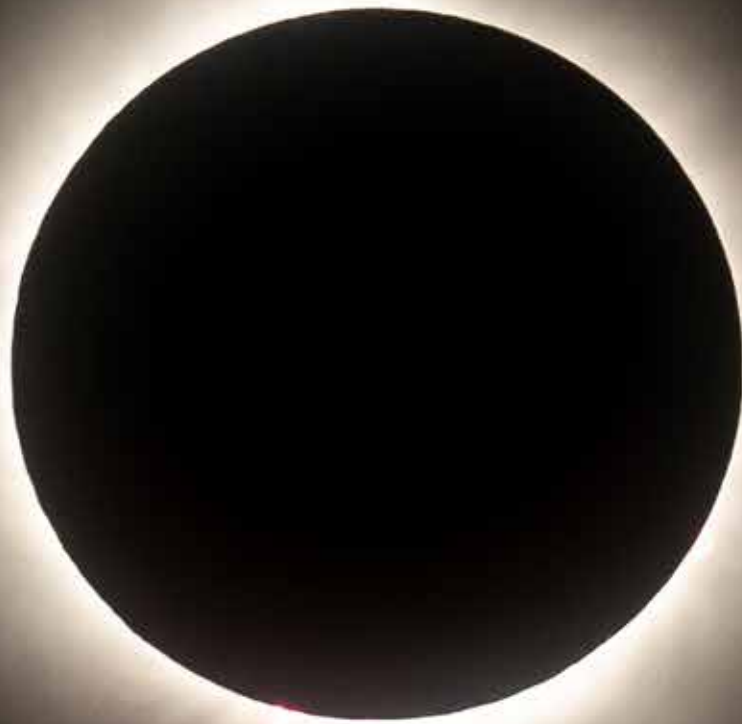


21ST CENTURY

WATCH

Vol. 27 No. 2

Second Quarter 2024



*“The heavens declare
the glory of God”*

The Point of No Return?

by Mark Armstrong

I have to mention the total eclipse. When the moon passed directly in front of the sun, you could look up without any glasses. It appeared as if the sun's activity, shooting flames into space, went outside the moon's blockage, and it was a sight to behold. Having never traveled to witness the phenomenon, this time the whole thing was visible in all its glory right here. It's a reminder of how very small we are in the grand scheme of things.

We don't know how good we've got it. For now. We better fall to our knees and thank the ONE who made it possible. It seems like everything that can be done to weaken the USA is being done. And it's being done by the leadership, no matter how phony. We are a peaceful people who only want peace and quiet.

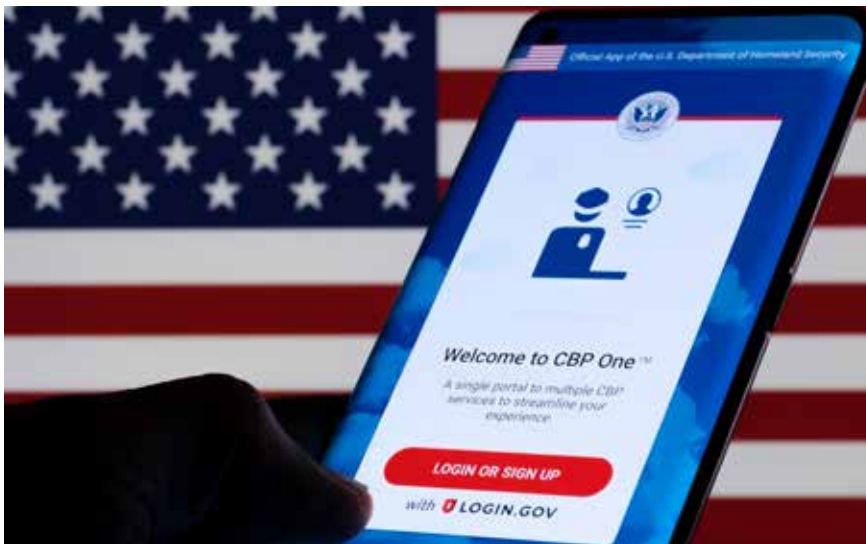
The mainstream media mocks and ridicules the rival. Trump is filling arenas to the rafters while the president is meeting

with a few trannies that think they're real women. He demands that we treat them like real women, or we must be bigots.

Meanwhile, immigrants are being secretly flown in all over the country, never mind the excesses at the border, as if it's perfectly reasonable. It's just another of the "programs" being carried out under this suspect administration.

To hear Trump tell it, there is a future ahead. He talks of putting an end to the wars that have raged since the last election and of sending the intruders home. You've seen the murders by illegals. The demented one screams that we have domestic murders as well, which no one denies. But those that suffered at the hands of illegals are the result of his programs, or maybe it was Obama's idea. Have you noticed? All Biden's top advisors are Obama's people.

We can scarcely believe our eyes as we see what's happening along the southern border, but that may be child's play. Illegals are being flown in the dead of night all over the nation. Why are they being brought when nobody's looking? They've got to protect the aliens. From us. Who's going to protect us from the illegals?



According to the latest CBP (Customs and Border Protection) figures, the U.S. had over 1.7 million illegal entries in the last six months. The Committee on Homeland Security found that, "95.8 percent of all inadmissible aliens who scheduled appointments through the [CBP One] app during this time were ultimately issued a 'Notice to Appear' (NTA) and released into the United States on parole."

Continued on page 24

- 2** *COMMENTARY:*
The Point of No Return?
- 4** *GARNER TED ARMSTRONG:*
A Monster Rears Up!
- 16** *WORLD NEWS BRIEF:*
In Case You Missed It
- 18** *BIBLE STUDY:*
The Three Resurrections
- 32** *BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE:*
Lesson 16 – Law of God, Part Five
- 8** **There Goes Latin America: Iran’s Regime in America’s Backyard**
Dr. Majid Rafizadeh, Gatestone Institute
- 10** **The Coming Emperor of Europe**
Craig White, FriendsOfSabbath.org
- 21** **Finding the Red Heifer**
Tracy Grant, cvcog.net
- 26** **A Time Like No Other**
Michael Armstrong

“For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:”

Romans 1:20

Photo credits:
Front cover - NASA/Jordan Salkin
pages 2 & 3 - NASA / Keegan Barber
page 4 - Selin Serhii/Shutterstock
page 6 - Svasco/Shutterstock
page 8 - (top) Pyty/Shutterstock
(bottom) Rayner Pena/EPA-EFE/Shutterstock
page 9 - Antonio Lacerda/EPA-EFE/Shutterstock
page 10 - Gizem/Shutterstock
page 14 - Bernado Belloito/Wikipedia
page 15 - Billion Photos/Shutterstock
page 18 - BillionPhotos/Shutterstock
page 21 - Rospoint/Shutterstock
page 22 - JekLi/Shutterstock
page 24 - (top) President.gov.ua/Wikipedia
(bottom) Mehr News Agency/Wikipedia
page 25 - Ben Garrison
page 26 - Shutterstock.AI
page 28 - Audio Und Werburg/Shutterstock
page 29 - Etalbr/Shutterstock
page 30 - Oak Ridge National Laboratory/Wikipedia
page 31 - AnaLysiSStudiO/Shutterstock
back cover - PattyPhoto/Shutterstock

A MONSTER REARS UP!

by Garner Ted Armstrong

This article was originally published in The Plain Truth magazine in May of 1962. In many ways it was ahead of its time. European unity has been a long and complicated process, but the very type of federation predicted now exists. A common currency, an external border and a unified European Parliament have overshadowed individual member states to a large degree. The EU, taken as a whole, surpasses the United States economically. External threats have increased calls for military unity and self reliance. Cooperation extends into all aspects of life. Yet, it is an uncomfortable unity in many ways. Traditional and progressive values clash, rich and poor nations struggle to find common ground. What does the future of Europe hold? We have come a long way, but we still wait for the final grouping of ten nations predicted in Bible prophecy!

With all eyes on communism, and its threat to the peace of the world, a little-recognized new threat is rising up in Western Europe!

For over twenty-eight years, this magazine, and the World Tomorrow program have been shouting to the people of the United States, and now to those in Britain, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and around the world the frightening warning of what your Bible prophecies is immediately ahead for our people!

IT'S TOO FANTASTIC!

"But surely this couldn't happen," people have scoffed. It sounds so incredible, so impossible that it just "couldn't" happen — say some. But it is happening now, before your very eyes!

Europe is uniting — and for a very special prophesied purpose.

Even as the Apostle Peter prophesied, "Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days [and we're living in those times!] scoffers, walking after their own lusts, and saying, 'Where is the promise of His coming?'" (II Pet. 3:3-4.)

They would argue that "everything is going along about like always" reveals Peter in the succeeding verses. But he warned that these are willingly ignorant of the real events that mark the imminency of the end of this age.

But what is happening?

Several years ago, when Mr. Roderick C. Meredith, Senior Editor of *The Plain Truth*, had given a sermon on this Biblically prophesied "beast" emerging

today, a woman scoffed. "That's nuts!" she accused. "I've been to Germany — I've seen that country — and they will NEVER rise again!" To her, that was ample proof.

Yes, to some people it was simply too fantastic to believe. But it is happening before your very eyes today! Can you begin to believe NOW that God means what He says?

DANIEL FORETOLD IT

Hundreds of years ago, God inspired the prophet Daniel to foretell it. Daniel didn't know what he wrote. He wanted to know. He asked, "O my Lord, what shall be the end of these things?" (Dan. 12:8.) But he was told to go his way — and not to concern himself with the answer,

because it was to be hidden from the minds of men until this time, NOW! (Daniel 12:4, 9-10.)

Daniel had been called in before king Nebuchadnezzar. The king had wanted a dream explained to him. He had commanded others to reveal not only the meaning of the dream, but the dream itself! Naturally, this was humanly impossible.

But God intervened. God gave Daniel the dream and the meaning of it in a night vision. So when Daniel went before the king to explain the dream, he revealed that the dream was not a thing of passing interest — and was not even a prophecy just for the immediate lifetime of king Nebuchadnezzar. Rather, Daniel said, “There is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days” (Daniel 2:28).

Notice it! The vision was concerned with things to occur in the latter days!

All Bible commentaries know Daniel was given a vision of the four successive world-ruling Gentile kingdoms of Babylon, Persia, Greco-Macedonia and Rome. But notice how long the final kingdom was to last!

“Thou sawest till a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image [the huge statue representing the kingdoms] upon his feet...and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth” (Dan. 2:34-35).

He saw until the second coming of Christ to rule the earth with a rod of iron, and to

forcibly crush the final remnant of this same system — which this and other prophecies clearly prove is to be extant at the time of Christ’s return! (Rev. 2:26-27, Dan. 7:21-22.)

WHAT WILL CHRIST DESTROY?

In the dream was the great image standing in the plain, towering up into the skies. The image represented the four world-ruling Gentile Kingdoms, terminating in Rome. But the stone, clearly representing Christ, struck the image on the feet. The feet have ten toes!

enjoying their brief union together that Jesus Christ of Nazareth is to return to this earth!

“And in the days of these kings [the kings represented by the toes] shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed, and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever!” (Dan. 2:44.)

Some have falsely reasoned this prophecy was fulfilled in history at the supposed “Christianizing” of the heathen Roman Empire. Others supposed

Your Bible plainly says Jesus Christ is going to arrive on this earth at a time when there will be ten nations united together, comprising an end-time resurrection of this same ancient system.

Notice quickly the explanation of the toes in Daniel and the Revelation. God said, “And as the toes of the feet [there are ten of them] were part of iron and part of clay, so the kingdom [which they, collectively, represent] shall be partly strong and partly broken [weak — margin]. And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men, but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay” (Dan. 2:42-43).

