

THE GREAT PLAN OF ALMIGHTY GOD CHAPTER 12 – PART 2

By Neville V. Stevens

New International Version used throughout unless otherwise specified.

THE IRONY OF IT ALL!

God created the heavens and the earth and He owns it all. We are mere objects in the vastness of it all. One of the prophets posed the question: *What is man that He is even mindful of him?* And let's be honest about it! What possible use could God have for rebellious human beings? In the course of a few more years, do you really think that humanity in general, or even the Tribes of Israel would honour their Creator? The House of Israel already believes they are self-sufficient without any knowledge of their Creator. More and more they are caught up in intellectual arrogance of trying to explain the existence of the whole creation by natural selection. They suggest that 'primitive life-forms' developed organs merely because they needed them. For instance, by what possible mechanism could such life-forms know they needed eyes if they never had them before? Or hearing, or

digestive systems, or the means to reproduce? An interesting aside to all this is a debate that has begun to emerge among evolutionary 'scientists'. Someone raised the question of which of the original primitive organisms that arose to branch to new forms of life developed eyes. After a lengthy, twisted and convoluted debate, they finally concluded that a total of 65 organisms developed eyes independent of one another. Now some are not so sure. In the initial stages, advocates of evolution stated that one organism seeing the development of others emulated them. "Seeing?" retorted their opponents. "How could they see without eyes?"

"Well, by communication they...."

"They communicated? By what means?"

"They reasoned that they lacked something."

"Reasoned? They had intelligence?"

In frustration the evolutionists decided that 65 species developed eyes independently of each other over a period of millions of years. "And they all initiated this without seeing, communicating or reasoning – so there!"

"Initiated?"

"Go away! We're scientists and don't you forget it!"

"Scientists? Would you care to define this?"

The proof that the theory of evolution is fatally flawed is evident by the fact that human beings cannot produce life in any form. Nor do they even understand what life is! Even today, these 'scientists' are caught up in the fiction that at some future time they will be able to revive cryogenically frozen bodies. They never will! But their towering arrogance does not preclude this hope. But the hope of life remains strong in those who hope to live again by having their frozen bodies revived. Even so this is a long way from actually creating life-forms, which they continually boast that they will be able to do in the future.

The eye

SEEING THE LIGHT
It was once believed that the eye had evolved independently on up to 65 occasions. But new genetic evidence suggests that it only happened once. The prototype eye (centre) then diversified into the myriad forms we see today

The diagram illustrates the evolution of the eye from a common ancestor. At the center is a 'Prototype eye' with a 'Pigment cell' and a 'Photoreceptor cell'. From this prototype, four paths lead to different eye types: 1. 'Vertebrate eye' (fish) with 'Retina', 'Lens', 'Iris', and 'Optic nerve'. 2. 'Cephalopod eye (octopuses, squid, cuttlefish, nautilus)' with a 'Pigment cell' and 'Photoreceptor cell'. 3. 'Arthropod eye (insects, spiders, scorpions, crustaceans, etc)' with 'Ommatidia'. 4. 'Arca eye (clams)' with 'Ommatidia - individual lens-receptor structures'.

THEY appeared in an evolutionary blink and changed the rules of life forever. Before eyes, life was gentler and tamer, dominated by sluggish soft-bodied worms lolling around in the sea. The invention of the eye ushered in a more brutal and competitive world. Vision made it possible for animals to become active hunters, and sparked an evolutionary arms race that transformed the planet.

The first eyes appeared about 543 million years ago – the very beginning of the Cambrian period – in a group of trilobites called the Redlichia. Their eyes were compound, similar to those of modern insects, and probably evolved from light-sensitive pits. And their appearance in the fossil record is strikingly sudden – trilobite ancestors from 544 million years ago don't have eyes.

So what happened in that magic million years? Surely eyes are just too complex to appear all of a sudden? Not so, according to Dan-Eric Nilsson of Lund University in Sweden. He has calculated that it would take only half a million years for a patch of light-sensitive cells to evolve into a compound eye.

Only a month ago, scientists were absolutely certain that 65 species developed eyes independently of each other. But rather than continue to face a barrage of embarrassing questions, they've concluded all animals developed eyes simultaneously over a period of half a million years as *calculated* by Nilsson of Lund University in Sweden. "*Calculated*? By what means?" If you read the whole article, you will find that Nilsson is uncertain whether all animals developed eyes simultaneously, or just the trilobites. His term *'the invention of the eye'* by what he describes as primitive lifeforms raises doubts about the man's sanity.

Credit: New Scientist Magazine, April 9, 2005.

For a long time, God has remained silent. During this time, human beings have taken the opportunity to advance their cause and to obscure God's existence and intent. As **knowledge was increased** – as God said it would, they became arrogant and independent of their Creator God, and ascribed the many discoveries as the product of their own intelligence. Vistas of utopia were painted and people clambered for the new technologies. Powerful incentives were implanted and people craved more and more entertainment. Knowledge of their Creator was obscured in the rush for the titillation of entertainment in all its forms. Everyone prospered in the growth of industry and technology, and the Western nations became the envy of the world. Lesser nations eyed this technological progress with envy, and decades of deprivation turned to hatred for the affluent nations.

As petroleum became the fuel of industry, other nations felt they were deprived of these resources. The burgeoning power of the Western World, and particularly America, seemed to develop an unassailable ascendancy over these lesser nations – and it was **never** well-received. But the big-heartedness and the generosity of the American people reached out to discover and produce petroleum in the Middle Eastern nations, and gave them the opportunity to advance their national aspirations. But this is when the fundamental differences of ideology emerged, and the Middle East rulers became filthy rich while the people starved. The major difference is that God is generous to His people Israel, while Satan doesn't share the same view of his brood. Satan likes to hold his people in subjection so that he can manipulate them. Prosperity is destructive to his form of ideology. He has a vendetta against the only people God ever chose of all the families of the earth, and he keeps his own people hungry for the demise of these Tribes. If his people prospered, they would be less compliant in pursuit of his vendetta. They might adopt a **'live and let live' attitude**, rather than the **'kill at any cost' mentality** that he has imparted to them. Never mind whether there is any justification for their hatred, Satan's cunning scheme is working, and the hatred festers. No amount of reasoning on the part of the American people is able to assuage this collective madness. Even the Europeans have been drinking of Satan's wine of deception and have favoured Satan's brood over the American people. Only the House of Joseph – whose first language is English – have rightly exercised determination against evil despots, but for all the wrong reasons.

It was America's belief that democracy would sponsor peace and contentment among the liberated and that they would be grateful for the removal of tyranny. It all seemed so logical at the time, but it was like walking into a lion's den and expecting ravenous lions to be grateful. Instead they have walked into a trap for which there is no exit strategy. And for all the cries of peace at last, there is, in fact, no peace! And severe reversals can occur in a moment – just as we continue to see. All attempts to mollify and calm these wild animals have proven fruitless. Suicide bombers are now rampant in Iraq, **just as God predicted**, and the forces of evil continue to proliferate. While it may seem like madness to rational people, there is nothing rational about Satan's wine of deception. But what it does demonstrate is that belief in Satan's ambition is so strong that his own brood will willingly give their lives for his worthless cause.

Would God's people be willing to eclipse this devotion? Certainly not from what I've seen. Where are all the Christians who would lay down their lives for others in obedience to God and His cause? Satan's brood has set the benchmark, and Almighty God demands equal devotion to Him. Which of the churches are teaching that God requires this type of devotion just as He did of His Son Jesus? There are none! But what about the Churches of God – who should know better? Are they preparing their people? Not a word has emanated! Rather, they have actively engaged in seeking escape to a 'place of safety'.

This Brotherhood is the 'woman' mentioned in **Rev 12:13-14**, also referred to as the House of David. And it makes no difference to us if you believe this or not! Dream on if you don't understand what constitutes the House of David that gave birth to the male child Jesus (**V13**). Yes, this is what the Churches so assiduously avoided quoting, because they know that the Church never gave birth to the male child Jesus. In fact, Jesus gave birth to the Church! So they can't possibly be the 'woman'! The House of David, which gave birth to the male child Jesus comprises the Jews and the Levites who remained faithful to the House of David and the Holy City Jerusalem.

The Church then is not the 'woman' but the **offspring** of the woman (**Rev 13:17**) – not in genealogical orders, but through the Spirit and Testimony of Jesus, which is the Spirit of prophecy and the fulfillment of all that God has predicted. And Satan the devil is coming after you with all his treacherous brood. Hordes of killers with slaughter on their minds will hunt you down. But be aware that this first happened to the Lord Christ, and He has set the example of behaviour. He instructed you to follow Him and to conduct yourselves in the same manner. And this requires martyrdom for God and obedience to the end. You will be characterized as those who keep the Commandments of God and have the Testimony of Jesus. I hope you have been keeping the Commandments of God, even though up until now, you have **not** had the **Testimony of Jesus** – **which is the Spirit of Prophecy** (**Rev**

19:10). And this should be obvious from the pathetic, prophetic utterances that has characterized the Church for the past seventy years – and continues today in some quarters. And you know what I'm talking about. In the fog of foolish reasoning from people who have never had the Spirit of Prophecy, you believed that Germany (the Tribe of Simeon) is the beast – so is the Pope, and Rome is really 'Babylon' and God was wrong all along! How much favour do you believe this earned you from God? Is God pleased that you mouthed off with all this pathetic nonsense? Don't you feel some pangs of conscience that you treated God's Word so shabbily? Are you prepared to repent of your brazen attitude to God's Truth? Well, time will tell!

God is less interested in your words than in your deeds. Talk is cheap, but God plans to give you the opportunity to put words into action. And that action is to emulate the Christ in obedience and faithfulness and go as sheep to the slaughter just as He did. If you do, then the rewards will be great. If you don't, then everlasting darkness will be your fate. Burn these words into your mind if you hope to have everlasting life. If you prepare yourself to go as a sheep to the slaughter at the hands of God's enemies, then be assured that this will qualify you for greater things. Sure you'll have to overcome the fear of death and be willing to die – just as Jesus did, but afterwards, if you are faithful to the end then your fear will be removed for evermore: **Rev 2:26** "To him that overcomes and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations – 'He will rule them with an iron scepter; he will dash them to pieces like pottery' – just as I have received authority from my Father." If you overcome to the end, as Jesus did, then you will receive the same authority as Jesus did from the Father: to rule the nations with an iron scepter, and to dash them to pieces like pottery. Perhaps you don't feel these are desirable qualities to possess, but soon you will. Soon you will realize how worthless God's enemies are, and you will desire with all your heart to eradicate them from the earth – just like Jesus!

Obviously, God doesn't give this type of power to unqualified people. And if you haven't yet identified the enemies of God then you are way out in left field and have a long way to go. God plans to show you who His enemies are, and these are the ones who attack God's people Israel. You should already know who is spearheading this attack, because they acted on September 11, 2001, and have continued ever since. Yes, Islam spearheaded the attack, but the rest of God's enemies are poised to jump in and continue the slaughter. The writing is on the wall, so to speak, but perhaps you need more evidence. And this is what makes the offspring so different from the 'woman'! The woman believed God before they saw it with their own eyes. This is the true meaning of faith as defined by **Heb 11:1**. And this is the type of faith that God commends. God made His choices based on the faithfulness and obedience of His servants, but most importantly because of their unshakable belief in their Creator God and His precious Word. God has little tolerance for those who are shaken around like reeds in the wind. And as the Apostle Paul emphasized, they must stand firm! (**Eph 6:12-14** – and note the words: 'Stand firm then...') Yes, he was speaking of the invisible rulers of the heavenly realms and the forces of evil. And this was something that the Churches of God never seemed to come to grips with. Their hollow, worthless doctrine was an offence to God! And they need to repent of their insults to Him. And let me stress that it is an insult to God to refuse to believe Him, or to twist the Scriptures to support spurious ideas. The Churches of God made their Creator look petty and malicious, and sought to weaken God's resolve with 'a better way'. Their 'better way' was 'join us and we'll give you a ticket to the place of safety, and you'll never need to be tested as Jesus was'. Any suggestion that God might require martyrdom as Jesus suffered, was considered to be 'conduct unbecoming' of the Father. Such things were never countenanced by their leaders because it would have started a mass stampede out of there. Most of the Church membership didn't have the fortitude for this type of thing anyway. Jesus sacrifice was enough for them, and in their view it was unconscionable of God to also require it of them. A 'place of safety' – no more, no less, or they were out of there! And didn't this happen when doubts were cast over their entire doctrinal structure? The whole Church fell apart – well almost! Some clubbed together to reform and, as usual, greedy shepherds once again arose to form a hierarchical structure, though in some cases heavily disguised, but still they were shepherds who refused to believe God and promoted the same old tired doctrine that reflects nothing of God's intent.

