

TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

WATCH

Vol. 24 No. 3

Third Quarter 2021



**THE
ELEPHANT
IN THE ROOM**

The Elephant In The Room



by Mark Armstrong

Nothing seems to fit the situation quite so well. If you read the definitions of this old saying you'll see. Here's the Wikipedia description: "...a metaphorical idiom in English for an important or enormous topic, question, or controversial issue that is obvious or that everyone knows about but no one mentions or wants to discuss because it makes at least some of them uncomfortable and is personally, socially, or politically embarrassing, controversial, inflammatory or dangerous." That's as inclusive a definition as we could find, and a summation of them all.

It must be the greatest conspiracy theory out there. But, unfortunately there's something to it. Plugs himself says things he's not supposed to say at nearly every public appearance. You can bet the reporters he calls on aren't about to ask who made up the list. He keeps saying, "I'll get in trouble..." or "I've been instructed." Whoever is behind the curtain must be pulling their hair out, but some things are beyond their control. What gets said publicly can't be retracted. They can send somebody else out to try to clean it up, but how are you going to clean up, "I've been

instructed"? The most powerful man in the world has "been instructed"? He'll "get in trouble."

The international press is unabashed. A personality on Australia's Sky News has said that a whole bunch of heads have to roll over the Kabul disaster, or a presidential resignation is in order. What are we to think as we watch every obvious protocol violated? How distracted must he be to check his watch during the somber ceremony of the dead returning to the United States? Deaths for which he bears responsibility.

Is it OK to nap while the new Israeli Prime Minister tries to make his case? There is probably some perfectly logical explanation. We must have missed it.

The reality of the United States' humiliation on the global stage is electrifying, in a bad way. The troops have already been warned not to exhibit any disrespect. There have been calls for resignation. CNN says that's ridiculous. The same people who backed Trump in the call for insurrection are the buffoons who now suggest high level resignations. It's not a quote, but it's their line of logic. You might well



President Joe Biden meeting with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and Chairman Abdullah Abdullah, June 2021.

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The Big LIE of Islam

by Garner Ted Armstrong

BEFORE his death in 2003, Garner Ted Armstrong continually wrote and commented upon events transpiring in the Middle East. Major developments in the area are of great importance to all who WATCH for the prophetic end time events that will center around Jerusalem.

As Afghanistan succumbs to the Taliban while American and Allied forces make their exit, one aspect of the country's future is nearly certain. This article was written about the situation in Saudi Arabia when we were just beginning our engagement in Afghanistan. During the intervening 20 years many were able to live in relative freedom under the tolerant auspices of a Western-backed government. Today thousands desperately attempt to flee the country, often risking life itself. This article helps explain why.



SAUDI ARABIA intends holding an international conference on “Human Rights” this autumn. This is like saying the Ayatollah Khomeini will be holding a conference on women’s liberation, or that the Pope is holding a conference on “How to be a good Baptist.” According to the “Arab News,” the upcoming conference will “shed light on the Islamic approach toward human rights.”

Shortly after the vicious attacks of 9/11, George W. Bush went out of his way to invite leading Muslims to the capital; made many statements alleging that Islam is a “religion of peace.”

“Hate crimes” were committed here and there in the United States, as some Americans took out their wrath on supposedly “innocent” mosques or Islamic people.

From that time to this, any number of American Muslims have decried their “misunderstood religion,” claiming Islam does not believe in terrorism and murder; that Islam stands for “peace,” brotherhood and tranquility.

Now, one of the most repressive regimes on the planet has decided to host an international conference aimed at shedding criticism based upon militant Saudi Wahabism; the oft-repeated charges that the Saudis have looked the other way while large amounts of money have been funneled to such terrorist organizations as Hamas and the “Al-Aksa Brigade,” Yassir Arafat’s militant Palestinian group, as well as countless human rights violations.