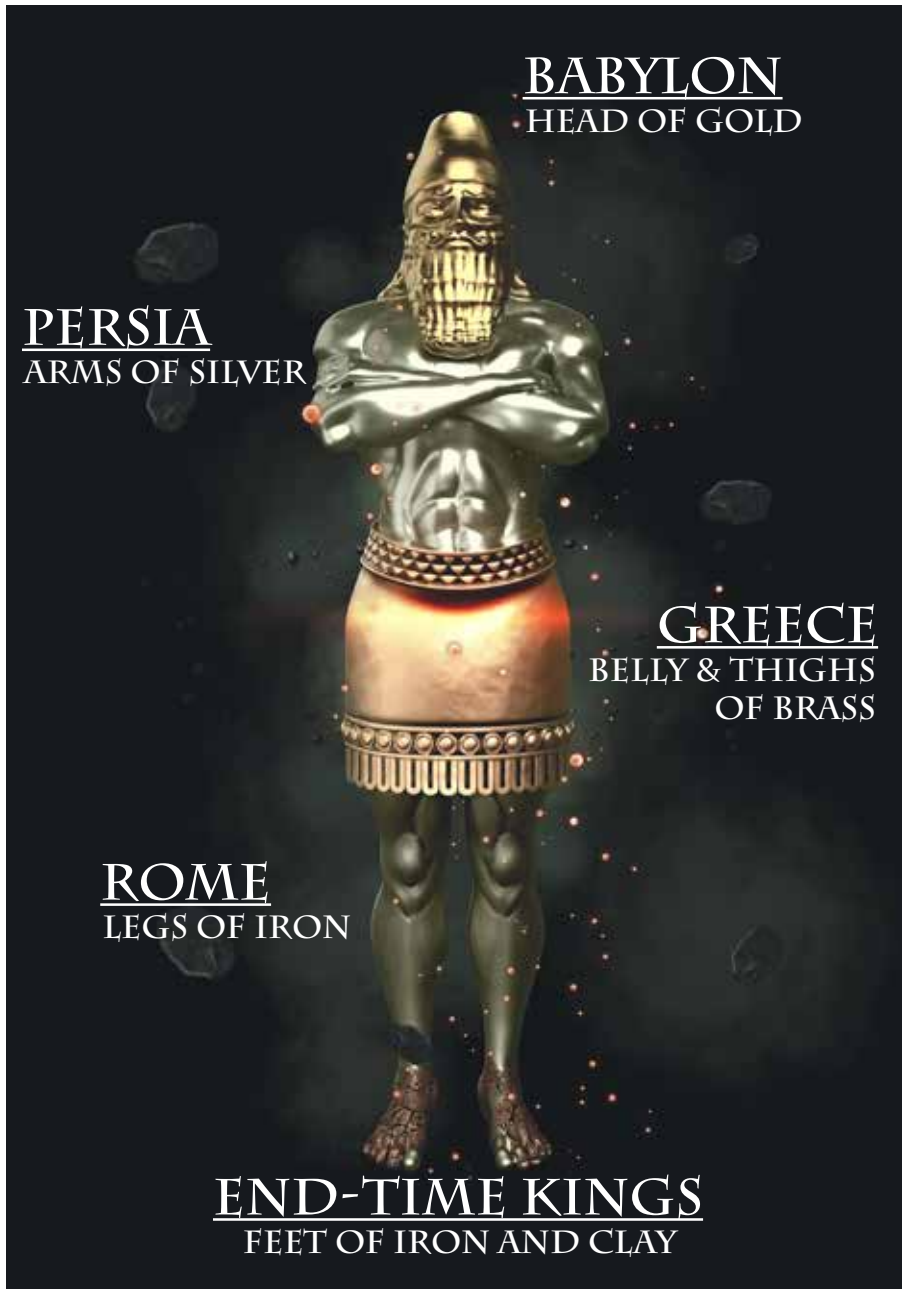
The ten toes mingle themselves, but only for a short time — they don’t stay together very long. Notice! It is precisely during the time these ten nations, represented by the toes of the image, are

that the “Kingdom of God is set up in the hearts of men,” thus fulfilling this prophecy. Still others assume that when Jesus built His Church, this prophecy was fulfilled.

What abysmal error! God plainly says His Kingdom, the ruling government of Jesus Christ, is going to “break in pieces” and consume all these kingdoms!

Let’s understand. Your Bible plainly says Jesus Christ is going to arrive on this earth at a time when there will be ten nations united together, comprising an end-time resurrection of this same ancient system.

We are living in the times of the resurrection of that Beast!



UNITED STATES OF EUROPE

For years, we have shouted over *The World Tomorrow* broadcast, and printed in the pages of *The Plain Truth* magazine, that the nations in Europe were going to unite. Space does not permit a complete account of all these dozens of articles over a period of years!

And, even as my father, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, was saying while American and British

bombers were wrecking all the big cities in Germany, Germany has risen again.

Today, "Euromart," a new name in Western news, looms on the horizon. Four out of five Americans do not even know the meaning of "Euromart," or what part it plays in the international economy.

Beginning as a comparatively "innocent" union for purely economic considerations,

the combine of "the Inner Six" has gradually been forged more firmly together, all the while deepening the rift between the Anglican British and the Lutheran Scandinavians, and has surged ahead in remarkable industrial and economic comeback. It comprises truly the strongest industrial and trading combine on the face of this earth!

Others are clamoring for entrance. Rumors are now flying fast and furiously that Spain and Portugal may be planning to unite! This new united nation will want entrance (Spain has already applied) into Euromart! Other nations want in. Greece has already been cooperating, and is considered a nominal member. As we have been shouting for years, the United States of Europe is just ahead!

Literally dozens of new releases have emphasized in recent years and months that the ultimate aims of the European Federation are political, not simply economic. As the *Christian Science Monitor* said in 1960: "Professor Walter Hallstein [the president of the European Economic Community]...and his colleagues are not building a comfortable trading area. They are building a NEW EMPIRE, a new POLITICAL POWER, a new federation, a new political force big enough to challenge the United States and Canada..." (emphasis mine).

One writer editorialized: "Fascism in Europe is about to be reborn in respectable business attire."

A SPIRITUAL UNION!

Notice another amazing prophecy in the book of Revelation, uncovering the next prophesied event! Here, John saw in vision a great fallen woman. She is clearly described. It is in chapter 17:1-2, “Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters: with whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.” John saw, in vision, a great woman — symbol of a religious system — who had been deluding and deceiving the inhabitants of the earth with her “wine” or her false doctrines! Meanwhile, she has also been delving into politics, which God calls spiritual fornication! But this isn’t all.

“So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet colored beast, full of names and blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns” (Rev. 17:3).

Here is a great fallen woman pictured as riding over, guiding and controlling this great beast! Read the entire 17th chapter of the book of Revelation! Notice the meaning of the ten horns: “And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast” (Rev. 17:12-13).

Just exactly as God described through Daniel, here are

ten kings, existing at the end time just prior to the return of Jesus Christ — a union of ten nations which will exist together in real harmony and unity only a very short time (described as “one hour” in this prophecy) and will actually fight against Jesus Christ at His second coming!

Read it! “These [ten kings] shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them, for He is Lord of lords, and King of kings; and they that are with Him are called, and chosen, and faithful” (Rev. 17:14).

How PLAIN! Regardless as to any technical understanding of the Bible prophecy, regardless as to whether you have the keys to the identity of the great nations, regardless as to whether you understand Biblical chronology — you can plainly see, and cannot escape the fact that your Bible says there will be a union of ten nations, ruled over by a great fallen woman who has made those nations spiritually drunk at the very time of the second coming of Jesus Christ!

PROPHECY RACES ON!

It is time we begin to wake up, and come to our senses. We are living in the most dangerous times in this history of this world!

The emergence of the greatest, most powerful, economic, political, and religious union the world has ever seen is a constant daily process!

And now — from England’s leading weekly news magazine, March 24, 1962, comes one of the most shocking, one of the

most startling news releases of recent times!

This top news source reported, concerning the emergence of the powerful force shaping up in Central Europe, “Not since the end of the Holy Roman Empire has the Holy See been offered a Catholic rallying point like the Common Market. If the ‘pact of Rome,’ which created the Common Market, had been signed within the Vatican walls, it could not have favored the church more.”

This revealing article went on to describe how the Common Market is now being considered by the Church the work of “Divine Providence!”

Later, *Topic* said: “Small wonder then that the Roman Church is smiling benignly over the formation of what Vatican officials defined as ‘THE GREATEST CATHOLIC SUPER-STATE THE WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN’” (emphasis mine).

There it is!

The time for doubt and scoffing is past. These prophecies are real — they are unfolding and happening before your very eyes! Truly gigantic happenings are under way in Europe today which will drastically alter the course of your private life. It’s time you begin to really heed the words of Jesus Christ, who said: “Watch you therefore, and pray always, that you may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man” (Luke 21:36). ◻

THERE GOES LATIN AMERICA: Iran's Regime in America's Backyard

by Dr. Majid Rafizadeh, Gatestone Institute

A threatening development has been brewing largely under the radar of the Biden administration and the mainstream media's attention: Iran's calculated expansion into Latin America, from Argentina to Mexico.

With alarming nonchalance, the Biden administration appears to have turned a blind eye to the Iranian regime's concerted efforts to establish a military foothold right in America's backyard. The ramifications of this complacency are profound. The Iranian regime, which, since it began in 1979, has been calling for "Death to America," now has ballistic missiles which it says can reach the U.S., and claims to have a hypersonic missile that, according to one report, "Can Destroy US In 40 sec."

Historically, Iran's playbook in the Middle East involved the arming and sponsoring of proxies and terror groups such as Syria, Hezbollah, and Hamas, with the ultimate aim of annihilating Israel and has carried out more than 180 attacks just since October 7 on U.S. interests in the region.

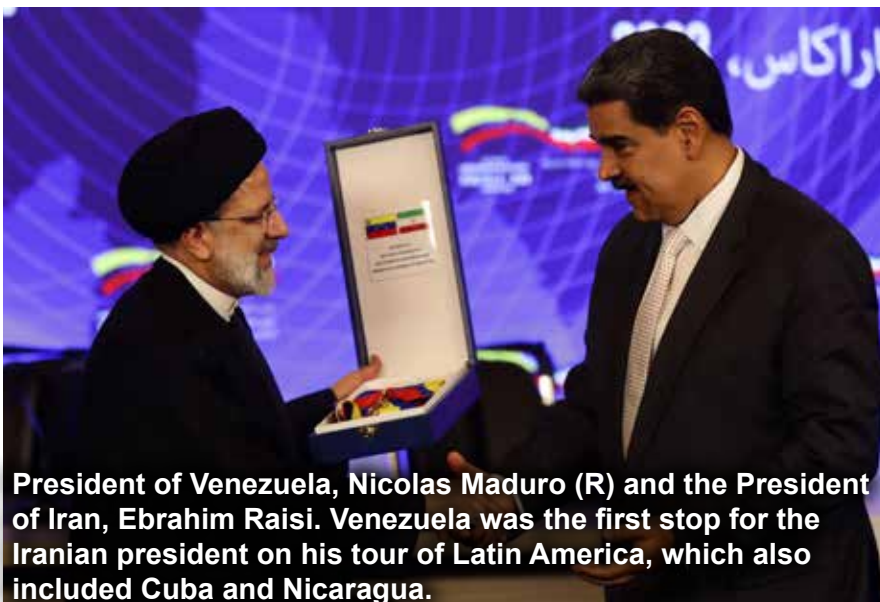
Now, Iran now seems to be mirroring its same "ring of fire" policy to threaten the United States from Latin America. Iran, for instance, has been cozying up to like-minded socialist regimes such as Venezuela, Nicaragua, Bolivia, and Cuba, and providing them with weapons and military support, seemingly with the sinister objective of posing a threat to the United States.

Venezuela, near the US, emerges as a key player in Iran's



Latin American ambitions. As a potential launching pad for attacks on the U.S., Venezuela appears to have willingly embraced Iran's overtures. Reports from sources such as *ProPublica* have highlighted the establishment of a joint intelligence program between Iran and Venezuela. This cooperation would encompass arms trafficking; issuing IDs, passports and bank accounts; intelligence sharing, and logistical support. The Venezuelan Armed Forces, with Iranian assistance — indicating a dangerous escalation in their military capabilities — have also integrated armed drones into their arsenal.

Iran's growing military capabilities, with ballistic missiles and armed drones capable of reaching states such as Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana and Texas from Latin American soil, already pose a direct threat to the



President of Venezuela, Nicolas Maduro (R) and the President of Iran, Ebrahim Raisi. Venezuela was the first stop for the Iranian president on his tour of Latin America, which also included Cuba and Nicaragua.

United States.

The Iranian regime, in addition to Venezuela, has evidently also been exploring avenues for military cooperation with Nicaragua and Cuba. Both appear to have fallen under Iran's sway. Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi's visit last year to those nations underscored the deepening ties between Iran and its Latin American partners. Iranian warships docking in Brazil shortly after President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva's inauguration also signifies Iran's intent to expand militarily in the region and sets a precedent that should be concerning for what appears increased collaboration between Iran and more Latin American countries.

Another troubling development is Bolivia's recent defense agreement with Iran, one that includes the transfer of drones. Bolivia's alignment with Iran should raise alarm bells about the potential for proliferation of Iranian military technology across the southern hemisphere. As Raisi emphasized during his recent visit, the cooperation agreements signed with Venezuela, Nicaragua, and Cuba span various sectors, from energy to biotechnology — highlighting the multifaceted nature of Iran's infiltration of Latin America.

