

I'll Fly Away O Glory

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BEWARE OF
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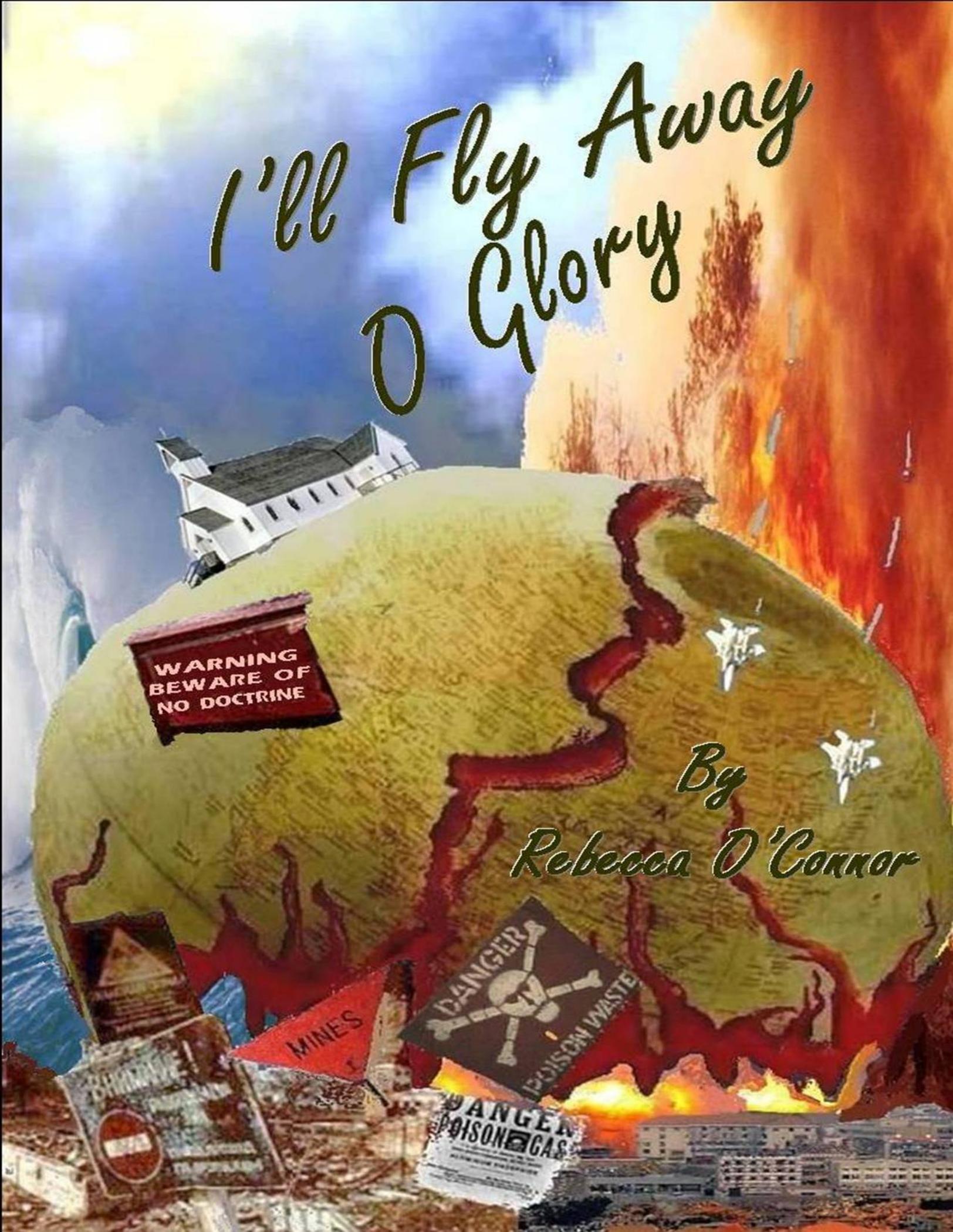
By

Rebecca O'Connor

MINES

DANGER
POISON WASTE

DANGER
POISON GAS



I'll Fly Away O Glory

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O Glory

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Dedication

To my protective daughters Shannan and Meagan as well as my husband Denny for promising to give a loving smile in silence to any who criticize my work.

Foreword

Following the initial review of some early chapters in this publication, I was drawing a blank regarding composition of the “foreword”, although the material contained therein is yet another “red flag” (*or should be*) to the “sign of the times” versus our global and individual responsibilities as believers. After all, what additional descriptive adjectives or adverbs not previously used can be found to describe the attributes of a lukewarm Christian or the sincere, eighteenth century, Elizabethan hymnal singing believer, digging in their heels only to say the “world is getting worse”, “the birthing pains have started”, “praise the Lord anyhow” (the latter being my personal favorite), yet lacking the fortitude to use the battle gear of the Holy Spirit to do something about it. In this day, apathetic resolve, deer caught in the headlights mentality, is intolerable and inexcusable, given that the inability to buy or sell is already alive and well. To that, the enemy of our soul is standing on the opposite side of the line drawn in the sand saying “PUT UP OR SHUT UP!” I can say with almost a one hundred and ten percent certainty, the use of verbs to describe the ineffectual believer is definitely out of the question since verbs are generally used to describe action.

The answer to my dilemma came while standing over the stove giving a stir to the spicy pumpkin soup which had become a holiday favorite since Becky made it for the holidays last year. At this point you may be asking, what do pumpkin and the effectiveness of the Christian believer have in common?

Pumpkin in its natural state has a relatively tough outer covering and inside the meat is fibrous, seeds are white and flavor is non-descript to unsavory. Once the initial cooking is complete, the meat’s texture becomes smooth, pliable and ready to have spices or other condiments added prior to additional cooking or baking for the purpose intended. Without cooking which usually involves heat, as well as the flavorful support given by additional ingredients, the pumpkin is not a stand alone player in the food world, thus would most likely not achieve the purpose of providing sustenance, nor the desirable aromas associated with its use. Don’t forget the seeds. Once they are roasted over a fire or in an oven and seasoned, they also become nutritious and savory.

Analogy is simple. The Christian believer in their natural state is not battle ready without seasoning of the Holy Spirit and will not withstand the enemy’s “trial by fire”...and yes it will come. Without standing in fellowship with other believers, with the proper ingredients of the Word, Holy Spirit and knowing your overwhelming authority in Jesus, when the cooking starts, you will become an unusable mass instead of a sweet smelling savor to Him who has called you. In other words, the battle we are in is the World Series to end all World Series and a play-by-play announcer is not required to describe the conditions of the playing field or the teams. Three basics to remember: 1) Without the Holy Spirit, principalities and rulers of darkness in high places are invisible 2) We are not on “home turf” but have been given “home turf” advantage 3) Winner takes all...there is no second place. If any doubt about those three basics, it’s all in the play and rules book...read it, know it. In a war or in a court room, ignorance and apathy is not part of winning. Do not forget, the enemy who desires to sift you or your loved ones as wheat, has already been tempered by a hot fire and battle hardened.

Dennis O'Connor

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Introduction

I would like to introduce Redundancy to the reader, which is an ever-present character in any book trying to reveal an understanding. Teaching requires repetition, because our brains so easily lose information once it travels the periphery of a thought. In teaching, thoughts are added to thoughts as bricks to building and told in many ways all relating to the same source presented. So when you find yourself reading and thinking, “Didn’t she just say that?” then you know you have arrived at the designated thought provoked and congratulations are in order. If, however, none of this redundancy is recognized, you may need some caffeine to insure alertness upon reading. My suggestion is to read when fully awake...you know, read on purpose and not to help yourself sleep.

Rebecca O'Connor

The Great Escape

(JUST PUSH THE EASY BUTTON?)

*“A prudent man **foreseeth** (gives attention, prepares for) the evil, and **hideth** (conceals) for safety himself: but the **simple** (foolish, naïve) pass on, and are **punished** (condemned).”
Pr 22:3*

There is a mentality in some of the church body today and yesterday, regardless of denomination, that is rather like “Qué-Será-Será” about end times. When seeing the distress of the times we are in, you will invariably hear, “Aren’t you glad we won’t be here for the fireworks?” Makes me wonder what song was being sung in the days of Noah. **“I’ll float away, O glory!”** What about the song of those in Sodom and Gomorrah? **“Goodness, Gracious, Great Balls O’ Fire!”** (And you thought Jerry Lee Lewis made that popular!) Many in the church have their heads in the clouds instead of watching and doing in the day while it is called day.

“I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.” John 9:4

“Why, I don’t believe we are in the end times. It’s balderdash and poppycock!”
Each person has an end time. We have one generation in which to live, work and accomplish that for which we are purposed and birthed, and then it ends. Trust me there is an end to each person on the earth and then the judgment. Each individual is in end times, an end of a life, end of a generation, end of an appointed time coming to fulfillment, an end to an era and the hour of Jesus’ return. The Jews believed that a Savior would come to save them, however the towns were asleep when the birth of the Promise came, except for some WISEmen, who saw the signs and didn’t let “intellect” get in their way. We don’t know when His return will be, but some WISEmen will be watching the signs again, while the towns sleep. Regardless of the return of Christ, each of us will face an end time, an end of our work with no more time to fulfill our destiny.

*“And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:”
Heb 9:27*

End times was first mentioned as far back as Adam and Eve, when they were told that if they ate of the forbidden fruit they would die, an end of their time was coming! But there have been end times for all people when a whole generation came to an end in Noah’s day. I’m sure when Noah told the people they were living in *end times*, someone thought it was balderdash and poppycock.

*“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.
But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.
But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.*

For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.” Mt 24:35-42

Lot's town saw an end and very abruptly. People back then had their heads in the clouds too. If Lot's wife hadn't had her head in the clouds she would have believed and taken seriously the warnings given, but then she would never have become the pillar of salt in the community! Why, once the dust settled she was the only one left standing and standing and standing. I guess the new town didn't have to erect a statue in her honor!

No, you are right, this is not funny at all. This is the sad shape of many who think they are safe...just like the people of Noah's day. These are the uninformed because they cannot clutter their lives with the worry and stress of the signs of the times, especially when they are just going to *fly away, O Glory*. The very idea that the body of Christ should sit back, feet up, in their *naugahyde barcalounger* waiting **to go up** is one of the most self-centered of ideas **when accompanied** by no intercession or seeking God's face to know what obedience is for the day.

I am not suggesting that we take up worry and stress over things unseen, or fear of what we hear from the media machine. I am not suggesting either that we should resurrect "chicken little" mentality and constantly be ducking for the falling sky, but sitting back assuming nothing will ever happen in our time is blindness on the opposite spectrum. Why were we put on this earth? Are we here to have some la-de-dah time just for filler until we go off to Beulah Land? You want some great advice? Hear Jesus on it.

“Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them.

And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants.

*And this know, that if the counsel of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched, and not have suffered his house to be broken through. Be ye therefore **ready** also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not.” Luke 12:37-40*

ready/ ετοιμος *hetoimos het-oy'-mos: - prepared, (made ready)*

And Jesus says again:

*“Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.”
Luke 12:43*

I guess you can tell by what I am writing that I am probably not risking everything on a “*get out of jail free card.*” I decided early on to be prepared to live my life out fully and not carelessly in *La-La Land* for which the Word warns:

*“Give not sleep to thine eyes, nor slumber to thine eyelids.
Deliver thyself as a roe from the hand of the hunter, and as a bird from the hand of the fowler.
Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise:
Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler,
Prideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest.
How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? When wilt thou arise out of thy sleep?”
Pr 6:4-9*

In other words, shouldn't we have a burning desire to spend the time needed in prayer and seeking to find out what is required of our lives with the short span we have? “*What has Jehovah put me here at this time, in this generation to do?*” is the better question. We have more purpose than **going up** in the clouds as escapists. “*God order my steps in the blessing baskets and good fortune and then take me home.*” We order God's divine purpose like a burger and fries. The faith I am seeing in some Christian corners is: **see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil!** I do not believe we evolved from monkeys, but unfortunately our faith is evolving to the threesome just mentioned: Larry, Moe and Curly.

If I haven't offended your sensibilities yet, hold on I'm not finished. This escapist belief is what I call *weenie* faith for weenies. Okay, there you have the mother-load. Are you heading for the incinerator to throw this book in for fuel? I can give you a better idea. Put yourself on fire for God. Our hearts need to burn with a holy fire. It's time to wake up, shake off the dross and allow it to burn, Baby, burn!

“Take away the dross from the silver, and there shall come forth a vessel for the finer.” Pr 25:4

Don't get me wrong, I'm not going to argue with Jesus from taking me up if He comes back today, but if He doesn't come as early as some may hope, I won't be reduced to a shriveling mass in the corner whining, “Why God?”

Look at some examples of those who were prepared for anything that came their way because of their walk day by day with the Lord.

Noah was not translated out. He had an ear to hear “Prepare” and did. There was a whole civilization that heard him preach for 120 years and should have been prepared for the outcome but was not. Noah didn't understand what a flood would be until it hit, but **he believed God.** We may be in those times of prophecy where weather and the earth itself are off kilter. How would your heart be if man stopped having solutions and the elements took charge?

What would happen, for example, in a nuclear holocaust setting off earthquakes if communication were knocked out? ALL COMMUNICATION means no television, radio, phone etc. What would it be like if our earth was shaken to its very foundation (earthquakes which beget tsunamis etc)? Now keep in mind this is all happening without communication. You are on your own with what community is close by. FEMA (Federal

Emergency Management Agency) is the new government. Stop and think about it a bit. What would you do?

1. You close your eyes and click your ruby red slippers together saying, “There’s no place like home. There’s no place like home!” until you’re raptured?
2. You put your head between your legs and kiss your butt goodbye?

Or you have been seeking God all along, and you are prepared with the instructions He has given, having confidence in God to be spared through the time needed like Noah was. God is that ark of safety but many aren’t seeking.