I use the term 'shepherds' because Jude uses the same term in **Jude 1:12**, and in a castigating manner. They appear so righteous to the uninitiated, but when confronted with God's Truth, they turn like dogs to attack. They consider their reputations to be more important than God's. Their rebuttal of God's Truth usually centers on quoting the worthless shepherd: Herbert Armstrong. It's funny how the opinions of Herbert Armstrong seem to override God's Truth in everything today. They might as well quote the Pope for all the good it would do. The strategy here of course is that since these shepherds claim to be the successors of Armstrong's legacy; therefore they must defend his reputation. It's reminiscent of a time in Pasadena when the 'evangelists' were gathered together and jockeying for position in the leadership stakes. A vile argument erupted between two evangelists with accusations and counter-accusations, when one finally blurted out, "Do you believe God is Mr. Armstrong's

apostle?” Sure it was blurted out while the man was in an incoherent state and foaming at the mouth, but I’m starting to believe that this faux pas really reflects the views of some who’ve really lost the plot.

You might also like to ponder Jesus’ final question: *My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?* Jesus had made the conscious decision to go ahead and be martyred by the rulers of the heavenly realm. Obviously, Jesus didn’t have to do it. He could have brought the whole Plan of God to an end right there, but He chose to go ahead and to produce the offspring that would ultimately become members of the God Family. All created beings of the spirit realm will be required to relinquish their crowns in favour of these faithful people. But faithful they must be! Just like Jesus! They must be prepared to offer up their bodies as *living sacrifices* to the greater glory of God, and not be swayed by human reasoning to preserve their lives. As Jesus said, *‘If you seek to save your life you will lose it, but those who give up (sacrifice) their lives will find life’*. And Jesus has set this example, along with the Apostles and other faithful Christians down through the ages. And again, the choice is yours. If you seek to save your life during the greatest trial of all history, then you will lose your life forever anyway.

The early martyrs knew and understood God’s requirement in this regard, and there were many martyrs – long after the martyrdom of the Christ. So any suggestion that Jesus did it all for you is patent nonsense and wishful thinking. Jesus made it possible for you to follow Him by setting the example for you to follow.

Those whom God loves the most He rebukes and chastens the most. Once again, Jesus set the example of this when He agreed to pay the penalty for sin for all His offspring, and to present them as living sacrifices. Otherwise, God would have had no regard, or even been mindful of, those who have wantonly disobeyed Him. Disobedience is the hallmark of the rulers of the heavenly realms, and God wants none of that. Naturally enough, God puts His offspring to the test, and chastisement from God can be severe when the situation warrants it. But the final outcome for successfully enduring God’s chastisement and faithfully complying is far greater than anyone could imagine. God chastises every son He receives, even the sons of God in this Brotherhood.

So why should the Churches be surprised when adversity befalls them? Have they believed that God has failed them when the stability of the Church dissolved right before their eyes? The members must have realized that there was serious flaws in the conduct and doctrine of their rulers. Those who ruled over them should have known that this was forbidden by God. God shattered the organization but preserved the members who were truly the true Church and they became scattered. These also are the remnant of the former congregation, and God has a habit of dealing only with the remnant and discarding the rest. The rest of them have in mind to attempt to rebuild what formerly offended God. And always, there is someone at the top of the hierarchy attempting to call all the shots, and to build a name and reputation for themselves. And traditionally, their modus operandi is to lull you to sleep with false hope and visions of a ‘place of safety’. Don’t believe them! They are lying to you!

Why didn’t the Church elders teach the truth as the Apostle Paul taught: **Rom 8:35** “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written (in **Psalm 44:22**): “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.” No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.” All these things include persecution, danger and the sword, but the Churches of this present era have suffered none of these things – up until now! But in the days of the Apostles and beyond for many years – they did! There were many martyrs who were hunted down and killed, and history shows that this was particularly evident in Turkey, the place of the Seven Churches spoken of in the Book of Revelation. What is more, these Church members are famous for delivering themselves to be slaughtered. If one of their number were accused of being a Christian, all of them would confess to being Christians and go willingly to the slaughter. It was becoming an embarrassment to the persecutors, and the masses were starting to murmur against them. They were saying, ‘Now it’s the Christians, but who is next?’ With such bloodthirsty attrition against innocent people, they were being conditioned to give themselves over to the power of an unstoppable tyranny. Many began to side with the Christians, and a great number became Christians. This culminated with the declaration by Roman Emperor Constantine of Turkey, that Christianity would be the official religion of the Roman Empire.

This effectively ended the persecution against Christianity by the external forces of the rulers of the heavenly realms. Cunningly, they adopted the principle: if you can’t beat them, join them. To augment their control over Christianity, they began to manipulate and control those driven by egotism and insatiable ambition for power. Bishops and cardinals controlled the priests and the laity, but the power hierarchy needed a structure to control the bishops and cardinals. And so archbishops and popes

were established. Once the central governing body was established, Christianity was taken captive, and held in the iron grip of the regulatory rules of master class. And the rulers consolidated their power.

It's hardly surprising that this *modus operandi* was the same used by the rulers of the heavenly realms among the Jewish hierarchy in the Holy Land at the time of Christ and beyond. In complete contrast to Jesus, the priests and the religious hierarchy paraded themselves in opulent regalia for the purpose of being noticed. And they loved to be seen praying on the street corners to create the illusion that they were very devout. But they were devout only for one thing: personal recognition!

So driven were they by personal ambition to control the people, they resorted to simony to propel them up the ladder of authority. They actually purchased their titles in the religious hierarchy. Notwithstanding, when Jesus came along, He shattered their delusional concepts of themselves and ridiculed them; even stating that their father was the devil. These people had taken liberties that were not sanctioned by God, and Jesus exposed them for what they were. But more importantly, He identified the satanic influence that was driving them. What is more, He identified these creatures as the very ones who killed Abel thousands of years before the Jews were even born (**Matt 23:35**). In fact, it was these demons who instigated the deaths of all the prophets. And at the time of Jesus, the Jewish leaders were their pawns. It's important to make the distinction between these Jewish leaders and the common Jewish people who actually believed Jesus, and considered Him a prophet.

They had forgotten that the Creator God decides how He will be worshipped, and Jesus established that Way, and it was this Way that the Apostles adhered to. Naturally enough, the Apostles suffered persecution just as Jesus had said. He said if they persecute me, then they will persecute you. And this is exactly what happened.

Human beings are naturally hostile to God and unwilling to obey Him. They are only willing to pay lip-service, and then only to gain the approbation of others. They like to create the illusion that they speak for God. But as Jesus said, ***‘They make their proselytes twice the sons of hell as they are!’*** And this is one of the many problems associated with religious hierarchies.

The rulers of the heavenly realms single out those who are driven and motivated by personal ambition. They know that these are the easiest to bribe with thoughts of grandeur. It's funny how such people always seem to find themselves in the seat of power, and actually believe that their destiny was guided by God. Jesus ridiculed their assumptions when He spoke of John the Baptist: **Luke 7:25-28** ***‘If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear expensive clothes and indulge in luxury are in palaces. But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written: ‘I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ I tell you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John; yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.’*** Of Himself, Jesus said the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head, and He certainly didn't seek to live in palaces. Those in God's Kingdom will be great – in fact, very great, but as Jesus said, ***‘Seek first the Kingdom of God and all these things will be added to you.’*** He also said that those in the Kingdom of God will receive a hundred times more (**Matt 19:29**). So in the manner of how human beings quantify greatness, all will be greater than John the Baptist was, who in fact, shunned greatness and recognition, choosing to live and dress simply.

Once you understand how the Kingdom of God is to be established, you will realize that violent men will take it by force – just as Jesus said! (**Matt 11:12**). Jesus linked John with Elijah and the Kingdom of God, and made it clear that those who take the Kingdom of God by force will be famous all over the world. But fame doesn't mean popularity! And these forceful men will not be popular; rather they will be hated. In the final act of betrayal these forceful men will be killed and the whole world will rejoice, and even send gifts to one another to celebrate (**Rev 11:10**). They'll have just 3½ days to celebrate before realizing the error of their ways and the subsequent consequences. This event will really trigger God's fury! And if you are familiar with the Book of Revelation, then you will realize that God's fury will not be pretty. Human beings that repudiate their Creator God are deserving of nothing.

Christianity doesn't care about the Kingdom of God, nor are they prepared to wait. They want it all now and what is more, they expect it. Living in millionaires mansions, dressing in expensive clothes, surrounding themselves with Steuben crystal and other expensive collectibles, and wanting the ***‘finest of everything’*** is the very antithesis of what God calls greatness among those who serve Him. The ***‘finest of everything’*** syndrome was widely practiced by those who sought to rule over God's flock. They managed to hold God's flock captive by figuratively ***tearing off their hooves*** (**Zech 11:16-17**), and all under the auspices of the worthless shepherd. It used to amuse me to see certain ministers in the WCG speaking of a ***‘strong arm from somewhere’*** and then try to work the name ***‘Armstrong’*** into the same sentence. In this regard, God did a better job than they, but they didn't understand God's words when He said, ***‘May the sword strike his arm and his right eye! May his arm***

be completely withered, his right eye totally blinded.” (V17). And which sword would this be? It’s the two-edged sword of the mightiest arm of all – the Christ – the Word of God! Armstrong refused to follow the instruction of Jesus, and set his sights on the trappings of wealth and sought only to be honoured by kings and rulers. In fact, he was prepared to pay for this honour, and little did he know that he was paying to converse with the rulers of the heavenly realms in most cases. It should not be too hard a task for Bible students to understand what it means to seek the Kingdom of God first. Every example given by Jesus and the Apostles confirms it. And all those who don’t comply are easily identifiable.

When people decide to associate with the rulers of the heavenly realms and seek the honour of the unbelieving, then their lamp is removed and they grope around in darkness. And that darkness has been permeating the Worldwide Church of God for decades now. Disturbing reports began to emerge in the mid-70’s, and became worse and worse. The leadership was out of control, and to such an extent, that Herbert Armstrong made the worse choice of his life when he appointed Joe Tkach to replace him. Could anyone seriously suggest that Joe Tkach would be God’s choice for a replacement? Joe Tkach believed nothing that the Bible taught; he wanted the Church to be modelled after all the other Churches in the world. And so the great falling away began and the Church was scattered. It all culminated with Joe Tkach Jnr being the sole beneficiary of the assets of the Church.

Some of these names may seem unfamiliar to those who’ve had no association with the Worldwide Church of God, which was founded by Herbert W. Armstrong, who is further identified in **Zech 11:16-17**. God raised up this foolish shepherd, and identified him by parable, to serve as an example of what His servants should NOT be! And those who are offended by this need to ask themselves, ‘Where’s the worthless shepherd now?’ ‘What did he accomplish?’ ‘What legacy remains?’ ‘Did his many prophecies come true?’ ‘Where’s the one you claim was ‘Elijah’ now?’ ‘If he was ‘Elijah’, was he a prophet?’ This is how silly the circular reasoning became. Now if he were Elijah, then he was also a prophet. If he wasn’t a prophet, then he wasn’t Elijah. Surely you would have to agree. Armstrong realized this dilemma and generally left it to others to make the claim about him, though he was never vocal in refuting it. I don’t know about ‘*arm-strong*’, but I do know the man was *head-strong* when it came to his reputation and woebetide anyone who challenged him.

Greedy people rallied to Tkach Jnr in the hope of sharing in the divvying of the assets, but they started to die like flies, having never seen any of the spoils of this great conspiracy of theft. Others chose to claim the high moral ground and re-establish the membership in their own organizations, yet followed the exact model established by Herbert Armstrong that led to the demise of the Church of God. Never did they understand that God raised up a shepherd (as He said He would – **Zech 11:15**) “*who would not care for the lost, or seek the young, or heal the injured, or feed the healthy, but will eat the meat of the choice sheep, tearing off their hoofs.*” (V16). And what a surprise to unbelievers that this would occur immediately before the Kingdom of God is established! (**Zechariah chapter 12**). So where is the true Church today? They’re just a few thousand scattered people who have no affiliations with the powerbrokers of the organized Churches who have modelled their activities after the ‘church government’ style of Herbert Armstrong. Perhaps some of them meet together in their houses, or perhaps some are too remote to know of any others with whom to meet. But the one thing that will characterise them all is their obedience to God and His Laws, which were given to God’s servant Moses at Mount Horeb (Mal 4:4).

The True Church, that is the people, who remain faithful to God will know that what begins to unfold with **Zechariah Chapter 12** is true salvation, and is what God planned all along. And it will all occur without the humpty-dumpty antics of Herbert Armstrong, through whom the Church had a great fall. And all the king’s horses, and all the king’s men – well you know the old rhyme! But one thing is certain, God is not going to put humpty-dumpty back together again. When the shepherd appointed by God became worthless, nothing was going to revive his organization. God has made the point again and again that you must believe Him and not worthless shepherds.

Sure the True Church was beguiled by false prophecy, and failed to see what has since emerged. They too were entangled in the lying web of intrigue that masqueraded as Bible prophecy, and now they must come to repentance. John the Baptist came as the stylized Elijah as both Luke and Jesus stated, right down to the Spirit and power of Elijah. The name Elijah comes from a combination of the Names of the Father and the Son. ‘*Eli*’ means ‘*God*’ as Jesus statement proves: ‘*Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani*’ which means ‘*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*’ And ‘*Jah*’, or more rightly ‘*Yah*’ in Hebrew, means ‘*Yahweh*’ the God of the Old Testament – which was Jesus. The Spirit of Elijah encompasses the Spirit of the Father and the Son, or a double portion of the Spirit of God. So it’s not surprising that God says that Elijah will come before the Great and Dreadful Day of the LORD. And neither should it surprise anyone that Elijah would bring a message of repentance just as John the

Baptist did. That is, repentance from the shabby way in which people have chosen to worship God while refusing to believe Him.