Additionally, recent reports of four Iranians apprehended trying to cross the U.S.-Mexico border, who were considered a terrorist threat, add another dimension to the urgency of addressing the Iranian threat in Latin America. This incident serves as a distasteful reminder of the potential



A drone photo shows the Iranian military ship *IRIS Dena* anchored in the port of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 28 February 2023.

consequences of allowing Iran to establish a foothold in America's vicinity.

Latin American countries have also been serving as fertile ground for Iranian covert intelligence operations and terror groups, with Venezuela emerging as a particularly troubling case. Revelations linking Venezuela to the issuance of passports to individuals associated with terrorist organizations such as Hezbollah raise serious questions about the extent of Iran's influence in the region and its ramifications for U.S. security.

U.S. Rep. Maria Elvira Salazar pointed out that, instead of turning a blind eye to this new geopolitical romance, the Biden administration should actively support political forces that share its commitment to combating terrorism and promoting regional stability. She added:

“Iran has been aggressively strengthening its ties to the Western Hemisphere through like-minded socialist regimes in Venezuela, Nicaragua and Cuba. They are also looking for opportunities elsewhere, and it's no

coincidence that Iranian ships are docking in Brazil just a month after a socialist retook power in the country.”

Iran's involvement in past terrorist attacks, such as bombing the Israeli Embassy and Jewish community center in Buenos Aires, are also examples of the dangers posed by Iran's expansionist agenda. Iran's vows since 1979 of “Death to America” — coupled with its fondness for terrorism and its new chumminess with China and Russia, both hostile to America — should also be cause for concern.

The Iranian regime's efforts to expand its military strongholds and the presence of its terror groups in Latin America should be seen as forming a clear and present danger to U.S. security. Iran's activities, from arming adversarial regimes to fueling anti-American sentiments, demand urgent attention. Failure to confront Iran's encroachment so close to North America could have catastrophic consequences. It is critical to recognize now the gravity of this exponentiating national security threat. □

The Coming Emperor of Europe

by Craig M. White,
FriendsofSabbath.org

In the previous edition of *21st Century Watch*, the article “What Will the Beast Be Like?” explained some of the attributes of the end-time Beast power. In this article we seek out the Biblical references to understand the characteristics that its leader will possess.

Today it sounds almost ridiculous to contemplate an emperor arising and even being accepted by the rulers and peoples of Europe.

Yet, some churches have been warning since the 1930s that such a one would arise: Popular, energetic, magnificent, exuding confidence and class, possessing all the qualities that would be needed to be the central figure for a United Europe and allies. One who can save Western Civilisation from being eclipsed by both internal and external enemies. A man who is popular and accepted by the nations of Europe. This excludes anyone who is woke, communist or even Nazi.

WHAT WILL THE BEAST LOOK AND BE LIKE?

The Bible provides some clues as to what to look for in the final Beast or Anti-Christ and these are listed below in an attempt to throw some light on the subject.

Note what one Commentary reveals, written over 220 years ago:

“The spirit of the Antichristian government is represented chiefly by three characters, arrogance, idolatry, and persecution.” (Alexander Fraser, *A Key to the Prophecies of the Old and New Testament* (1802), p. 113)

Fraser is correct and definitely on to something, but there is much more detail that we can enter into. The final Beast leader will start off seemingly

good, peaceful and beneficial, but quickly descend into a monster. Not unlike Napoleon and Hitler.

While the aforementioned were ordinary looking men, the coming Emperor’s looks will be rather kingly and strong, possessing a “bold face” (Daniel 8:23) which apparently means one with a



The Plain Truth, February 1934 (Vol. 1, No. 1)

strong or “king face” as the term is used today. But a face that can be very fearsome and terrible. Demon influence would have a part to play in his facial expressions.

UNDERSTANDS COMPLEXITIES AND IS CUNNING

His capacity and understanding will be second to none. His deceitfulness and cunning beyond compare.

Note what is written about the final Beast/Anti-Christ in Daniel 8:23:

“And at the latter end of their kingdom, when the transgressors have reached their limit, a king of bold face, one who understands riddles, shall arise” (English Standard Version). The King James Version translates this verse in the following way: “And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up.”

Compare the above with God’s approach: “With him will I speak mouth to mouth, even apparently, and not in dark speeches; and the similitude of the LORD shall he behold” (Num. 12:8).

Clarke’s Commentary explains: “If there be a prophet — We see here the different ways in which God usually made himself known to the prophets, viz., by visions — emblematic appearances, and by dreams, in which the future was announced by dark speeches, *תְּדִבֶּרֶת bechidoth*, by enigmas or figurative representations, Num. 12:8. But to Moses God had communicated himself in a different way — he spoke to him face to face, apparently, showing him his glory: **not in dark or enigmatical speeches**; this could not be admitted in the case in which Moses was engaged, for he was to receive laws by Divine inspiration, the precepts and expressions of which must all be *ad captum vulgi*, **within the reach of the meanest capacity**. As Moses, therefore, was chosen of God to be the lawgiver, so was he chosen to see these laws duly enforced for the benefit of the people among whom he presided.” [Emphasis mine] (The final Beast leader will be so different from God where He will be straight-forward; at other times parables etc. are utilised. Cp Psalm 78:1-4.)

This means that he is ultra-intelligent and can see through any foreign policy issues and conspiracies against him with ease and deploy the necessary counter-measures.

DECEITFULNESS

“His power shall be great — but not by his own power; and he shall cause fearful destruction and shall succeed in what he does, and destroy mighty men [of Israel] and the people who are the saints. [i.e., Israel and sections of the Church]

“By his cunning he shall make deceit prosper under his hand, and in his own mind he shall become great [how like Napoleon, Wilhelm II, Mussolini and Hitler]. Without warning he shall destroy many [meaning sudden destruction]. And he shall even rise up against the Prince of princes, and he shall be broken — but by no human hand” (Daniel 8:24-25, ESV).

The deceit he is involved in is explained by *Strong’s Concordance* #4820 and involves treachery, dishonesty, deception. He will offer “peace in our time.”

“He shall seduce with flattery those who violate the covenant [traitors in the House of Israel], but the people who know their God shall stand firm and take action.” (Daniel 11:32). What happened anciently is a type of what is to come.

RELATIVE PEACE — INITIALLY

It is most likely that he will have a covenant or treaty with the House of Israel in the last days. In fact, there will probably be a 3 ½ year period of relative world stability and prosperity with a German-led United Europe as the world’s policeman and economic saviour.

“Why,” Israel’s leaders will probably think, “should we put so much money into defence in such a case?” (Cp Isaiah 28:18) “Let Europe take charge,” — as Israel will have many internal issues to deal with (probably mini civil wars or other crises). Yet during that time, people will be saying, “There is peace and security, then sudden destruction will come upon them [Israel] as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape” (I Thess. 5:3, cp Luke 21:34-35).

ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION AND MIRACLES?

Something will happen — perhaps an attempted assassination (Rev. 13:3) similar to the final attempt upon Hitler in 1944.

“Antichrist’s alleged death and resurrection will be a counterfeit of Christ’s death and resurrection, staged, as one of the ‘lying wonders’ perpetrated by the false prophet (13:12-15; 2 Thess. 2:9 NKJV). Antichrist’s death will be phony since he never really died.” (John MacArthur, “Revelation 12–22” *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary*, pp. 45-46)

As only God can resurrect (the Devil cannot), it is unlikely that he will be fully dead. Perhaps clinically dead in the sense of no heartbeat for a minute or two, or in a coma. In any event, he counterfeits Christ.

This will lead to his worship and increased rivalry with the Great False Church. Many will see this as the coming of Christ (II Thess 2:9 compared to verse 8).

“[W]hen they see such a miracle wrought in the person of Antichrist — namely, in his resurrection from the dead [probably a coma], and his speaking death-dealing effigy — there will be no room left for further scepticism, and they will at once render Divine homage to the man of sin or lawless one ... that man-worship, which will be one of the worst signs of the last times.

“... he will become supreme king of revived Rome. To this dignity he will be elevated by the ten kings of eastern and western Rome ... thus electing Antichrist as Emperor ... as in the case of his prototypes, the two Napoleons ...” (E. Hytche, “The Doom of the Antichrist,” *The Prophetic News and Israel’s Watchman*, June (1882), p. 173)

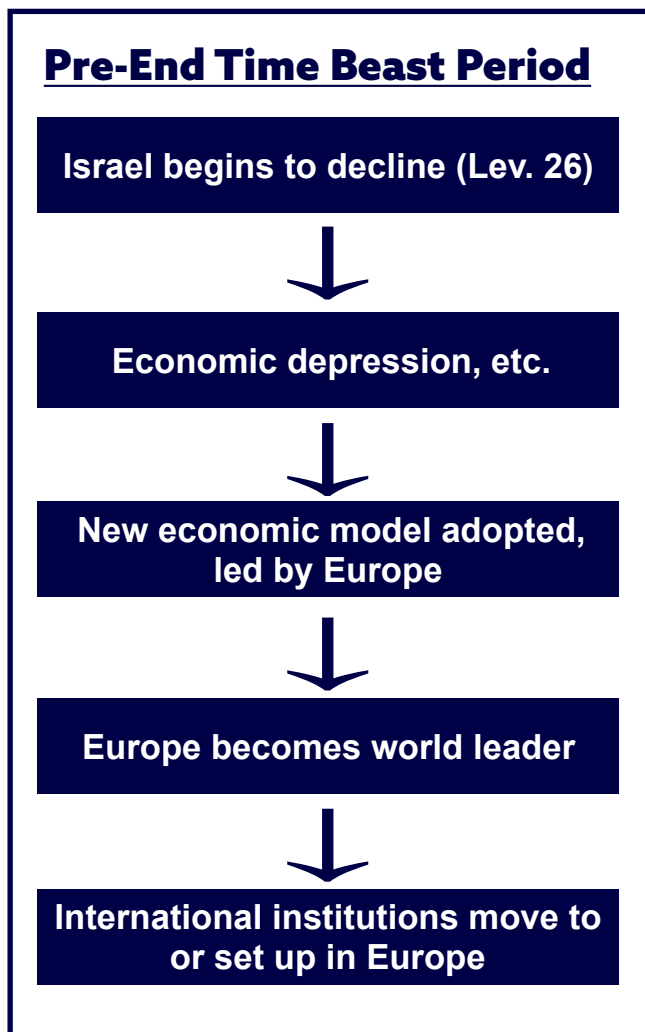
Of course, there may be some duality here. Could there also be a military/political application to the prophecy with fulfilments that match the revival of the Roman Empire as well as both Napoleon’s and Hitler’s attempts at comebacks which could have succeeded?

WORSHIPPED LIKE A ROMAN EMPEROR

He will wish to be worshipped like a Roman Emperor — a god (Dan. 11:37; Rev. 13:4). Let us consider precedents of the latter Roman Emperors

who were considered as gods: Napoleon behaved god-like; Wilhelm II re-enacted Christ’s entry into Jerusalem on a Sabbath, riding on white horse; Goebbels called Hitler a god; Mussolini likened himself to God.

It is this that could lead to a falling out with the Great False Church, the Whore of the book of Revelation.

**FROM WHERE WILL THE FINAL BEAST LEADER ORIGINATE?**

Robert Anderson in *The Coming Prince* (1894) predicted that there would be a future 10 nation confederacy (pp. 140-41) and postulates, “That Antichrist is to arise from the eastern part of the Roman empire.” (p. 89)

This is of interest because in this writer’s book *The Great German Nation*, mention is made of the coming German-led United Europe which

“Will comprise of 5 nations or groups of nations in each Western and Eastern Europe. The Beast himself may come from the eastern leg, particularly Austria. Notice in Dan. 7:8 & 8:9 he comes from the east.”

So, the Beast himself may come from the eastern leg of the next Roman revival. Note also that the prototype of the final Antichrist, Antiochus Epiphanes (meaning “God manifest”), was originally from Greece and his empire was mainly in the east. Hitler was born in Austria (*Österreich* in German, meaning “eastern realm”) which may type that of the future European Emperor who will probably be from the east and not Germany per se, though would be of German and royal stock like most Holy Roman Emperors were.

If we look at the resurrections of the old Holy Roman Empire and its Church dominance, that should provide us with a clue to the future.

Consider Napoleon’s, Mussolini’s and Hitler’s initial concordats with the Vatican. Yet Napoleon took two Popes into captivity and Hitler had definite plans to do the same (both of these men were deists). Mussolini was an atheist until his death and had a number of “run ins” with the Church.