“The earth is utterly broken down, the earth is clean dissolved, the earth is moved exceedingly. The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and shall be removed like a cottage; and the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it; and it shall fall, and not rise again.” Isa 24:19-20

“And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; Men’s hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.” Luke 21:25-27

Daniel was not translated out. He followed his convictions unashamed and courageously, and God was with him. He could have kept his faith a secret as many others apparently did, not wanting to be politically incorrect. Let’s just stay status quo and not rock the boat. Daniel had a love and devotion for God, not for a chunk of wood or statue of gold, but a real, living Father! **He believed God.**

Slowly but surely our nation is requiring political correctness. You may think that you still have a choice, which we call freedom of speech, right? Wrong! When I was growing up, my **public school** teachers could pray before class and the lunch meal. If a teacher does this today what could happen? Having a nativity scene **was** considered Christmas and not controversy or an offense. The Ten Commandments were posted in schools and courtrooms across the nation as standard. We could say the United States pledge of allegiance backwards and forward because “*One Nation Under God*” **was** correct politically or otherwise.

Christian teachers in public settings have been silenced as Daniel was through edict. Not too long ago was the controversy that Military chaplains should no longer use the name of Jesus to depict which God was being proclaimed. We now serve “generic god” without absolutes. No real faith containing Truth with which to win anyone. You know in end times Scripture talks about not being able to buy or sell. Yet that means more than the purchase of staples. I believe this means the purchase of a soul. In other words the giving and receiving of the gospel of Truth will be against the law. One may believe for oneself but may not purchase another for God’s Kingdom or witness to another inflicting your “ideas” on anyone else.

*“And that no man might **buy or sell**, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his **name**.” Re 13:17*

Name/ονομα/onoma/on'-om-ah: a “name” (literally or figuratively), (**authority, character**): - called, (+ sur-) name (-d).

Buy/agorazw/redeem (from the root) agora/any assembly, especially of the people
2) the place of assembly, for public debating, for elections, for trials, for buying and selling, for all kinds of business 3) market place, street

Look at some of the Scriptures talking about the words **purchase** or **redeem**.

*“Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not **redeemed** [purchased] with corruptible things, [as] silver and gold, from your vain conversation [received] by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:” 1 Peter 1:18-19*

*“Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath **purchased** with his own blood.” Acts 20:28*

*“Remember thy congregation, [which] thou hast **purchased** of old; the rod of thine inheritance, [which] thou hast redeemed; this mount Zion, wherein thou hast dwelt.” Psa 74:2*

*“Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the **purchased** possession, unto the praise of his glory.” Eph 1:14*

Only the politically correct will be acceptable to freely express themselves at assemblies etc. You watch and see. Our authorities (law) would prevent our free expression of Christian faith. We are at this point now and almost fully. The First Amendment to the United States Constitution states: **Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof...** Congress makes laws and our U.S. Supreme Court interprets what the law is saying. The Supreme Court is thereby deciding, for the day, that we may have the free exercise of our religion “in our home” or “church” but not in the courts or state and federal buildings etc.

In the year 2000 a poll showed two-thirds of Americans favor banning hate speech. What if Christian absolutes are considered hate speech? The same poll had 53% of Americans banning critical speech of religions. Are we really ready to say that one cannot talk about religion in the public sector because it might offend someone of another faith? No public or assembly of people and no person could say anything Christian for offending Islamics, Muslims, Buddhists, atheists etc.? Does this mean no more programs of any Christian nature in an assembly, elections, trials, business, market, or in the streets? Would you be arrested for breaking those kinds of laws or fined?

The secular **religion** of humanism with theories of evolution, are being taught in the public arena as an acceptable truth and have been for years! “One Nation Under God”

became “One Nation Under god” next was, “**One Nation Over** god”, and last but not least: “**One Nation Is God!**” Trickle down faith in Jehovah once held highly for integrity became vague and is now a nuisance to be dealt with.

Silencing of the Believer is already happening today...now...this generation just as in Daniel’s day! It has happened day by day until it’s done, and we look back and say, “What has happened to us?” Will you hide behind a drawn curtain of your faith or remain openly faithful? There is a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour, but he couldn’t devour Daniel for God was with him.

We will either have the mark of the Holy Spirit of God or the mark of Satan. We are branded with the ownership of one or the other. The very shield of faith is a visible mark in the spiritual realm that designates ownership to God. We are owned by the purchase of Jesus’ blood.

*“Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have **sealed** the servants of our God in their foreheads.” Re 7:3*

Sealed/σφραγίζω/sphragizō/sfrag-id'-zo to stamp (with a signet or private mark) for security or preservation (literally or figuratively); by implication to keep secret, to attest: - (set a, set to) seal up, stop.

This, from the definition, seems to be a spiritual mark unseen by the human eye.

*“And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his **mark** in his forehead, or in his hand,” Re 14:9*

Mark/χάραγμα/charagma/khar'-ag-mah a scratch or etching, that is, stamp (as a badge of servitude), or sculptured figure (statue): -graven, mark.

This, by definition, is a physical mark seen by the human eye. Both marks are of servitude to a master. You cannot serve both, not even secretly can you take the mark of one yet serve the other.

“No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.” Mt 6:24

Daniel had it settled in his mind and heart whom he served as did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednigo. **Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednigo were not translated out** but went right smack dab into the fiery furnace and found God faithfully there. These men stared in the face of tribulation unmoved by their circumstances. Why? Because their hearts were fixed on their Lord. All of these examples show that these men didn’t prefer to worship God but were convicted to their very soul to trust and love God. Man will never give his life for a preference but will lay his life down for a conviction.

When the false prophet comes along, many will buy into his philosophies and be charmed as he persecutes the faithful of Jehovah. His reign will be short, and when over,

people will be thinking the Antichrist is gone, and Jesus will follow. Instead the Antichrist will follow **not** coming in the clouds and gathering up his own but establish one world of peace and heal our broken world with *signs and wonders*.

“And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,

And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.

And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.” Re 13:12-15

People will think that all they have believed in their faith has not come to pass and be swayed by the deception. Many will believe in him and be sealed with his mark, most likely a religious symbol or, as stated before, the mark of law. This would seem kosher to some of the believers who do not know what they believe anymore.

Charismatic leaders who falsify the gospel have fooled people. The only people they fool are the foolish who don't know the Scriptures for themselves, so they are given some words out of context to validate the lies.

Also is the dilemma of today's Christian not seeking out the Word to find out the manner of the Spirit of God whom they serve. People generally calling themselves Christians do not know the Person of God. They know Old Testament prophets words misrepresenting His Spirit by their own anger. Only Jesus represented the True Living God in Person! Whom did Jesus call fire down upon? Whom did He physically chastise (outside of His spoken Words)? Whom did He send away to pass a test before healing? The old patriarchs might have carried out some of the will of God, but human anger of man's flesh got translated into being part of God. ***Man falls short of the Glory of God...*** get it? Jesus gave us Word. Remember also that God is His Word.

“Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment.

And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.” Mt 22:37-40

Hang/κρεμάννυμι/kremannumi/krem-an'-noo-mee: - hang (suspend).

Law/νόμος/nomos/nom'-os: law (through the idea of prescriptive usage), generally (regulation), specifically (of Moses [including the volume]; also of the Gospel), or figuratively (a principle): - law.

Prophets/προφήτης/prophētēs/prof-ay'-tace: a foreteller (“prophet”); by analogy an inspired speaker; by extension a poet: - prophet.

On what two things hang all the law and prophets? **Love** of the Father and **love** for one another. **Love** is the judge who judges the inspired Writings and inspired speakers whether they be of God, for God is love. Love is the scalpel that divides Truth from “truth”. (“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, **rightly dividing the word of truth.**” 2 Tim 2:15)

“We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error. Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.” 1 John 4:6-8

Take all the written Word through love. Filter it through love. Jesus Himself said it’s by love that all the Word is hung. If what has been written or said can pass through love then it is sound. But on the other hand the writings or prophets that are destructive and speakers of vengeance then there is error.

“And Elijah answered and said to the captain of fifty, If I be a man of God, then let fire come down from heaven, and consume thee and thy fifty. And there came down fire from heaven, and consumed him and his fifty.” 2 Kings 1:10

Just because one belonging to God, having His power and acts out a deed doesn’t mean the deed was an “**Act of God**”. You must ask yourself who was in error: Elijah or Jesus. Elijah fell short of the Glory or testimony and praise of God, but Jesus **was** God.

*“And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did? But he turned, and **rebuked** them, and said, **Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of.**” Luke 9:54-55*

Elijah had power from God but didn’t always use it in God’s will. Filter all writings and words of prophets through Jesus’ Words and Love. Elijah *came short of God’s Glory*. We have all *come short of His Glory*, but He is still able to use us. It is a shame God needs to fix what we, in His Good Name, have done! Jesus warned Peter to stay awake and pray so he wouldn’t fall into temptation or *come short of God’s Glory*. Remember as Jesus was being arrested in the garden, Peter cut off the ear of the arresting priest’s servant? What did Jesus do? He healed the ear of him! Jesus was God’s Glory! Jesus is Love!

*“For **all** (prophets, pastors, doctors, lawyers, Indian chiefs) have sinned, and come **short of the glory of God;**” Rom 3:23*

Short/hoos-ter-eh'-o: - come behind (short), be destitute, fall, lack, suffer need, (be in) want, be the worse.

Glory/δοξα/doxa/dox'-ah: - dignity, glory (-ious), honour, praise, worship.

God's Glory is His reputation. Humankind, no matter how much we love Jehovah, comes short of His reputation. Any so-called leader who says they are of God and are willing to destroy those who do not listen is not of God. Judge it. Back in the Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego days it was Nebuchadnezzar. He was the spirit of an anti-god or antichrist. His persona was destructive and murderous. Watch out for one who comes in the name of God and destroys and murders those who do not worship him or believe his words! Whom did Jesus kill for not believing Him? He chastised them through His Word. There will be one whom people will believe is the true Christ:

*“And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. And he doeth great wonders, **so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, And deceiveth them** that dwell on the earth by [the means of] those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.” Re 13:12-14*

Do you see the importance of knowing what God will and will not do? Fire from heaven wasn't, isn't and won't be from God. (See Addendum) You can mark Jesus' Words on it!

What happened to all the other believers in Jehovah, besides Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego? They must have blended in with their surroundings much like chameleons. Chameleons, though they have a backbone, do not take a stand but keep their bellies to the ground in weak submission. Do you blend or stand?

None of these men hid their faith but proclaimed it openly and boldly. Through the flood, lions, fire, even a giant in the case of David, great men have gotten through because they walked their faith and didn't try to escape faith. They were not escapists looking for a rapture or the easy button. They were the armor clad courageous few willing to follow Jehovah no matter where or at what cost.

A good stand of faith doesn't come by accident. Escapist mentality is not that for which Jesus is coming back.

“Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith (fidelity, faithfulness, the character of one who can be relied on) on the earth?” Luke 18:8

I'll bet you think I am against people who believe in a pre-tribulation rapture of the church. Well you would be incorrect. I am against the mentality of escaping the hard times because we're too puny to withstand any adversity coming our way. That kind of mentality won't get you raptured pre, mid or post. It will get you trampled over by the enemy.

Living your faith isn't the easy road. Many of my students complain that the work is too hard. One of my lessons in fourth grade is that the word *hard* isn't a bad word. **Hard is good!** Hard makes us stretch and grow. There really is no easy button. When students

don't learn as they grow up they are lacking as adults. We have a responsibility to find out who we are as Christians and what is expected of us.

Seeking the Word isn't solely up to the pastors for the sermon's sake. We too need to be seekers to be the witness for which we have all been called. It is impossible to go into all the world preaching the gospel without the gospel. What **is** hard for the Believers is when we're too busy trying to save the church because it's too weak to stand! Of course we in the church need to support the saints daily in prayer because of this struggle called life. I don't mean to suggest that the church is without problems, however, we should be able to armor up and having done **all...stand** from the practice of living our faith. Babies learn to crawl, balance, stand and then walk. The church learns to crawl and figures it can still get where it's going so the crawling continues. We should be those on the battlefield helping the wounded outside the church that need converting or training the newer converts to stand. We are the safe house for those outside to come for healing and safety. We should be prepared to aid in times of distress instead of being the distressed, impotent and in need of finding out God's plan all too late.

We prepare by listening to the Spirit of the Lord, for nothing will happen but that He has told it to His people.

"But doesn't preparing mean a lack of faith?" Did preparing mean a lack of faith when Joseph stockpiled in the days of plenty to have in the time of famine? God warned the people of hard times. They were not raptured out of them but found themselves in the middle of a famine. Fortunately they received the man of God (Joseph) and received the reward by being prepared. What was the reward? Having food throughout the famine! A plan of rescue to sustain them was the reward!

"He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward." Mt 10:41

God always warns His people; His people don't always listen.

"Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets." Amos 3:7

Listening is what prayer is about. Less talking and more listening to the Spirit of God **is** prayer. This is just my own observation, but I have noticed that escapists will talk about prayer by flipping out the words, *"Just pray about it,"* yet do very little themselves in praying. If prayer will save them from distresses, I should think them in constant prayer; yet they will leave this to the intercessors, an "office" for which they have not been called. Besides these: Noah, Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, and Daniel, who were in the middle of perilous times, were saved by their righteousness.

"Though Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, as I live, saith the Lord GOD, they shall deliver neither son nor daughter; they shall but deliver their own souls by their righteousness." Ezek 14:20

These men were **in it** not raptured out of it because they prayed difficulty away. You **cannot** pray for Bible prophecy to just go away, but you may pray for the strength to

withstand as it unfolds. You may not pray that you do not have to take up the cross because it's scary or too hard. You may pray, however, to have the strength of integrity and *"take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand."* Eph 6:13

We, as Christians, are told to be sober and vigilant because we have an adversary who wishes to devour if possible. That Scripture was not directed for those poor souls left behind following the rapture of the church. We have preparation and work in order to make it through difficult times in which we live. What would have happened had Noah not built the ark, or if Joseph had not saved back the grain?