Recent sensational publicity has also been given to the futile attempts of an American mother to rescue her children from Saudi Arabia. Recently, the “U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom” asserted that the following serious violations of religious freedom occur routinely in Saudi Arabia, and said “those Saudis and foreign contract workers who do not adhere to the Saudi government’s interpretation of Islam are subject to severe religious freedom violations.”

The violations listed included:

1. Virtually complete prohibitions on establishing non-Wahabi places of worship, the public expression of non-Wahabi religion, the wearing of non-prescribed religious dress and symbols,

and the presence of identifiable clerics of any religion other than the government’s interpretation of Islam;

Saudi Arabia wishes to pretend to the world that its form of Islam is truly a “religion of peace, tolerance and love,” or brotherhood.

2. The harassment, detention, arrest, torture and subsequent deportation by government authorities of Christian foreign workers for worshipping in private – with many forced to go to great lengths to conceal private religious practice to avoid these abuses;

3. The detention, imprisonment and, in some cases, torture of Shi’a clerics and religious scholars for their religious views which differ from those of the government;

4. The offensive and discriminatory language found in Saudi government-sponsored school textbooks, sermons in mosques and articles and commentary in the media about Jews, Christians and non-Wahabi streams of Islam; and

5. Interpretation and enforcement of religious law in Saudi Arabia, which affects every aspect of women’s lives and results in serious violations of their human rights.

In spite of such repressive violations, Saudi Arabia wishes to pretend to the world that its form of Islam is truly a “religion of peace, tolerance and love,” or brotherhood.

But different people mean different things by “peace.” Your dictionary says: “PEACE: Freedom from war or strife of any kind; public quiet, order, and security; an agreement between contending parties to end war; quiet, calm; peace of mind.”

To you and me, peace means FREEDOM along with public quiet, order, and security. It means tolerance, “live and let live,” tranquility, harmony, an absence of violence, riot, disturbances and war. Germans under Hitler could depend on “public quiet, order, and security.” But they were not free; not guaranteed human rights! Peace

means much more than merely an absence of war.

It means, first of all, freedom: then, the personal dignity and inalienable rights of every individual to be treated equally. It means the right to worship as we choose; to speak as we choose; to believe as we choose. It means the right to assemble without fear; it means freedom of the press, freedom of religion; freedom to exercise all those rights given to us by the founding fathers of our great, free country!

An unspoken sixth tenet of Islam is their avowed determination to bring the entire world under Islamic rule...

Continually, Muslims claim their religion stands for “peace.”

But to Muslims, “peace” does not mean the same thing it means to you and me. To them “peace” means “submission.” Islam means “submission.” But submission to WHAT? Submission to WHOM? Why, to their version of God, whom they call “Allah,” and to their revered “prophet,” Muhammad, as well as his modern-day representatives. The true meaning of “peace” among adherents to Islam is SURRENDER! Since they claim their *imams* stand for Allah, in the same way the pope is revered by Catholics, a convert to Islam must wholly SURRENDER to the *imam* and the mosque. Therefore, according to the basic tenets of Islam, the kind of peace you and I yearn for is IMPOSSIBLE with Christians, Jews, or believers in ANY religion other than Islam.

Muslims call their areas “Dar-ul-Islam,” meaning “the house of submission,” which occurs only when one “surrenders” to their version of Allah and Muhammad!

Outside of Islam there is no “peace.” Instead, Islam seeks to bring all other “Infidels” (non-believers in Muhammad) into their “Dar-ul-Islam.” An unspoken sixth tenet of Islam is their avowed determination to bring the entire world under Islamic rule; to destroy all other religions; to kill those who resist.

Down through history, this has been done more often by war and the edge of the sword than by patient missionary work. Of course, they will be quick to claim that “the people of the book” (as they call Christians and Jews) must be given an opportunity to submit; to “convert.”

Then, if they reject such opportunity, they are to be killed.

Not surprisingly, large numbers of African-Americans in America’s prison systems are being “converted” to Islam. The soldier who took an Islamic name, and who “fragged” (threw fragmentation grenades) his own officers is an Islamic convert, who, instead of asking to be exempted from fighting his “brother Muslims” on Islamic soil, resorted to a violent terrorist act against his own brother soldiers, killing and maiming unsuspecting victims while they slept!