This new system will commence as a restoration of the Holy Roman Empire in cooperation with the Church but will morph into Roman Emperor worship with ensuing rivalry between the political and religious entities resulting in disaster for the Church (Rev. 17:16).

As with the dictators referred to above, this system will not take Europe back to the feudalism of the Middle Ages. Instead, it will be modern and seek to uplift the general populace. Consider that Napoleon and Mussolini started off on the political Left, drifting to the radical Right but bringing with them social and economic reforms. Hitler, on the other hand, was always radical Right, but the original National Socialist Party had some economic socialist credentials, most of which Hitler eschewed to gain and keep power — and to obtain (temporary) favour and support with the old aristocratic class, bankers and industrialists.

Napoleon in particular implemented legal, social, education and economic reforms. The country was stabilized and he was then able to pursue his dream of a United Europe.



Mussolini and Hitler on June 18, 1940, just days after Italy declared war on France and the United Kingdom. The United States was not yet involved, Winston Churchill had just become Great Britain’s Prime Minister and Fascist domination of Europe seemed a very real possibility.

From the above we can deduce that Europe and its allies will forge some sort of modern version of fascism, adoring the Holy Roman and the Roman Empires.

WILL THE BEAST LEADER BE HOMOSEXUAL?

For decades, various evangelical authors of prophetic works speculated that the end-time Beast personality will be homosexual based on their interpretation of Daniel 11:37: “Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, **nor the desire of women**, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all.” (KJV)

It is doubtful that will be the case as this does not follow the historical model of Beast-type

Continued next page

leaders over the centuries (including Antiochus Epiphanes, Holy Roman Emperors, Napoleon, Bismark, Hitler, Mussolini, etc). Indeed, the future Beast system in all likelihood will be a fascistic backlash against instability, political correctness/ wokeness and globalisation with all its antipathy toward traditional values and the existence of nations.

He may be single or divorced and have women lovers (perhaps paralleling Hitler who did not get married until a day prior to his death). As the Beast is the final Anti-Christ, he may well be

single as Christ Himself was.

Notice the following translation of Daniel 11:37: **“He’ll recognize neither the gods of his ancestors nor those desired by women — he won’t recognize any god, because he’ll exalt himself above everything”** (*International Standard Version*) [emphasis mine].

A number of other commentaries agree:

“Moreover, it is almost imperative that it be an object of worship that is here referred to. Taking ‘the desire of women’ as an object of worship, there is an interpretation which has come

FINAL BEAST/ANTI-CHRIST (AND FALSE PROPHET)

CHRIST

Possibly single or divorced	Single at His first coming but marries the Church
Probably of Royal stock (with mix of Judah and Assyrian blood?)	Royal stock of Judah
Rules over a 3 ½ year period of “peace and safety” and prosperity (lulls Israel into a sense of security) followed by sudden destruction	Completes His 3 ½ year ministry to Israel, bringing them into a land of peace, safety and prosperity
Gets cremated in the lake of fire	Comes like a fire
Has a covenant of death with Israel	Has a new covenant of life with Israel
“Dies” and restored (probably in a coma)	Crucified and resurrected
Performs miracles	Performs miracles
Attacks the King of the South	Enters into the Middle East
Enters Jerusalem	Enters Jerusalem
Rules from Jerusalem	Rules from Jerusalem
Destroys Israel	Revives Israel
Scatters Israel	Re-gathers Israel (Ezek. 36)
Enters as “God” into a pre-Tribulation temple or structure	Enters the Millennial temple at the end of this 3 ½ year ministry to Israel (Ezek. 43)
Stops the sacrifices	Commences a new order of sacrifices (Ezek. 40-46; Cp Ezra 3:2-6)
Destroys Jerusalem	Re-builds Jerusalem
Goes to war against the kings of the east	Goes to war with the nations of the east (Ezek. 38 & 39)

down to us from Ephrem Syrus and Jerome, that Beltis or Nanaea is here referred to; and the fact that in an attempt to plunder the temple of this goddess, in Elymais, Antiochus lost his life, supports this view. The worship is said to have been very lascivious" (*The Pulpit Commentary*) [emphasis mine].

"Neither ... regard ... the desire of women — (Compare Eze. 24:16, Eze. 24:18). The wife, as the desire of man's eyes, is the symbol of the tenderest relations (2 Sam. 1:26). Antiochus would set at naught even their entreaties that he should cease from his attack on Jehovah's worship [Polanus]. Maurer refers it to Antiochus' attack on the temple of the Syrian Venus, worshipped by women (1 Maccabees 6:1, etc.; 2 Maccabees 1:13)" (Jamieson, Fausset and Brown, *Critical and Explanatory Commentary on the Whole Bible*) [emphasis mine].

From the above it can be seen that Daniel is not speaking of homosexuality at all. In fact, none of the Beast leaders have had any homosexual traits and were very much opposed to it. Expect the final leader to follow the old ways.

HOW DOES THE FINAL BEAST/ANTI-CHRIST (AND FALSE PROPHET) COMPARE TO CHRIST?

The Beast power in all its iterations over the centuries has attempted, in some crude way, to be a savior and to mirror Christ. The final Beast will be much more deceptive (Matt. 24). The opposite chart demonstrates the deceitfulness of the final restoration of the Roman system and its leader by his attempts at appearing as a saviour and Christ-like.

Because the final Beast will be the ultimate culmination of the Anti-Christ system, he will be doubly deceptive with deceit at an all-time high. His influence under Satan will mask his true intentions during his first years in power, much like Napoleon and Hitler. A liar and deceiver, following in the footsteps of Satan!

For 3 ½ years his empire may be at the helm of a world superstructure, ushering in a period of global peace and prosperity — which he will use to disguise his true intentions and warlike nature. But then he leads his people down the path

of conquest just like his predecessors. This is the reverse of Christ's role and second coming Who will enter into conquest followed by world peace. The Anti-Christ mimics Christ in some ways but also reverses the order of events — such is Satan's influence and deception.

As we have seen, there is enough information in the Bible and history to provide clues for the final leader. After all, he will be well known and probably be in office but initially with limited power due to the fact that 10 kings or leaders eventually transfer all their power to him (Rev. 17:12-13). This will then give him unlimited capacity to make war with any he wishes to attack and subdue.

A fitting completion to this article is a quote from political analyst, Yoram Hazony:

"The European Union does, despite the propaganda, have a powerful central government whose directives are legally binding on European nations and on their individual members...

"It lacks a strong executive — **an emperor** — capable of conducting foreign affairs and waging war...

"The European nations are, as everyone understands, dominated by Germany. The European Union is a German imperial state in all but name. However, as long as Germany seeks to avoid building up its military and taking responsibility for the security of the continent, the EU will apparently remain an American protectorate — a protectorate that is also an empire in its own right. Should the United States ever withdraw its protection, all the talk of Europeans pioneering a new form of political order will quickly evaporate. At that time, **a strong European executive will be appointed by Germany and empowered to maintain the security of the continent.** Then the reconstitution of the medieval German empire in Europe will be complete, and the English-inspired experiment with an order of independent national states in Europe will have reached its end." (*The Virtue of Nationalism*, pp, 152, 153, 154) [emphasis mine]

How insightful!

For further information on the terrors awaiting the world, be sure to go online to read our free booklets, *Beast of the Apocalypse: What is it?* and *Who, What is the Beast of Revelation?* □

**WORLD NEWS
BRIEF****IN CASE YOU MISSED IT****MURDER ENSHRINED**

When the Supreme Court of the United States overturned *Roe vs Wade*, asserting that abortion was not a “right” but a matter that could be regulated at the state level, much of the world was shocked. This was particularly true in France where there is very little opposition to the practice. Despite there being no real threat of that changing, activists seized on the US ruling to invigorate their supporters, beginning a campaign that has culminated in abortion being listed as a right in the constitution of France. Only 72 Members of Parliament and Senators, out of over 850 elected representatives in both houses, voted against it.

WHO’S MAKING WHAT?

Western Intelligence has long contended that North Korea is supplying munitions to Russia for use in the war against Ukraine. The remnants of downed missiles confirm this. They also bring to light other interesting details. Some reports allege over 80% of the components inside are linked to American or European companies. This illustrates one of the primary shortfalls of sanctions: enforcement. Many of the components are generic and commonly available to any online shopper. Unlike more sophisticated parts, vetting every purchase is not possible.

FREEDOM AT ANY PRICE

Since the rise of Boko Haram, kidnapping for ransom has become alarmingly common in Nigeria. So much so, that paying for the release

of captives was actually made illegal in an attempt to de-incentivize the practice. However, a recent episode may have diminished the government’s resolve on this point. Well over 100 students were kidnapped from their school and held captive for over two weeks. They reported deplorable conditions and frantic forced marches to stay ahead of authorities. Thankfully, they have been returned. The government denies having paid ransom but that narrative has been disputed by some of the victims as well as anonymous sources who allege a delivery of unmarked black bags to the region. The initial demand was for the equivalent of \$767,000.

“ALLAH SOCKS”

Call it a miscalculation on the part of popular Malaysian chain KK Supermart. Despite a majority of citizens practicing Islam, the association with feet proved a bridge too far. The offensive items were pulled from shelves immediately, complete with a public apology and even a lawsuit against the supplier. None of this was enough to stem retribution. Multiple storefronts have been burned.

MAKING DR. FRANKENSTEIN BLUSH

Scientists in Portugal have been experimenting on mouse embryos. It is known that certain proteins affect what early, and identical, cells eventually develop into. To study the impact on the spinal cord one of the protein receptors was blocked during development. Academic pretensions aside it was a “let’s see what happens” moment. The results were appalling. The mouse grew six legs and

no genitals. Other organs also developed outside the body. Despite claims that advancing knowledge will eventually yield benefits it would be comforting if such abominations existed in the realm of fiction rather than cutting edge laboratories.

FREE BIRD

Temporarily. After breaking out of a zoo an ostrich spent an afternoon running through the busy streets of South Korea. He obeyed no traffic regulations, alternately alarming or delighting a multitude of witnesses who had ample opportunity to capture photos and videos. At length he was snared with a net and returned home safely. While it would be tempting to label the escape a “bird-brained” idea, it made for a very memorable day on the town.

SRI LANKA RECOVERING?

It’s hard to say. Readers may remember the country spiraled completely out of control in 2022. Top leaders fled and were arrested, the economy shrank nearly 8%, and inflation soared over 70%. Many of the destructive policies that led to the collapse have been overturned but the country has yet to return to economic growth. Prices remain high and, as in many other places around the world, people have begun adapting to the reality rather than expecting this to change. The Sri Lankan government seems to take this view and is mandating minimum wage be increased by 40%. While statistically shocking, the new minimum is equivalent to only \$54 a month.

DEFINING EXTREMISM

Britain has released new criteria for defining “extreme” viewpoints as, “the promotion or advancement of an ideology based on violence, hatred or intolerance, that aims to: 1) negate or destroy the fundamental rights and freedoms of others; or 2) undermine, overturn or replace the UK’s system of liberal parliamentary democracy and democratic rights; or 3) intentionally create a permissive environment for others to achieve the results in (1) or (2).” Under the new rule groups can be officially labeled as extremist and barred from lobbying public officials or receiving funding.

Receiving the label does not constitute a crime but is expected to serve as a check on popularity and influence. While instigated by an outburst of pro-Palestinian and Hamas demonstrations, the new definition is nebulous enough to have created real concerns of misapplication and abuse.

INCREASED TRANSMISSION

Sexually transmitted diseases (now typically labeled “infections” under the acronym STI) have been on the rise. Syphilis is of particular concern in the US with infections up over 20% in 2022. Congenital Syphilis (the kind babies are born with) has increased over 180% in the last five years according to the CDC. The equivalent institution in Europe reports a rise in infections across the board with syphilis at 34%, chlamydia 16%, and gonorrhea 48%. As with the recent monkey pox outbreak, the majority of syphilis cases are among men who have sex with men. This also holds true for HIV, of which the WHO estimated 1-1.7 million new cases for the same period worldwide.

FGM GAMBIA

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is a cultural practice of varying prevalence in many Islamic and African countries. It is nearly universal on the east coast of Africa, such as in Somalia, but is prevalent in many other regions. In Gambia, on the west coast, it is thought that about 75% of women have endured it. This is despite the practice having been illegal since 2015. Enforcement is almost nonexistent and the vast majority of the legislature has recently voted to advance efforts to repeal the law altogether.