It seems to boil down to:

*"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that **overcometh** will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God."* Re 2:7

overcometh // *nikaw // nikao // nik-ah'-o // AV – overcome, conquer, prevail, get the victory, of Christians that hold fast their faith even unto death against the power of their foes, temptations and persecutions.*

Overcoming will not happen by accident. Faith won't suddenly have muscles built if atrophy has set in for lack of use. The atrophy of the spirit has no power against the enemy and is certainly not prepared for **flight**! The enemy is able to see the Ephesians' spiritual armor and see whether it is in place or not. Satan can also see the naked in the spiritual realm!

"And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye? And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded." Acts 19:15-16

You have heard the saying, "You're so heavenly minded that you're no earthly good." This has nothing to do with faithfulness in the Lord. You cannot be too faithful, but you can be too busy even on church committees, functions and programs to hear God, pray, or spend any quality time with Him. As a Christian schoolteacher, I can tell you that many of my students pray to have time with their parents who are too busy in the church to spend the necessary time it takes to raise them. Many Christian parents belong to several "Christian" functions and committees and are so heavenly minded that their children are left to grow on their own by their peer's influences. I am not saying that it's wrong for the church to socialize **unless** the church merely becomes a social function.

"Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth." 2 Tim 3:4-7

When Christianity becomes a social function or religious routine anything can happen from the bondage of stringent rules as the Pharisees exacted or loose enough to find pagan base sin perverting the altars. We need to search out the Word, for it is our roadmap to life and without it we stray until we wake up one fine day famished for Truth because we have none.

“And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find it. In that day shall the fair virgins and young men faint for thirst.” Amos 8:12-13

People take food for granted until it dries up. People take for granted their *access* to the Word until it's removed from them. The Word passes them by like the signs of the times, going unnoticed until the oil in their lamp is dry and Word no longer lights their path to see clearly!

*“Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.
And five of them were wise, and five were foolish.
They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them:
But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.
While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.
And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.
Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.
And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.
But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that **sell, and buy** for yourselves.
And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.
Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us.
But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.
Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.” Mt 25:1-13*

Little did the virgins know that it was no longer lawful to buy or sell...and nobody from which to purchase (oil) the Word of the Living God!!

I cannot boast nor can any that we know when the Lord will come, but I think it most dangerous to believe that we should prepare for nothing, watch for nothing, be aware for nothing, because we are **going up**. Going up with no fuel, yeah right. Try it some time with your car and see how far you get. Here's a thought, Virgins, be prepared for the trials of post tribulation. Have your spiritual muscles primed and ready, and if Jesus comes pre-tribulation don't argue, JUST GO!

Remember:

*“Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them.
And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants.” Luke 12:37-38*

Jesus never spoke an idle Word. Every Word spoken by Jesus has meaning. So read *Luke 12:38* again. Now for the pop quiz: What happened to the first watch? We know there must be a first watch for there to be a second or third watch, yet no consideration is for the first watch. There’s no **“if he comes in the first watch.”** Jesus never spoke carelessly or forgot and left it out. So I don’t consider the first watch. The first watch is an assumption just like pre-tribulation rapture.

Watch φυλακή/*phulakē/foolak-ay'* a guarding or (concretely guard), the act, the parson; figuratively the place, the condition, or (specifically) the time (as a division of day or night), literally or figuratively: - cage, hold, (im-) prison (-ment), ward, watch. (i.e. a period of time during which part of the guard was on duty, and at the end of which others relieved them. As the earlier Greeks divided the night commonly into three parts, so previous to the exile, the Israelites also had three watches in the night. A fourth watch was adopted from the Romans.)

Jesus had a first coming in Bethlehem, and there will be a second coming to gather together His bride in the air, but I know nothing about a third snatching for the ones who didn’t make it the first time. He is coming a second time.

We **watch** not knowing which **watch** will be “THE WATCH.” (Say that ten times fast.)

“Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.” Mt 24:42

Watch γρηγορεύω/*grēgoreuō/gray-gor-yoo'-o*; to keep awake, that is, watch (literally or figuratively): - be vigilant, wake, (be) watch (-ful).

In Revelation not watching is addressed to one of the churches:

“And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.

Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God.

Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent.

If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.

Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy.

He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.” Re 3:1-6

Can you just imagine putting all your eggs into the pre-tribulation basket and being unprepared for rough times? When those rough times are here what will happen to the faith? I can tell you. Those eggs will be given to any false leader with a plan and having power. Why not? “After all God has failed us. He didn’t come back like He said!” will be the cry. Those eggs will be boiled slowly and turn hardboiled and stiff necked to believe Truth from then on. Some may come into Truth at a late date but be no match for the crisis they face and are unable to stand.

Are you able to fathom all those who have been persecuted for righteousness sake, tortured or killed in cruel fashion? Where was their rapture? Go back to the times of Nero or as close as Hitler or Saddam Hussein. Go back to the disciples after the death of Jesus when there was a bloodbath of persecution of the saints of God. How do you tell these dear saints not to worry for they will be raptured out?

There are many who believe in pre-tribulation rapture who are hard-working faithful ones and servants. These are not escapists but faithful. My prayer for them is that their faith will not fail if they remain here for more than they have believed. This calls for the patience of the elect. We need to settle it in our hearts to serve God and not **wait for** the Lord but **wait upon** the Lord.

*“Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall:
(weenies)*

But they that wait upon (serve) the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.” Is 40:30-41:1

You want to fly away O’ Glory? You want to soar and renew your strength and not be a weary weenie? Then you need to be **waiting upon** the Lord. No, I didn’t say **wait for** the Lord; I said **wait upon** Him. You know, serve Him. Do not sit paralyzed waiting for Him to take you out of this mess. You, be busy about the Lord’s work, and that’s when you can soar like the eagle.

Here is a quick language lesson from fourth grade language.

Wait on: means to serve

Wait for: to wait in a stationary, fixed place, not moving

We aren’t in a stationary stand, frozen, waiting for the Lord to come. We are serving Him from now to His return. **We are serving Him.** Did you get that? God is not our waiter listening for the servant’s bell to make life easy nor are we to sit waiting for our needs to be met. We are not sitting dormant letting all of our potential rust or wither to nothing. Go back to the lessons of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego or Daniel, and take a closer look.

Dan 3:13-25:

13 Then Nebuchadnezzar in his rage and fury commanded to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego. Then they brought these men before the king.

14 Nebuchadnezzar spake and said unto them, Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, do not ye serve my gods, nor worship the golden image which I have set up?

15 Now if ye be ready that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the image which I have made; well: but if ye worship not, ye shall be cast the same hour into the midst of a burning fiery furnace; and who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?

If you don't call a fiery furnace a trial or tribulation, then all I can believe is that your literature comes out of the *Mighty Marvo* comics and reality is not something you deal in. This fiery furnace wasn't a wee campfire but a two-story furnace. Again I ask you where was their rapture? They **did** get thrown into the furnace! They faced their trial and lived through it.

16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter.

17 If it be so, our God whom we SERVE is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king.

18 But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

They were not careful to answer. There is no confusion of thought here, which is the problem Christians have when compromising what God has said. Christians know what is right to do...**JUST DO IT!** Quit conning yourself and fain confusion as an excuse for not obeying God.

19 Then was Nebuchadnezzar full of fury, and the form of his visage was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego: therefore he spake, and commanded that they should heat the furnace one seven times more than it was wont to be heated.

20 And he commanded the most mighty men that were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace.

21 Then these men were bound in their coats, their hosen, and their hats, and their other garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

22 Therefore because the king's commandment was urgent, and the furnace exceeding hot, the flame of the fire slew those men that took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego.

23 And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

24 Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, and spake, and said unto his counselors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king.

25 He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.

These men didn't need to try to figure out what to say or do. They knew who they were. You know, if someone called me by name I'd turn, recognizing my name. I don't stand there in confusion wondering who I am. Apply this same thing to the name Christian. When you hear the Word of Truth respond to it if your name is Christian.

The name Christian has become such a commonplace word that we have no understanding of who we are. Maybe we should call ourselves Confusions since that's what we respond to more aptly. I've never seen a people who look for more loopholes **out** of their faith than American Christians. I've seen pagans more faithful. Now, one thing American Christians have going for them is the ability to judge. There is no need to wait the span of a blink of the eye before we are willing to bring down the judgment gavel on someone else. We have a talent for judging the sin outside ourselves while the inside is something less tackled.

“And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?

Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye?

Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.” Mt 7:3-5

This is a true story: My dad worked as a case manager for the Welfare Dept. One day he was talking to a particular disheveled looking man from the streets with a few teeth still left in his mouth. In the course of the conversation my dad noticed an overwhelmingly foul odor. It didn't take a rocket scientist to figure what “stinketh.” The man probably hadn't bathed in many moons and only God knew when he had last changed his clothes. The man finally left, and Dad went over to open a nearby window when he noticed a big wad of “doo doo” on the bottom and side of his shoe! Voila, the odor! So the next time you think to judge remember this: ***He That Stinketh Just Might Be YOU!*** We need to learn to be quicker at obeying God's Word and slower to judge others. Better still, judge your own self, first, last and always. We need accountability to take care of our own stinky faults and stop making excuses for not being diligent to live uprightly. Daniel made no excuses for living below faith but lived his faith. Take a look:

Dan 6:10-22:10

*Now when **Daniel knew that the writing was signed**, he went into his house; and **his windows being open in his chamber** toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.*

Daniel wasn't hiding behind closed windows confused over his witness or who he was. Nor was he begging God for the rapture to take him away. He didn't look for a loophole for faith.

11 Then these men assembled, and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God.

12 Then they came near, and spake before the king concerning the king's decree; Hast thou not signed a decree, that every man that shall ask a petition of any God or man within thirty days, save of thee, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions? The king answered and said, The thing is true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not.

13 Then answered they and said before the king, That Daniel, which is of the children of the captivity of Judah, regardeth not thee, O king, nor the decree that thou hast signed, but maketh his petition three times a day.

14 Then the king, when he heard these words, was sore displeased with himself, and set his heart on Daniel to deliver him: and he laboured till the going down of the sun to deliver him.

15 Then these men assembled unto the king, and said unto the king, Know, O king, that the law of the Medes and Persians is, That no decree nor statute which the king establisheth may be changed.

*16 Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions. Now the king spake and said unto Daniel, **Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee.***

You can see he wasn't **waiting for** the Lord. He was **waiting upon** the Lord in service.

17 And a stone was brought and laid upon the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet, and with the signet of his lords; that the purpose might not be changed concerning Daniel.

18 Then the king went to his palace, and passed the night fasting: neither were instruments of musick brought before him: and his sleep went from him.

19 Then the king arose very early in the morning, and went in haste unto the den of lions.

*20 And when he came to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice unto Daniel: and the king spake and said to Daniel, O Daniel, **servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions?***

21 Then said Daniel unto the king, O king, live for ever.

22 My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.

I have never believed, as a Christian, that we have evolved, but I see that I was dead wrong. We **have** evolved and poorly from the first church who gave their lives for their belief. We've trickled down to the dormant seed of Abraham. We don't get enough watering in the either Word or Son-shine. We're hidden under a bushel, and no light from us illuminates. We come out from the bushel to scream things like, "Not fair!" or "It's my

turn!” or “Why God?” We hold onto this life and lifestyle like it is the prized possession we are after. We love living in a world we’ve made for ourselves but keep God close enough for safety, just not too close to interfere with our poor, compromising choices. We can’t give up lifestyles, habits or comforts of this world especially for that little unseen thing called faith.

“He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.” Mt 10:39

People can find many things to live for but nothing for which they are willing to die. These Bible illustrations of the faithful who knew whom they were and what they believed had something worth more to them than their lives...faith. When that is the case for all of us, we will be ready to meet Him in the air and not before. Trust me, if Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego had been weenies, we would have read about the largest weenie roast ever instead of the testimony of what God can do! We are surrounded by the testimony of the faithful, and we need to digest it, run toward it and not try to escape it.

*“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds. **Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.**” Heb 12:1-4*

Here I wish to reiterate at the risk of being redundant: You, my dear friend **are** without a doubt in end times. You will end, yes, you will. Your spirit will continue on eternally with the “god” you have chosen. Do not fool yourself into thinking that you serve Jehovah God if you will not believe His Words.

*“Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me. Why do ye not understand my speech? Even because ye cannot hear my word. **Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not. Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me? He that is of God heareth God’s words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God.**” John 8:42-47*

Amazing, how some people say they believe and worship God but have never read His Word. Oh sure, they may sit in a congregation listening about God but have no

experience of spending time with Him. How would you like to go to a banquet of all your favorite foods and delicacies and watch as the pastor eats for you then tries to describe how great it tasted?

*“O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.”
Ps 34:8*

Notice that **you** must taste to **see**? Job hadn't tasted to know that God was good until Job 42:5-6. *“I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.”*

Job thought he knew God until finally he tasted to see God. Hearing is only a small part of knowing God. How can you believe and trust in whom you do not know? How will a people who hold God as a distant acquaintance be able to withstand the temptations of end times and be caught up in a rapture? I am not sure you are getting the fullness of this yet. Remember Peter? He walked with Jesus and loved Jesus, right? Well he thought so too, but listen to this:

*“Then Peter took him (Jesus), and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee.
But he (Jesus) turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.” Mt 16:22-23*

Peter didn't believe the Word of God. How many times do we not trust God's promises and succumb to stress and fear and think we are followers of God? If we are God's then we believe Him period...end of discussion. It wasn't Noah after all who sunk like a rock but Peter! We too will either trust God and be in the ark of safety or sink. “Well I love God even if I can't always believe His Word for myself and fall into fear or stress.” Hold the phone, Bertha! Did you assume I was giving you an opinion to challenge? It's the Word of the Living God!

“If a man love me, he will KEEP my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

He that loveth me not KEEPETH not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me.” John 14:23-24

Calling yourself a Christian but not living the Word is antonymous and many are fooled. There are very many spiritually naked people who falsely refer to themselves as Christians but do that which is right in their own eyes because they do not know the King of all Kings!