At some point in time, he may have read some of the following verses from the Islamic “Holy” Koran:

“Fight those who believe not in Allah nor the Last Day, nor hold that forbidden which hath been forbidden by Allah and His Messenger, nor acknowledge the religion of Truth, [even if they are] of the People of the Books [Jews and Christians], until they pay the Jizya [a tax] with willing submission, and feel themselves subdued.”

“If anyone desires a religion other than Islam [submission to Allah], never will it be accepted of him; and in the Hereafter He will be in the ranks of those who have lost.

“8:39: And fight them on until there is no more tumult or oppression, and there prevail justice and faith in Allah altogether and everywhere.

“4:89: They long that ye should disbelieve even as they disbelieve, that ye may be upon a level [with them]. So choose not friends from them till they forsake their homes in the way of Allah; if they turn renegades, seize them and kill them wherever ye find them, and choose no friend nor helper from among them,”

“22:19-22: These two antagonists dispute with each other about their Lord: But those who deny [their Lord], for them will be cut out a garment of Fire: over their heads will be poured out boiling water. With it will be scalded what is with-

in their bodies, as well as [their] skins. In addition there will be maces of iron [to punish] them. Every time they wish to get away therefrom, from anguish, they will be forced back therein, and [it will be said], “Taste ye the Penalty of Burning!”

“47:4: If you meet those who are infidels or non-believers, you cut their heads off and tie things around their necks, start a war and God will give victory and those who will die in the war fighting God will not forget their acts.”

Just how or why one is called upon to “tie things around their necks” after having cut off their heads is a bit puzzling, but such are the shrieking, illogical diatribes found in the Koran.

The reason why there will BE NO PEACE in the Middle East is the simple fact of the existence of the State of Israel! Deep down inside, the entire Islamic world HATES the Jews; wants them annihilated; wants the state of Israel utterly destroyed!

No matter how many “roadmaps,” or “cease fires,” or “truces,” or “pull backs” occur, vicious, die-hard, militant Islamic terrorists will continue to do all they can to murder Jews.

When one sees our government making conciliatory advances toward such repressive regimes as Saudi Arabia, one must realize they are witnessing pure political expediency; geo-politics; the ongoing “game” of international relations.

The facts are simple: We need Saudi oil. We need Saudi cooperation in order to maintain ostensible stability in the region. We need to pretend Islamic states such as Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan and Kuwait are our “friends” as we tackle such tough problems as Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and Iran. Our government knows full well that militant Wahabism could eventually overthrow the Saudi government in the same way that militant Islam overthrew the Shah of Iran, and therefore plays the game of supporting the Saudi regime.



“The Prophet Muhammad and the Muslim Army at the Battle of Uhud,” from a 1595 edition of *Siyar-i Nabi*.

Do not be surprised if all the good words and lofty platitudes which will be spoken in Saudi Arabia about “human rights” are hailed as wonderful, positive steps by the UN and the liberal media. Deep down, they all know better.

No matter how loudly or how long Muslims proclaim their religion to be a religion of “peace,” such a claim is a blatant lie. Anyone reading the Koran knows better. □

HARVARD EPIDEMIOLOGIST: MAJOR STUDY DEMOLISHES CASE FOR VACCINE PASSPORTS

Natural immunity offers exponentially more protection than shots

by Art Moore, WND News Center

Harvard Medical School professor Martin Kulldorff argues that new research confirming that natural immunity offers exponentially more protection than vaccines means vaccine passports are both unscientific and discriminatory.

The latest is an Israeli study finding vaccinated individuals were 27 times more likely to get a symptomatic COVID infection than those with natural immunity.

Kulldorff concludes that's a death blow to the vaccine passports required by New York City, France, the Canadian provinces of Quebec and British Columbia, and others, reported the Foundation for Economic Education.