What is it? Almost too horrible to describe. Despite being characterized as “circumcision,” there is really no comparison. External aspects of the female anatomy are removed and the orifice is surgically closed as far as possible. Those who have undergone the procedure report tremendous pain in the consummation of marriage and childbirth. The small percentage of parents who try to shield their children from the heinous practice often find it has been carried out against their will after a visit to grandparents or relatives. □

BIBLE STUDY*by Dr. James & Natalie Ricks***THE THREE RESURRECTIONS**

The First Resurrection is for those being saved by the new covenant started after the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Believers in our day are scheduled for this great event at the second coming of the Messiah.

1 Corinthians 15:52-53, “[I]n a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.” (NKJV)

The Second Resurrection is for those who have been deceived by this world and have not really had a real chance at salvation. They will be raised from their graves again as human beings and given a chance to learn to follow the true God. Obviously, in a world no longer blinded by Satan, the vast majority will be saved. Ezekiel 37 describes the physical resurrection of the Israelites and their being given the Holy Spirit so they can be converted in the future.

Ezekiel 37:11-14, “Then He said to me, ‘Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They indeed say, “Our bones are dry, our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut off!” 12 Therefore prophesy and say to them...I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves...14 I will put My Spirit in you, and you shall live...’”

All people will get access to the Spirit of God and true conversion in the second resurrection.

The Third Resurrection is for those who are so

defiant, or corrupted in some way, that God has decided they will not get another chance. They have either abused their chance at salvation or have committed the unpardonable sin. People like Judas or Hitler come to mind. People that have openly defied the true God.

Hebrews 10:26-27, “For if we do evil on purpose after we have had the knowledge of what is true, there is no more offering for sins, 27 But only a great fear of being judged, and of the fire of wrath which will be the destruction of the haters of God.” (BBE)

THE FIRST AND BEST RESURRECTION

The clear theme of the New Testament is the resurrection of Jesus and the resurrection of His true disciples. We are those true disciples if we follow Christ to the end. Our reward is to be taken into the very family of God!

Romans 8:28-29, “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. 29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.” (NKJV)

A small number of believers are being chosen by God to be among the first ones into His family.

BIBLE STUDY

Those being called now in this the age of Satan are fortunate. We have been chosen for the best resurrection.

Revelation 20:5-6, “But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.”

The believers, after being added to the God family, will help under Christ to bring good government to a lost world. The Devil will be locked up and the paradisiacal reign of the Lord will begin.

THE SECOND RESURRECTION: ALL MANKIND WILL HAVE A CHANCE AT SALVATION

The second resurrection is for all those who never really had a chance at learning about God. People in our age do not know the full truth. Satan has deceived our entire world. Many still need a second chance to learn God’s truth.

Revelation 12:9, “So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.”

God, up until this point in mankind’s history, has allowed this deception. However, when Jesus returns to earth that will all change. Satan will be locked away with all his evils and deceptions.

Revelation 20:1-2, “Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. 2 He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years;”

How wonderful — a world where truth reigns supreme! All devilish forces of evil and deceit are gone. The knowledge of God on earth will be like water of the sea. All will get to know God’s truth. Note Isaiah 11:9. But this is not the current world. The vast majority of mankind has lived and died

without adequate knowledge of God. Therefore it would be wrong and unfair for God to condemn them for not being among the called. For most people, even if some bit of key Bible knowledge reaches them, it is choked out by Satan’s society.

Matthew 13:19, “When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside.”

God has allowed Satan to deceive this world; therefore He must resurrect the deceived and give them a chance to learn all they need to know about the salvation provided by the sacrifice of His Son. Jesus came and used parables so that only the called ones fully understood His messages.

Matthew 13:11, “He answered and said to them, ‘Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.’”

God has decided who He will call in this age. It is not based on our goodness, but the selection of God.

Romans 9:14-16, “What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? Certainly not! 15 For He says to Moses, ‘I will have mercy on whom ever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion.’ 16 So then it is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy.”

Since God did not call the vast majority of people He will, because He is fair and just and kind, give them a chance at salvation in the future. The Bible will be fully opened to all people. It will be wonderful!

Revelation 20:12, “And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.”

Two documents that are opened to the world’s people — the Book of Life and the other, the Bible. The Bible is the collection of “books.” Mankind will be taught to follow the Bible by kind, powerful

BIBLE STUDY

teachers with no Devil to mislead them. They will grow in the love of God and eventually have their names written in the Book of Life.

What about those few in the GREAT WHITE THRONE judgment period who reject God? They are defiant sinners who do not appreciate the sacrifice of Jesus. They will remain flesh and blood and face the Lake of Fire which comes at the end of this period.

THE THIRD AND FINAL RESURRECTION

God will raise the evil in the third resurrection just to find out their final judgment. The spirit in man is not immortal. Our spirits are either going to be put into a new spiritual body or erased forever in the Lake of Fire. It should be a fairly quick death.

Revelation 20:14-15, "Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire."

They will not burn forever but will receive a quick end for a defiant, willful sinner who would otherwise make himself and others unhappy forever.

Malachi 4:1-3, "For behold, the day is coming, Burning like an oven ... yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble. And the day which is coming shall burn them up,' Says the LORD of hosts, 'That will leave them neither root nor branch. 2 But to you who fear My name The Sun of Righteousness shall arise With healing in His wings... 3 You shall trample the wicked, For they shall be ashes...'"

This fate is why Jesus warned the religious leaders of His day not to openly defy God.

Matthew 12:31-32, "Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men. 32 Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come."

Christ is telling the leaders that they do not have to believe in Him but they cannot openly oppose the obvious workings of God. Opposing God openly and defiantly could undermine any hope they have of getting another chance in the GREAT WHITE THRONE PERIOD. They would then be raised only to face the Lake of Fire in the third and Last Resurrection. Jesus loved them also and was warning them of the danger of their actions. Some probably did not listen! ☐

**LINE
UPON
LINE**
THE SHOCKING TRUTH

LIVE WEBCAST BY
INTERCONTINENTAL CHURCH OF GOD

Watch Weekly

FRIDAY AT 9 PM^(EST) • WWW.LULICG.ORG

Stay Connected

lineuponline2810@gmail.com • facebook.com/lineuponline2810
youtube.com/lineuponline2810 • plus.google.com/+LineuponLine

Finding the Red Heifer

by Tracy Grant, www.cvcog.net



Jesus Christ said the following in Matthew 24:15-16, “Therefore when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place — let the reader understand — then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains.” Continuing, Jesus describes just what this event leads to. Verse 21 reads, “For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will. Unless those days had been cut short, no life [flesh] would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.” (NASB throughout)

This is the start of the Great Tribulation, a 3.5-year period of time that will be brutal beyond our ability to understand. Christ said, “When you see,” implying those that are paying attention (keeping watch) will not miss this event. He also said, “Spoken of through Daniel the prophet.” So, let’s go to Daniel for more understanding!

Starting in Daniel 11:29 we read, “At the appointed time he will return and come into the south, but this last time it will not turn out the way it did before.” Continuing in verses 30-31, “For ships of Kittim will come against him; therefore, he will be disheartened and will return and become enraged at the holy covenant and take action; so he will come back and show regard for those who forsake the holy covenant. Forces from him will arise, desecrate the sanctuary fortress, and do away with the regular sacrifice. And they will set up the abomination of desolation.”

All of Daniel 11 describes a back-and-forth battle between the king of the North and the king of the South which takes place over several centuries, however in verse 29 we read “at the appointed time” and “last time”, which is that period of time just in our future. So, to bring this forward in time, there is an event just on the horizon we need to know about and understand...sacrifices! In verse 31 we see the king of the North will do away with the regular sacrifice. “But wait,” the reader might say, “There are no sacrifices occurring in the holy land today,” and that would be correct. However, that might all change very soon. For sacrifices to end they must at some point begin.

To gain a more thorough understanding, let’s look at Daniel 12 starting in verse 9, “And he said, ‘Go your way, Daniel, for these words will be kept secret and sealed up until the end time. Many will be purged, cleansed, and refined, but the wicked will act wickedly; and none of the wicked will understand, but those who have insight will understand. And from the time that the regular sacrifice is abolished and the abomination of desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days. Blessed is the one who is patient and attains to the 1,335 days! But as for you, go your way to the end; then you will rest and rise for your allotted portion at the end of the age” (Dan. 12:9-13).

Continued next page

So, Daniel learns these words are not for him, in his day, but are for “the end time.” And we also see when the sacrifices end and the abomination of desolation is set up (armies will surround the holy land, Luke 21:20) these verses spell out a time frame. See also, Daniel 12:7. A period of 3.5 years that the holy land will be occupied by the King of the North (see also Daniel 11:40-41).

Jewish religious groups have been working very diligently over the past several years to bring back sacrifices to the modern-day nation of Israel. One such group is the Temple Institute. In 2022 the Temple Institute purchased five red heifers all the way from the state of Texas and brought them to the land of Israel, where they are today. Why red heifers? To understand why, read the ritual for purification in Numbers chapter 19. Also remember that the religious mainstream Jews of Israel live in the Old Testament. They never accepted the man Jesus Christ as the Son of God, “Immanuel” (meaning, “God with us”). So they are driven to start sacrifices once again and the unblemished red heifer is an instrument in that endeavor. They need the ashes of the sacrificed red heifer for purification purposes.

Out of the five red heifers, four of them have been determined to be unblemished and in April of 2024 are considered to be of age (3 years old) to be sacrificed. The Priests have already been selected

and have been determined to be from the priestly line and direct descendants of the Levitical priesthood.

The location of the Temple mount is in Jerusalem. Today the only structure sitting on top of the Temple mount is the Dome of the Rock, a sacred building for the Muslim faith, reported to be the third most holy place in the Muslim world. The Temple Institute believes they only need to be able to see the Temple mount and the location where the Holy of Holies was once located to be able to start sacrifices again. They cite Ezra 3:1-6, which depicts sacrifices on an altar before the foundation of the Temple had been laid. Because of this, the Temple Institute has purchased private land on the Mount of Olives which overlooks the Temple mount. They also have constructed an altar on which the sacrifices would take place.

Something to be noted here is that the arrival of the red heifers in Israel was one of Hamas’ justifications for their terrorist attack on October 7, 2023. As you know, those attacks from Hamas resulted in the deaths of approximately 1,400 citizens of the Jewish State and unspeakable crimes against those killed and those taken hostage. Israel’s offensive against Hamas into the Gaza Strip continues today. As we can imagine, if Israelite Jews once again start sacrifices anywhere near the Temple mount the reaction from the Muslims would be unpredictable. The

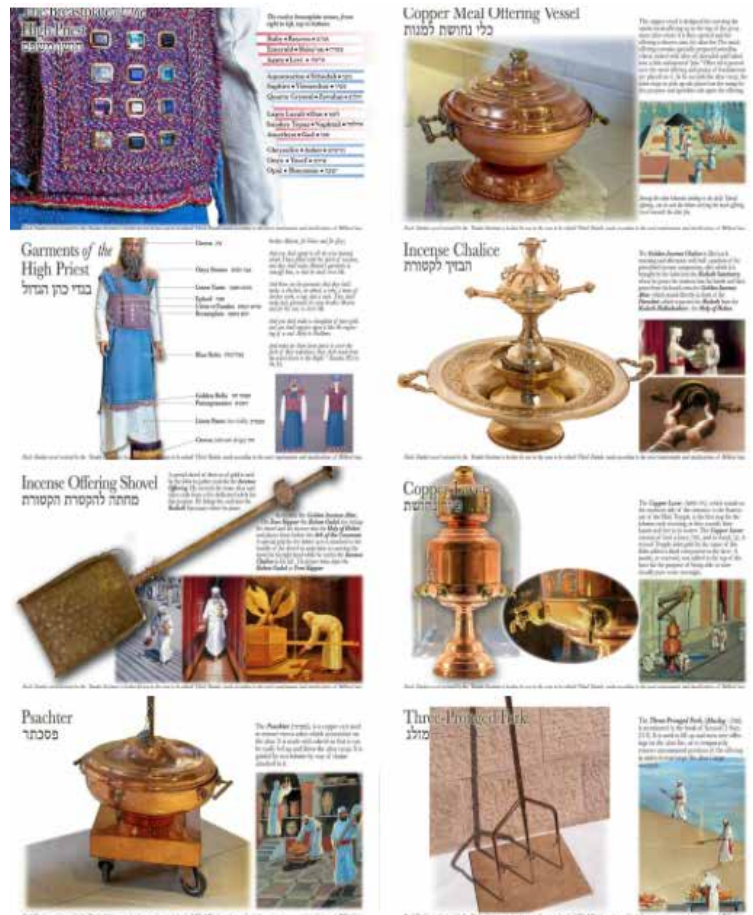


country of Israel is surrounded by Muslim Nation States.