If you don't know The King, you will follow any king. If you don't know “The Truth”, you will follow what sounds good even a lie.

Mt 24:21-31:

21 For then shall be **great tribulation**, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

23 Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not.

24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

25 Behold, I have told you before.

26 Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not.

27 For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

28 For wheresoever the carcase is, there will the eagles be gathered together.

29 Immediately **after the tribulation** of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:

30 And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

31 And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

This set of verses leaves out the guesswork of us needing to look for Jesus when He comes so we won't miss Him. He will find us. He will gather us together to Him. You won't need to ask if this is Jesus or if that is Jesus because you will be too busy defying the law of gravity!

Jesus will be coming after great tribulation like has never been or will ever be. Many nations have seen great tribulation down through the centuries and are seeing it today. There will come a tribulation the whole world feels, and not just because of wars and persecutions on earth, but because the very heavens will be shaken.

Great: μέγας/megas/meg'-as big (literally or figuratively, in a very wide application): - (+ fear) exceedingly, great (-est), high, large, loud, mighty, +(be) sore (afraid), strong, X to years.

Tribulation: λύσις/thlipsis/thlip'-sis pressure (literally or figuratively): - afflicted, (-tion), anguish, burdened, persecution, tribulation, trouble.

We have always counted on the sun, moon and stars to be right in their places without us having to take thought of it, but when the heavens are shaken it will be an unbelievable day of great fear, enough to make men's hearts fail for fear!

“And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; Men’s hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things, which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.” Luke 21:25-27

Now, of course, we should be sober and vigilant of the times, however we have a destiny to fulfill, and it will not be accomplished if we’re watching the clock dreaming of escape. There are some who think God doesn’t need man to fulfill His will, or if one doesn’t take the call another will step in, but read:

“And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none.” Ezek 22:30

Number one: God needed a man to intercede. Number two: he found none. It is very clear by the Scriptures that God uses man and may suffer loss when we do not heed His voice. We may not be replaced! Also another thing to look at is that God is not looking for someone to stop Him. Our battle is not against the Lord. We don’t Ephesians’ armor up to fight Jehovah God off. God is not saying for us to pray in order to stop Him. There is something wrong with this whole translation.

(That I should not בלתי/biltiy/bil-tee' (equivalent to balah/ beliy —as a substantive: 1. wearing out--as an adverb of negation: 2. without, no, not) properly-a failure of, that is, (used only as a negative particle, usually with prepositional prefix) not, except, without, unless, besides, because not, until, etc.: - because un[satiable], beside, but, + continual, except, from, lest, neither, no more, none, not, nothing, save, that no, without.

destroy it) /חשח/shâchath/shaw-khath' A primitive root; to decay, that is, (causatively) ruin (literally or figuratively): - batter, cast off, corrupt (-er, thing), destruction, lose, mar, perish, spill, spoiler, X utterly, waste (-r).

Yes, it is a mouthful! But you do not see God’s name or identity as the destroyer. With the direct translation it shows that destruction was coming unless God could find “one” to stand in the gap to stop it. Remember God watches over His Word to perform it, and *the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much*. There was no one to pray the Word for God to intervene. There are laws set down by God that He adheres to. He will not break His own laws because “*God is not a man that He would lie!*” If you think God can just do anything He wants, then you don’t know His Word as well as you may think. God is not the destroyer, nor is He begging for someone to stop Him as if He were crazed with uncontrollable rage. These definitions say nothing about God destroying. Who is the destroyer?

“The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.” John 10:10

So the Scripture, from Jesus' Words, judge that *Eze. 22:30* is saying that destruction was not stopped because of the failure to find one to stand in the gap building up the hedge. But then it is easier just to believe anything and not really divide the Word of Truth being a workman that needeth not to be ashamed (*2 Tim 2:15*).

Which brings us to the next item to escape: **seeking God**. It's easier to sit back, press the easy button and say, "We don't understand God's ways." We do as the Word says man will do...just collect an earful of words sitting under someone else and choose what we want on our plates. Smorgasbord! Heap up anything you want in those ears and pile on the gravy. Most people would rather eat out than the work to fix something nutritious at home, and when it comes to seeking God takeout is again easier. When we are at home we don't have the time to actually peel potatoes. We just open a box, add water and call it good. We don't have the time to peel back the Word to rightly divide the Truth and have what is real. We let the pastor open the box and add water and call it done for another Sunday morning...Christian duty done.

*"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having **itching ears**; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables."*
2 Tim 4:3-4

Itching κνήθω/knetho/knay'-tho to tickle: - *X itching.*

Ears ακοή/akoe/ak-o-ay' audience, ear, fame, which ye heard, hearing, preached, report, rumor.

(Hearing the most agreeable report, the famous rumor of what has been passed down generation to generation.)

We have come a long way through the translations. It's like the game we played as children called "Telephone." One person whispers a sentence or phrase into the ear of one who passes it by a whisper in another ear and so on and so forth until it comes to the end of the line of ears and is spoken aloud. Funny game because what started out as being said turns into a whole different slant or sentence altogether. This is what Jesus said the Pharisees and scribes did. (It was the occupation of the scribe to print the Word.) The Truth was passed from one ear to the next and so unrecognizable that when **It** became flesh and dwelt among them **He** didn't resemble their famed, religious report. Religious report was rumor at best, and what was not understood was made up.

Today is different. We have the Truth...er...uh...wait a minute...is it the Baptist Truth, Methodist Truth, Lutheran Truth, Catholic Truth, or Jewish Truth etc.? Then if it's Baptist, is it the First or Second Baptist, or if it's Lutheran which synod, but then if it's Catholic which diocese? Truth by any other name is still Truth?

The Lord says an interesting thing:

*"But if from thence thou shalt **seek the LORD thy God**, thou shalt find him, if thou **seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul.**"*

*When thou art in **tribulation**, and all these things are come upon thee, **even in the latter days**, if thou turn to the LORD thy God, and shalt be obedient unto his voice; (For the LORD thy God is a merciful God;) he will not forsake thee, neither destroy thee, nor forget the covenant of thy fathers which he sware unto them.”*
Deut 4:29-31

*“Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the LORD. Seek the LORD and his strength, **seek his face continually**.”* 1 Chr 16:10-11

*“For Ezra had **prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD**, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments.”* Ezra 7:10

*“And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou, LORD, hast **not forsaken them that seek thee**.”* Ps 9:10

*“The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and **seek God**. They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one. Have all the workers of iniquity no knowledge? who eat up my people as they eat bread, and call not upon the LORD.”* Ps 14:2-4

*“The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but **they that seek the LORD shall not want any good thing**.”* Ps 34:10

*“Evil men understand not judgment: but **they that seek the LORD understand all things**.”* Pr 28:5

*“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that He is a **rewarder of them that diligently seek him**. By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.”* Heb 11:6-7

These are not *all* the Scriptures that talk about seeking God.

seek //דָּרַשׁ dârash/daw-rash'- for pursuit or search; by implication to *seek* or *ask*; specifically to *worship*: - ask, X at all, care for, X diligently, inquire, make inquisition, question, require, search, seek [for, out], X surely. *ek-zay-teh'-o*: to *search out*, that is, (figuratively) *investigate*, *crave*, *demand*, (by Hebraism) *worship*: - en- (re-) quire, seek after (carefully, diligently).

Do you see the personality of this word *seek*? This is what we call an action verb not just a state of being. The definition isn't talking about hearing but being active in a search. Hearing is what may spark our faith for faith comes by hearing the Word of God. Our own personal relationship comes from our seeking. Just like the word **seek**, a Christian is not just in a state of being or just existing, but is action and works also.

Now realizing our search, do you believe that being careless about our relationship with the Lord would make us ready to face Him, *O Glory*? Would it make us ready to recognize Him or be able to distinguish His voice? No, we would instead be the Confusions going about asking the opinion of others we deem wiser than ourselves and have to gamble that *they* actually know. What would you base truth upon to judge whether you heard right or not? Would it be the success of the person, intellect, their personality and likeability, that they had their own TV program, their prosperity, or one who has a large following? In answer to the earlier question, Truth is always Truth whether any believe it, adhere to it or know it. Truth is still Truth. Truth is eternal and unchanging with the times. However parts of Truth may become clearer due to the time for their revelation to be made known. No matter what the season, we need to be instant in or out of it.

“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.” 2 Tim 4:2

If you aren't well versed in Truth, how do you preach, reprove, rebuke or exhort in the doctrine? The answer is, you don't. You take the Word and water it down with your opinion, and your failure to produce results. You witness what is familiar which means: God was finished talking in the yesteryears, you don't need to listen anymore and keep repeating what you know over and over. It's remarkable to think the Spirit of the Living God no longer moves! Even an archeologist digs deeper than the surface to uncover mysteries waiting to be found. Not the church though and don't bring up any revelation that is in the Word but unfamiliar! **Heaven Forbid!!**

“Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began,” Rom 16:25

Okay so what does all this have to do with the rapture of the church and being caught up in the clouds? Jesus is coming back for a bride who is looking for Him, awake, ready, one who knows Him and is without spot or wrinkle.

*“That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having **spot**, or **wrinkle**, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.” Eph 5:27*

I understand that nobody enjoys ironing, but we need to iron out and purge out the habits and sins that so easily beset us. We need to stop taking our calling for granted. We seem to think that we have included God into OUR LIVES where we may fit Him in, but it is God who has included man by giving us life for HIS WILL and purpose.

We throw caution to the wind with the idea that, *“Oh well, God will forgive us anyway,”* and then proceed to do *that which is right in our own eyes*. That's the definition for deliberate sin. We're silly enough to believe that God is senile, or He doesn't *really* mean what He says. *“God won't care, He'll love me anyway.”* No, of course we don't say that, but we think it, or act like it. God doesn't wink at sin, and believe me He knows everything hidden.

*“And the times of this ignorance God **winked** at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.”*
Acts 17:30-31

(**winked** υπερείδω/upereidw/hupereido/hoop-er-i'-do/ wink at, to overlook, take no notice of, not attend to)

We are no longer an ignorant people unless we choose to be, because God came to us in the flesh named Jesus. He showed us exactly who He was and is. It is for us to seek Him out and make our calling sure.

*“Wherefore the rather, brethren, give **diligence** to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall.” 2 Peter 1:10*

(**diligence:** σπουδάζω/spoudazo/spoo-dad'-zo; to use speed, that is, to make effort, be prompt or earnest: - do (give) diligence, be diligent (forward), endeavour, labour, study.

Therefore, Church, watch, look, listen and be prepared. Know who you are and the times in which you are living. Seek God, pray and grow. It's well past the time for the church to be armored and ready and not still in pampers crawling about with pacifiers. There is no easy button to push for *Up Up and Away!*

Hey, Buddy You Got The Time?

Or
(What's That Ticking Sound?)

Mt 16:2-3

“When it is evening, ye say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is red. And in the morning, It will be foul weather to day: for the sky is red and lowering. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?”

There's something ticking all right. It is time flying by. Do you hear it? The older you get the faster it flies. All the speed bumps in the road of life are flattened, and it's just full steam ahead.

*“For in those days shall be affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be. And except that **the Lord had shortened those days**, no flesh should be saved: but for the elect's sake, whom he hath chosen, he hath shortened the days.”*
Mark 13:19-20

Shorten κολοβόω/koloboo/*kol-ob-o'-o* to *dock*, that is, (figuratively) *abridge*: - shorten.

Shorten does not mean to take out but to reduce the time frame of the tribulation. I haven't heard whether we were rotating on the axis any faster than yesterday even though it feels like it. Days seemed a lot longer when I was a kid, but then snow was deeper too. (NASA has found that the earthquakes' effect change in the Earth's rotation in both length of day as well as the gravitational field.)

We know about time because it passes everyday. We cannot see the hour or minute hand move while watching, but we know they are for when we glance from time to time the hands have moved as a sign that time has passed. The hands on the prophetic clock are moving too as we see the prophetic hands move from future to fulfillment. Most signs we miss by just ignoring them. You know, everyone has said for years, “*This is the generation in which the Lord will come back.*” It's the same ol' same ol' never changing.

“Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.” 2 Peter 3:3-4

So, are things the same as they have been? There are some definite markers. I do not claim to be a Revelation expert. How, of course, could anyone be when given the fact of John's putting language to things thousands of years before they existed? John had no language for the contraptions of our generation. It's very difficult to put the names of our inventions to his descriptions. But still there are time markers to watch. This is not an exhaustive study, but a small attempt to show you that as the alarm goes off we keep hitting the snooze button.

I. Wormwood: Re 8:10-11

“And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters;

*And the name of the star is called **Wormwood**: and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter.”*

Here is a marker: In 1986 at Chernobyl in the Ukraine, which was part of the U.S.S.R., was the world's worst nuclear meltdown. **Chernobyl is the Russian word for Wormwood!** Coincidence? Well let's see...the Scripture says that people died, and the water became bitter or poison.

Now look at Chernobyl: *“For three weeks the fire spread out of control, sprinkling iodine-131 and other nuclides as far as Scandinavia, Italy, and Britain. In an 18-mile radius around the reactor, Geiger counters found extraordinarily high-level ‘gamma fields’ where the fire's plume brushed the ground. Authorities evacuated 170,000 people, threw up barbed wire, and declared the area a permanent ‘exclusion zone.’*

An estimated 125,000 people in Ukraine have died because of the Chernobyl disaster, and two million have been infected. Disease rates in some regions are three times higher for children than before the accident, and four to five times higher for pregnant women. One million extra cases of cancer are predicted worldwide within 70 years, Ukrainian scientists estimate. Over 200 million people have experienced excess exposure to radiation because of Chernobyl.

Dr. Alexander Rykhlya, director of the department of international scientific and technical cooperation, gave this opinion: ‘My view is that as time passed the medical aftermath will become worse. The peak death rate has not yet been reached. It will be reached after one or two generations.’

