recorded in end time prophecies. There is the mind-set of coexistence and tolerance similar to the mind-set of Esau in the Old Testament. Esau disregarded his birthright and sold it to his brother for a bowl of soup. The United States has, in similar fashion, disregarded God's grace upon this nation and slowly began to make shortcuts around God's rules and covenants. Let's look at just a little more than the last fifty years.

In 1962 in the case of Engel vs. Vitale the Supreme Court struck down prayer in schools.

In 1973 in the case of Roe vs. Wade the Supreme Court granted the right for abortions.

In 1980 in the case of Stone vs. Graham the Supreme Court struck down the right to post the Ten Commandments on or in any government building or property.

On June 26, 2015 the Supreme Court declared that same sex marriage was as legal as the ordained rule of marriage in the Bible.

Who gave five people dressed in black robes the right to overrule God? Our forefathers left tyrant-led Europe to have religious freedom. They came to this nation to praise God and to be God fearing people. Yes, the colonies were in some ways established for various religious groups, but all came to the new country to be free to practice what they believed. Maybe those five people dressed in black robes need to go outside and look at the building in which they perform their duties (fig. 1 on next page). They need to also look at the doors to certain chambers inside that building (fig. 2 on next page). They may come to understand that the presence of God is expected within that building and the memory of Moses and what he brought to the world is also a part of their functioning.

But these five people are not the only reason that God has removed the hedge of protection from around the United States. We have allowed God's signs and covenants to be trampled and used to represent the identity of abomination groups. Take the adopted symbol, the rainbow, for the LBGT group. God ordained the rainbow as a symbol that He would not destroy the Earth by flood ever again. This was a covenant between God and all of mankind for all generations. **THIS IS NOT, NOR WAS NOT, A SYMBOL TO REPRESENT PERVERTED PEOPLE WHO GOD TERMS AS AN ABOMINATION!** This seems to be pretty straight forward and does not need to have some fairytale interpretation placed upon it as to what God meant! Have we now failed in our ability to read plain English? Why have we, the people who say we are Godly people, allowed others to bully and push us

into this placated coexistence nonsense?

The final two slaps in God's face took place after the Supreme Court judged that same-sex marriages were legal. The first was by order of President Obama when lights were turned on the White House in the colors of a rainbow (June 2015, fig. 3; photo provided by Wikimedia, commons). Think about that! The official home of our elected leader, in other words, the residence of the nations CEO was lite up with the symbolism of the LBGt banner. How dare the President to take God's covenant with all of mankind and use it to appease an abomination group. The people of this nation did not vote on this, nor did we call to the White House and approve of this act being orchestrated on our behalf. To do so, without we the people expressing a disagreement or a resounding NO only went along with the downward spiral of Satan's influence over this nation.

The second slap that filled God's cup to overflowing was when lights were turned on the Empire State Building in New York with the face of Kali depicted on the side of the building (August 2015, fig. 4). With that being done on one of the major symbols of America, you have indicated your belief in idols and have indicated to God that you want to coexist and have other God's before the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Who authorized such a display of idolatry? Who made the decision that this was a representation of the mind-set of all the people in this country?

Now the simple question is this: Do you now understand why the United States is listed as a hot spot? Do you now understand why God has lifted His hedge of protection and our place within God's grace has been removed? God is not pleased with this nation! The sleeping giant of Christian believing people must awaken and group together as a nation, not by denomination, for a serious revival. If this nation does not change its attitude toward God and each other, we could be headed for another revolution!



Fig. 1 Moses with Ten Commandments



Fig. 2 Door at Supreme Court



Fig. 3 White House lit with rainbow



Fig. 4 Empire State Bldg. w/Kali

Do You Understand That the United States is Part of Ancient Israel?

Some of what needs to be said has already been revealed in this document. If you want to go back and review the previous words turn back to pages 11 through 13 and read. Otherwise, let us do a recap of the thirteen tribes of ancient Israel. First, we must remember that Abraham had Isaac and Isaac had Jacob. These facts are recorded in Genesis. Jacob obtained the birthright and blessing belonging to his brother Esau by deception. Later as Jacob slept on the plain at Bethel he had a dream of the angels traveling up and down a stairs at that place and he fought with the Lord through the entire night. In the morning he took the stone he used as a pillow and raised it up as a pillar and anointed it with oil. God changed his name to reflect a change of heart and he became known as Israel. At this same time that Israel anointed this stone he called it Bethel, meaning house of God or God's house and this stone remains as the only inanimate object anointed in the entire Word of God!