Just like after the United States were hit by terrorists on 9/11 and came together in National Patriotism, the Nation of Israel has come together with similar National Patriotism. This could embolden the religious Jews to start sacrifices anytime now.

Again, for sacrifices to end they must start again, and this appears to be in the works and not far off! What should we consider when we see bible prophecy from “end of days” events playing right out in front of us? If you’re baptized and following “The Way” (Acts 9:2, 19:9, 19:23, 22:4) you should continue to fill your spiritual cup until it overflows. Be alert, get ready, pay attention. Exhort one another to love and good works as you see the day drawing near (Hebrews 10:24-25) and assemble when you can.

If you’re being called by Father God (John 6:44, 65), know this: there is a pathway. Jesus said in Matt. 4:17, “Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.” And Peter said in Acts 2:38, “Repent and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” The Kingdom of God is not afar off. The time to draw near to God is now. □



Screenshot from the Temple Institute’s website showing some of the various implements they have prepared for use in resuming sacrifices.



The Point of No Return?

Continued from page 2

So much is being done that is wrong for our country, it's getting hard to keep up. This tiff with Putin over Ukraine is getting out of hand. Macron, President of France, is piping up saying that putting NATO troops in harm's way is a real possibility. These morons are trying to start WWII while they have time. Ukraine has been one of the most corrupt nations on earth, as everybody knows by now. From the news reports, everything has been turned into rubble, except Kiev. They're trying not to hit historic structures, on account of it might not go over well. Putin means business, and that's beyond doubt.

The Arabs have gone full tilt over the Israeli bombing of targets in Syria. Some important people were blown up. People are out all over the Middle East, mouths wide open and fists in the air. They're burning American flags, as if we're responsible for everything bad in their lives. Maybe they should tune in to some of the networks. Biden has no say over what Israeli generals decide, despite Anthony Blinken's attitude at the microphones.

Meanwhile, Netanyahu is under attack from within his administration. Remind you of anything? They claim all manner of nefarious deeds and they're going to take him to court! It's enough to make you cry. Israel's in a fight for their survival, but the politics go on and on. They've done this before. For years there were dastardly claims against Netanyahu, now they've got more.



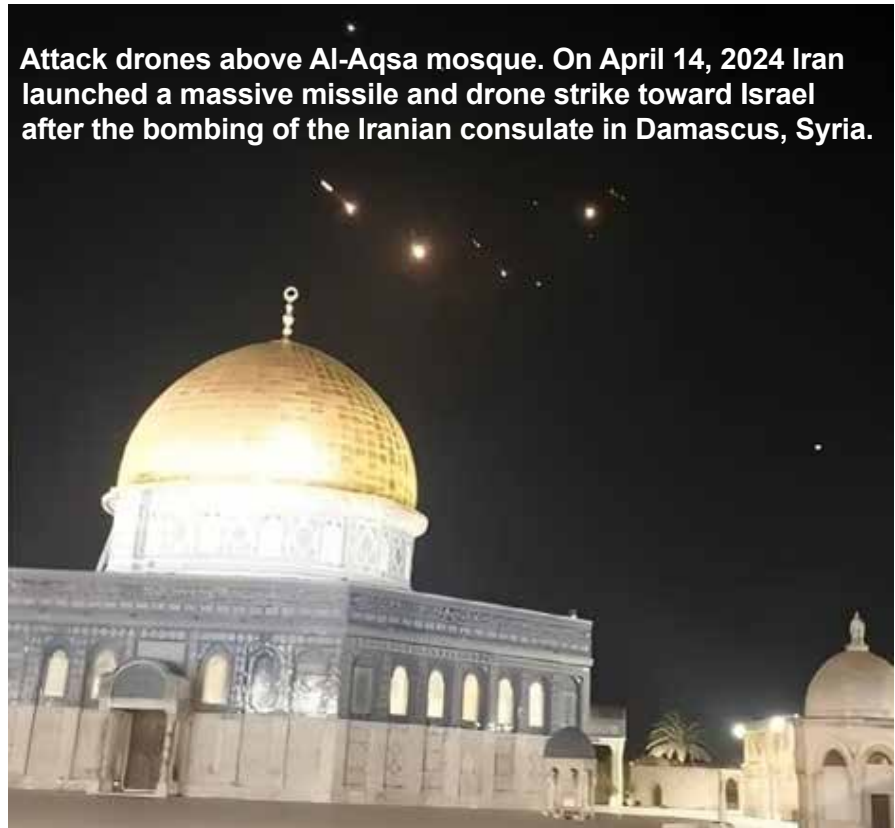
President Zelensky of Ukraine, French President Macron, and German Chancellor Scholz at a meeting in 2022. Macron has made recent headlines by suggesting the possibility of NATO sending troops to aid Ukraine against the Russian invasion.

There's once again talk of red heifers, and a window of opportunity. They thought they had the red heifer of prophecy back in the nineties but it was disqualified. Let's hope the same thing happens again. This is an organization that believes a place within sight of the

temple mount will fulfill the requirements. They're not looking for the return of Christ, but of a savior that has yet to appear.

The pictures out of Haiti are sickening. When the top gang leader is nick-named "Barbeque," and criminals carrying automatic

Attack drones above Al-Aqsa mosque. On April 14, 2024 Iran launched a massive missile and drone strike toward Israel after the bombing of the Iranian consulate in Damascus, Syria.



rifles are patrolling the filthy streets... It looks like the end time. We can't help but wonder if this is the future the pretender and his mentor have in mind for us.

Policies toward the nations of the Middle East are longstanding. These disruptions have been war-gamed extensively. Things have been decided long ago about what happens if somebody acts up. Nobody thought far enough ahead to realize that standard American policy would land a politician at odds with his base. But it's all coming apart now. Protesters are brawling with police, at least the professionals are. They're blocking major bridges with their bodies and the police

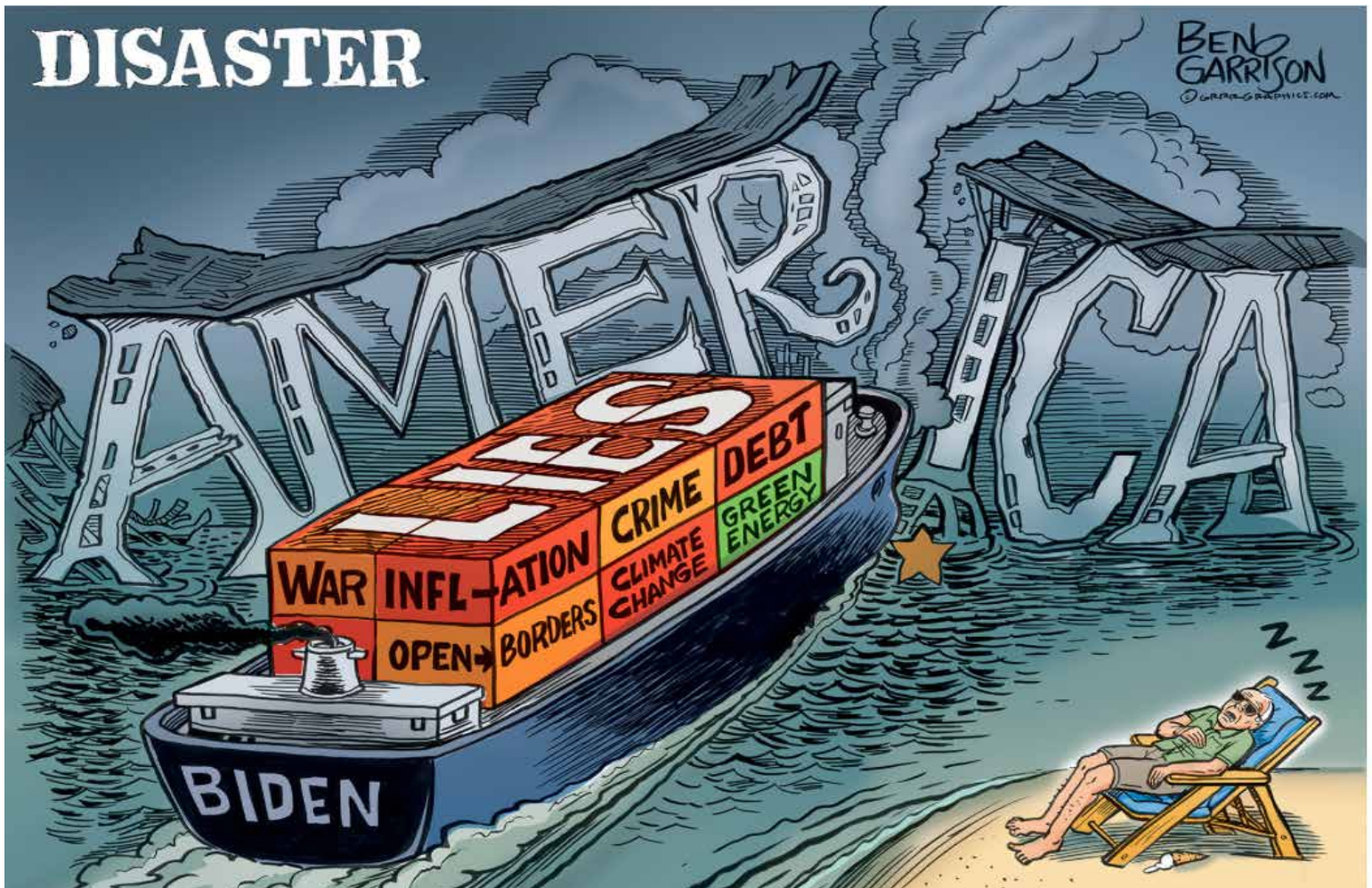
are spectators. Except in Florida.

Almost everything that could go wrong did. These idiots are expert at wrecking everything. They apparently don't like our freedoms and want government to apply a heavier hand. Not on "immigrants" mind you. They don't have to follow the mandates of a power drunk government.

Do we have some idea how blessed we are? Most reading this are reasonably comfortable, and we're happiest when we can concentrate on better things and not be exposed to all the folly in the world. Who would want to ruin peace and quiet? But we have interruptions. The main players and the media are stuck on the

new woke self-righteousness that says everything must be "fair and equitable." Maybe God doesn't see it that way. He's blessed us beyond comprehension and our government looks determined to "make things right." Some Biblical quotes come to mind.

Maybe we should stop acting like governments know best. The founders plumbed the depths and gave us a Constitution that is in line with God's laws. Our Judicial system is intended to hold that line. But now we have activist judges that rule based on some morality that they have adopted. This nation has defied God in more ways than we care to consider. We can't even look. □



A TIME LIKE NO OTHER

by Michael Armstrong



We WATCH world events, as Christ commanded in Matthew 24:42. But what exactly are we watching for? The machinations of politics cause power to ebb and flow. Earthquakes, diseases, famines and wars come and go. Economies teeter on the brink of collapse until massive interventions (usually debt based) send markets rallying to new heights, preserving the illusion of business as usual. Allies and enemies combine and recombine behind sanctions and protectionist trade policies to preserve their own industries and hinder their competition. We see how things could fall apart, yet the real question is “will they?” When is the time of Jacob’s trouble, tribulation unparalleled, “so that none is like it”? (Jeremiah 30:7.)

It is important to

remember that there are certain aspects of the end time that are not going to pass by unnoticed. While many believe they might be “raptured at any moment,” or “Christ could return tomorrow,” such views are not consistent with scripture. Nor is it necessary to plumb the depths of Isaiah or Ezekiel to see the truth of this conclusion. Even a cursory reading of the book of Revelation will leave little doubt. It says every mountain and island will be moved, that all men will seek to hide themselves (Revelation 6:14-15). The wind will not blow (Revelation 7:1). A third of many things will be destroyed, trees, sea life, the lights of both day and night (Revelation 8:6-13). You will not need to read about these events in the news. No man’s secret knowledge or special insight will be necessary

to perceive them.

All of this happens before Christ’s return, even before the dreaded “Mark of the Beast” of Revelation 13:11-18. Hopefully this is a comfort to some who have feared they might take the mark accidentally. You will not miss the events that lead up to this time! Take comfort in that. Take comfort in God’s promises, “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” (Deuteronomy 4:30-31). Those who follow the example of Jesus Christ can rely on these words.

What are we watching for, then? What is the purpose of these thousands of years of vigilance if the main features of the tribulation are virtually unmissable? Consider the work of the watchman in Ezekiel 33:1-9. To watch and to warn is to call to repentance. It is to implore the wicked to change their evil way before it is too late. God is patient and merciful but He will not withhold His wrath forever. This is the message Jesus preached, "Repent: for the kingdom of Heaven is at hand" (Matthew 4:17). God does not desire death and destruction but He will not allow the injustice in this world to continue forever. "Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?" (Ezekiel 33:11).