Most severely affected was the Gomel region, hit first by the radiation: the thyroid cancer rate there is now about 80 times the world average. ‘The only reasonable explanation,’ writes the Belarus officials, ‘is that it is a direct consequence of the accident at Chernobyl.’

In the most badly affected areas, such as the Gomel area in the south, just over the border from Chernobyl, the cesium-137 surface contamination is more than 1,480 kilobecquerels per square meter, 1,000 times the norm. The normal level of radiation in the soil before the disaster was 1.48 kBq. In these areas the forest looks as though it has been struck by lightning. Efforts are being made to bury radioactive trees, but the financial burden is too great. Only the animals remain. ‘There are large numbers of wild deer, elk

and boar because it is a closed area,' said Professor Alexander Stozharov, director of the Research Institute of Radiation Medicine. 'Some are shot by the guards because they can transmit radiation to the clean zones.'

More than 3 million acres of farmland -an area about the size of Connecticut- is considered lost for a century.

More than nine years after what everybody calls 'the tragedy', Pripyat, the city near Chernobyl, is still dead and deadly. No one can live there-at least for long.

All animals and other foodstuffs that were contaminated by the radiation had to be destroyed. Several tens of thousands of rabbits raised for meat had to be destroyed. Nearly 100,000 reindeer being raised in Europe had to be killed and buried.

Cesium-137 has a half-life of 30 years. As a result when food, containing radiation is eaten, it gets in the muscles and stays for a very long time. It eventually causes cancer.

As the nuclear cloud produced by Chernobyl drifted over the Soviet Union and over Europe, an extraordinary amount of rain fell. The rain brought the radiation from the nuclear cloud onto the soil, the animals, the crops, the trees, and into the rivers. The greater the rainfall, the greater was the amount of radioactivity. These heavy rains greatly increased the magnitude of this horrible disaster. Much of Europe was affected." (From *Wake Up America*) This made the waters bitter! POISON! So what are the chances that this isn't the same Wormwood as in Re 8:10-11? Come on people, what are the chances the world is really round like it states in the book of Isaiah? Of course it's the same! This is another marker.

II. Rumors of wars Mt 24:6-8

*"And ye shall hear of wars and **rumours of wars**: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.*

For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.

All these are the beginning of sorrows."

Here are some **headlines** that made news. Remember that these are wars and RUMORS of wars from June 2003 through January 2007:

Date	Headline
June, 2003	War's New Face
June, 2003	Growing Ballistic Threat Against U.S.
July, 2003	N. Korea Nuclear Threat: "Jane's Defense"
September, 2003	Are We At War Or Not?
December, 2003	Japan Fears North Korean Nukes
January, 2004	Nuclear War Danger Highest Ever?
February, 2004	Islamic Bomb Spreads Over The Globe
April, 2004	Several Nations Pursuing Nuclear Weapons
July, 2004	China To "Practice" Taiwan Invasion--WND
September, 2004	Israel Could Strike Syria
September, 2004	How Should We Deal With Nuclear Terror

November, 2004	Iran Not Only Target Of U.S.-Israel?
January, 2005	Taiwan War Around the Corner
February, 2005	Nukes Everywhere--Should We Be Worried?
March, 2005	Russia's Loose Nukes--Wash. Times
March, 2005	War Between Israel, Iran, and Syria?
June, 2005	The Cost of the War on Terror
July, 2005	China Wants War--NewsMax
July, 2005	China Stocks Nukes as Anti-U.S. Tactic
August, 2005	Russian-Chinese War Games Message to U.S.--Wash.Times
October, 2005	The War for the Free World
October, 2005	The West's Last Chance
December, 2005	Iranian Cleric: Muslim World Could Nuke Israel
December, 2005	Iran: Preparing for Armageddon?
January, 2006	War Within Range
January, 2006	Israel Confident in Workable Plan to Strike Iran
January, 2006	E-Weapons of the 21st Century
February, 2006	The Nuclear Dots
February, 2006	The Looming War in the Middle East
February, 2006	Playing Poker with Armageddon
February, 2006	Pentagon Plans Blitz on Iran--WND
February, 2006	The Implications of Striking Iran
March, 2006	Israel's Options in Iran--NewsMax
March, 2006	Arab States Urged to Go Nuclear
April, 2006	Iran: The Countdown is for Real
April, 2006	Israel's Spy Satellite a Prelude to War
May, 2006	Israel: Iran Can be Wiped Off the Map, J. Post
May, 2006	China Military Upgrade a Threat to the U.S.
May, 2006	Achmadinejad Threatens Europe
July, 2006	The Case for a Pre-Emptive Strike on N. Korea's Missiles
July, 2006	The Jihadist War Against India
July, 2006	Why China Wants War with America
July, 2006	The Opening Round of Iran's War Against the West
July, 2006	Iran's War
August, 2006	Bush Sees no End to War on Terror
August, 2006	How the Soviets Gave the Mullahs the Bomb
November, 2006	Iran Probably Has Germ Weapons
December, 2006	War Warning--Wash. Times
January, 2007	N. Korea calls Deployment of U.S. Stealth Fighters in S. Korea, Act of Agression

Anyone turning on the news knows we are in a nuclear countdown. After WWII no one could imagine with progress and intelligence that the world's leadership would be put into primal hands, and yet here we are once again. This time, however, it is not like the last war's threat because of the progress of nuclear power. Ask yourself what, besides radiation

fallout, damage from a direct hit would do...earthquakes, tsunamis, the earth reeling like a drunk man, the powers of heaven shaken?

III. Luke 21:10-28 (statistics in between these verses)

10 Then said he unto them, Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom:

11 And great earthquakes shall be in divers places,

Date	Location	Mortality Rate	Strength
Jan. 23, 1556	Shansi, China	830,000	~8
July 27, 1976	Tangshan, China	2,550,001	7.5
Aug. 9, 1138	Aleppo, Syria	230,000	n.a.
Dec. 26, 2004	northern Sumatra	225,000+	9
Dec. 22, 856	Damghan, Iran	200,000	n.a.
May 22, 1927	Xining, Tsinghai, China	200,000	7.9
Dec. 16, 1920	Gansu, China	200,000	7.8
Mar. 23, 893	Ardabil, Iran	150,000	n.a.
Sep. 1, 1923	Kwanto, Japan	143,000	7.9
Oct. 5, 1948	Turkmenistan, USSR	110,000	7.3
Dec. 28, 1908	Messina, Italy	70-100,000	7.2
Sep. 1290	Chihli, China	100,000	n.a.
Oct. 8, 2005	Pakistan	80,361	7.6
Nov. 1667	Shemakha, Caucasia	80,000	n.a.
Nov. 18, 1727	Tabriz, Iran	77,000	n.a.
Dec. 25, 1932	Gansu, China	70,000	7.6
Nov. 1, 1755	Lisbon, Portugal	70,000	8.7
May 31, 1970	Peru	66,000	7.9
May 30, 1935	Quetta, Pakistan	30-60,000	7.5
Jan. 11, 1693	Sicily, Italy	60,000	n.a.
1268 AD	Silicia, Asia Minor	60,000	n.a.
Jun. 20, 1990	Iran	50,000	7.7
Feb. 4, 1783	Calabria, Italy	50,000	n.a.

and famines,

5th century AD

Famine in Western Europe associated with the Fall of Rome

14th century

1315-1317 Great famine in Europe

1333-1337 Famine in China

16th century

1567-1570 Famine in Harar in Ethiopia, combined with plague

1590s Famines in Europe

17th century

1618-1648 Famines in Europe caused by Thirty Year War

1630-1631 Famine in India

1696-1697 Famine in Finland

18th century

1740-1741 Famine in Ireland

1770-Famine in Bengal

1783 famine in Iceland caused by volcanic eruption

19th century

1816-1817 Famine in Europe (Year Without a Summer)

1830-Tenpo famine in Japan

1845-1849 Irish Potato Famine

1846-1857 Highland Potato Famine in Scotland

1866 famine in India (Bengal and Orissa)

1866-1888 Famine in Finland

1879 Famine in Ireland

1876-1879 Famine in India, China, Brazil, Northern Africa
(and other countries)

1888-1892 Ethiopian Great famine. Conditions worsen
with cholera outbreaks (1889-92), a typhus epidemic, and a major smallpox
epidemic (1889-90).

1896-1897 Famine in northern China

1896-1902 Famine in India

20th century

1914-1918 Mount Lebanon famine during World War I

1921-Famine in Russia

1928-1929 famine in northern China

1933-Famine in Ukraine (Holodomor), other parts of
Russia, Kazakhstan and Caucasus area (7-10,000,000 fatalities) genocide

1941-1942 Famine in Greece caused by Nazi occupation

1943-Famine in Bengal

1944-Famine in the Netherlands during World War II

1945-Famine in Vietnam (2,000,000 fatalities)

1959-1961 Great Leap Forward / Three Years of Natural Disasters (China); this

famine is considered the greatest famine in history. It killed more people than all the victims counted in List of massacres. Estimates are in the tens of millions.

1968-1972 Sahel Drought

1973-Famine in Ethiopia -failure of the government to handle this crisis led to fall of Haile Selassie and the Derg rule. (21% population lost 60% infants)

1974-Famine in Bangladesh (40,000,000 fatalities)

1984-1985-Famine in Ethiopia

1997-North Korean famine (3.5 million fatalities)

Famine in Sudan caused by war and drought

Famine in Zimbabwe

21st century

2003- famine in Sudan/Darfur (Darfur conflict) (80 infants per day starve to death)

2005-Malawi food crisis (5,000,000 affected)

2005-2006-Niger food crisis (2.4-3.5 million affected)

2006-Horn of Africa food crisis (11,000,000 affected)

and pestilences:

Year	Location	Disease	Misc. Information
1332	India	Bubonic plague	Original location of this pandemic.
1346-1348	World wide	Bubonic plague	
1348-1350	Europe; Marseille France; Tunis North Africa	Bubonic plague	Nearly 1/3 the population of Europe succumbed in the first two years
1349	Norway, Scotland, Prussia, Iceland, and Italy	Bubonic plague	
1351	Russia	Bubonic plague	
1485	England	The Sweat	Transported from Rouen by mercenaries recruited to help establish Henry Tudor. Also called The Swat, New Acquaintance, Stoupe, or Knave know they master.
1508	England	The Sweat	A fast acting disease that many claimed " <i>they were dancing in court at nine and dead at eleven.</i> " An apparently virile 24 hour disease.
1517	England	The Sweat	

1518-1520	Aztec Empire (Mexico)	Smallpox	Brought to the New World with the Spanish, it aided the conquest since the Aztecs didn't have any immunity.
1527-1530	Inca Empire (Peru)	Smallpox	
1539-1540	England	Bubonic plague	Loughborough England has been cited as an example of the many plague outbreaks throughout this time period.
1550-1566	England	Bubonic plague	The population of England may have fallen as much as 6% between 1550 and 1560 due, primarily, to the plague.
1551	England	The Sweat	
1577	Oxford England	goal fever	
1581	York England	goal fever	
1590	Lincoln England	goal fever	
1615	England	a burning fever	Little known of this disease except that it coincided with an outbreak of Hot Ague (fever) elsewhere in England and Europe.
1616	New England	Smallpox	American Indian population is hard hit.
1634-1635	England	Smallpox	
1636	Hereford England	goal fever	
1638	England	unidentified fever	
1649	New England, Boston	Smallpox	Boston especially hard hit.
1657	Boston	Measles	
1660-1661	England	unidentified fever	
1666	London England	Bubonic Plague	Last great outbreak.
1666	New England	Smallpox	
1678	New England	Smallpox	
1687	Boston	Measles	
1690	New York (city)	Yellow Fever	
1711	Europe, especially Northern Europe	Plague	Source: World Almanac 1994
1713	Boston	Measles	
1729	Boston	Measles	
1732-33	World wide	Influenza	

1738	South Carolina	Smallpox	
1739-40	Boston	Measles	
1747	CT, NY, PA, SC	Measles	
1759	North America	Measles	Mostly areas inhabited by white people
1761	North America & West Indies	Influenza	
1772	North America	Measles	
1775	North America	<i>unknown</i>	Especially hard in New England
1775-76	World wide	Influenza	One of worst flu epidemics
1783	Delaware (Dover area)	Bilious Disorder	Extremely fatal
1788	Philadelphia & NY	Measles	
1793	Vermont	Influenza and a "putrid fever"	
1793	Virginia	Influenza	Killed 500 people in 5 counties in 4 weeks
1793	Philadelphia	Yellow Fever	Over 4,000 dead
1793	PA (Harrisburg & Middletown)	many unexplained deaths	
1794	Philadelphia	Yellow Fever	
1796-97	Philadelphia	Yellow Fever	
1798	Philadelphia	Yellow Fever	One of the worst
1803	New York City	Yellow Fever	
1820-23	USA	"fever"	Starts on the Schuylkill River in PA and spreads across the nation
1831-32	USA	Asiatic Cholera	Brought by English immigrants
1832	New York & other major cities	Cholera	
1833	Columbus OH	Cholera	
1834	New York City	Cholera	
1837	Philadelphia	Typhus	
1841	USA	Yellow Fever	Especially severe in the South
1847	New Orleans	Yellow Fever	
1847-48	World wide	Influenza	
1848-49	North America	Cholera	
1849	New York City	Cholera	Over 4,000 dead in NYC during 1848
1850	USA	Yellow Fever	
1850-51	North America	Influenza	

1851	Coles Co IL	Cholera	
1851	The Great Plains	Cholera	
1851	MO	Cholera	
1852-53	USA	Yellow Fever	Nearly 8,000 die in New Orleans during the summer
1854	Corpus Christi TX	Yellow Fever	
1855	USA (many parts)	Yellow Fever	
1857-59	World wide	Influenza (one of disease's greatest epidemics)	
1860-61	PA	Smallpox	
1862-63	Southern California	Smallpox	Many Native American Indians and Mexicans died
1865-73	Philadelphia, NY, Boston, New Orleans, Baltimore, Memphis & Washington DC	A series of recurring epidemics of Smallpox, Cholera, Typhus, Typhoid, Scarlet Fever, Yellow Fever	
1873	AL	Cholera	Moved along the railroad lines from Huntsville to Birmingham and Montgomery as these cities industrialized
1867	Indianola, Galveston, Corpus Christi TX; New Orleans LA	Yellow Fever	Over 3,00 perish in New Orleans alone
1873-75	North America & Europe	Influenza	
1878	New Orleans	Yellow Fever	Last great epidemic of the disease; over 13,000 die in the Mississippi Valley alone
1878	Northern NJ (elsewhere?)	Diphtheria	Occurred in the Spring.
1883	AL	Yellow Fever	
1885	Plymouth PA	Typhoid	Untold millions have died worldwide
1886	Jacksonville FL	Yellow Fever	
1895-?	Washington DC	Malaria	World Health Organization states 2.7 million still die each year 2,800 children per day. The sad thing is it is preventable!