"Prior COVID disease (many working class) provides better immunity than vaccines (many professionals), so vaccine mandates are not only scientific nonsense, they are also discriminatory and unethical," Kulldorff, a biostatistician and epidemiologist, wrote on Twitter.

In April, Kulldorf joined with Stanford professor of medicine Jay Bhattacharya in an op-ed

for the *Wall Street Journal*, arguing vaccine passports would harm rather than benefit public health.

"The idea that everybody needs to be vaccinated is as scientifically baseless as the idea that nobody does," they wrote. "Covid vaccines are essential for older, high-risk people and their caretakers and advisable for many others. But those who've been infected are already immune."

They pointed out that the data shows the "young are at low risk, and children — for whom no vaccine has been approved anyway — are at far less risk of death than from the flu."

"If authorities mandate vaccination of those who don't need it, the public will start questioning vaccines in general," they warned.

Last fall, as WND reported, Kulldorff, Bhattacharya and Dr. Sunetra Gupta of Oxford launched their Great Barrington Declaration arguing mitigation should be focused on the vulnerable — older people with more than two comorbidities — while allowing the healthy to go about their business. The declaration

states that as "infectious disease epidemiologists and public health scientists we have grave concerns about the damaging physical and mental health impacts of the prevailing COVID-19 policies, and recommend an approach we call Focused Protection."

They emphasized that herd immunity should be the objective, contending it could be achieved in a relatively short amount of time.

COVID is not a "death sentence," Bhattacharya argued, alluding to survival rates calculated by the Centers for Disease Control of nearly 100% for those under 70 and nearly 95% for those who are older.

AMONG WORLD'S MOST VACCINATED NATION

Significantly, the Israeli immunity study was conducted in one of the most highly COVID-19-vaccinated countries in the world. The researchers analyzed the medical records of tens of thousands of Israelis between June 1 and August 14, when the Delta variant was dominant, focusing on infections, symptoms

and hospitalizations.

FEE noted that Australia has floated the idea of making higher vaccination rates a condition of lifting its lockdown in jurisdictions. In the U.S., President Joe Biden is considering making interstate travel unlawful for the unvaccinated.

But another 15 studies back the Israeli study.

Moreover, CDC research shows that vaccinated individuals are still being infected and are spreading COVID, with as much of the virus in their throat and nasal passage as unvaccinated people.

“High viral loads suggest an increased risk of transmission and raised concern that, unlike with other variants, vaccinated people infected with delta can transmit the virus,” CDC Direc-

tor Rochelle Walensky noted after an outbreak of mostly vaccinated people in Massachusetts.

This week, the CDC said vaccine effectiveness in preventing hospitalizations has fallen from a high of 95% to as low as 75%.

FEE concludes: “Vaccine passports would be immoral and a massive government overreach even in the absence of these findings. There is simply no historical parallel for governments attempting to restrict the movements of healthy people over a respiratory virus in this manner.”

CENSORSHIP

In April, YouTube censored a video featuring Kulldorf, Bhattacharya and other health experts in an exchange hosted by Florida Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis.

YouTube didn’t like an ex-

change in which Kulldorff, responding to a question by DeSantis, said “children should not wear face masks, no.”

“They don’t need it for their own protection and they don’t need it for protecting other people, either,” he said.

Bhattacharya said it is “developmentally inappropriate” for children to wear masks and it “just doesn’t help on the disease spread.”