THE PLACE OF REST...

There is to be a Place of Rest – hard-won by years of fighting in the same manner as God instructed the ancient Israelites to go in and possess the Holy Land. Those who enter in will be granted rest from the turmoil and suffering of years of hardship in foreign lands. The Holy Land will be a beacon of hope, a light in a dark world, and a place that will reflect the desire of ages. God plans to gather just the remnant of once-great nations, and that remnant will be those who seek God early amid the turmoil and terror they face. God says they will come *trembling from the west*. Yes, they will be Westerners all right, and they will regret that they never made an example of the Middle-Easterners when they had the chance. These Middle-easterners are the Moslem hordes who surround the Holy Land. They'll wonder why they couldn't see the obvious: that these wild animals cannot be tamed. They should have sought God's instructions from the Bible and understood the means by which God has declared the Kingdom of God would be established. The means are the same as they were anciently, when the Israelites were told to go and take the Land by force. Nothing has changed in God's overall Plan.

God is the same today, yesterday and forever. And His strategy remains the same. He plans to eradicate Satan's brood from the earth. I know the Churches of God fully expected God to vent His fury on the unbelieving world, but their expectation was that this would occur while they, themselves, were comfortably embedded in a 'place of safety'. But they missed the point entirely! God never planned to shield them, but to test them and in an extreme manner – that is, in the extreme manner that Jesus was tested. By setting this example, others would be guided to repentance and realize that all their woes are the result of disobedience. These others will see a light at the end of the tunnel, a place where they can find rest from their hardship. The faithful membership of the Churches of God will perform an important function in illuminating the desire to reach the Holy Land and to be granted rest from their trauma. The Churches of God have been wildly amiss in believing that God planned to shield them in a place of safety. What possible purpose would they serve in such circumstances?

The point is that those who sacrifice their lives in obedience have an ironclad guarantee that they will be gathered in death and raised to life, and then transported to the vast expanse under the heavenly altar, where they will be clothed and fed and await the killing of their brothers and sisters, who are to be killed as they were (Rev 6:9-11). Why should anyone have doubts that God will require this type of obedience from them? God required it of His own Son, who set the example.

And it's worth noting what Jesus said when He was arrested. He wanted to shield those He loved, and who were not yet strong enough to face death, from the terror He was about to face. He told his captors that He was the one they sought, and to let the others go. Just remember Jesus' example and be the first to step forward and endeavour to spare those who are not yet strong enough to face death. So start preparing yourselves now with the steel-willed determination to die in obedience to God – and your reward will be great! If you want eternal life in God's Kingdom, then this is how you will achieve it. Your reputation in God's eyes is not enhanced by a constant desire to flee to a 'place of safety', and seeking to escape will brand you as guilty. You must set the example just as Jesus did! So don't listen to the 'shepherds' who tell you otherwise! They are deceiving you! No matter how virtuous they appear, if they don't speak according to this word, they have no light of dawn (Isa 8:20).

After a long, dark night, there will be a new dawn (2Pet 1:19) just as the Apostles and Prophets predicted. True prophets of God don't invent their own fanciful interpretations of Scriptures, and neither do they conjure up visions of glad tidings in a world of turmoil. True prophets speak the Truth and warn, and as a result, draw fire from lunatics whose only purpose is to deceive their followers with false hope. When all hope is gone, these deceivers will be the first to flee in an attempt to save their lives. These deceivers are cunning, crafty liars who will stop at nothing to shield you from reality. They'll promise the world but deliver nothing, and will make you vulnerable to the time of testing that has now come.

Those in the Churches of God have long known that there will be perilous and terrible times in the last days (2Tim 3:1). In writing this, Paul goes on to elaborate on the lifestyle issues that people will be focused on. We saw plenty of this when the 'finest of everything' syndrome prevailed among the elitist hierarchy in the Churches of God. A similar set of circumstances existed among the religious elitists in Jesus time. He instructed the people to listen to the teachers of the Law, but not to do as they did. And He gave the reasons why. What it amounted to was the craving of these teachers for personal recognition and to wield authority over others (Matt 23:2-3).

God chooses those who share His views and His objectives, and who stand ready to do whatever is required of them, and who don't shrink back from their responsibilities. God's servants

believe God, and they fear Him and would rather die than deny Him. And God intends to make a clear **distinction between those who serve Him and those who don't!** (Mal 3:18). Almighty God has made the initial selection and **recorded their names in the Book of Remembrance** (V16). These are the ones who were taught by God, and who listened to God and heard. In return, God listens to them and takes great interest in all that He hears (same verse). Isn't this what a good father does with his children? God is no different in that He is a very good Father to His children. So you have yet another good example of those **who are fashioned after God's own Son Jesus**. God not only chose the Levites as **the messenger**, but He also charged them with the responsibility of preparing the Way for **the True Messenger** – which is **the Christ** (Mal 3:1).

DESTROYED THROUGH LACK OF KNOWLEDGE...

When Paul spoke of those who have a form of godliness but denying its power (2Tim 3:5), he was referring to those who have cultivated a following through deceptive means. They cunningly concealed the Truth to make themselves appear righteous and caring. Never did they attempt to explain the meaning behind the whole Bible or what God plans to do to successfully establish the Kingdom of God. The type of lifestyle they craved couldn't countenance the type of tribulation that was to come on the whole world – including them. And so they adopted a doctrine that this tribulation was to come on everyone – **except** them! This certainly appealed to their followers. Instead of living by every word of God, they chose to reject knowledge and choose only that which appealed to them. God has said, **"My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge"** (Hos 4:6). And the only way anyone can weasel their way out of this statement is to claim they are **not** God's people! And perhaps if you are not prepared to **believe** God, then there is some truth in this. Since only a remnant of the House of Israel will return, the rest could be considered to **not** be God's people. God is **not** prepared to allow those **who don't believe Him** to claim that right. Those who chose to live their lives independently of their Creator will also die independently of Him. What is more, they will die forever – never to live again! Although, some of the guilty will live again; these are the ones who received God's Holy Spirit when they turned to Him in obedience – and then turned away! These will be brought back to life to suffer judgment, and will be consigned to the flames of fire. A fitting end to those who repudiated God's Holy Spirit! These are the dogs who return to their vomit – as Peter put it (2Pet 2:22).

Mainstream Christianity looks back on the accounts given in the Old Testament as the aberrations of a harsh God, who has now been replaced by Jesus Christ and a whole new Covenant of life and peace, without any interference from God. But they err, not knowing the Scriptures, and their errors have compounded to lead eventually to their destruction. Jesus Christ was the God of the Old Testament, and He was there dealing with the 12 Tribes in the desert. The Apostles taught this, but Christianity in general refuses to accept it. **1Cor 10:1** **"For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers, that our forefathers were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. They all ate the same spiritual food and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the Spiritual Rock that accompanied them, and that Rock was Christ.** Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered over the desert."

So the God of the Old Testament was in fact the very one who became the Christ. How could mainstream Christianity have gotten it so wrong? If, as mainstream Christianity suggests Jesus came to do away with the Old Covenant, then why did He continually quote from it? And didn't He predict atrocities for the last days that were **spoken of by Daniel?** (Matt 24:13). If Daniel's words were still in effect and relevant for the endtime, then clearly all the Scripture that Christ used was also relevant. All that was spoken by Daniel is particularly relevant, and as Christ said, **'Let the reader understand'**. The problem is that the readers have **not understood** because they never listened to the God of the Old Testament – which was Christ Jesus. They refuse to listen to **the Rock!** This is **the Rock** that will destroy the kingdoms of gold, silver, bronze and iron and clay altogether and **at the same time – as spoken by Daniel** (Dan 2:35). As a student of the Bible, you should know who these kingdoms are, because the Bible identifies the first three who battled and fought each other **for the control of Babylon**. But as Daniel says, these will all meet their demise together, and the fourth great power will be all of these welded together into a powerful, yet divisive force, with one thing in mind! The destruction of the Kingdom of God and the corruption of the people. And it will all be done with flattery and deception that is so typical of the Islamic hordes. Notwithstanding, **the people who know their God will firmly resist!** (Dan 11:30-32). And a fight to the death will ensue. Jesus spoke of this time in **Matt 24:15-21**. And woe betide those who don't firmly resist him, but are beguiled by this beast. Daniel speaks of these weaklings in **Dan 12:1-2**, and these treacherous turncoats will suffer everlasting shame.

I mention these things because the human mind is so capable of being beguiled by subtle, cunning manipulators who appear as angels of light. As Daniel says in **VI** “**At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people will arise.**” It seems that many will be deceived into believing that this mad beast is actually Michael and will usher him into the Most Holy Place, and will defy those who know their God. God alone knows the carnage that will develop from this vile act of desecration, when **this beast stands in the Most Holy Place.** But no-one need doubt the murderous barbarism of Islam, which will comprise most of the armies of the beast. They will believe that their god – Satan – the god **foreign** to the City of Jerusalem and native to the City of Babylon has triumphed. This will culminate in the final act when all nations will be gathered against Jerusalem to fight.

All these things are a long way off, but the reader needs to understand, and teach it to their children. But as for the rest of prophecy and the events that are now unfolding, the future is here and now for most readers. Your destiny will be determined by what you do, and whether you stand firm and hold to God’s teachings. Forget all about indolence in a ‘place of safety’ – there is no such place for the Churches of God! And certainly not for anyone else! You must live through the perilous and terrible times that are approaching rapidly, and either prepare yourself for death in honour of God, or for everlasting shame. Remember these words: **Ps 116:15** “**Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of His saints.**” And also: **Isa 57:1-2** “**The righteous perish, and no-one ponders it in his heart: devout men are taken away to be spared from evil. Those who walk uprightly enter into peace: they find rest as they lie in death.**” In the present circumstances of all that is to happen, this is probably the best advice that you could possibly get. The death of His saints is indeed very precious to God. His own Son Jesus has already proven that! And in case you missed it, the Sons of Jerusalem don’t expect a free ride to glory. What they expect is a long and bitter battle to complete their task. There will be no soft-living, but years of deprivation and struggle, before the dwellings in the Holy Land are secured (**Zech 12:7**) and made ready for the hordes who will be **rescued from the hands of their enemies.** This great salvation will be welcomed by those who are living in the shadow of death, and these rulers of the heavenly realms are not going to willingly let them go. It’s going to take some heavy-handed inducement, but the armies of God will be equal to the task! And when they move they’ll leave a path of destruction in their wake. It will not be unlike the exodus in the time of Moses. God knows how to deal with his enemies to get results, and Pharaoh learned this the hard way. Nothing has changed.

The Christ acknowledges that the Father is greater than He. But they are of one mind and Spirit, and Jesus even serves God as High Priest at the Heavenly Altar. At the very outset of the seven-thousand year period, the Logos or Word of God planned to deliver a righteous Kingdom to the Father. Not a nation of angels who formerly came into existence by divine fiat, and began to find fault with God shortly afterward, but a righteous nation of human beings. Having regard for the penchant of human beings to find fault with everyone and everything, and their inability to live in harmony with their neighbours, it was going to take some shaping and remodeling. And so the project began with Adam and Eve.

When everything is going well, most Christians are quite happy to flatter God and lie about their ‘righteous acts’ in order to beguile others, but with the slightest adversity, it always seems to be God’s fault. Jesus was just the opposite! While the Israelites whined and complained for 40 years in the desert, He later chose to endure similar hardship by example. When He became a man, and at the age of 30, He fasted for 40 days (**a day for a year** – see **Num 14:34**) in the desert, and endured the temptation of Satan. This was when Satan declared his ignorance by **misquoting** Scripture in the hope of persuading the Christ to worship him. What this demonstrated was that Satan and his demon rulers will go to any lengths to corrupt those who earnestly desire to serve God. And their modus operandi seems so persuasive to those who are **not** attuned to God’s Holy Spirit, or who don’t understand the Scriptures.

I’m going to go out on a limb here concerning this fast. The Scriptures say that after the Christ had fasted for 40 days, He was **hungry** (there is no mention of Him being **thirsty**). In a total fast (denial of both food and drink), after a few days, I can tell you from experience, that thirst is the big factor – and the one who fasts becomes very thirsty and weak. In other words, you can endure lack of food far longer than you can endure lack of water. The fast on the Day of Atonement however, is a total fast, when no food or drink passes the lips, but it’s only for 24 hours. It’s worth making the distinction between these two types of fasting.

Just briefly, we’ll touch on the desire to eat when hungry. One of Satan’s first temptations was to induce the Christ to **turn stones into bread** – thereby emphasizing His greatest bodily need at that time. This type of thing became the hallmark of Satan and his demon rulers. In the days of Jesus they continually scrutinized Him over issues of food. They raised objections to the disciples picking and eating ears of grain on the Sabbath (**Matt 12:1**). It was here that Jesus gave the example of David

and his men eating the consecrated bread that was only lawful for the priests to eat (V3). He also gave the example from the Law, of priests working in the Temple desecrating the Sabbath, but are innocent (V5).