1898	Cuba	Yellow Fever	Spanish-American War; the disease took over 5,000 soldiers (only 968 died in combat!) in just July & August
1916	USA	Polio (infantile paralysis)	Over 7,000 deaths and more than 27,000 cases reported in America's worst polio epidemic
1918	World wide	Spanish Influenza (1918 was the high point year)	Deadliest plague killing 50 to 100,000,000
1941	Australia	Rubella (German Measles)	This disease was once considered one of the least troublesome childhood diseases.
1952	USA	Polio	3,300 dead and over 57,000 cases reported
1962-65	World wide	Rubella (German Measles)	Affected as many as 12.5 million causing deafness, blindness; approximately 30,000 babies in USA alone due to maternal rubella
1981-Present	World wide	AIDS/HIV	This pandemic is now known to have "jumped" from monkeys to humans several times before but died out; this time, however, transportation and unsafe sexual practices helped the disease to spread
2004-Present	World wide	Avian Influenza	?

Also look at Re 6: 8. One of the causes of death would be from beasts of the earth. ***“And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the BEASTS of the earth.”*** Re 6:8 Beasts of the earth are responsible for most disease. (Here are just a few diseases from wildlife: rabies, hantavirus, trichinosis, encephalitis, lyme disease, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, Colorado tick fever, tularemia, relapsing fever, etc., plague, murine typhus fever, leptospirosis, salmonellosis, rickettsialpox, histoplasmosis, ornithosis,

fish tuberculosis, erysipelothrix rhusiopathiae, mad fish disease, bird flu, swine flu, dengue fever, lassa fever, SARS, HIV, mad cow, ebola, avian flu, influenzas, foot and mouth disease, monkeypox, West Nile, smallpox, horse disease, bubonic plague and most all the epidemics and pandemics mentioned above.)

*and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven.
12 But before all these, they shall lay their hands on you, and persecute you,
delivering you up to the synagogues, and into prisons, being brought before kings
and rulers for my name's sake.*

You and I have no imagination for the atrocities the demonic mind can conceive. *Foxes Book of Martyrs* tells of the many tortures done to the Christians who did not recant their faith. I want to share only one paragraph, for it is probably more than your stomach will allow, but necessary for you to understand the depth of the faith of the early church as compared to today's Christian who dabbles with the faith. The early church believed their souls were more important than their bodies.

Foxes Book of Martyrs: "Half strangling, and recovering the persons again repeatedly. Rolling sharp wheels over the fingers and toes. Pinching the thumbs in a vice. Forcing the most filthy things down the throat, by which many were choked. Tying cords round the head so tightly that the blood gushed out of the eyes, nose, ears, and mouth. Fastening burning matches to the fingers, toes, ears, arms, legs, and even the tongue. Putting powder in the mouth and setting fire to it, by which the head was shattered to pieces. Tying bags of powder to all parts of the body, by which the person was blown up. Drawing cords backwards and forwards through the fleshy parts. Making incisions with bodkins and knives in the skin. Running wires through the nose, ears, lips, etc. Hanging Protestants up by the legs, with their heads over a fire, by which they were smoke dried. Hanging up by one arm until it was dislocated. Hanging upon hooks by the ribs. Forcing people to drink until they burst. Baking many in hot ovens. Fixing weights to the feet, and drawing up several with pulleys. Hanging, stifling, roasting, stabbing, frying, racking, ravishing, ripping open, breaking the bones, rasping off the flesh, tearing with wild horses, drowning, strangling, burning, broiling, crucifying, immuring, poisoning, cutting off tongues, noses, ears, etc., sawing off the limbs, hacking to pieces, and drawing by the heels through the streets." **These were not the worst portrayals.**

Nero 64 AD: The Great Fire destroys much of Rome; the emperor Nero blames Christians, and persecution ensues. Paul and Peter are martyred in Rome.

Domitian 96 AD: Persecution of Christians short lived but violent.

Trajan 98-117 AD: Christianity was illegal and punished by Law.

Hadrian 117-138 AD: Christianity made marked progress in numbers regardless of persecutions.

Antoninus Pius 138-161 AD: favored Christians but upheld the law. Polycarp was one of many martyrs.

Marcus Aurelius 161-180 AD: Persecution of Christians in Rome renewed by this emperor; a "martyr cult" develops within Christianity.

Maximin 235-238 AD: Prominent Christian leaders killed.

Decius 249-251 AD: resolved to exterminate Christianity killing in Rome, North Africa, Egypt and Asia Minor. "The whole world is devastated."

Valerian 253-260 AD: Aimed at utter destruction of Christianity...worse than Decius.

Diocletian 284-305: This was the last Imperial persecution and most severe. Ten years Christians were hunted in cave and forest; they were burned, thrown to wild beasts, and put to death in the cruelest ways devised. It was a systematic attempt to abolish the Christian name.

610 AD Muhammad starts a new religion, Islam, in Arabia. Mohammedanism is a religion born of hatred, which encouraged slavery and the degradation of women. It is a religion of the sword.

630 AD: Mecca falls to Mohammed's army.

632 AD: Muhammad dies, but the word of the Koran, maintaining "There is no God but Allah and Mohammed is his messenger," spreads.

638 AD: Jerusalem is overtaken by Islamic forces; at century's end, Islam has spread across all of North Africa and Egypt.

1291 AD: Muslims seize Acre, the last Christian stronghold in Palestine.

1206-1227 AD: Genghis Kahn headed armies burning down 50,000 cities and towns, killing 5,000,000 and butchering 630,000 Christians.

1336-1402 AD: Tamerlane followed Genghis Kahn in a hurricane of destruction. His trademark was to build a pile of heads at the city gate. Bagdad had 90,000 heads piled at the gate.

1483 AD: During Spain's Torquemada Inquisition, 2,000 heretics are executed.

(Papacy killings of many believers) The papacy started out not as a church but a witness to Christ, however being founded in the Roman Empire gradually became a world political power. The first Pope, meaning "papa", "father", was 500 AD. "The years between Pope Nicolas I 858 AD and Pope Gregory VII were 200 years called 'Midnight of The Dark Ages' for the corruption, immorality and bloodshed. Because of the papal murders John XII, Leo VIII, and Boniface VII were referred to as "monsters of guilt, reeking in blood and filth; Anti-Christ sitting in the temple of God." **1198 AD Pope Innocent III** claimed to be the Vicar of Christ, Supreme Sovereign over the Church and world. "**All things on earth and in heaven and in hell are subject to the Vicar of Christ.**" Many were branded as heretics and liable to be tortured without knowing the name of their accuser. Many were imprisoned for life or burned during the Inquisition. Multitudes of Christians were killed in Spain, Italy, Germany and the Netherlands. Halley's quotes, "Think of Monks and Priests in holy garments, with heartless cruelty and inhuman brutality, the work of torturing and burning alive innocent men and women, and doing it in the name of Christ, by the direct order of the 'Vicar of Christ'. The INQUISITION was the MOST INFAMOUS and DEVILISH thing in human history. It was devised by Popes, and used by them for 500 years, to maintain their power. For its record none of the subsequent line of 'Holy' and 'Infallible' Popes

have ever apologized.” There are more unbelievable horrors through the years of papacy than this book could contain. Halley’s Bible Handbook 1959 publication has documented all the papal history. Halley remarks that 666 means Latin Kingdom. He further makes reference to the antichrist coming through the papacy and made note to there being two Pope John XXIII, in 1410-1415 and one in 1958-1963...interesting. Another of Halley’s quotes referring to Pope Innocent III, “More blood was shed under his direction, and that of his immediate successors, than in any other period of church history, except papacy’s effort to crush the Reformation in the 16th and 17th centuries. One would think Nero, the Beast, had come to life in the name of the lamb.” The papal history is worth the time reading. (also Foxes Book of Martyrs) It is a real eye opener!

1648 AD: The Thirty Years' War, between Catholics and Protestants, ends.

1859 AD: Charles Darwin publishes *The Origin of Species*, which conflicts with the biblical version of creation. (Birth of Secular Humanism attacking Christian faith.)

1939-1945 AD: In World War II Holocaust, six million Jews are put to death.

(Jesus would have been addressing those Jews who were believers and followers of His...those who became Christians. Those who had been gentiles but grafted in as Christians shared in part of the persecutions.)

13 And it shall turn to you for a testimony.

14 Settle it therefore in your hearts, not to meditate before what ye shall answer:

15 For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist.

16 And ye shall be betrayed both by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolks, and friends; and some of you shall they cause to be put to death.

17 And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake.

18 But there shall not an hair of your head perish. (eternally)

19 In your patience possess ye your souls.

Testimonies of Two Kinds of Martyrs:

“Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,

Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.

***Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection:”**Heb 11:33-35*

Martin Luther was given an ultimatum by Pope Leo X. Knowing he was in his final hour, at nine o’clock in the morning, commended his spirit to the Lord in prayer, by which his spirit parted his earthly body most peacefully! **Written to Pope Pius IV by one of the catholic citizens:** "I cannot, my lord, forbear disclosing my sentiments, with respect to the persecution now carrying on: I think it cruel and unnecessary; I tremble at the manner of putting to death, as it resembles more the slaughter of calves and sheep, than the execution of human beings. I will relate to your lordship a dreadful scene, of which I was myself an eye witness: seventy Protestants were cooped up in one filthy dungeon together; the executioner went in among them, picked out one from among the rest, blindfolded him,

led him out to an open place before the prison, and cut his throat with the greatest composure. He then calmly walked into the prison again, bloody as he was, and with the knife in his hand selected another, and dispatched him in the same manner; and this, my lord, he repeated until the whole number were put to death. I leave it to your lordship's feelings to judge of my sensations upon this occasion; my tears now wash the paper upon which I give you the recital. **Another thing I must mention-the PATIENCE with which they met death: they seemed all resignation and piety, FERVENTLY PRAYING to God, and CHEERFULLY encountering their fate.** I cannot reflect without shuddering, how the executioner held the bloody knife between his teeth; what a dreadful figure he appeared, all covered with blood, and with what unconcern he executed his barbarous office."

There are many testimonies of miraculous escapes, and those who went bravely to their deaths just as the Scripture states. Many were the times when the very soldiers forcing Christians to their deaths, put down their swords and fell in line to die with the believers because of their amazing witness. (back to Lu 21: 20...)

20 And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh.

21 Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto.

22 For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled.

23 But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck, in those days! for there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people.

24 And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, **until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.*

(This clock's alarm struck on **May 14, 1948 when Israel was declared a nation in one day!** "Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children." Is 66:8 "And there is hope in thine end, saith the LORD, that thy children shall come again to their own border." Je 31:17 **In 1967 was the six day war that Israel gained Jerusalem.**)

25 And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars;

"In 2004 the Sun was more active than any other time in history, even astronomers and scientists were amazed at the solar activity. Solar flares are increasing all the time, and will only get worse, in fact one of the horrible things during the tribulation is that the Sun becomes so hot and violent (solar flares) that it's heat scorches parts of the earth!" (See Addendum in back)

and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring;

(The earthquake in 2004 generating the infamous killer tsunami from the Indian Ocean was a marker. U.S. Geological Survey estimates that the energy released from it would have been equal to 23,000 Hiroshima-type atomic bombs! At the day's end over 225,000 people were dead or missing and millions from 11 countries homeless. The worst recorded tsunami before 2004 was in 1782 killing 40,000 following an earthquake in the South China Sea. To **compare**, since 1498 the Caribbean has been hit by 37 verified tsunamis and the **combined** death toll was about 9,500 lives. US Geologists said this 2004 tsunami made the earth wobble on its axis and permanently altered the regional map. The smaller islands southeast of Sumatra have moved 20 meters.)

26 Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things, which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. (See Addendum)

27 And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

28 And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.

These are very, very miniscule in part of all the end time signs, but just a taste to wet your appetite to seek the very God for Whom so many are willing to lay down their lives. You, Dearest Reader, may not have such an opportunity as those martyrs, but it is required for you to be a living sacrifice.

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.” Rom 12:1-2

The church has come a long way from its roots. The biggest worry of some evangelists is spending great sums on indulgences they then must keep up. Your god will own you. Wealth isn't a criticism, but it should never become our focus. Many wealthy ministers will argue that money isn't the focus, before they tell you that if you don't send in X amount of dollars, they'll be off the air or can't build their new building etc. Denial is part of the disease to come into the church. “If you send in a “Love” offering we will give you FREE, a bottle of Holy Land water.” If you want to give me something free...JUST DO IT!

“Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me. And when he heard this, he was very sorrowful: for he was very rich. And when Jesus saw that he was very sorrowful, he said, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through a needle's eye, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.” Luke 18:22-25

Notice Jesus didn't say that it was impossible, but if it would be easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle...well, 'nuff said!

One of the criticisms for which Luther wrote was of the Pope Leo X's lavish indulgences. The crux of Luther's astonishment came to a head when a friar, Tetzl, went about for the Pope stating that a person might buy his way out of hell (purgatory). It was Luther's publishing against this that caused him to be accused as a heretic and sentenced to burn. Luther was incensed at the lavishness of the Papal church or any church to be so focused.