Second, I said thirteen tribes and yet the Bible calls them the twelve tribes of Israel. What is the true count and how do you come up with the correct number. We indicated in the previous words that Israel was the father of 13 children, however, there were four women who were the mothers and the thirteenth child was the only daughter, Dinah. Let us review the birth of the sons by each of the four women. Leah was Israel's first wife and she bore Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun and the only daughter Dinah. Leah's maid Zilpah bore Gad and Asher. Leah's sister Rachel bore Joseph and Benjamin. Rachel's maid Bilhah bore Dan and Naphtali. Of these sons the tribe of Levi was appointed as the priest to serve all the tribes and was not counted in the number of men available for a fighting force and also not in the division of land. The Levites inherited cities in all the land as their inheritance. Therefore, Levi is not counted in the number of tribes and we have to reduce the number to eleven.

The next item we must consider is the story of Joseph and how he became the governor of Egypt. Rachel had made a coat of many colors for Joseph and Israel adored the child. Joseph's brothers did not like the adoration their father showed toward Joseph. One day when Israel had sent Joseph out to the fields to check on his brothers, they took it upon themselves to get rid of him. They then devised a story that he was killed by a wild animal and they showed the coat of many colors to their father with the blood of a lamb they had placed on the coat. What they had really done was sell Joseph to caravan traders on their way to Egypt. Joseph was sold as a slave in Egypt and as the story goes his master's wife liked the looks of this young man and made advances toward him. When he did not accept her advances she tore her own clothes and said that Joseph had attacked her. Joseph went to prison because of her words and was there along with others imprisoned by Pharaoh. Two such prisoners were the cup-bearer and the baker of Pharaoh. Joseph explained the dreams of these two men and their dreams came true just as Joseph said they would. The cup-bearer was killed and the baker was released to go back to Pharaoh. Joseph asked the baker to remember him to Pharaoh. Two years passed and Pharaoh had a dream that his magicians could not explain. The baker remembered Joseph and told Pharaoh about Joseph. Pharaoh had Joseph brought before him and Joseph explained his dream. Pharaoh was impressed and eventually made Joseph governor of all Egypt.

Now, many years after Joseph was sold by his brothers a terrible famine came upon the land and it was Joseph who had control of all the grain stored in Egypt. Joseph's brothers went to Egypt to buy grain and went to see the governor. While Joseph knew who they were, they did not recognize him or know him. Joseph sold them grain and made inquiry of the number of brothers. They told Joseph that the youngest was home and Joseph told them that if they wanted grain again they had to bring the youngest with them to Egypt. The youngest was Joseph's full brother Benjamin, both were the children of Rachel.

On the second trip Benjamin was with his brothers and Joseph invited them all to eat with him. When seated, all the customs of seating the oldest to youngest was conducted in the traditions of the

area and the brothers were amazed that this happened. Joseph finally told them who he was, and made arrangement that would require Benjamin to be left with him. He then sent the brothers back to get their father and brothers' families to return and live in Goshen. This was done and there were a total of seventy who traveled to Egypt, including the aged Israel.

Soon after Israel was settled in Egypt he called his sons to his deathbed. When Joseph arrived he had his two sons with him and Israel took it upon himself to adopt these two sons and make them as his own. With this adoption the name Joseph was removed from the tribes and Ephraim and Manasseh were added as members of the tribes of Israel. Now, if you will add all this together, the removal of Joseph made ten tribes but addition of the two sons of Joseph brought the count back to the number twelve. For purposes of counting fighting men and the distribution of land there are twelve tribes. But, if you remove Joseph and replace him with his two sons, then include Levi as a son, there are thirteen tribes with Manasseh being the thirteenth tribe.

Let's call it four hundred years later the Israelites are still in Egypt, but are now slaves of the then Pharaoh who did not know Joseph or honor him in any capacity. God had made provisions for His people because He had heard their collective cries requesting that He save them. We have to go through the story of Moses to recall the release of the Israelites from Egypt. I hope that it is not necessary to go through the story of Moses and the Exodus of the Israelites from Egypt.