Almighty God has declared the beginning to the end, and it's important to realize this. And as much as human beings like to speculate on what they believe should happen, you will find that they are generally at odds with God.

In the very beginning, God created a system of government, where some beings were greater than others. But they weren't human! Human beings came much later. Among these vast hordes of spirit beings were two very special entities. To one, God imparted very much greatness, and showered him with glory. The other sought none of the glory, but delighted only in being in the company of His Father. He was a craftsman – a creator of fine handiwork, and He and the Father worked together (Prov 8:22-31). The other, whom God called the Lightbringer, spent his time reveling in his glory. His intolerance for lesser beings soon became obvious, as his pompous arrogance abounded. In time, he began to view his Father with diminishing respect, and began to see Him as an unsatisfactory ruler over such a great multitude of created beings. It was the Lightbringer's view that all other created beings existed for his own pleasure, otherwise, he reasoned, what was the purpose of their existence.

On the face of it, God would seem to have made a bad choice, and given anarchical power to the wrong subject. But there was no mistake! God was not concerned with the here and now, but with the hereafter – the time when His Kingdom would be established, and His subjects would be totally committed to a lifestyle of righteousness. And at that time, God had already planned to create mankind in His own image, and conform them to the image of His Son. Jesus, or the Logos as He was formerly known, is in the express image of His Father, and He made the point that if you have seen Him then you have seen the Father – since their outward appearance is identical (Heb 1:3). The Logos was always with the Father, and delighted in His presence (Pro 8:30-31). He listened to the Father and learned from Him, and the Father's opinions became His own. Consequently, His words were the words of the Father (John 14:24), and He was known as the Logos – the Word of God. In contrast to this, not all of the angels shared the views of the Logos. Diverse opinions began to generate among the angels, which began as back-stabbing and innuendo, and finally to rebellion. This led to the exile on earth of one third of all the angels. As to their mindset, the Christ made it very plain in Matt 23. Under their influence the son to Adam was murdered, and Jesus laid this crime squarely at their feet (Matt 23:35). In fact, Jesus blamed them for all the righteous blood that had been shed to that very time.

Jesus became far superior to the angels and has completely eclipsed them in glory as a result of His faithful obedience. Heb 1:3-5 “The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His being, sustaining everything by His powerful Word. After He had provided purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. So He became as much superior to the angels as the Name He has inherited is superior to theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say, “You are my Son; today I have become your Father”? Or again, “I will be His Father, and He will be my Son”? In truth, it was apparent to God that angels are not good role-models for a righteous Kingdom. The angels that remained faithful to God would willingly look into the glorious opportunities that God has planned for those who serve Him faithfully, but that opportunity was not offered nor provided (1Pet 1:12). Those who will inherit the promised ‘salvation from their enemies’ will be citizens in God's Kingdom, and they'll enjoy long life and prosperity, and they'll live in peace. The memory of what they endured will be a stark reminder forever, but the tears will be wiped away, and they will have no more distress.

Angels were created to be ministering servants to human beings, but only to those who truly serve God in the manner He prescribes, and who will inherit salvation: Heb 1:13-14 “To which of the angels did God ever say, “Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet”? Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?”

But back to Satan's temptation of Jesus: Where the Scripture says that God ‘will give the angels charge concerning you’ He was speaking of the man God had chosen to establish the boundaries of God's Kingdom. You can read it for yourselves in Ps 91:11, and also the whole chapter of Psalm 91. Satan, in his ignorance, had quoted a Scripture that didn't apply to Jesus, but to the servants of the Christ. Jesus in turn, made it very clear that God's servants also enjoy the intense interest of God the Father, and the protection of the angels. He summed this up by saying to the Apostles that ‘even the hairs of your head are numbered’ (Matt 10:30, Luke 12:7). So hordes of angels will stand ready to bear up any of God's servants against harm: Ps 91:11 “For He will command His angels concerning you to guard you in all His ways; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone. You will tread upon the lion and the cobra; you will trample the great lion and the serpent. “Because he loves me,” says the LORD, I will rescue him; I will

protect him, for he acknowledges my Name. He will call upon me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honour him. With long life will I satisfy him and show him my salvation.”

Every human being was designed to experience life to a greater or lesser degree. All who have ever lived were granted the gift of life – and only one life! Most have squandered that life, never to live again. Regardless of what anyone says, there is no after-life for anyone who was not led by and guided by God’s Holy Spirit. And those who have God’s Holy Spirit dwelling within them are truly led in obedience and faithfulness to God. The lawless and the disobedient do not have God’s Holy Spirit, and it’s clear that God only gives His Holy Spirit to those who obey Him. So it doesn’t matter what men say or teach, but it only matters what God says and teaches. And anything to the contrary is worthless.

It seems there is a rather bizarre upside to the belief in the afterlife – since it quite often motivates death-bed confessions. A certain well-known American underwent a heart bypass operation recently, and he felt it important to confess to his wife in case of death on the operating table. Already famous for his sexual dalliances in the most famous office in the country, he confessed to yet another affair, and his wife was not amused. Afterward, there was some concern that she might try to tie knots in his breathing tube. In the interests of anonymity, we’ll just refer to him by his nickname ‘Bill’. Well, ‘Bill’ was concerned about the afterlife, and was prepared to meet God – but not eager to do so! From what he had heard, the afterlife doesn’t compare with the life he has enjoyed on earth. But, he reasoned, if that’s all there is, why not make the most of it when the time comes – but why hasten that time? Most people had believed the clergy with their ‘rolling around heaven all day’ routine, so Bill decided to cover all bases just in case.

Bill’s reasoning is not unlike many others in the world. Most religions, including pagans, have a belief in some form of an afterlife, and to some extent, many are motivated by it. While the hopes of many are elevated by this belief, there is no afterlife for any except the extreme minority who have served God down through the ages. This very theme is presented in the Book of Hebrews: **Heb 11:13** “All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised, they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted they were aliens and strangers on earth. People who say such things show they are looking for a country of their own. If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. Instead they were longing for a better country – a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a City for them.” **Heb 13:14** “For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the City that is to come.” The choice of country was a heavenly choice – and the choice was made by God. He decided where the children of Israel would live forever, and in the course of six thousand years has set about to ensure it. What is more, God plans to live among men (**Rev 21:3**) for evermore. , additionally, the Logos made this statement concerning the Temple yet to be built on the Temple Mount: **Eze 43:7** “He said, “Son of man, this is the place of my Throne and the place for the soles of my feet. This is where I will live among the Israelites forever.” So if the Christ is to live among the Israelites forever, doesn’t it seem a little odd that the lost Ten Tribes of Israel don’t know who they are? Even odder is the fact that the Churches of God, who once knew and understood who the lost Israelites are, now argue against it. This, they suggest, is enlightenment! God calls the ten Tribes of Israel that rebelled against Him, ‘the lost sheep of Israel’. I’ll never forget one clown who tried to imply that Jesus came only for the benefit of sheep (animals). He implied that the ‘lost sheep of Israel’ referred to flocks of sheep. Jesus instructed the Apostles to go only to ‘the lost sheep of Israel’ (**Matt 10:5**), and He also confirmed that He had come only to ‘the lost sheep of Israel’ (**Matt 15:24**). It’s this last Bible reference that illuminates the importance of what the Christ was saying. A Gentile woman had come to Him asking for healing for her daughter and pleading for help. **V23** “Jesus did not answer a word. So His disciples came to Him and urged Him: “Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us.” He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel.” The Gentile woman was nothing if not persistent! **V25** “The woman came and knelt before Him. “Lord, help me!” she said. He replied, “It is not right to take the children’s bread and toss it [to dogs].” “Yes, Lord,” she said, “but even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master’s table.” Then Jesus answered, “Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted.” And her daughter was healed from that very hour.”

Gentile influence has done much to corrupt the Word of God, even to suggesting that every human being has immortality dwelling within them – an assured afterlife. While it may offer comfort to some to believe they will go to heaven when they die, the truth is that it’s not so! Human beings were given one shot at life, and the choice of serving their Creator or not. Most chose to serve only themselves until they were lying on their deathbed. Traditionally, this is when the local priest is brought in to administer the ‘last rites’ – just in case! The assumption is that God will forget all about

their past acts, and see it as an act of repentance. The Gentile woman that had approached Jesus exhibited a quality that set her apart – she had **great faith!** In regard to faith, Jesus had this to say: **Matt 18:7** “And will not God bring about justice for His chosen ones, who cry out to Him day and night? Will He keep putting them off? I tell you, He will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?” To reinforce the point, Jesus went on to tell a parable against some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else (**V9-14**). He made God’s opinion known in this regard! This was in stark contrast to the regaled Scribes and Pharisees who exhibited no humility, but loved the approbation of the common people.

Gentile Christianity has great regard for ‘the elite’ in their congregations, and generally, they are not known for their humility, though some are well-practiced in a façade of humility. They seek honour and prestige and don’t like to go unnoticed! They’d fit in nicely with Satan and his pals – the rulers of the heavenly realms. As for being like Jesus – forget it! What is more, they don’t even understand what the Christ is! Perhaps they should ask the Jews. The Jews do at least know what the Christ or Messiah means. It’s true that many of the Jews rejected Jesus as being the Christ, but they did this in ignorance; largely because Jesus didn’t fulfill all that is written concerning the Christ and His final role.

Mainstream Christianity is no better equipped in understanding the role of the Christ, and if anything, they have rejected the Messiah or Christ as the One who will deliver salvation from their enemies. “Totally unnecessary,” they believe! After all, don’t they go straight to heaven when they die? Being confident of their own righteousness, they’ll really be able to look down on everyone else! Once there, they reason, who cares what happens on earth? So they play their effeminate games to mollify the masses – and the masses continue to believe them.

The only downside is the constant reference to prophecy that negates their teachings. If only everyone would shut up about prophecy then the masses could slumber on, they reason. They don’t want to know anything except Jesus, and Him crucified. How widely Paul’s statement (**1Cor 2:2**) has been used to mitigate against any form of prophetic teaching. The purpose of Paul’s statement was the circulating myth that Jesus didn’t really die, but escaped death and lived on. Others said He had died but did not arise from the grave. This gave rise to Paul’s comments in **1Cor 15:3-7**, that many had witnessed His resurrection. And he goes on to say (**V29**), that if there was no resurrection, why are we being baptized for a dead man?

It was their penchant for the ‘wisdom of the Greeks’ that caused so much speculation from the Corinthians. They provided what they believed was a logical explanation for everything concerning everyday life. Their background was from paganism, where they literally believed anything. The more bizarre, the better! And they sought to carry this baggage into Christianity. Suddenly they saw themselves as sages – the intelligentsia. Hence Paul’s statement in **1Cor 1:20-25**! Almighty God has no regard for foolish and erroneous reasoning, nor for bizarre theories concerning prophecy with no support from His Word. It’s God who declares the beginning to the end – not human beings with their worthless, religious theory!

Christianity is quick to admit that Jesus’ sacrifice was to atone for the sins of many and the forgiveness of their past sins. But then they make the quantum leap that the Christ’s sacrifice covers them for all future sins forever, and use it as a license to go on sinning. God forgives no sins except those that are truly repented of. There is no place in God’s Plan for the lawless and disobedient! God set the Law for obedience, and Jesus kept those Laws. Those who reject God’s Laws as being done away, seem to have no such notions about the laws of the land instituted by men! When God says you shall do no murder – they reject it because God said it. But if the laws of men require obedience to such a law, they comply. No, it’s only God’s Laws that they reject! I can tell you this: the laws of the land instituted by men don’t recognize the forgiveness of sin enabled by the greatest Sacrifice of all. The guilty are charged and convicted, and the offenders should expect no mercy from God. Those who murder should be put to death – never to arise! And especially if they are of the hordes of professing Christians who have rejected God’s Laws! Then they become doubly guilty and doubly worthy of death.

There is no place in God’s Kingdom for liars, murderers and necromancers who delight in the mysteries of men developed from ungodly minds. God is only interested in those who think as He does and as His most Famous Son Jesus does. It was the extreme minority of all of humanity that has ever lived that lived worthwhile lives and earned God’s favour. Noah was one of these people who found favour with God, and his family represented only the remnant of all humanity at that time – just eight people. All the rest were swept away in the flood a little over 4,000 years ago. I mention this because Jesus foretold that as it was in the days of Noah, so will it be with the coming of the Son of Man (**Matt 24:37**). We’ll go into this a little later, but importantly for the present, God tends to deal with

remnants, and only then with those who exhibit the right characteristics that are pleasing to Him. God made such choices in the days of the Patriarchs, and later in Moses. It was always small beginnings. This is also how God plans to establish His Kingdom – from small beginnings!