Saints of God, we need to look at our hearts in earnest. The Lord doesn't need Towers of Babel. He needs a seeker after His will and not a trivial pursuit which brings me to my next chapter.

Trivial Pursuit

(A Bored Game of the Church in Trouble)

We have all, at some time, played Trivial Pursuit searching our brains for old, forgotten or familiar facts. It's an odd combination of words when you think about it. The word **trivial** means *unimportant, minor, insignificant, slight, trifling, petty, marginal, frivolous, and negligible*. The combination of those words in that definition shows a waste of time. **Pursuit** has more fervor in the meaning, which is: *chase, hunt, search, quest, detection, and tracking down*. So it is an odd mix. Who chases and hunts after the insignificant or unimportant? Religion is the trivial pursuit. It is the chase and hunt after insignificant, man-made guidelines and rules, which set to belief. You know, it's the Tower of Babel still trying to be constructed all over again, for man to build his own way to heaven (man making his own truth).

“Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel.” Mt 23:24

Trivial Pursuit, the board game, is an enjoyable evening with friends and family, but in the church it is a **bored** game and a waste of God's good time. The boredom in its trivial pursuit is tedium of man's devised rules leading to rudimentary, rote and robotic behavior void of love and full of bondage. Almost every move of the Spirit started out well until man found a way to make it better ending in religion. What starts out as alive, ends up as dead filler. I have had to really try to understand that. So I went on a pursuit of my own and not so trivial. I began mentally going through history, and what I discovered was uncanny but true. Try it yourself, and you will probably come up with something I won't have covered.

Just for example, Moses had this burning bush experience and a mighty move of God began. The pursuit of liberty and freedom was no trivial pursuit. The Passover and sea parting were no small happenings even though they are only covered in a few brief paragraphs or pages. This was the beginning of a grand revival. Can you imagine all that was witnessed to these people? Not only that, but they had the manifestation of God's presence in a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night! We are not talking about the ordinary here but the supernatural. How about God personally feeding these people by raining food from the sky! But soon the children of God grew bored, tired and hungry and began whining and complaining. Let the church get hungry and watch out, or let them stand in line at the Piggly Wiggly too long...take a look at the Christian demeanor then! If only the witness of God's Love could be as loudly proclaimed!

Never had God shown Himself so fully and closely before but the result was rejection along with murmurings instead of thankful praise. They made for themselves an artificial god for artificial faith. Artificial is another word for fake. *“I know, let's build an escalator to heaven: Tower of Babel...I know, let's make God in **our** image...No, how about a cow,”* and so on and so forth! Eureka, the name of a new religion being born. *“I have an idea, EUREKA!”* Why have the real thing when we can pursue and chase after the unimportant...the artificial...the fake. Man sings the new praise song, *“Anything You can do I can do better. I can do anything better than You!”*

So the move of God went from the burning bush to a golden calf and other pagans, bouncing back and forth from God to pagans. We go up and down like a Yo-Yo. *Psalms 107:1-43* is the perfect example of the “yo-yo-ness” of man.

The problem with revival and a fresh move of God is that people clamber after the goose bump of the moment, but stop after the feeling instead of continuing the move. They have to stop long enough to build religion, you know, we can improve on the move of God. “Move over God we have the new improved version of the ‘move of God’.” As the years go by those who were once enthralled in revival have a game of Trivial Pursuit in which they try to remember what God had said, but God got lost in the new rules of religion and the shuffle of the deck! If you read in the Book of Judges you’ll find the game of Yatzee. (See other Zahar books, *Identity Theft* and *Stumblingstones and Other Pitfalls*) The lot was used for the voice of God. God’s voice was a roll of the dice, so to speak. I know you may be thinking I’m a bit flip with the Word, however, I am not flip about the Word but about the religion man turned it into. I wouldn’t call Jesus flip when He made His speech to the Pharisees in *Mt 23:13-37*. Those were God’s thoughts on religion. Pharisees are not just those Jews from back in Jesus’ day. I have been a Pharisee myself, as I believe all religious people have until they discover Truth.

What is it that compels us to ruin every move of the Holy Spirit of God? Maybe we are so excited we decide to roll up our sleeves and help. Can you picture a 4 year-old watching Dad paint the living room. The little tike sees what fun it would be to help Dad paint around the windows when Dad isn’t looking. Are you picturing what would happen or the end result of what would happen? It wouldn’t end up as the master painter had planned.

Peter, who had marveled at the mighty things of God, got so excited on Mt. Transfiguration that he shouted, “EUREKA, LET’S BUILD THREE CHURCHES...OH BOY HAVE I GOT A GREAT IDEA!!” I guess we can’t seem to help ourselves, but we surely think we **can** help improving God! Try the New Improved God.

*“And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart,
And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.
And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him.
Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias.
While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased;
hear ye Him.” Mt 17:1-5*

God stopped Peter and said, “Stick with Jesus and keep on moving. Don’t stop here.” It’s not the tower or the tabernacle that is the problem, but the idea of religion that will accompany “the build”.

Not only do we try the New Improved God, but what about Instant God? Why wait for an answer when you can have Instant God. Just cast lots, and you have a definite answer with no muss, no fuss **and** no waiting. *“Why spend needless hours seeking God when hearing is as easy as a toss of the dice? And if you act now, we can send you the ‘lot’*

blown on for good measure by a few holy monks fresh out of the caves of New Guinea.”
Ah yes, we’ve come along way, Baby, all the way back from the pagan days of old.

Our nation started from a mighty move of God and grew from a spark of red-hot desire for a people to worship God in freedom. Pilgrims, whose hearts burned for God, held secret meetings and made plans for freedom. These meetings, however secret, must have been a mighty revival burning in their hearts with conviction for they risked their lives to gather together. You will not risk your life over a trivial pursuit or a trivial anything.

When people move with the Spirit of God things happen and change occurs. Change came as people moved by the Spirit of God and gave birth to a nation. Each great move of the Spirit brings in the great numbers of the hungry; while religion starves the church causing many to vacate because the Spirit has moved on leaving a church to its stagnant condition. When water sits for a long enough time it stagnates and is not drinkable or evaporates to nothing. Jesus talked to the woman at the well about Living Water, not dead, stagnant and unusable water.

*“But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water **springing up into everlasting life.**” John 4:14*

Springing up into life** is jump, leap, continual, expressing motion, perpetual, eternal, forever all life. We are talking about movement! The exhilaration in the Spirit of the pilgrims moved them to change. Change established then stopped, stagnated and religion set in. **Spring up into everlasting life.

In the “Move of God” I am not talking about enormous numbers of people bought through goose bumps and gimmicks by men who have more cunning in advertising and promoting rather than Truth. Religion will make some so starved for Truth that they will see a mirage oasis in the desert and drink pure sand just for the relief of their thirst, yet thirst still without the True Living Water.

In the end there will be a remnant of few to make it through this life, standing with faith intact. How do I come to that conclusion?

*“Esaias also crieth concerning Israel, Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, a **remnant shall be saved:**” Rom 9:27*

remnant/κατάλειμμα/kataleimma/kat-al'-ime-mah a remainder, that is, (by implication) a few: - remnant.

*“Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and **few there be that find it.**” Mt 7:13-14*

Few/ολίγος/oligos/ol-ee'-gos puny (in extent, degree, **number**, duration or value); especially neuter (adverbially) somewhat: - + almost, brief [-ly], few, (a) **little**, short, **small**

Scriptures call God’s people a *remnant* for very few will take the time to seek God’s

face and feel after Him. Few spend the time to just sit and prepare to listen to what the Spirit is saying. There are but few who know God's Word and fewer of those believe it. All in all the number of true believers is not what you would consider the masses.

Because of the trivial pursuit of the church many have sought elsewhere to find their answers and all too many end up in the hands of charlatans or humanism etc. This is a blemish on the church today. **The absolutes of faith have turned into judgment void of love making the church a pillar of haughtiness.** The church of today wouldn't bat an eye to call fire down to consume the liberals, atheists, and the immoral etc. But judgment was called down from heaven, and His name was Jesus. He was a fire of light to guide us, and He took the sins of mankind and crucified them to Himself to set men free. But religion stops the work of the cross and turns the hungry away to drink from the mirages.

There is a movement today for the MEGA church. This movement is called by several names, but is being referred to as the "emerging" church. These types of churches that are *emerging* claim they must first **deconstruct in order to reconstruct** and update faith to our cultures and preferences. The power of these churches is in their numbers, and their roots reach into other denominations and non-denominations.

A church becoming so large as to embrace all religions will not be without power for its size, like a one-world church, becoming so strong and MEGA as to be a government. They strive to get the un-churched by the masses through "*multimedia, the Internet and blogs, which are popular with this predominantly younger generation of Christians. An emphasis on dialogue allows for a generous openness to a plurality (acceptance of diversity) of biblical interpretation with an avoidance of a dogmatic approach to theology found in historical Christianity.*" Instead of witnessing through the Scriptures they have what they call "conversations" or discussions outside the Word of God. They have gotten away from sound doctrine and absolutes to avoid offending. Even though they use Christian rhetoric to appear as Christian but get away from the absolutes with their "open interpretations" to gain the masses.

You can gain the masses if you make it attractive enough for their involvement or find the kiddos from broken homes looking for acceptance. Cults do it all the time. Acceptance of all things *except* judging right from wrong. Though it's true people were drawn to Jesus by His great love, that love did not diminish absolutes. He welcomed all sinners and taught them Truth. He dealt more harshly with leaders (**then** scribes and Pharisees; **today** pastors, elders, deacons, our church leadership) who were sinners undercover and hypocrites. But He also drove the sin out of the House of God. Now in this He took His time to form a whip for all sinners to see Him at task. Jesus gave them the opportunity to leave or stop their sinful practice in the temple. Those who did not pay attention to the Word sitting before them were purged out of the temple. He didn't excuse the sin or reason with it and certainly did not water down the message because He just "loved everybody". Also notice that He did not call down fire to consume them nor put disease on them to teach them but cast them out just as He cast out devils. No one died from the episode.

Those who walked with Jesus changed from their sins. They did not continue living sin out as an option. Though we still make mistakes, deliberate sinning was put to death by the choice to follow Truth...Jesus. When we see a brother slipping we are to warn him.

"Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the

feeble-minded, support the weak, be patient toward all men.” 1 Th. 5:14

Warn/νουθετέω/noutheteō/*noo-thet-eh'-o* to *put in mind*, that is, (by implication) to *caution* or *reprove* gently: - admonish, warn. (From the same as G3559; ADMONITION, ADMONISH nouthesia lit., "a putting in mind" (nous, "mind," tithemi, "to put"), is used in 1 Co. 10:11, of the purpose of the Scriptures; in Eph 6:4, of that which is ministered by the Lord; and in Titus 3:10, of that which is to be administered for the correction of one who creates trouble in the church. Nouthesia is "the training by word," whether of encouragement, or, if necessary, by reproof or remonstrance. In contrast to this, the synonymous word paideia stresses training by act, though both words are used in each respect.

Warning one of error is not what we should abstain from but embrace if you warn as the definition shows. However, if one who calls himself a brother refuses to repent and turn there is another Scripture:

1 Corinthians 5:9-13

9 I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators:

10 Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world.

11 But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.

12 For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? do not ye judge them that are within?

13 But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person.

Cast the wicked, unrepentant from us? Why? The Word declares it in the verses before 9-13 saying in verses 6-8

“Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.”

Is there no hope for that cast out one? The Apostle Paul writes:

“This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare; Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck: Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme.” 1 Tim 1:18-20

WELL, THAT MIGHT DO ‘ER!!!

Acceptance of sin is contagious to the whole body and will run rampant in the

congregation of those susceptible to infection! The emerging church is willing to allow a plague loose if it will bring in multitudes.

Look at the philosophy of the Emergent move. **This is from a site explaining (not criticizing) the New Wave Emergent Move:**

“They seek to deconstruct and reconstruct Christianity in order to meaningfully engage with Western society which is now predominantly post-Christian being themselves proponents of modernism. Creating a safe environment for those with opinions ordinarily rejected within historic orthodoxy to talk and listen freely, as opposed to the dogmatic proclamation found in historic Christianity.”

Emerging Church groups also typically emphasize the following elements:

- *A flexible approach to and continual re-examination of theology which causes them to see faith as a journey rather than a destination, and to accept differences in beliefs and morals.*
- *A belief in creating communities built out of the creativity of those who are a part of each local body.*
- *A holistic view of the role of the church in society. This can mean anything from a higher degree of emphasis on social action, building relationships with the surrounding community, or Christian outreach.*
- *Creative approaches to worship and spiritual reflection. This can involve everything from the use of contemporary music and films to liturgy, as well as more ancient customs and more eclectic spirituality with a goal of making the church more appealing to postmodern people.*
- *Use of the Internet as a dominant medium of communication through various blogs, websites and online videos.*

What are their plans for these masses? One of the prominent figures in this movement tells in his “prophetic” writings how the emerging church will increase to a world power. Inevitably war of a mighty one-world church-nation is the dream to gain control and rule over the world. Oh yes, they use words like love and Christ and much of the familiar sounds of forgiveness etc. You see, they must first win the un-churched by making it non-threatening and non-condemning of sin by preferring Syncretism over Scriptural Truths. *(Syncretism is the attempt to reconcile disparate, even opposing, beliefs and to meld practices of various schools of thought. It is especially associated with the attempt to merge and analogize several originally discrete traditions, especially in the theology and mythology of religion and thus assert an underlying unity.)*

Whatever comes out of their mouths is considered prophetic and, as a matter of fact they have schools to train you to be a prophet. Oh yes, and you may buy “dream cards” so you can tell dreams. Funny, I thought a prophet was a call of anointing placed on one by God. I also thought that God gave the interpretation of **dreams**.

Church, we had better wake up! There is a popular online prophetic “list”, one of which I

will not name, that is full of so called prophets. Many Christians are being duped and sucked into this. I was getting the words from this particular site but little by little the alarm button was sounding. They are very cunning and believable...SO WATCH OUT!