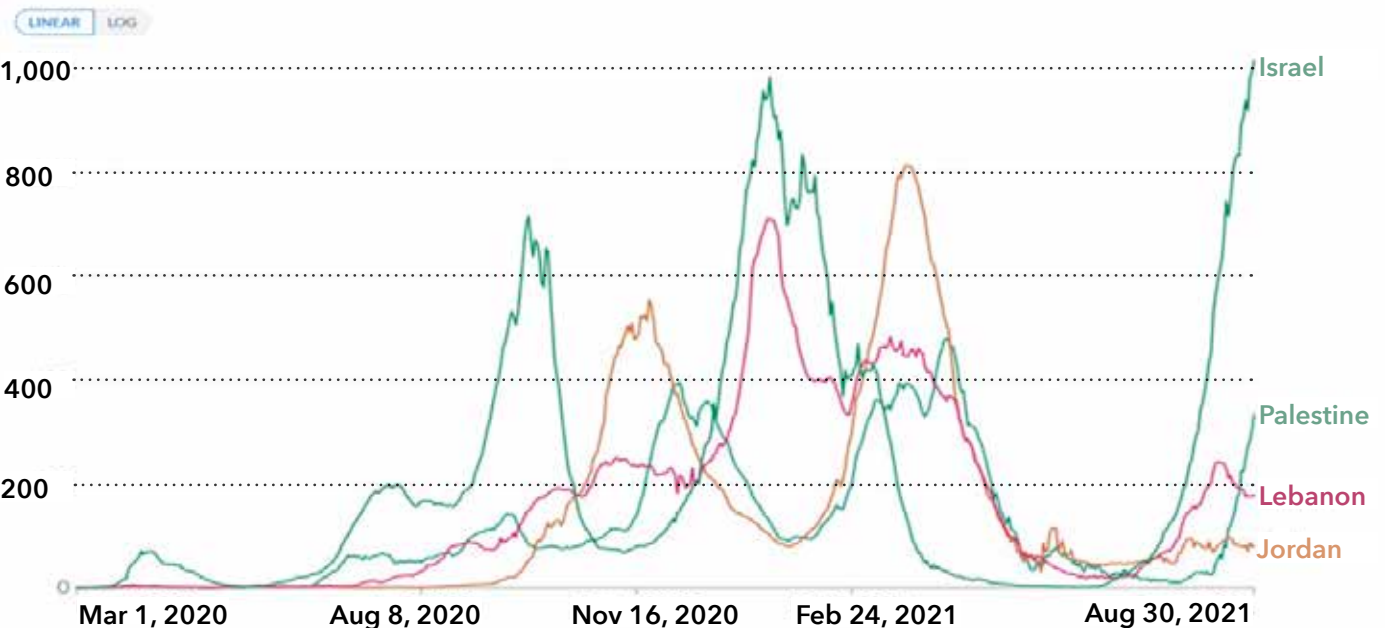
“I think it’s absolutely not the right thing to do,” he said.

Bhattacharya said that “if we went back a year, a lot of experts would say that wearing masks for the general public is not evidence-based.”

Later, Stanford’s Scott Atlas said “there’s no scientific rationale or logic to have children wear masks in schools.” □

Daily new confirmed COVID-19 cases per million people

Shown is the rolling 7-day average. The number of confirmed cases is lower than the number of actual cases: the main reason for this is limited testing.



Source: Johns Hopkins University CSSE COVID-19 Data

CC BY

Despite 62% of the population being fully vaccinated, Israel continues to see an increase in COVID-19 cases.



THE SACRIFICE OF FOOLS

“Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God, and be more ready to hear, than to give the sacrifice of fools: for they consider not that they do evil.” -Ecclesiastes 5:1

by Michael Armstrong

This interesting scripture illustrates that there is a way to worship God foolishly. This Old Testament scenario, with literal sacrifices at the Temple, might cause it to be dismissed by some. However, as is so often the case, the moral that is being illustrated is not only relevant but reiterated multiple times in the New Testament.

The scene it sets up for us is also interesting on its own. It shows man’s desire to “have it both ways,” so to speak. The law given to Moses required specific sacrifices for certain transgressions or sins. In addition to outlining what God considers ethical behavior, it was a civil structure for a literal nation. This is where much of the confusion arises about it being “done away” or “nailed to the cross.”

Things like a bullock or two turtle doves (which really makes you wonder about the second day of x-mas) were some stipulated sacrifices, depending on what had been done. Leviticus 5, for instance, deals with swearing, unclean animals and the uncleanness of man. For these, after confessing your guilt, you could bring a lamb or a kid, unless you were poor in which case two turtle doves or young pigeons would suffice. This is what God required. Enter the cynical human...