There is nothing more contemptible than fake Jews – with the possible exception of Moslems. Both are slimy liars and deceivers. But the strangest thing about these pseudo-Jews is that most of them arose from or hived off from the former Worldwide Church of God (WWCG or WCG). During their internment in the WCG, and through the small-mindedness of their inflated egos, they reveled in the hope of going to a ‘place of safety’ while the rest of (pseudo) Christianity burned in the flames of global war. When the fractures and splits appeared in the WCG, they were among the first to become disillusioned and shaken, and fled the scene. Of course they were not alone! There were tens of thousands that walked away from the Church and from God Himself. When they stopped believing the Church teachings, they also stopped believing God. At the lower end of the spectrum, some even resorted to soothsaying and fortune-telling to earn a living, and developed the basest of ungodly behaviour. When chinks began to develop in the WCG teachings, among the first things these people did in defiance of God was to repudiate the Sabbath and gorge themselves on unclean meats – particularly shellfish. To them it became the ultimate proclamation of freedom, and the repudiation of their former beliefs. They couldn’t rightly divide truth from error so they rejected the entire teaching of the WCG.

But it’s the pseudo Jews that have my contempt. Looking like absolute dopes after years of believing unsubstantiated lies and believing mindless doctrines of ‘prophecy’ and other perversions of the Scriptures, including lording it over others, they sought to redeem themselves in the eyes of men. Their mountainous egos drove them to try to appear intelligent to the gullible. Apart from draining the swamp of the Internet for wise-sounding catch phrases and milking the opinions of others for their take on historical events for which they have no knowledge but only spurious opinions, they needed more. And it wasn’t long in coming! They discovered the ‘magic’ of speaking in ‘tongues’ – that is, foreign languages. This never fails to impress the gullible, and having no natural ability to survive in life and earn a living, ego-tripping became their lifestyle. Since they suddenly appeared as fake Jews, they needed to complete the illusion by learning Hebrew. Of course they don’t speak Hebrew, but they did a crash-course on Hebrew names, and with prolific use of a Hebrew-English dictionary, they satisfied themselves that they appear Jewish to others.

Not much has changed since the pre-Internet days, when religious people spoke in the archaic language of the KJV Bible. For reasons known only to themselves, they seemed to believe that it was the language of God. The Bible, of course, has been translated into many different languages, and has been the learning source of many. The fake Jews would have you believe that only Hebrew must be spoken in relation to God’s Word. Naturally enough, they reject the NT because this was mainly written in Greek.

My personal contempt for these pseudo-Jews is well-founded, believe it or not! It just happens to be the opinion of God Himself. When God the Father handed the Book of Revelation to His Son Jesus (**Rev 1:1**), the identity of these pseudo-Jews was complete. Two thousand years ago, God predicted that these dopes would arise from the Churches of God – the Seven Churches spoken of in the first chapters of this Book. Now the message to the Churches is hardly a glowing endorsement of their activity, but more an indictment that God plans to test those who survive in the very place where the original Seven Churches dwelt. Any reader who believes that this is too far-fetched to contemplate, then they will just have to wait on God to see if He does what He has said He will.

But leaving this aside, God’s views on fake Jews is well-known to those who believe the Scriptures. And this is what God has to say to the Church in Smyrna: **Rev 2:9** “I know your afflictions and your poverty – yet you are rich! I know the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are of the synagogue of Satan.” Amazing isn’t it? God knew these fools would arise just as He predicted, and sure enough, they’re everywhere. They slander everything that’s holy, and support everything that’s evil. They are even on-track for giving the real Jews a bad name and won’t that be pleasing in the synagogue of Satan. That old counterfeiter himself will be so pleased with them. He managed to manipulate the Scribes and Pharisees in Jesus’ day, and through much plotting managed to get Him killed. The fact that it had to happen this way is neither here nor there; it happened, and the guilty ones who did it were thoroughly beguiled by the rulers of the heavenly realms. But it does teach us all a lesson. When someone tries to portray himself as some great intellect, and manages to deceive gullible people using the stage prop of speaking in tongues, it should immediately signal that they have no real message about anything. Since they abound on the Internet, this is where you can read their garbage, and you will soon realize that what they are trying to teach is contempt for God, and the insinuation that God has made many mistakes. Well, God intends to show clearly that it’s them who

have made all the mistakes. What is more, God intends for them to grovel, and He will make sure they do – just before they face their ultimate fate. This is what God says: **Rev 3:9** “I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim they are Jews though they are not, but are liars – I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you.”

Jesus even foreshadowed this while He was on earth, when He said, “I never knew you!” Now if you want to see some really professional groveling, just note what led to this retort: **Matt 7:22** “Many will say to me on that day, “Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your Name, and in your Name drive out demons and perform many miracles? Then I will tell them plainly, “I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!” It’s patently obvious that these fake Jews would arise, especially at the fulfillment of the ages. Characteristically, most of them arose from the Churches of God, and if you consider their target audience, you will find that they concentrate on trying to corrupt those who were once members of the WCG. They don’t care about the Baptists, Pentacostals Mormons or Catholics or any other pseudo-Christians, their target is the former Commandment-keepers of the Worldwide Church of God. This is their mission: to corrupt anyone who still obeys God and keeps His Commandments, and particularly the Fourth. From their cloistered towers of arrogance they adopt one of two options concerning the Sabbath Day. Either they repudiate entirely its observance, or like the Scribes and Pharisees whom they try to emulate, they add reams of additions to the requirements. Both are equally guilty! Oddly enough, I’ve never met anyone who didn’t know how to rest. However, I’ve known plenty of people who didn’t know how to work and be productive.

Those who have never known God don’t seem to know that God works (**John 5:14**). He is a Creator and He creates. Just try creating something without working, and you will soon realize that God is productive in His work. God will be hard at work on the Seventh Millennial Day because this is the Great and Dreadful Day of the LORD. This is the Day that the weekly Sabbath pointed to – and the great test for all humanity. Those who refused to rest on God’s weekly Sabbath, will be given no rest during the Seventh Millennial Sabbath, and they will certainly not be received into God’s Place of rest.

This is true of fake Jews who almost universally reject Jesus the Messiah. These fake Jews are not like real Jews; real Jews have held to their doctrine for millennia, which is quite unlike the fake Jews who flip-flop from one doctrine to another. Real Jews have suffered horrific adversity for millennia and have never wavered in their belief system. Fake Jews have repudiated their former beliefs in Christianity and now repudiate the appointed Christ Jesus. So perhaps you can understand why Jesus has rejected them. They are neither one nor the other. And what a time they chose to attempt to corrupt the last vestiges of true Christianity with their lying charades!

It will take many years to clear the Promised Land of vermin and establish the boundaries. Even the Jewish nation will be purged of rebels, but the Jewish people are smart people – quite unlike the fake Jews who try to emulate them. The Jewish people are logical people and have a strong bond with God. They have set the most powerful example to any nation in history and perhaps **Mark Twain (Concerning the Jews, 1899)** summed it up better than anyone:

If the statistics are right, the Jews constitute but one per cent of the human race. It suggests a nebulous dim puff of star dust lost in the blaze of the Milky Way. Properly the Jew ought hardly to be heard of; but he is heard of. He is as prominent on the planet as any other people, and his commercial importance is extravagantly out of proportion to the smallness of his bulk. His contributions to the world’s list of great names in literature, science, art, music, finance, medicine . . . are also way out of proportion to the weakness of his numbers. He has made a marvelous fight in this world, in all the ages; and has done it with his hands tied behind him. He could be vain of himself, and be excused for it. The Egyptian, the Babylonian and the Persian rose, filled the planet with sound and splendour, then faded to dream-stuff and passed away; the Greek and the Roman followed, and made a vast noise, and they are gone; other peoples have sprung up and held their torch high for a time, but it burned out, and they sit in twilight now, or have vanished. The Jew saw them all, beat them all, and is now what he always was, exhibiting no decadence, no infirmities of age, no weakening of parts, no slowing of his energies, no dulling of his alert and aggressive mind. All things are mortal but the Jew; all other forces pass, but he remains. What is the secret of his immortality?

Being a Jew inwardly requires a great deal more than trying to falsely project an understanding of the Hebrew language. Fake Jews have a propensity for wanting to seem intelligent to others, but lack the power of logic. When their ignorance is exposed, they rush to the Internet to glean the opinions of others to use as a weapon when challenged. Information has been greatly increased through the worldwide web, but such information cannot impart logic where it didn’t exist in the first place. It’s a fact of life that most people reject true knowledge, and lack of knowledge will be a very big problem to many people (**Hos 4:4**)

I might add that speaking in tongues is an instant gift of God (**Acts 2:4**), not an acquired learning process. And the Godly gift was given so others of a different language could understand what was being said (**V7**). But fake Jews think that using the Hebrew language and arguing over the meaning of words, and especially when arguing with those whose first language is the same as them,

imparts some sort of spirituality. Apart from arguing endlessly and slaving over the meaning of some obscure word in Hebrew, they offer nothing of substance for understanding what God is about to do in order to establish His Kingdom. How different these fake Jews are in comparison to real Jews!

Let me tell you something of interest. Learning Hebrew will not be a requirement in the Kingdom of God – but the learning of English will! English will be the universal language throughout the world. Just to reinforce this: **Eze 3:4-9** “He then said to me: “Son of man, go to the House of Israel and speak my words to them. You are not being sent to a people of obscure speech and difficult language, but to the House of Israel – not to many peoples of obscure speech and difficult language, whose words you cannot understand. Surely if I had sent you to them, they would have listened to you. But the House of Israel is not willing to listen to you because they are not willing to listen to me, for the whole House of Israel is hardened and obstinate. But I will make you as unyielding and hardened as they are. I will make your forehead like the hardest stone, harder than flint. Do not be afraid of them or terrified by them, though they are a rebellious House.” So if God sent a prophet to the whole House of Israel speaking only in Hebrew, how many would understand him? English is the language of the Tribes of Joseph, and God is mainly concerned in prophecy with Ephraim which many, many prophecies refer to. Ephraim is the United States of America, and the Prince over all his brothers – the rest of the Tribes of Israel. Did God tell His prophet to go to the House of Israel and drone on in a language they can’t understand? No, He said the opposite! This sudden flush of sanctimony by fake Jews to use Hebrew is their futile attempt to obscure God’s Word.

It’s true that the Tribe of Judah is trying to revive Hebrew as the first language in the State of Israel, but they too will be required to revert to English, which is either their first or second language at present – while Hebrew is their third. Most Israelis speak English. And if any, regardless of who they are, insist on conversing with the Sons of Jerusalem in Hebrew, then they’ll get the bums-rush out the door. The fledgling Kingdom of God will have no tolerance for dreamers and deceivers!

The Apostle John made it clear where these fake Jews would arise. When he recorded this, it was a very critical time. Mass arrests of Christians were occurring, and their faith was being tested. John himself was arrested and imprisoned shortly afterward on the Isle of Patmos, almost within shouting distance of the seven Churches in Turkey. Many Christians were subjected to a bloodbath by the rulers of the heavenly realms. And this is what John wrote: **1John 2:18-19** “Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard, the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour. THEY WENT OUT FROM US, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us they would have remained with us, but their going showed that none of them belonged to us.” THEY WENT OUT FROM US – that is, the Seven Churches spoken of in the Book of Revelation. The Scribes and Pharisees were the most famous of antichrists. They actually succeeded in killing the Christ. So those who ‘went out from us’ were emulating the very ones who killed the Christ, and engaging in antichrist behaviour. To complete the illusion, they adopted the dialogue of the Jewish antichrists and claimed to be authorities on the use of the Hebrew language. They imagined that this would spare them from being arrested and killed. At the time of John, the persecution was against Christians, and by appearing to be fake Jews – those who ‘went out from us’, they hoped to be spared. They even joined in the persecution of true Christians.

And what a ‘coincidence’ that so many of these fake Jews, these antichrists, have arisen from the former Worldwide Church of God! Inadvertently, they have fulfilled prophecy. God knew they would appear in the last days following the demise of the prophesied worthless shepherd (**Zech 11:17**). Now they are in full bloom, and soon they will face their ignominious end. In the meantime, they will continue to be obsessed with corrupting the Church of God with their stupid lies. Remember what John wrote? **1John 2:22** “Who is the liar? It is the man who denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a man is the antichrist – he denies the Father and the Son.” **V26** “I am writing these things to you about those who are trying to lead you astray.” John’s purpose in writing was to warn of those who were trying to lead true Christians astray. And how fervent the antichrists have become in their mission!

What is it about these loathsome creatures that drives them to corrupt others? Jesus put it very succinctly: **Matt 23:13** “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the Kingdom of Heaven in men’s faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor will you let those enter who are trying to.” Fake Jews like to emulate the hypocritical Pharisees, and add burdens to others by their own rendition of the Law of God (**V4**), but they won’t obey God’s Law themselves. The reference to the Kingdom of Heaven is the reference to God’s Kingdom on earth – the only Kingdom God intends to establish. This Kingdom will consume and crush all the other kingdoms of the earth, and eventually fill the entire earth (**Dan 2:44**). Fake Jews are driven by an overwhelming desire for the honour and respect of others because of their arrogance of believing they are more important. And this is the very nature of Satan the devil which has led to six thousand years of human misery. All knowledge must

come through them or they will turn like dogs and attack. Not surprisingly, their arch-enemy has become the messenger of God. They were too stupid to understand the Scriptures because they lacked the essential ingredient to do so, so they attacked the Scriptures and God Himself, together with His servants. Unfortunately for them, God anticipated it, and recorded warnings not to emulate them. They made the mistake of drawing attention to themselves by trying to deceive others, and in doing so have reserved for themselves the penalty which will be well-deserved. Believe me when I say, they will rue the day they ever challenged God. God will make examples of them so that future generations will learn to respect their Creator – and fear Him! And these examples must be vivid in order to be retained in the memories of those who witness it.