The Israelites were allowed to enter the promised land and redeem that which God gave to Abraham after a sorting out process to have the attitude of the people changed. However, they still bellyached and wanted certain things as they had in Egypt. They also wanted a king like the other nations had. God told them they wouldn't like the outcome, but that was what they wanted, so God gave them a king. The result was that there were only three kings over all Israel: Saul, David and Solomon.

Solomon's actions as king broke God's rules and God told Solomon that He would take and divide the kingdom and give part to Solomon's servant, but this would not be done in Solomon's lifetime, instead via his son (1 Kings 11:9-13). So we find the situation of Rehoboam, Solomon's son, and Jeroboam, Solomon's servant, as the two leaders. Rehoboam was king over Judah and Jeroboam was leader of the Israelites. Jeroboam became king of Israel, the northern ten tribes. Jeroboam thought in his heart that his people Israel would return to Jerusalem to worship, so he set up golden calves at Bethel and Dan and told the people that these were their gods. Idolatry was established by Jeroboam and continues in Israel, the lost ten tribes, until the present date. It is for this reason that God gave Israel a divorce and scattered them to the four corners of the earth.

This scattering occurred, in part, because of the Assyrians capturing Israel and taking them into captivity north of Babylon and around the Caspian Sea. This happened 134 years before Judah was taken captive by Nebuchadnezzar and taken to Babylon. Judah returned to Jerusalem after seventy years in captivity. However, Israel has not returned to the land of their forefathers and remains scattered in the world today. The tribe of Ephraim is now Great Britain and the tribe of Manasseh is the United States. For a full understanding and explanation of the travels of Israel see my book, *The Thirteenth Tribe of Israel*.

Every person in the United States needs to understand that any, and all, prophecies pertaining to Israel in the Old Testament applies to the United States today. This also applies to any prophecy naming Manasseh in the prophecy.

One other statement needs to be made. God is a God of mercy, longsuffering and compassionate and has cried over Ephraim and Manasseh, called for them to repent of their ways and to return to Him in obedience. This was shown in the writings of the prophet Jeremiah on pages 12 and 13.

God has also given other references in scripture telling us that the stick (staff) that was broken into two pieces will be reunited in His hand at the appointed time.

Ezekiel 37:15-23 (NIV), *The word of the Lord came to me: "Son of man, take a stick of wood and write on it, 'Belonging to Judah and the Israelites associated with him.'"*

"Then take another stick of wood, and write on it, 'Ephraim's stick, belonging to Joseph and all the house of Israel associated with him.' Join them together into one stick so that they will become one in your hand."

"When your countrymen ask you, 'Won't you tell us what you mean by this?' say to them, 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says: I am going to take the stick of Joseph—which is in Ephraim's hand—and of the Israelite tribes associated with him, and join it to Judah's stick, making them a single stick of wood, and they will become one in my hand.'"

"Hold before their eyes the sticks you have written on and say to them, 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says: I will take the Israelites out of the nations where they have gone. I will gather them from all around and bring them back into their own land. I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel. There will be one king over all of them and they will never again be two nations or be divided into two kingdoms. They will no longer defile themselves with their idols and vile images or with any of their offenses, for I will save them from all their sinful backsliding, and I will cleanse them. They will be my people, and I will be their God.'"

Jeremiah 3:18 (NIV), *"In those days the house of Judah will join the house of Israel, and together they will come from a northern land to the land I gave your forefathers as an inheritance."*

Jeremiah 31:10 (NIV), *"Hear the word of the Lord, O nations; proclaim it in distant coastlands: 'He who scattered Israel will gather them and will watch over his flock like a shepherd.'"*

Jeremiah 31:31-34 (NIV), *"The time is coming," declares the Lord, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them, " declares the Lord.*

"This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time," declares the Lord. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the Lord.

"For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

Jeremiah 50:4-6 (NIV), *"In those days, at that time," declares the Lord, "the people of Israel and the people of Judah together will go in tears to seek the Lord their God."*

"They will ask the way to Zion and turn their faces toward it. They will come and bind themselves to the Lord in an everlasting covenant that will not be forgotten."

"My people have been lost sheep; their shepherds have led them astray and caused them to roam on the mountains. They wandered over mountain and hill and forgot their own resting place."

Do You Understand the Sorting of Sheep and Goat Nations That Will Take Place at the Second Coming of Christ?

Along with the second coming of Jesus there are several things that must happen. One is the judgement of the nations and this is recorded in Matthew 25:31-46, *When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.*

Then the King will say to those on His right hand, "Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me."

Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, "Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?"

And the King will answer and say to them, "Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me." Then He will also say to those on the left hand, "Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me."

Then they also will answer Him, saying, "Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?"

Then He will answer them, saying, "Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me." And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.

Why will it be necessary for Jesus to do this? In the last chapter there was much said about Israel and Judah being joined together again. This can only be done after the nations are sorted and here is the reason. The world has influenced Judah and Israel far more than they have influenced the world. Jesus calls His followers the salt of the earth and the light to the world. How can you be either if you have been influenced by the world and want to coexist or go along with the crowd, in other words you don't want to rock the boat. Israel, the ten tribe nation, has become complacent, worldly, coexisting and not acting as the light of the world or the salt of the earth through, the actions of many so called Christians. This has happened to the point that it will take the ability of Jesus to read the heart of every person to see if they really belong to Him, or if they belong to the evil one. Remember what Jesus said in Matthew 12:30-32 (NIV), *"He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me scatters. And so I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come."*

Finally, there is one more series of verses that I desire to leave with you. These verses come from the prophet Ezekiel and follow: Ezekiel 36:16-38 (NIV), *Again the word of the Lord came to me: "Son of man, when the people of Israel were living in their own land, they defiled it by their conduct and their actions. Their conduct was like a woman's monthly uncleanness in my sight. So I poured out my wrath on them because they had shed blood in the land and because they had defiled it with their*

idols. *I dispersed them among the nations, and they were scattered through the countries; I judged them according to their conduct and their actions. And wherever they went among the nations they profaned my holy name, for it was said of them, 'These are the Lord's people, and yet they had to leave his land.' I had concern for my holy name, which the house of Israel profaned among the nations where they had gone.*"

"Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am going to do these things, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you have gone. I will show the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, the name you have profaned among them. Then the nations will know that I am the Lord, declares the Sovereign Lord, when I show myself holy through you before their eyes.'"

"For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. You will live in the land I gave your forefathers; you will be my people, and I will be your God. I will save you from all your uncleanness. I will call for the grain and make it plentiful and will not bring famine upon you. I will increase the fruit of the trees and the crops of the field, so that you will no longer suffer disgrace among the nations because of famine. Then you will remember your evil ways and wicked deeds, and you will loathe yourselves for your sins and detestable practices. I want you to know that I am not doing this for your sake, declares the Sovereign Lord. Be ashamed and disgraced for your conduct, O house of Israel!"

"This is what the Sovereign Lord says: 'On the day I cleanse you from all your sins, I will resettle your towns, and the ruins will be rebuilt. The desolate land will be cultivated instead of lying desolate in the sight of all who pass through it.'"

"They will say, 'This land that was laid waste has become like the garden of Eden; the cities that were lying in ruins, desolate and destroyed, are now fortified and inhabited.' Then the nations around you that remain will know that I the Lord have rebuilt what was destroyed and have replanted what was desolate. I the Lord have spoken, and I will do it."

"This is what the Sovereign Lord says: 'Once again I will yield to the plea of the house of Israel and do this for them: I will make their people as numerous as sheep, as numerous as the flocks for offerings at Jerusalem during her appointed feasts. So will the ruined cities be filled with flocks of people. Then they will know that I am the Lord.'"

God will vindicate His Holy Name through His people and it is time that His people begin to understand these things as facts and not as the passing of smoke up a chimney or the dew being evaporated from off the grass. These are not fleeing things that pass away into the night. These are real facts and a real time that is coming over the whole of earth. It is time for everyone to make up their mind if they are for Jesus or against Jesus. The only one who can make that decision is you yourself and it is now that time to become perfectly clear in the decision that you make.

The information I have attempted to give you in this little booklet is meant to plant seeds. Seeds of thought that will have you reacting within your very soul on where it is that you desire to spend eternity. There are books on my website that are free for the download. I only ask that you respect the copyright. There are others who are now very much proclaiming the second coming of Christ, but, in some cases, they try to teach as if you already understand what it is that they are talking about. If you are a babe in Christ, or one that has proclaimed that you know God but in fact you only know of God, I've attempted to get to basic facts and tell you the simple steps to have you understand more. If your questions have not been answered there is always the means to send an e-mail and ask. There is a simple e-mail form on the website that goes to VQPI@comcast.net. May God bless you as you read.



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