One prominent minister in the emerging church talks about all faiths emerging into a **“Warrior Nation”** having a military force, army, navy, air force etc. He states that the transition has already started, and those who do not comply with this move... **“will not last long in the times ahead.”** (Gulp!) In other words, this is not referring to just spiritual forces to battle as in *Eph 6:12* but to the people who do not join in the ranks of this move. Twice he mentions getting away from doctrine in these words: **“...we will begin to organize more around function and purpose, than the doctrinal emphasis that now often characterize movements and groups within the church.”** And: **“Leaders are starting to gather around common purpose and function, rather than just doctrinal emphasis. As this happens, doctrines that once seemed to conflict with each other will begin to be seen as complementary.”** What is the goal? **“When the church embraces its true calling and begins to reflect its true nature, it will become the most esteemed and desirable nation on earth.”** And finally a closing comment: **“The church will soon become all that she is called to be. When the church does, she will be the most attractive and compelling society found on the earth, a true reflection of the coming Kingdom.”**

Yup, that’s what I always thought, Jesus is coming back for the **most attractive** church. Get real! As I read the entire article of this minister and began to read about these churches the realization hit me, **I** would be the one they were against. I would be the heretic they would be fighting...persecuting. A religious Nebuchadnezzar ready to fuel the flames and throw me in! This is the kind of one world church that would call a believer with absolutes as intolerant and a hate monger. I’d be an offense they would stumble over. Hmmm, a stumbling stone of offense...now where have I heard that before?

“As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion a stumblingstone and rock of offence: and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.” Rom 9:33

“Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.” 1 Peter 2:5

A one-world MEGA church is coming together and no matter what its name, it will not be Jesus. They may do signs and wonders but watch out when they call fire down from heaven. It won’t be falling from the abode of God nor by God. This is just one more reason to know what is *of God*. Elijah called fire down (*2 Kings 1:10*); Jesus rebuked the disciples for wanting to call fire down (*Luke 9:54-55*); the antichrist will call down fire and those who do not know it is not of God will “Ooow and Aaah!”

“And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth,” Re 13:13-14

Earlier I showed the Scriptures talking about a remnant. Have you ever heard of a **MEGA-remnant**? Well of course not! MEGA remnant is an oxymoron, but then so is the “new wave” of the church emerging.

*“The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun. Is there any thing whereof it may be said, See, this is new? **It hath been already of old time, which was before us.**” Ec 1:9-10*

Man makes doctrines he deems new and innovative. There **are** seasons of revelation to be fulfilled, but the Word is not new. Revelation is in the Word ready for the season and time of its divulgence. Anything considered “new” that is not found in Scripture is still as old as paganism. Marketing religion by making it more palatable for the masses to be able to receive the attractive package is not new. You know a gimmick. I have to wonder what the early church used as a gimmick to draw the masses. People don’t need any more gimmicks. They need what’s real and true and honest! They want out of their dark prison of confusion to know Truth that will set them free. They need the “Light of the Word.”

“To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house.” Is 42:7

“Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: when I fall, I shall arise; when I sit in darkness, the LORD shall be a light unto me.” Mi 7:8

“To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.” Luke 1:79

*“But we don’t want to offend anyone.” **Balderdash!*** That’s like saying that the starved person from the desert might turn down the cheeseburger because it wasn’t cooked right! Heaven forbid we should convict a person of sin. The new emerging church would have excommunicated Jesus for the “conversation” to the Pharisees or at least for the “woman at the well” episode. He was absolute. How vague do you think Jesus was with the moneychangers in the temple?

The MEGA remnant is as ridiculous as man building a tower to heaven. Man, like Ford, has a better idea. I have news for the MEGA church. It requires a MEGA road for its MEGA ideas! That MEGA road is nice and wide enough for the masses but leads to destruction.

MEGA is that feel good place that requires no real work except for the gurus who must keep the delusions going to create enough interest for people so they will leave the television long enough for a meeting. The MEGA message is a feel good message without the rigors of piercing the conscience or making anyone face facts. It’s the "Hegelian Dialectic" philosophy dredged up from the 1700s all over again: bringing the social harmony of get-along-ness of all beliefs melded into nothing muchness! You herd people by the masses into a sameness, which compromises the Christian conscience and convictions for the collective whole!

Just like the pyramid scheme the little people at the bottom don’t get all the benefits of the top echelon. And what about the top echelon? What are their goals? Their goal is

for a warrior nation, one world religion for Jesus to come back and rule over...enter the antichrist. They have many names for the emerging church but it is all the same MEGA Move.

Everything in today's society is in the MEGA form. MEGA cars, MEGA houses, MEGA weddings, MEGA meals! I'll take a MEGA meal and super-size that please. We want it big, we want it now, and we want served conformed to specific order. I'll take my righteous pill with an unsweetened iced tea. I don't have time to walk out faith, so my super-sized meal is all I can handle on the go with raising my kids...kids? Hmmm, where **did** I leave those kids?

I have been hearing about mega churches and how this is the wave of the future. People gather from all backgrounds, a massing of multitudes, which come together for the MEGA experience. MEGA signifies thousands and millions. Some believe MEGA multitudes make power, but oddly enough I have only seen in Scripture that **anyone and God** is all the MEGA that is needed. I find that it doesn't take a MEGA army to bring down a giant but a youth with a pebble. It only takes two in agreement to put to flight one thousand or under translation it's "myriads of millions". It is the small on earth that get the action of the MEGA in the heavens. Gideon's army was eliminated in number not added to for power. God is the MEGA to the answer of the little.

The Emergence Move is the shame of the impotent condition of the church playing the "bored" game of Trivial Pursuit or those who have their head in the clouds ready to fly away O Glory! The early church was real with God and had numbers added daily.

Where persecution couldn't kill the faith, the "bored" game of today's Trivial Pursuit in the churches will! Then we shouldn't complain when the false church rises up with power and tells us to put up or shut up. We'd better armor up and buckle in, for the ride will promise to be bumpy, but whether by water or fire or giant OUR GOD REIGNS!

Jesus will come and take His bride one fine day, O Glory. No matter when the hour we want to be ready for flight, but until that time God gives us some encouraging Words:

**“When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee;
and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee:
when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned;
neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.
For I am the LORD thy God,
the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour:”
Is 43:2-3**

Addendum

(Luke 21:25-26)

“And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken.”

The sky *is* falling...is anybody watching? Meteors and asteroids explode in our atmosphere sometimes reaching into the earth. We see fireballs from the sky. From the Old Testament day to now, fire has come from heaven. We remember the account from Sodom and Gomorrah as being rained on from heaven, but here are some archeological facts you need to know as well. Archeologists are of the opinion that the oasis of Sodom was lined with “slime” *Gen 14:10*, bitumen, asphalt, pitch, a lustrous black petroleum product, which melts and burns. There are vast beds of it on both sides of the Dead Sea, more abundant at the south end, and great masses of it at the bottom. Considerable quantities of it have risen to the surface during earthquakes. Under Mt. Usdom there is a stratum of salt 150 feet thick; and above it a stratum of marl mingled with free sulphur. These gases kindled and a great explosion took place. The salt and sulphur were thrown into the heavens red hot, so that it did rain fire and brimstone from heaven. Lot’s wife was encrusted in salt.

In the Old Testament the patriarchs said the fire came from God. Jesus *who is God* tells us this is not so in two Scriptures:

- First Jesus declares that destruction such as fire from heaven is not of God’s Spirit but a different spirit. *“And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command **fire to come down from heaven**, and consume them, even as Elias did? But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of.” Luke 9:54-55*

Rebuke/ ἐπιτιμάω/epitimaō/ep-ee-tee-mah'-o censure or admonish; by implication forbid: - (straitly) charge, rebuke

- *Jesus shows John on the isle of Patmos who is responsible for casting down stars: “And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.” Rev 12:4 (12:9 reveals the dragon as Satan who has cast the stars out of heaven with his tail.)*

These words are not just for an occasion because the Word is eternal and all Jesus’ Words live without end. Jesus is the Word. If Jesus Said it, God said it:

*“When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things.”
John 8:28*

“Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father? Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.” John 14:9-10

Let’s take two accounts of the same incident in the Bible. One incident is reported by Abraham and the other incident by Jesus.

“Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven;” Gen 19:25 (Written by Moses from the patriarchal account passed from Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob etc.)

*“Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; **But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all.**” Luke 17:28-29* (Jesus was there to witness it.)

Both accounts show that it rained fire from heaven. Then we must consider the location of Sodom and the attributes of its soil. *Gen 14:10* tells us that the ground was rich with petroleum *“slimepits.”* Can you imagine anything falling from the sky onto a land rich with flammable petroleum? But fire from heaven whether meteor or other is still the common denominator. Abraham could not have given credit to the LORD however; because LORD is translated JEHOVAH and Abraham did not know the name JEHOVAH. It would have been translated from El Shadday whose etymology is different than Jehovah.

*“And I **appeared (ra’ah)** unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty, but by my name JEHOVAH was I not known to them.” Ex 6:3*

Now in this Scripture is a little word “appeared” which in Hebrew is **ra’ah** meaning, *perceive, regard, consider*. So the word *appear* along with *perceive, regard* and *consider* puts it in a different perspective. This **appears** is more the meaning of *seems*.

“And I (was perceived, was regarded, was considered) unto (or by) Abraham, unto Isaac and unto Jacob, by the name of El Shadday, but by my name Jehovah was I not known to them.”

Harper’s Bible Dictionary 1959, publication) Hebrew word EL: “When waves of Hebrews migrated into Palestine from Mesopotamia in Patriarchal Age (c. 20th-19th centuries B.C. they found Canaanites worshipping EL, the god, ‘generally a remote and shadowy figure, like Sumero-Accadian Anu, god of heaven; or Egyptian Re, the sun-god’ (*Albright, Archaeology and the Religion of Israel*), and a **storm-god son named Shaddai, god of the mountain(s), a word whose etymology is uncertain, but whose root is to ‘act violently,’ indicating primordial strength. The Genesis passages mentioning El Shaddai are often inaccurately translated ‘God Almighty.’”**

Jesus simply said *it* rained and *it* destroyed them. Every pronoun has an antecedent.

What rained? What destroyed? **Fire and brimstone** rained and destroyed. Jesus does not tell us it came from Jehovah. Jesus cannot tell us that “it” was God because He already states that fire from heaven is not God. Jesus uses this catastrophe as a reference, saying that it will be more tolerable on Judgment Day for the people of Sodom since they had less opportunity to repent than those who reject the Truth being presented to them.

Judgment //krisiv // krisis // kree'-sis //- judgment, damnation, accusation, condemnation, a separating, sundering, separation, a trial, contest

Without Jesus blood washing our sins away we are condemned. It is only by that saving grace that we have access to eternity with God. There is one accuser of the brethren, and the name of that accuser is Satan. We too have a choice to make. Just as there was a rebellion in the heaven of God and angels left their first estate and went with Satan, we have a choice. Jehovah sends no one to hell. Hell is an eternal domain for Satan and his angels.

So, in getting back to the last part of the opening Scripture: **“for the powers of heaven shall be shaken.”**

Powers//dunamiv //dunamis //doo'-nam-is// - power, mighty work, strength, miracle, might, virtue, mighty

Shaken //saleuw//saleuo //sal-yoo'-o// - shake, move, shake together, that are shaken, which cannot be shaken, a motion produced by winds, storms, waves, etc., to agitate or shake, to cause to totter, to shake thoroughly, of a measure filled by shaking its contents together, to shake down, overthrow, to cast down from one's (secure and happy) state, to move, agitate the mind, to disturb one

The miracle of everything in its place in the heaven will shake physically and man's security will be shaken. Which heaven will be shaken? There are three. Paul talks about the **third heaven: ouranov**//the region above the sidereal heavens, the seat of order of things eternal and consummately perfect where God dwells and other heavenly beings

*“I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the **third heaven**.” 2 Cor 12:2*

The **first heaven: Pyre**/ heaven, heavens, sky, mist, cloud

If there is a third heaven as Paul mentions and a first heaven is mentioned then there is a second heaven. There is a place between the abode of God and our visible sky, sun, moon and stars. Daniel spoke of it in Daniel 10 when his prayers were answered and sent from the abode of God but held up 21 days in a place between his realm and God's. There is a place above the stars but this is not where God is seated:

*“How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt **my throne above the stars of God: I***

will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.” Isa 14:12-14

The powers of Satan’s heaven and man’s heaven will be shaken, not God’s abode.

Rev 12:7-12

*7 And there was **war in heaven**: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,*

8 And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.

*9 And **the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.***

10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

*12 Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. **Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.***

God’s abode is free of that accuser Satan and all heaven is rejoicing! Man is shaken because Satan is cast down to the earth, no longer going to and fro in the spirit unseen, but is now visible. We know he will be visible from *Isa 14:15-16*

*“Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit. **They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms;**”*

Now, when Satan falls to earth so will the stars, his angels. This is figuratively and literally. The forces of darkness will be cast to earth, as if we didn’t have enough problems with *principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, **against spiritual wickedness in high places.*** But they will have the earthbound limitations of man and this time our enemy is visible. We will be on an even playing field. This is why it is so important to know who you are in Christ and the power you have as a believer. This is what the Christian will see, but the world will see it thusly: stars falling, asteroids smashing into our atmosphere and exploding with the force of a nuclear bomb. What would the world do? In fear, some countries would believe they have been hit and fire back. There would be a whole lot of shaking going on! Then Satan disguised in a flesh container (antichrist) will do mighty, amazing feats and be the answer to man’s turmoil.

This shaking is spiritual, this shaking is physical, and we have the ability to win over all of this by two things only. We win by the blood of the lamb and the word of our testimony. We can do nothing in fear. Our Jesus Christ must be the firm foundation on which we balance and stand.

Jesus said it best: *Matt 7:21-27*

*Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.
Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*

*Therefore whosoever **heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them**, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:*

And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

*And every one that **heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not**, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:*

And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

We are the hearers. What will we do with what we have heard...that is the question.

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