God is the Creator of all life on this earth, and no-one had better forget it. He plans to make His reputation known to all people everywhere. And I would remind everyone, that God is a God of vengeance. Don't challenge Him! Perhaps some think because God has been silent for a long time that they have the right to criticize Him. And why would God reward anyone for such evil intent?

The desire of fake Jews for recognition is so great that they have an overwhelming urge to appear 'scientific'. Consequently, they don't believe in the Great Creator God, and neither do they believe He created all life forms. To believe so would put them into category of creationists, and this would not bode well for their arrogance and inflated views of themselves. They consider it far better to sacrifice God's reputation than their own.

When the Father and the Son delivered the Book of Revelation to John on the Isle of Patmos shortly after John wrote the three epistles, it was addressed to the Seven Churches in Asia (Rev 1:4) to show his servants what must soon take place (Rev 1:1). The bloodbath of Christians continued for hundreds of years intermittently. But even this set the example for the Churches of God, and gave more evidence that God expects them to go as sheep to the slaughter – just as His Son did!

But let's not forget that Jesus was sent only to the 'lost sheep of Israel' (Matt 15:23). He had formerly told the Apostles to go only to the lost sheep of Israel (Matt 10:6). The Christ built the Church after He said this: **Matt 16:18** "And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it." Yes, from the moment Jesus first saw Peter, He called him *Cephas* – meaning a rock or stone (John 1:42). Following His resurrection, the Christ appeared again to the Apostles and confirmed that Peter the rock would be the reference point for all truth, and the final authority on the meaning of the Scriptures. The Scriptures record that Peter was totally unshakable in his faith and belief. Nothing would move him to deviate from the Truth of God – even death! This is evident by what happened to him: **2Pet 1:13** "I think it is right to refresh your memory as long as I live in the tent of this body, because I know that I will soon put it aside, as our Lord Jesus has made clear to me." The Lord Jesus made it clear to him shortly after he was confirmed as the rock. **John 21:18** "Jesus said (to Peter), "Feed my sheep. I tell you the truth, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go (this is what happened to Jesus with the scarlet robe and the crown of thorns – Matt 27:28). Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then He said to him, "Follow me!" Strangely, people have put all sorts of twists on this Scripture, but Peter knew exactly what it meant! And he conducted himself completely in accord with the Christ's instruction.

All Christians should know that Jesus the Christ is the Rock. Peter was a lesser rock, but the exact representation of the will of Christ. He was attuned to the teachings of the Christ and the Scriptures that the Christ used – which we know as the Old Testament, and from which he frequently quotes in his letters. He also speaks of the Rock and the Stone interchangeably (see **1Pet 2:8**). Concerning the Stone or Rock, he says this: **1Pet 2:4-5** "As you come to Him, the Living Stone – rejected by men but chosen of God and precious to Him – you also like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." Was that spiritual gifts or spiritual sacrifices? Yes, it's spiritual sacrifices! Such sacrifices are to glorify God, just as Peter the rock was required to do. Those who are like living stones must become living sacrifices like the Living Stone Himself – Christ!

At the death of the Christ, the great veil of the Temple was ripped in two, opening the way for the New Order that is to come. As all Bible students should know, no-one from the Tribe of Judah ever served at the Altar, but only the Levites: **Heb 7:14** "For it is clear that our Lord descended from Judah, and in regard to that Tribe Moses said nothing about priests. And what we have said is even more clear if another priest like Melchisedek appears (which He did), One who has become a priest not on the basis of a regulation of His ancestry but on the basis of an indestructible life." So Jesus became High Priest forever on the basis of His indestructible life. Since Jesus was killed, His indestructible life began after His resurrection. So perhaps being like living stones and offering

spiritual sacrifices is a little clearer now. It really is your ticket into the Kingdom of God if your sacrifice glorifies God.

So let's speak plainly! It's obvious from the Bible that God is assembling a family of sons and daughters who will live forever in the God Realm. Almighty God set the standards for those to whom He would make this offer. Since the purpose of the Mighty Christ is to destroy all rulers and authorities of the heavenly realms and to put all enemies under His feet (**1Cor 15:24-25**) as dust or ash (**Mal 4:3**), it stands to reason that God is offering the children of the devil nothing at all. As God's servant, the Apostle John stated, there is a clear difference between the children of God and the children of the devil (**1John 3:10**). Now it's the children of the devil that are to be eradicated from the earth, together with all the rulers of the heavenly realms – the spirit agents of Satan.

There is nothing in the entire Bible that suggests that God has made provision for those who refuse to serve Him! God is a jealous God, and He accepts no form of worship that is not sanctioned by Him. Like the old saying, 'he who has the gold makes the rules', God is the Great Creator and He makes the rules. Jesus raised this issue with His accusers, when He quoted from Isaiah: **Matt 15:7** "You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you: 'These people honour me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are but the rules of men.'" (Quoted from **Isa 29:13**) Isaiah, however, added a little more: **Isa 29:14** "Therefore once more I will astound these people with wonder upon wonder; the wisdom of the wise will perish, the intelligence of the intelligent will vanish. Woe to those who go to great depths to hide their plans from the LORD, who do their work in darkness and think, 'Who sees us? Who will know?' You turn things upside down, as if the Potter were thought to be like the clay! Shall what is formed say to Him who formed it, "He did not make me"? Can the pot say to the Potter, "He knows nothing"? **V20** "The ruthless will vanish, the mockers will disappear, and all who have an eye for evil will be cut down – those who with a word make a man out to be guilty, who ensnare the defender in court, and with false testimony deprive the innocent of justice."

Judgment and justice are required of God in the highest order! It was recently stated on *Fox News* (*Feb 10, 2005*) that 'there is an epidemic of cases of false accusations against the innocent in America where there is no evidence, but only the word of an accuser'. A great string of cases were mentioned including Coby Bryant, Michael Jackson, Bill Cosby, as well as a string of other cases involving white people like Martha Stewart and Gary Condit (the Chandra Levy murder case). Cases where false testimony to deprive the innocent of justice usually has something to do with sex where it involves blacks, while whites are usually accused in matters of money or murder. Of course there are plenty of variations either way, but the modus operandi of lying prosecutors concentrates on two things to get the public and the media onside: sex and money. The lively discussion made mention of the Scott Peterson case, where a successful prosecution was mounted in the total absence of any evidence. 'Circumstantial evidence' they said! It was circumstantial alright, but it wasn't evidence!

As a point of interest, Scott Peterson didn't kill his wife. Laci Peterson killed herself by throwing herself into the bay after catching public transport to the area. She unhitched a dinghy and paddled out and threw herself in the water. The dinghy was later found near the body, but the 'investigators', who were seeking personal fame, discounted any connection with Lacy. Lacy was a vindictive, calculating woman who sought to stitch up her husband for his ongoing unfaithfulness. Scott Peterson, like many others, was guilty of many things, but the murder of his wife was not one of them! As for the ruthless, the mockers, and the false accusers, I'm pleased to announce they will be cut down just as God has said. And all their lies and groveling will not save them when the scourge floods across their border! The storm from the south, as it were! How I hate hypocritical false accusers! But then, so does God!

And just a personal note to all this. Scott Peterson was also convicted of killing his unborn baby. Do you see the irony of this? How can killing unborn babies be legal for the millions of abortions that have occurred nationwide, yet this one is classified as murder? There may be some moral justification for abortion, such as stranger-rape, underage pregnancies, and some other rare cases, but never beyond the first semester! Third semester abortion is routinely conducted by monsters claiming rights under medical practice guidelines. And prior to the second term of President Bush, it was perfectly legal, even though morally reprehensible. The Democrats have always supported partial-birth abortion, or any abortion for that matter, so it just shows the state of their minds!

The rough handling during partial-birth abortion frequently results in the child being dismembered limb by limb prior to it having its brains sucked out with a catheter. There is no way to justify such monstrous behaviour by anyone! Especially the hypocrites in the medical profession who take an oath to preserve life! Presumably, their Hippocratic, hypocritical oath only applies if it doesn't cost them fees for killing defenseless babies.

The medical profession and the pharmaceutical companies have a lot to answer for, and their campaign to blame tobacco for all their mistakes is starting to wear thin. One of the great faux pas' of the present era was a statistic released (January, 2005) that revealed that one million people die every year from surgical malpractice. The statistical report was based on solid evidence, but the rebuttal from the medical profession bordered on howling rage. They claimed that this figure was 2 ½ times their estimate of those killed each year by tobacco. They demanded that the statistic be revised downward to below their estimates of tobacco deaths. You might be surprised to know that they can't identify anyone who has died as a direct result of smoking. Remember the famous Philip Morris court-case a few years ago that dragged on for months? This strange court-case is famous for two things.



Partial-birth abortion. This is not murder? What am I missing here? A live child is partially born, and while the head is still in the womb a suction catheter is inserted in the base of the skull and the child's brains are sucked out. What sort of monster could do this? The medical profession – that's who! They will do anything for money, and since death is their profession they kill millions of people every year with dangerous medications and surgical procedures. There is a moral case for some surgeries, but these are in the extreme minority. I can tell you this: those who perform such procedures are murderers, and will be treated as such!

Firstly the great procession of medical authorities that were paraded to give evidence of smoking-caused deaths. One by one they failed to provide any evidence of any documented case, but offered mere unsubstantiated opinions that were quickly destroyed in cross-examination. Most of the witnesses were aware that the object of the whole exercise was to make the tobacco companies the cash-cow for medical research, and were therefore prepared to engage in any form of lying innuendo to achieve these objectives. Relying on their reputations rather than facts, every witness left with his reputation in tatters, and some of them were looking like bare-faced liars.

The medical profession was about to lose since they were unable to provide any proof of any case involving the death of anyone from smoking. This was when some tobacco company executives were induced to do a deal. In return for them admitting that smoking was addictive, the medical profession would no longer wage a war against them, nor seek individual punitive damages. Rather the deal struck was that Philip Morris and all the tobacco companies would continue to manufacture unobstructed and unchallenged, but would fund medical research to the tune of hundreds of billions of dollars over the next 25 years.

This tobacco funding has been used to produce such drugs as Vioxx and Cerebrex and other deadly drugs responsible for either heart malfunction or death in up to 50% of the users. Pharmaceutical companies are merciless in their pursuit of money. For years they have been marketing drugs to combat high cholesterol to prevent heart attack. To illustrate what a scam this is, equally as many people with low or normal cholesterol levels have heart attacks as those with high cholesterol. This clearly shows that cholesterol levels have nothing to do with heart attacks! Painkillers do however. With the introduction of Vioxx and Cerebrex and similar medications, heart attacks have burgeoned out of control. Walter Mitty (the literary pretender) would be so proud of these lying scammers in the medical profession. The medical profession and the pharmaceutical companies have a lot to answer for!

Their campaign centers on other successful campaigns to change public opinion. Just one of these is the ban on smoking, and how successfully smoking has been blamed for everything from cancer to dandruff. If lies are told often enough, eventually the majority believe it especially when 'scientists' are telling the lies! The medical profession and the pharmaceutical companies are the ones hiding the truth! They are also the ones who've been prescribing or producing Cerebrex and Vioxx, and now are forced to admit that as many as 50% of those taking it suffered heart conditions in varying degrees. But the danger of these drugs fade in comparison to the effects of antibiotics and the mutations that result in super-strains of pathogens. Personally, I would much rather be breathing other's tobacco smoke than breathing the mutated pathogens from the breath of people who are constantly taking antibiotics. The irony of all this is that soon there will be smoke everywhere, and smoke-inhalation will be a common cause of death – but it won't be tobacco smoke! While its better not to smoke, it's far better not to be taking dangerous pharmaceuticals. There are a lot of people today who have no immune system left as a result of dangerous drugs prescribed by the medical profession.

It's these same people that succumb to every minor allergy, virus or infection that comes along. In the past few years there has been a quantum leap in the number of chronically ill people and its set to become far worse! Now is not the time to be weakening the immune system, when the specter of disease epidemics looms so large.

GREAT CHANGES AHEAD...

God says through Moses, "I will have *mercy on whom I will have mercy*, and *compassion on whom I will have compassion*." (Rom 9:15, Ex 33:19). It's incumbent on all of humanity to remember this! We stand on the threshold of great changes in the world, and great shifts of power. Everyone on earth knows who the only super-power on earth is, and there seems to be burgeoning hatred for this great power – America! What is it that America has done to earn such hatred? Have they conquered any nation and plundered them for personal gain? No, but they have liberated many nations from the tyranny that possessed them! Germany, Japan, South Korea, Afghanistan, and now Iraq are three perfect examples, and they did it at great cost to themselves. America has a great desire to see the nations of the earth prosper and to be free of tyranny. Which other nation can claim such virtue?