The plagues from God are themselves warnings, as were the ones that fell on Egypt anciently. If we feel our own efforts fall on deaf ears know that God understands and feels the same way, "And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands..." (Revelation 9:20). The goal is always repentance. Personal or even national course corrections are possible. We have the example of King Hezekiah (2 Kings 20) whose prayers resulted in his own life being extended and the fate of his nation delayed. We beseech God and we call as many

as will listen to righteousness in the hope that He will extend the same mercies to us, drawing more to repentance according to His will.

Our vigil is not in vain. There is still time to "seek the Lord while He may be found" (Isaiah 55:6). Meanwhile, evidence of the direction things are trending is all around us. Society openly revels in sin to a degree that is downright shocking. Technological advancement is making possible a scenario where "no man might buy or sell" without pledging allegiance to a global system (Revelation 13:17). Even the potential for a type of ungodly utopia is out there, offering physical benefits hard to resist in times of distress and destruction. "For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober" (1 Thessalonians 5:3-6).

How will world governments offer peace and safety? More oversight (or less privacy if you prefer) is one way. Technologically we are already at the point where virtually every human being carries a device capable of real time transmitting or recording of video and audio. Not to mention surveillance cameras and smart devices

galore. These innovations were not imposed but embraced. Nor are they sinister in and of themselves. The potential to communicate and access information can enrich our lives in ways hitherto unimagined, but it would be foolish to ignore the opportunities for abuse.

The U.S. government has recently reauthorized and expanded FISA (Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act). The expansion concerns stored data in addition to electronic communications. The intent is to intercept communications and prevent foreign espionage or attacks on American soil. As it neared expiration, the director of the FBI pleaded with congress that the agency would be blind without it. However, there are enough catalogued abuses to prove the program can be put to ill use. One foreigner becomes a dragnet for their contacts' contacts' contacts, justifying the surveillance of otherwise guiltless citizens without a warrant. Germany faces similar debates. At some point, empowering law enforcement equals the abolition of privacy.

The elephant in the room is that these capabilities already exist. At what point does society willingly accept total oversight? We can see the downsides, but think of the compelling arguments that could be made in favor. Criminals would have no refuge, fraud could be a thing of the past. A tool to be used for justice or safety, as is already argued, and the average citizen may think, "Why not? I

have nothing to hide.” Maybe so, but Israel came to rue the day they cried, “Give us a king!” (1 Samuel 8). It is easier to give the power away than it is to take it back.

Up until this point, the sheer amount of data that would need to be processed has been a problem. Artificial Intelligence may be able to help with that some day. Despite some notable flubs, the technology is still in its infancy and has enormous potential. Microsoft’s advantage in the field, through its partnership with early leader Open AI, has led it to surpass Apple as the world’s most valuable company. Most major technology companies are investing heavily in development. Much of the consumer emphasis is placed on business tools like accurate notes from your meetings or image and text generation. Consider the applications when it comes to digesting mountains of data and identifying trends and threats either real or perceived. We have the past example of Facebook leveraging user data to create DeepFace, facial recognition technology, in partnership with the government. While these are merely tools, once they are created and deployed it is easy to imagine scenarios in which they could be abused.

Quantum computing plays a role in the race for ever quicker processing. The technology utilizes charged subatomic particles to perform calculations at speeds unattainable by traditional computers. The particles are subject to all sorts

of electromagnetic interference making storage difficult and jeopardizing the transfer of data over any kind of network. Universities in England and Germany have recently achieved a breakthrough in data transfer using wavelengths compatible with existing fiber optic infrastructure. While perhaps some years distant, quantum applications have the potential to make current data encryption methods obsolete. It would also exponentially increase the speed

at which data processing and other AI related tasks could be accomplished. Like the race for nuclear technology in WW2, the first nation to perfect and deploy it would gain a tremendous advantage. AI already has many battlefield applications.

Gathering, processing and transmitting data is of major concern to dominant world powers. The U.S. has just passed a bill compelling TikTok’s foreign owners to divest the company within a year or be banned in the



The IBM Q System One Quantum Computer at the Consumer Electronic Show CES 2020 in Las Vegas, Nevada January 2020

United States. China is floating reciprocal bans of American based social media applications. Starlink's satellite internet service provided by SpaceX and the ever-controversial Elon Musk roiled world powers by providing internet to Ukraine's armed forces in their fight against Russia. While the application is military, Russia has not yet dared to strike against otherwise commercial infrastructure in space. Reuters has also reported on the existence of a program called Starshield, a deal between the National Reconnaissance Office and SpaceX. The low-orbiting network of spy satellites aims to provide precise real-time imaging anywhere in the world at anytime. A source is quoted as saying, "No one can hide." Ominous. These advances enable us to envision the type of power that will eventually rise up and cause the world to say, "Who is like the beast? Who can make war with him?" (Revelation 13:4).

On the monetary side we

Screenshot from Worldcoin.org showing the iris-scanning orb.



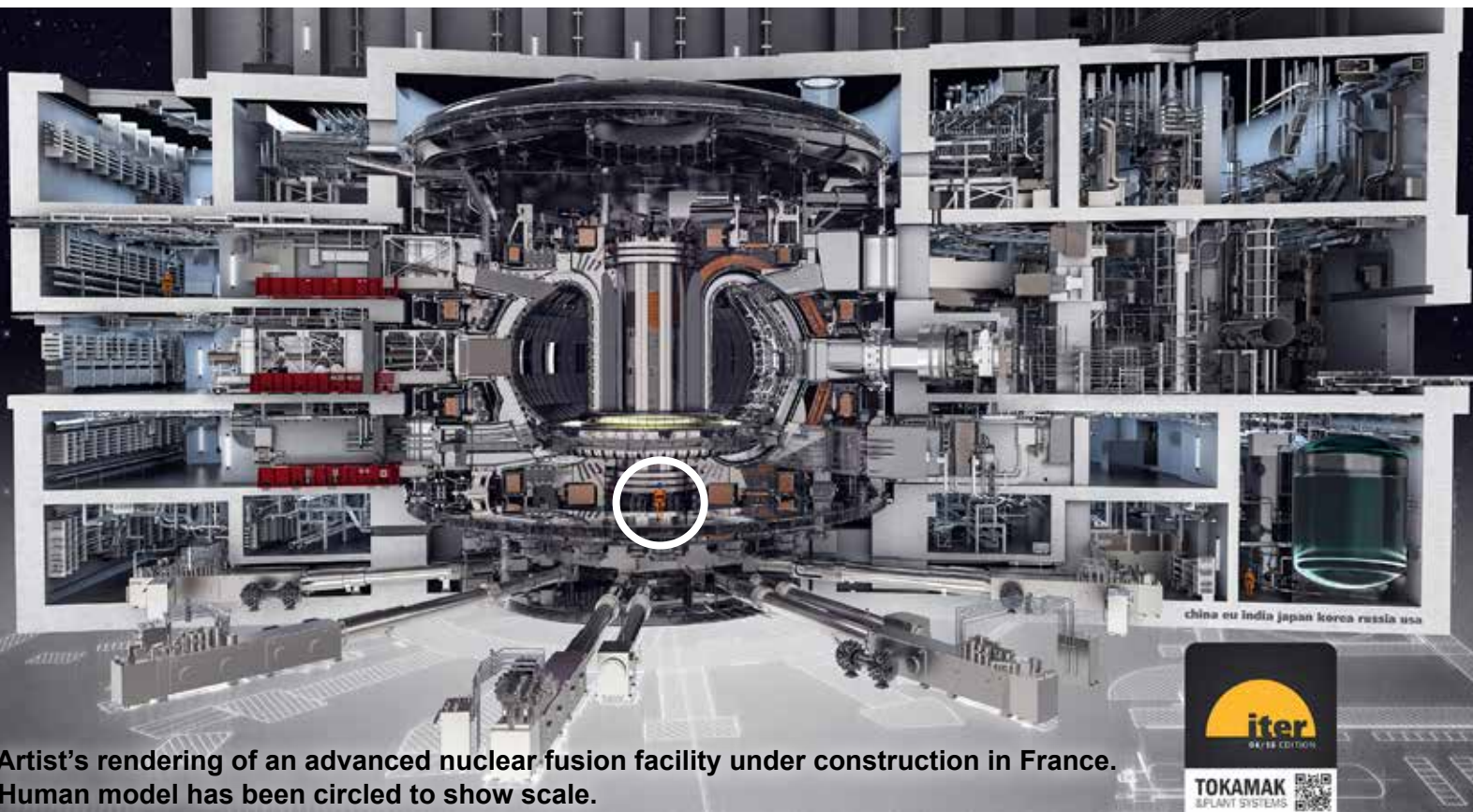
face the prospect of Central Bank Digital Currencies, which some 90% of nations are working on deploying. The existing international currency transfer system, SWIFT, is rolling out plans to facilitate exchanges. There are other innovations, such as PIX in Brazil, a payment system created by the Central Bank. Wielding the power of the federal government, regular banks and retailers have been required to facilitate payments through the new PIX system. The buyer

scans a QR code and the transaction is reflected on their account. The new system has made a significant dent in cash payments and wire transfers. Credit cards and debit cards have also suffered as PIX has extended credit options. Some analysts believe they will be entirely replaced as PIX processing fees are a fraction of those on traditional card purchases. In many ways it is turning the industry upside down as it threatens services traditionally provided by banks. Whatever advantages it may offer, it does tie the finances of every person directly to the central government.

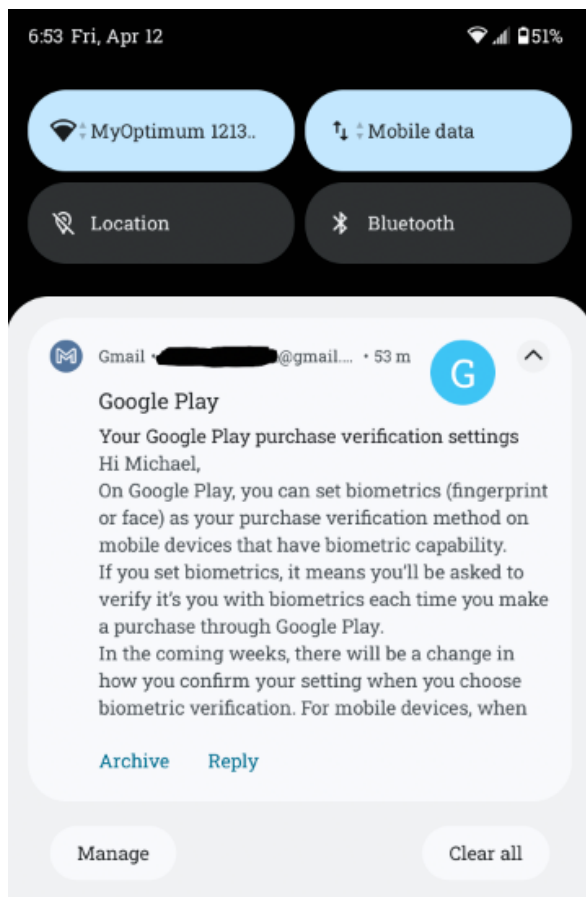
We are at a place where the individual has become the commodity. The most powerful entities in the world compete to own or access everything about you: what you say, what you read, what you watch, what you buy. Worldcoin is a digital currency backed by Sam Altman of OpenAI fame. Worldcoin offers a free digital payment to anyone who will allow their "orb" to



Continued next page



Artist's rendering of an advanced nuclear fusion facility under construction in France. Human model has been circled to show scale.



perform an iris scan. Why? Because eventually this “biometric data,” like the fingerprints and blood samples already collected by our governments, will be an integral part of establishing our identities for any transaction. To some extent it already exists. Modern phones unlock with a face scan or a thumbprint. Google encourages users to allow them to verify purchases in this manner. As it becomes technologically practical the move may become irresistible. From credit cards to voter fraud, there will be compelling arguments in favor.

Other important developments include the race to develop nuclear fusion as a source of energy. This reaction mimics that of the sun. Several breakthroughs have been made. These include short net-gains in energy, releasing more from the reaction than it took to create it. Reactions hotter than the sun have also been successfully contained and theoretical density limits have been surpassed. While there is an essence of science fiction about the promise of cheap limitless power, investment has been pouring in and congress is already taking steps to regulate the nascent industry.