It's important to God for the nations of the world to understand how unjust they are in their assessment of America. God makes allusions to Ephraim being His son: Jer 31:20 "*Is not Ephraim my dear son, the child in whom I delight? Though I often speak against him, I still remember him. Therefore my heart yearns for him; I have great compassion for him.*" declares the LORD." It's difficult not to speak against Ephraim at times when they act against God's best interest, and especially when they carry their philosophy right into the realm of Satan, and attempt to do good for his brood. It's offensive to God to side with His enemies, but from the human perspective Ephraim is blameless. Ephraim's compassion disarms the ammunition for the score-card of those who hate him. Old Europe has been forced to shrink back into their rat-hole after their outrageous objections to removing a tyrant from Iraq. They wanted to keep trading with Saddam Hussein and grow richer. They howled and raged over the 'oil for food' restrictions, citing the deaths of Iraqi children to enhance the virtue of their demands. We now know that the food restrictions were caused by Europe selling arms systems to Saddam rather than food for the children. They demanded that the 'virtue' of the UN be the deciding factor for military intervention rather than the United States. And no wonder! Billions of dollars of Iraqi oil money was pumping up their economies while the people of Iraq starved from shortages of everything. Did they really care about the Iraqi people who were living in the shadow of Death and the rulers of the heavenly realms? Did the Europeans really care about the monstrous acts committed by this evil regime? Not as long as their trading with them was filling their coffers.

But America did care! Their compassion overrode the greed of Europe, and they sought to free an enslaved people, and it was only the English-speaking House of Joseph that answered the call of compassion. But was this the type of compassion that God favours? Iraq is archetypal of the rulers of the heavenly realms, and a declaration of what to expect when God's son Ephraim is taken out of the way. It was not God's intention to extent mercy and compassion to such people, but he encouraged Ephraim to do it for an entirely different reason. And that reason was to promote an ancient ally that showed favour to the Jewish captives and released them to restore the Temple of God. This was Cyrus – the real ruler of ancient Persia, and a prominent ruler of the heavenly realms. Cyrus promoted the captive Jews to the position of authority over the Temple Mount, even though this decision was unpopular among other rulers of the heavenly realms. But what could they do? The Medo-Persian Empire was absolute in power, to such an extent that their laws could not be changed under any circumstances, and any people who sought variation were harshly dealt with. But Cyrus showed compassion to the people of God and His Holy City, and this earned him favour with God. The fact that God blesses those who bless Him, and curses those who curse Him, could not be more evident in the annals of history. He decides on whom He will have mercy, and on whom He will have compassion. And those who work towards achieving God's goals of the Kingdom of God can expect God's mercy and compassion. Those who create stumbling-blocks can expect none.

Even now, Cyrus is gaining strength through the efforts of America to free his people in Iraq – those who still hold that Iran (Persia) is their fatherland – the Shiites. Allied with them are the Kurds, most of whom are Shiites also. But collectively the Shiites represent only about 5% of the Moslem population of the world. The odds of them ever becoming a major force in the Moslem world is very low by human standards, but because of ancient commitments to Cyrus, Almighty God is promoting him to power. The Babylonian Empire is the same region ruled over by Cyrus. Cyrus ruled over all the people of the region just as Nebuchadnezzar and his sons had formerly done. Nebuchadnezzar came to power with the conquest of the Assyrians, whom he plundered and enslaved. Gradually they became incorporated into Nebuchadnezzar's empire, and even served in his army. The Assyrians are

still there – scattered throughout the region of the former Babylonian Empire, though predominantly in the northern regions from Syria to Iran today.

As much as humanity believes that God owes them something, the only thing that God offered was life itself, and the ability to reproduce themselves. And they've certainly reproduced themselves! They've covered the earth with their offspring and availed themselves of everything the earth has to offer. But they weren't thankful to God, and neither did they seek to honour Him. But perhaps the vilest rebuttal to God came from the only people God chose of all the families of the earth – the 12 Tribes of Israel. It was the Tribes of Israel that introduced the fiction that God did not create the earth, and successive generations have clambered to this view in order to appear intelligent. Even pagans make the claim that their gods created everything; at least they were smart enough to know that it didn't happen by chance. But the House of Israel refuses to acknowledge the one true Creator! Left to their own devices, the House of Israel would eventually erase all memory of God and forbid the use of His Name completely. That campaign is now underway in America and the Democrats are the architects of it. They want any reference to God removed from all official documents and from all public places. They see success in this as a long-term strategy, but one that is accelerating due to the demise of Christianity generally. A whole raft of adversity has gripped Christianity in recent years and severely shaken the faith of many. The Democrats want to keep this momentum going.

The Tribes of Israel, and particularly the House of Joseph and the House of Judah, are hated by all the world. Up until now, this hatred has only been that of vipers striking at their heels. The one nation that they hate more than any other is America – and it's against America that they spit the most venom. America is too powerful to challenge in war, and so Satan and his rulers seek to weaken America from within. Propaganda is the name of the game, and people are easily led astray. For the most part, people have forgotten their God, and even those who still pay lip-service do so in the hope of reward in the hereafter. It wouldn't enter their heads to actively pursue the establishment of the Kingdom of God on earth – the overriding goal of the Christ, and the reason for His first appearance. All the kingdoms of the world will become His, after He has destroyed all the rulers of the heavenly realms and brought them to ruin.

Since people have no interest in God's objectives, then neither will they share in them. And isn't this fair? If they spent their entire lives seeking their own glory, and teaching spurious renditions of the Scriptures, and particularly if they lead others astray with their lies, then surely this life is their only reward. Almighty God makes the point that He hasn't changed, regardless of what pseudo-Christianity would like to believe: **Mal 3:6** "I the LORD do not change. So you, O descendants of Jacob are not destroyed. Ever since the time of your forefathers you have turned away from my Decrees and have not kept them. "Return to me, and I will return to you" says the LORD Almighty." So the descendants of Jacob can be very pleased that God has not changed. If God had changed, then He might well have destroyed the descendants of Jacob since, from earliest times, they have turned away from God's decrees and have not kept them. So in the most crucial time of history – the Great and Dreadful Day of the LORD, God warns them to remember the Laws and decrees that He gave to His servant Moses (**Mal 4:4**). In **Malachi chapter 3** God gives the formula for returning to Him, and also the requirements expected of them from the time of their forefathers. And God has never changed, nor departed from the requirements for all mankind – His Laws and Decrees. Of course, the rest of mankind will only become the subjects of the Kingdom of God by proxy, and only after they have surrendered to God. This is made clear in **Zech 14:16-19**. Of particular interest is the requirement to come up year by year to keep the Feast of Tabernacles – or else! In this, God singles out Egypt. The reason for this is that Moslems keep the Haj every year in Mecca – a defiant act against God to belittle His Holy City Jerusalem, so they will pay a big price in the future if they refuse to honour God and His Holy City. I think every geography student knows the effects on Egypt when the Nile doesn't flood its banks, and this is the effect that no rain – **V18** – will have on them. Added to this will be plagues! This will be the punishment of those who don't go up to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles (**V19**). Those who honoured Mecca deserve death, but God will have compassion on the survivors (**V16**).

And just to make the point concerning Mecca, the Mighty Christ Himself will take vengeance on this evil city. And none should question His resolve to do so. The Bible makes it clear that He will take on this responsibility as a first act against Satan and the rulers of the heavenly realms. It was these who inspired the provocation, and it is their sacred city that will bear the cost of their defiance against God and His Holy City. But surely every dedicated student of the Bible has read **Isa 63** – haven't you? If you have, then surely you know of whom this is speaking! It's speaking of the Mighty One – the Son of God! Here's a description of the Mighty One: **Rev 19:11-16** "I saw heaven standing open and

there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice He judges and makes war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on His head are many crowns. He has a Name written on Him that no-one knows but Himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his Name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following Him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Out of His mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. He will rule them with an iron scepter. He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On His robe and on His thigh He has this Name written: **KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS**.” And just so we understand that the Mighty Christ’s first task is to deal with the city of Satan in Edom, and to understand that God’s only Holy City on earth for evermore will be Jerusalem – not Mecca! In effect, He is putting Islam on notice that their arrogance in trying to supplant Jerusalem will be harshly dealt with. I hope everyone realizes that Mecca and Medina were established by the false prophet Mohammed – the father of Islam.

Isa 63:1-6 “Who is this coming from Edom, from Bozrah, with His garments stained crimson? Who is this, robed in splendor, striding forward in the greatness of His strength? “It is I, speaking in righteousness, mighty to save.” Why are your garments red, like those of the one treading the winepress? “I have trodden the winepress alone; from the nations (of Israel) no-one was with me. I trampled them down in my anger and trod them down in my wrath; their blood spattered my garments, and I stained all my clothing. For the Day of Vengeance was in my heart, and the Year of my Redemption has come. I looked and there was no-one to help, I was appalled that no-one gave support; so my own arm worked salvation for me, and my own wrath sustained me. I trampled the nations in my anger; in my wrath I made them drunk and poured their blood on the ground.”

All the translators knew these verses were speaking of the Messiah, and many of them gave marginal notes in support. And the Jews of Jesus’ time certainly believed it, and they welcomed it, and Bozrah could be anything at all, as long as it was the Roman Empire – which was the object of the Jew’s hatred at the time. Strangely enough, the Roman Empire left them alone as long as they behaved themselves, but the hope of a Messiah arriving kept them constantly primed for mischief. But it was to be Islam that would wreak the havoc that would invite the Mighty Christ to act so decisively. And Islam only came into existence hundreds of years after the Christ’s departure.

Saudi Arabia is scarcely even a bit-player in all that is about to unfold. When the Mighty Christ comes from Teman (Arabia) as is mentioned in **Hab 3:3**, there will be utter destruction of Mecca, and although they may try to rebuild it, they will not succeed. When Islam is split into two camps, it will be Egypt playing the dominant role in the south.

You will have to get over some of the ‘little white lies’ your local preacher has been teaching you about a gentle Jesus, meek and mild.... You are going to have to realize that the stakes are high, and that God’s intentions are a little different from what you formerly believed. Jesus is the Christ – in the true meaning of the word! And soon the whole world will know what the title ‘Christ’ or ‘Messiah’ really means.

A few decades ago, people had all sorts of expectations concerning their chosen religion. There were such divergent views among the churches that no-one could be sure of the Truth, or even who was right in their teachings. Differing views proliferated, and there were thousands of variations of doctrine in as many churches. However, all claimed to hold the key to the rewards God was offering. As for the mainstream churches, there were no credible differences – only perceived ones, and it was these perceived differences that were the rallying cry for converts. Church attendance became the safety net in case of death. And the local pastor could usually find mitigation for everlasting pastures for the deceased – and everyone was happy. One’s church became one’s sanctuary, and differences with the teachings of other churches were overlooked and considered unimportant.

Other churches however, developed and became more radical in their approach. Some of these believed they had to ‘jump for Jesus’ on a daily basis as an expression of their spirituality. Others believed that they had to fall flat on their backs and foam at the mouth – the fruit of the Spirit they claimed! All sorts of bizarre acts were adopted to make them look ‘spiritual’. What none of these can do is to support their actions from the Bible. And neither could they understand that God is not amused by such stupid behaviour! As a matter of fact, Jesus encountered some of this type of behaviour when He was on earth, and it was occurring in demon-possessed people! Such people need to get a grip on themselves and start acting like rational people. They are never going to induce God’s favour with that type of conduct.

As for thinking they’ve been *saved* or *born again*, there’s a few things they need to understand, such as these verse: **Joel 2:32** “And everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved; for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be deliverance, as the LORD has said, among **THE SURVIVORS** whom the LORD calls.” So who’s going to be saved? Who is going to receive

deliverance? It's **THE SURVIVORS** whom the LORD *calls*! And from where will deliverance come? **From Mount Zion in Jerusalem!** As for when they are going to be *saved* and *delivered*, the very next few verses tell us: **Joel 3:1-3** "In *those days* and *at that time*, when I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem, *I will gather all nations and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat*. There I will *enter into judgment against them concerning my inheritance, my people Israel*, for *they scattered my people among the nations* and *divided up my land*. They cast lots for my people and traded boys for prostitutes; they sold girls for wine that they might drink." So God is against **all nations** because *they scattered His people Israel among all the nations* and *divided up His land*.

Every Bible student should be aware of *the great winepress of God*, where He brings the nations down the *Valley of Jehoshaphat* on a specially prepared valley roadway. There they will be crushed between the closing walls as in a winepress and *their blood will flow to the depth of a horse's bridle* (**Rev 14:20**). It will be very much like the walls of water that buried Pharaoh's hordes, only this time the walls will be *rock*. Just as it was a miracle in Moses' day, so will it be this time: **Zech 14:4-9** "*On that day* his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and *the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south*." This is when the LORD gathers the nations to fight against Jerusalem in a great show-down, where the winner takes all and the spoils are divided among the victors (**V1-2**). This battle is also referred to in Hebrew as the **Battle of Armageddon** (**Rev 16:16**).

Continuing in **Zech 14:5** "You will flee by my mountain valley, for it will extend to Azel. You will flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. **Then the LORD my God will come, and all the holy ones with him.**" And who would these holy ones be? These are described in **Rev 6:9-11** "When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar *the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained*. They called out in a loud voice, "How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you *judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood*?" Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to *wait a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and brothers who were to be killed, as they had been, was completed*." And true to God's promise, they will *rule over the nations with an iron scepter* and *dash them to pieces like pottery* (**Rev 2:26-27**). As for waiting for *their fellow-servants and brothers to be killed as they were*, their brothers will be making a last stand to hold and protect Jerusalem against overwhelming odds of massive armies under the banner of the King of Greece and the Balkans – the all the way to the Danube River – the territory inherited by Alexander the Great. (We know from history what nations came under his banner with his ongoing conquests! Alexander conquered the very nations we know as Islam today).

These brothers won't flee, but will hold their ground – and they will be killed in a final act of faithful martyrdom (**Rev 11:7**). In Jerusalem their bodies will lie in the streets for 3½ days and the world will rejoice at their deaths (**V10**). If the nations are to rejoice to the extent that they send gifts to one another, then you can be sure that these brothers have caused a great deal of damage to the nations in the lead-up to this. These brothers will be well-known and greatly feared by the nations, so this victory over them will seem glorious to the heathen nations. Destroying the Sons of Jerusalem will give the nations a great deal of impetus to destroy God's Name and His City forever. But their rejoicing will last just 3½ days **before the Lord appears with all His holy ones with Him** and will be joined by the resurrected witnesses, in *the mother of all battles* – a favourite saying of the rulers of the heavenly realms, notably Saddam Hussein. And of course, these spirit rulers will welcome the showdown, especially after their limited victory of capturing Jerusalem and killing God's servants.

Remember it happened once before in the past when they succeeded in killing the Son of God, and then went after His disciples. At that time the disciples hid or fled, but were later told by the Christ to go back to Jerusalem and wait there. And so began a 2,000 year wait to the fulfillment of all things written in the Scriptures when: **Zech 14:9** "The LORD will be *King over the whole earth*. On that day there will be one LORD, *and His Name the only Name*." Yes, *the only Name* whereby men will be *saved* and *delivered from the hands of their enemies*.

In fact, you may not live to see *the Branch* in Jerusalem offering *deliverance* to *the House of Israel*. But you will live again, provided that like Jesus, *you are faithful to the end*. You will however, need to be grafted into *the Branch* that will offer *deliverance* from Zion (**Jerusalem**).

There is a grafting process that is applicable at all levels of God's calling: Jews, Christians, and Israelites of all the Tribes, Gentiles, and even Levites. And as hard as it is for some to accept, there are different levels of responsibility. **Rom 9:21** "Does not the Potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay *some pottery for noble purposes* and *some for common use*?" Be thankful to be called for any purpose, but rejoice if you are *of the Branch* that *prepares the way for the LORD* (**Mal 3:1, Luke 1:76-79**).

The Apostle Paul spoke of the grafting process, and here is some of what he said: **Rom 11:17-21** “If some of the branches have been broken off, and you, though a wild olive shoot, have been grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing sap from the olive root, do not boast over those branches. If you do, consider this: You do not support the root, but the root supports you. You will say then, “Branches were broken off so that I could be grafted in.” Granted. But they were broken off because of unbelief, and you stand by faith. Do not be arrogant, but be afraid. For if God did not spare the natural branches, he will not spare you either.” Yes the branches represent the 12 Tribes of Israel, and the Gentiles had to be grafted in. You see plenty of arrogance in the Churches of God today (and it was the Church of God that Paul was addressing), but you don’t see too many who are afraid because of their conduct and their lying fabrication of the Scriptures. Once they stated their position, even in the face of overwhelming evidence to the contrary, they would not be moved to correction.

Isa 4:2 “In that day the Branch (the Levite Sons of Jerusalem) of the LORD will be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the land will be the pride and glory of the survivors in Israel. Those who are left in Zion, who remain in Jerusalem, will be called holy, all who are recorded (a reference to the Scroll of Remembrance – **Mal 3:16**) among the living in Jerusalem. The Lord will wash away the filth of the women of Zion; he will cleanse the bloodstains from Jerusalem by [the Spirit] of judgment and [the Spirit] of fire. Then the LORD will create over all of Mount Zion and over those who assemble there a cloud of smoke by day and a glow of flaming fire by night; over all the glory will be a canopy. It will be a shelter and shade from the heat of the day, and a refuge and hiding place from the storm and rain.” Now you haven’t seen a cloud of smoke by day or a glow of flaming fire over Jerusalem yet, have you? The reason is that it hasn’t happened – yet! But if you live long enough you will see many things that will astound you. And they are not far off!

Some of the living stones who offer the right sacrifice will be alive – again! They’ll be gathered and taken to the place under the Heavenly Altar to be fed and clothed and to await their brothers who are to be killed as they were (**Rev 6:11**). Once you are under that Altar, you really do have it made.

Being a servant and prophet of God today is a relatively easy task when one sees prophecy actually being fulfilled, but just imagine the difficulty for others thousands of years ago, when they recorded these things in the Bible. Of particular note is the Apostle Paul’s revelation of ‘the one who is to be taken out of the way’ (**2Thess 2:7**). Paul knew this ‘one’ was Ephraim, because he understood what is recorded in the Scriptures. And this is a little different from those who think they can put their own interpretation on the Scriptures and prophecy. But how could he explain this mighty power at that time, when they were not a power at all. Only America (and the House of Joseph) are restraining the forces of evil today. Most other nations are happily trading with them, while continuing to whitewash their dreadful behaviour.

One of the biggest problems today is that people want to reshape God to their own image. God is not fooled by those who seek to establish standards for Him. Speaking of John the Baptist, Jesus asked what his listeners expected to see. There seemed to be an expectation of some great one who would boldly stride across the political landscape, and start controlling everyone. But Jesus defused their ideas with a description of John. And the description doesn’t match the aspirations of the ‘evangelists’ in this present age. John the Baptist was very low key.

Was John the Baptist supposed to shout from the rooftops in the cities? Or from the wilderness in the desert? Did he live in palaces? Was he the type of show-pony that appears on stages to mesmerize vast audiences like present-day ‘evangelists’? In the wilderness the audience is extremely limited, and no self-respecting ‘evangelist’ is going to stage this type of ‘show’. As for preaching a message similar to John the Baptist, its never going to happen among those who teach a false Christ! Jesus also said, ‘Of all those born of women, there is none greater than John the Baptist.’ The type of greatness Jesus spoke of is not in relation to his widespread recognition. He was known only to his followers, and the people around the City of Jerusalem. The only other mention of his fame was in the region of the seven Churches in Asia. These are the same Churches mentioned in the Book of Revelation, which feature prominently in endtime events. Quite remarkably, these were familiar with John the Baptist.

The television evangelists of today don’t like to go unnoticed. They have great zeal for the donations they try to attract to maintain their lifestyle. They like the glitzy lifestyle they are famous for, and the more elaborate the ‘shows’ they put on, the more people are deceived into believing that it has something to do with God. It seems to have gone unnoticed that Jesus always tried to avoid the crowds – which runs counter to the preferences of the television evangelists. All their ‘shows’ are well-scripted, carefully staged and rehearsed for maximum effect.

Far be it from me to suggest that the Christ is not worthy of all honour – because He is! But He made the point that *‘This people honour me with their lips, but their heart is far from me.’* So why this feigned precociousness of lip-service among professing Christians? If honouring the Christ with mere lip-service is their only goal, then there is something lacking according to the Christ Himself! Formerly, the Christ spoke to the House of Israel and said, *“O that there was such A HEART in them that they would KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS.”* For there to have any validity to the over-used phrase *‘Give your heart to the Lord’*, there is also a commitment to *obey* God and *KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS*. For all the emotional rhetoric that such phrases conjure up, *the hearts* of those appealed to, *are far from the Lord*.

There’s an underlying strategy on the part of some that they are forgiven for not having the type of heart that God requires, and they also feel that they are justified because they followed the advice of the local parson, or some preaching elder, or some other dope that claims some sort of relationship to God.

If they don’t speak according to *this Word, the Word of God*, they have no light of dawn. But those who have no enlightenment will vehemently deny it. They cling to the faint hope that their lip-service will get them over the line. Somehow their worthless lip-service will completely fool God into believing that they are righteous. But as a measure of what God thinks of this type of worship, and the signs of the times in which we live, God has made certain predictions about such people. And now it’s all happening! Even those in the Churches of God, who once served God by keeping His Commandments, are now finding ways to blame God for everything. Many of these faithful Commandment-keepers listened to the self-righteous, pharisaical preaching of their ‘shepherds’, like not using ‘pagan’ words such as ‘lucky’ or ‘fortunate’, or as one dope suggested, the word ‘barbeque’. Through much research, he discovered that the word ‘barbeque’ had pagan origins. So do some of the days of the week, but this didn’t stop him from using them.

But when self-righteous men parade themselves as pillars of virtue, all too often their hypocrisy is revealed. This is true of many high-flying evangelists whose fall from public acceptance was a result of their own hypocritical behaviour. Jesus publicly expressed His hatred of hypocrites who paraded themselves as super-righteous, but were seething masses of greed and avarice inside. They wanted the finest of everything for themselves so they could further enhance their standing in the eyes of others. And how often such people fight their way to the top of the heap to gain power over others! Megalomaniacs is the best way to describe them. Jude describes them as *shepherds who feed only themselves (Jude 1:12)*. It should not go unnoticed in *The Churches of God* that these craven creatures have been dying like flies in recent years, *and they died never knowing the Testimony of Jesus!*

Instead they left a legacy of lies and hypocrisy, and all they built was destroyed or plundered and became the property of others and the flock was scattered. And it all happened at the most crucial time in all history. Most of the flock returned back to their former lives *like dogs to its vomit: 2Pet 2:17-22* *“These men* are springs without water and mists driven by a storm. *Blackest darkness is reserved for them.* For they mouth empty, boastful words and, by appealing to the lustful desires of sinful human nature, *they entice people who are just escaping from those who live in error. They promise them freedom,* while they themselves are *slaves of depravity* – for a man is a slave to whatever has mastered him. *If they have escaped the corruption of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ* and are *again entangled in it and overcome,* they are *worse off at the end than they were at the beginning.* It would have been *better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than to have known it and then to turn their backs on the sacred command that was passed on to them.* Of them the proverbs are true: *“A dog returns to its vomit”*, and, *“A sow that is washed goes back to her wallowing in the mud.”* Yes, I know, your shepherd is different! He’s very humble and appears as an angel of light. But I’ll bet he’s still promising you freedom in ‘a place of safety’, something which is *not* found in the *Testimony of Jesus!*

But it’s true that Peter’s comments relate mainly to *those who once knew and understood the love of their Saviour Jesus Christ,* who actually built His Church for a noble purpose. These former Christians have fallen away never knowing the real purpose of their existence in the Church! Many of them wanted to be free of God’s Commandments (*freedom* they called it) and now they find themselves isolated with no way back. What is more, many of them have devoted their lives to corrupting those who remained faithful. There is one thing such people can be sure of: *blackest darkness for ever!* The One they rejected – Jesus Christ – is everything they never expected Him to be: a Righteous Judge and a worthy adversary against all *who have subjected Him and His Holy Name to public disgrace (Heb 6:4-6).*

But what these traitors failed to see was disaster approaching, and neither did they identify the enemy that is about to hold the knife to their throats. God has revealed in great detail all that is about

to happen, but the full knowledge of this is reserved for His servants the prophets (**Amos 3:7**), but there is great detail in the Books of Amos and Obadiah. If you search with all your hearts, then perhaps you will understand. Just to touch on a few things, you'll recall that we spoke of the Mighty Christ destroying Edom's habitations and we quoted from **Isa 63:1-9**. Because God is slow to anger, no-one should underestimate His resolve against His enemies.

Unfortunately, many people have made themselves God's enemy by teaching lies about Him. Particularly noticeable is their slovenly approach to serving Him! In fact, many who refused to serve Him according to His instructions, and are now trying to prove He doesn't exist. For a long time God has been silent. He chose to remain silent and allow the deceivers to have their day in tempting His people Israel. You'll recall that Jesus formerly submitted Himself to be tempted by the devil at the beginning of His ministry. If you've read our former articles you will know that the devil was totally delusional when he tried to quote Scripture. Not understanding the Scriptures he woefully misquoted them. His selected brood is no different, and these are the ones that continue to deceive people into believing that God is a pushover and should not be feared.

God's Great Plan has been six thousand years in the implementation. As we all know, God showed particular interest in certain human beings that devoted themselves to His service. Men like Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, David and a host of others, including all of the prophets. What is unique about all the servants of God is that they served Him to the exclusion of all else. They recognized the importance of honouring their Creator, and never wavered. They didn't question God's judgment, or in any way seek to circumvent it. They followed His instructions carefully, and believed it was the greatest honour of all to serve their God. They never tried to reason around His instructions, and nor did they serve Him in the hope of personal gain.

Many times throughout history, God's servants found themselves ostracized by others who didn't share their motivation and who couldn't bring themselves to serve their Creator. Happily they would worship anything, as long as it wasn't their Creator God. And now, equally happily, the House of Israel is starting to adopt the view of pagans and are making their charge to discredit the Creator God's existence and relying on the views of the mindless and their crazy theories of evolution.

Well things will be very different to all they could imagine! And to their shock and dismay, they are soon to learn first-hand that God does exist, **and this is very bad news for them!**