How will these competitions for innovation

play out? Will calamity overtake the world, leading the masses to seek a deliverer? Will an unimagined breakthrough propel a new power into world leadership? Only time will tell. Meanwhile, we can see reaction to inconsistent and weak U.S. leadership. We can see the potential for a backlash in Europe amongst those who fear their prosperity and culture hang in the balance. There is even a push for a work-free Sunday, a mandatory day of rest if you will, headed by the European Sunday Alliance. It has the support and backing of the Vatican as well as some Members of European Parliament from Germany, Austria, Italy and the Czech Republic. The logic behind a unified day of rest is irrefutable, indeed it was God's idea in the first place. The substitution of Sunday for God's Sabbath was and is an affront, however. It

obscures the true Sabbath, which God called "a sign between Me and you throughout your generations" (Exodus 31:13). The push to impose Sunday observance on all society may illustrate a growing religious backlash with serious ramifications for the future of Europe.

When will the end come? Jesus said, "But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father. Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is" (Mark 13:32-33). Do we presumptuously claim to know more than our Lord? No, we obey Him. We watch, we wait patiently, and we trust His promise that we will recognize the time when it arrives. "And he spake to them a parable; Behold the fig tree, and all the trees; When they now shoot forth, ye see and know of

your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand. So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand" (Luke 21:29-31).

Remember these words when wars and rumors of wars have you wondering if the time has finally arrived. Remember them when keeping up with the geopolitical situation is enough to make your head spin. He has not called us to a life of fear and panic. Solomon wrote, "The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe" (Proverbs 29:25). God will fulfill all of His promises in His own time. Until then we wait and continue to watch for as long or short as the time may be. "Blessed is that servant, whom his Lord when He cometh shall find so doing" (Matthew 24:46). □



You Tube

WATCH US ONLINE!

Find Sabbath sermons from the **Intercontinental Church of God**. Updated each week with messages from a variety of inspiring speakers.



BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE

LESSON SIXTEEN: LAW OF GOD, PART FIVE

The law of God as revealed in the Bible is a good, right and perfect system of eternal directives and principles which reflects God's character and serves as a means of expressing His love toward man. God's law teaches man how to properly worship God, how to love his fellow man, how to live life abundantly, and, at the same time, how to prepare for an eternal spiritual life in the family of God. The law of God is represented in both the Old and the New Testaments and is expressed by both physical actions and spiritual motivations.

LAW AND GRACE

Summary: The preceding lessons should be sufficient to illustrate how the Church applies the Old Testament laws. It considers the Hebrew Bible very much a part of God's Word. It is not considered secondary to the New Testament nor in any way inferior to it. Yet it is superseded in the sense that the New Testament has made some specific changes to deal with spiritual Israel.

In a number of cases on which the New Testament throws little direct light, the Church has had to make decisions on the basis of the Old Testament. Time may yet show the need for modification or change of some of these decisions. Nevertheless, the Church of God is exercising the power and authority given to it by God. If such decisions could not be made, each person would drift into doing what seemed right in his or her own eyes and confusion would quickly result. Therefore, the Church assumes its God-ordained prerogatives to step in and make decisions where it deems them necessary and helpful, always remaining aware that each individual has to serve God according to the best of his own knowledge and conscience.

The Law has to be adapted as society and culture both change. Sometimes the Bible is not perfectly understood and mistakes are made. But this is inevitable as long as the Church is made up

of human beings and as long as God continues to work through human instruments. The important thing is that there always be the proper respect for the Bible, and the desire to understand God's mind and to fulfill His wishes. This requires a continual searching for the mind of God and a continual making of decisions to keep the Church in line with that mind. Since the Old Testament also represents the mind of God, it cannot be neglected in this process. Progressive revelation of God's will cannot be logically inconsistent with previous revelation.

CONCLUSION: LAW IN THE LIFE OF A CHRISTIAN

The law is very important in the life of a Christian. Of course, he knows that he cannot earn salvation by it. He knows it is not an end in itself but only the road by which he draws closer and closer to the mind of God and hence to God Himself. The law leads him to godly love. No written law can fully or completely express the depths of love. The "letter of the law" is always an inadequate means of expressing what love is. This is why Christians must keep the law in the spirit. Keeping the letter of the law alone may not be a complete expression of love; it is only when one looks behind the letter to the spirit, the true understanding, that he can see how to correctly apply the letter to show godly love.

For example, a Christian recognizes that

killing another individual is hardly likely to be showing love for him. But just keeping the literal letter of the law which says, "Thou shalt not kill," is still not sufficient. One must also not hate the other individual, and go yet further and demonstrate a positive outgoing concern for that individual. Yet true concern for another person's welfare does not usually come naturally (cf. Rom. 8:7), it has to be learned. It is a concept which must be captured and internalized. No amount of explanation can force a person to capture the true spirit of love; no amount of legal wording in a decree can bypass human nature. One can only grasp the concept when guided by the Holy Spirit.

The law of God, properly understood in its spiritual intent, enables one to express both love toward God and love toward one's fellow human beings. It defines the relationship with God which shall encourage and stimulate one's spiritual growth. Furthermore, the law of God defines relationships between human beings that foster the development of genuine concern for one's neighbor. In so doing, the law of God also defines the spiritual parameters which, if observed, would maximize the genuine welfare of both individuals within a society and of society as a whole.

The law of God, properly conceived of in its spiritual intent, in no way restricts the flow of godly love. On the contrary, the law instructs man how to love. The law is inherently a law of love.

On the other hand, it is the love of God that enables a Christian to fulfill the law (Rom. 13:10). It is through godly love that the full meaning and intent of the law is expressed.

Hence, God's love and God's law mutually envelop one another in a symbiotic relationship, with the one supporting the other.

The eternal and holy law of God kept in its spiritual intent provides the essential instructional framework that a Christian needs for his godly life. As one grows in understanding and in personal application of God's law, he nurtures within himself the qualities of holiness, justice and goodness (Rom. 7:12).

A Christian will make mistakes. If he is wholehearted and desirous of doing all he can to serve God, he may end up making more mistakes

— sinning more — than the one who concentrates on his inward state and holds back from positive action for fear of error. God is concerned about the mind and attitude. He does not need us, and in that sense, our service to God is really no service, since He could do it all much better without us. But our service is a means of building character and proving our devotion to God. It is that devotion and that love towards Him that He most wants for our ultimate good. Mistakes can be corrected and sins can be forgiven, but character is either present or lacking.

Therefore, the Christian learns to put his life in perspective.

There are sins which weigh one down and continually dog one's steps so that little can be accomplished. These sins must be overcome. But there are also the inevitable sins which occur as a consequence of the frailties of our human nature. These are also important, but one should not allow them to so dominate his thoughts that he turns away from life. There is more to a Christian life than just avoiding trouble.

The one who has been forgiven much is also the one who is grateful for much. He may not be as likely to take God's mercy for granted as the one who thinks that he has never really sinned all that much. The one who has been close to death appreciates life more than the one who has always had health and safety. Self-righteousness is perhaps the worst spiritual malady, and it tends to be bred in an environment of constant attention to outward forms of righteousness.

The true Christian knows that the law is good, not solely because biblical writers say it is, but because he has experienced its blessings in his own life. This does not mean that conforming to this spiritual guide is necessarily easy. On the contrary, it can be very difficult, even with the help of the Holy Spirit. Yet the end result is worth the toil, because God's law produces spiritual character and the natural blessings which result from expressing godly love.

Neither is it always easy to know what to do in any given situation. Comprehension of God's law is something which requires effort, study, time and practice. However, when the law is understood,

Continued next page

the reasons for it become obvious and the beneficial results that accrue from following it stand out. Ultimately, the law can be understood, as well as followed, only by the aid of the Holy Spirit. Those who have made the effort to understand and to obey can testify that it makes perfect sense. The Christian grows, develops and builds character as he contemplates the law, meditates on it and sees its purpose and judgment.

A Christian realizes his need to live by faith. Faith is directed toward the future. It aims at a promise which has only been fulfilled in part by the gift of the Holy Spirit. Yet faith is not just a passive state or a vague form of wishful thinking. Faith implies action; faith requires works (James 2:14-26). Works can never earn salvation but works are necessary for the Christian life. A person who is following God will produce good works — fulfillment of the law — as a natural consequence of his conversion and his possession of the Holy Spirit. These works are not an end in themselves. The ultimate goal is the Kingdom and family of God. But even though keeping the law does not produce the Kingdom, one shall never reach God's Kingdom without it. For one who does not have good works also does not have the Holy Spirit, the essential condition of salvation. Love — fulfilling the law — is the natural product of the Holy Spirit.

Ultimately, the goal of the Christian is to attain the mind of God. When that perfection comes,

at the resurrection, there shall be no further need for guidelines. Perfect love shall have become internalized, fully expressible without external law, with the result that the need for law codes shall be no more. But love cannot be comprehended without the law. It requires an understanding of love to truly appreciate the law. But one cannot come to that understanding unless he first starts to obey the law. That is the beginning, and love is its end.

To the Christian, God's law is the way to happiness, peace of mind and, ultimately, salvation. To follow God's law is the way one can become more like God so that God can give him eternal spiritual life in His family.

True freedom comes only under perfect law. Human government recognizes that freedom does not encroach upon the freedom of his fellow citizens. There are limits to freedom in order for freedom to exist; the greatest enslaver is anarchy. Perfect freedom comes from the perfect law of God, which is the law of love. When perfect love is expressed, perfect freedom exists. The law, therefore, is a summary of what constitutes love and how it is best expressed.

James was inspired to call God's law "the perfect law of liberty" and the "royal law" (James 1:25; 2:8). It is indeed a perfect and royal law, because it was given by a perfect and royal King — our Savior, Jesus Christ. □

SUMMARY: Read these scriptures in your own Bible:

- **2 Timothy 3:16 – All scripture is given by inspiration of God.**
 - **Exodus 20 – The 10 commandments.**
 - **1 John 2:4 – He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not His commandments is a liar and the truth is not in him.**
 - **1 John 3:4 – Sin is the transgression of the law.**
 - **Ephesians 6:1-3 – Paul tells the Gentiles to keep the commandments.**
 - **Isaiah 42:21 – The Lord will magnify the law and make it honorable.**
 - **Luke 24:44 – Jesus accepts the authenticity and inspiration of the entire Old Testament.**
 - **Romans 3:21-24 – Salvation is by grace alone (see also Romans 5:15-16).**
 - **Romans 6:23 – The wages of sin is death.**
 - **Romans 6:1-2 – Do not continue in sin.**
 - **Romans 7:12 – Law is Holy, just and good.**
 - **Romans 8:7 – The carnal mind is enmity against God.**
 - **Galatians 3:11 – The just shall live by faith.**
-

QUESTIONS (ANSWERS BELOW):

- 1) God’s law teaches man how to:
 - a. properly love God
 - b. love his fellowman
 - c. live life abundantly
 - d. prepare for eternal spiritual life in the Family of God
 - e. all of the above

- 2) The term “Law of Moses” and “Law of God” are used interchangeably in the Bible. True or False?

- 3) Ultimately, the love of God can only be discerned through His Spirit. True or False?

- 4) The law of God is only found in the Old Testament. True or False?

- 5) What does our church use as the foundation of its doctrines and teachings?
 - a. Old Testament
 - b. New Testament
 - c. both

- 6) New Testament writers express a [positive, neutral, negative] attitude towards God’s law.

- 7) Since it was Jesus Christ who established the law in the Old Testament, He would never have discarded it in the New Testament church. True or False?

- 8) According to Galatians 3:11, justification must be by _____ [what?]

- 9) If we rely on the works of the law — the keeping of the law we...
 - a. will fail
 - b. are justified
 - c. are saved
 - d. all of the above

- 10) Grace means...
 - a. forgiveness of past sins
 - b. release from having to keep the commandments
 - c. the unmerited, freely-given gift of eternal life.

LESSON SIXTEEN — ANSWERS:

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------|-----------|-----------|------------|--------|---------------|-----------|------------|--------|-------------|
| 1. (e) | 2. (true) | 3. (true) | 4. (false) | 5. (c) | 6. (positive) | 7. (true) | 8. (faith) | 9. (a) | 10. (a & c) |
|--------|-----------|-----------|------------|--------|---------------|-----------|------------|--------|-------------|



THE GARNER TED ARMSTRONG EVANGELISTIC ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 747, Flint, TX 75762 • 903-561-7070 • www.GTAEA.org

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TYLER, TX
PERMIT NO. 234

There are many important Bible prophecies yet to be fulfilled. What should we look for in the years to come?

***Order the free CD
“KINGS OF THE END”
by Garner Ted Armstrong***

**GARNER TED ARMSTRONG
EVANGELISTIC ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 232, Sandy Bay, TAS 7006
Phone: 1300 885 066
www.GTAAustralia.org.au
www.21stCenturyWatch.com**