Old Loophole Joe likes pork and swear-

ing, too. He doesn’t always indulge in it, but when he does he knows what to do. He breeds goats and pigeons. A quick trip to the Priest and he’s back in the clear, works every time. He gets what he wants and propitiates God as well. No one gets hurt right? Wrong.

While he did comply with the letter of the law, the real essence of the matter was completely overlooked. Like Adam and Eve, deceived by the lie, “You shall not surely die,” the penalty for sin is not always instantaneous or spectacular. The law is intended to protect us, to safeguard our mental and physical well being. While Loophole Joe was meant to be ridiculous it illustrates the absurd way in which many approach religion.

There is a prevailing notion in Christianity that “all you have to do to be saved is believe on Jesus” or “give your heart to the Lord.” This “just as I am” mentality is not totally false. You can be forgiven just as you are, right now. The acceptance of Jesus Christ is the first step, followed by repentance, baptism and conversion. To convert is to change. Christ has empathy. He understands your temptations, but He doesn’t want you to continue in your bad habits. He wants to help you overcome them.

We are called out of the world with its prob-

lems and degradation. Paul wrote, “But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolator, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.” (1 Corinthians 5:11) This is talking about people inside the congregation.

All of these sins are dealt with in the Old Testament. They are to be repented of, not continued in. Paul is calling them out for thinking that because forgiveness has been established they can continually, willfully sin and be forgiven. Rinse and repeat. This is the sacrifice of fools.

Solomon’s admonishment from Ecclesiastes included, “Be more ready to hear.” The goal is to learn and understand what to avoid and why to avoid it. The dismissive attitude towards, or neglect of, the Old Testament poses a huge problem for those who rely solely on the New, whether they realize it or not.

It gives the impression that God is arbitrary; that He creates rigid statutes just to make you jump through hoops. They would make it seem He bound salvation up in so much red tape no one could possibly receive it. Then, as if hades were overcrowded, it’s suddenly so easy you pretty much just say “open sesame” at the pearly gates.

The thief that was crucified next to Jesus is sometimes used to support this idea (Luke 23). Wasn’t salvation as simple as acceptance? Almost, though he did repent, admit his own guilt, acknowledge God’s supremacy and Jesus as the Christ. (Verse 40-43) He also died a horrible death for his crimes that he called, “the due reward of our deeds.” What if he had continued living? Would he have been able to continue in a life of crime? Of course not.

Paul wrote in Ephesians 4:28, “Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labor, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give him that needeth.” The whole chapter is an exhortation to live a Godly, upright life unlike the one you were called out of. A fundamental change in your mode of existence.

He says to “walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called.” That you, “put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; and be re-

newed in the spirit of your mind; and that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.” The old sinful you and the new converted you are not compatible. Only a fool would think otherwise. The things Paul lists sound kind of familiar, too, don’t they? God’s supremacy, not lying, not stealing, not coveting...

Matthew Chapter 7 has many similar admonitions from Christ Himself. He says that “strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.” Human nature is not easily overcome. It can only be subdued with God’s Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ, and firm, steadfast commitment. He also says, “not everyone that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the Kingdom of Heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in Heaven.”

*“For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.”
Malachi 3:6*

Though tempted and occasionally falling short, we must continually press towards the goal of salvation. We can’t earn it, but we can certainly lose it. Many of the patriarchs the Bible says were “perfect” like Noah, Abraham, Asa, or Hezekiah struggled with the same problems we do. David was inspired to write, “God is my strength and power: He maketh my way perfect.” God can do the same for us. He can help us up when we stumble and lead us along the path of righteousness.

Avoid making the sacrifice of fools, learn from mistakes. Stay close to God through study and prayer. Sincerely desire to be better and admit when you are not. Ask God for help, trust in Jesus Christ, “for in that He Himself hath suffered being tempted, He is able to succor them that are tempted” (Hebrews 2:18). The state of delusion and disagreement the world is in now will not last forever. When the time comes it will be all or nothing. “Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in Heaven is perfect” (Matthew 5:48). □



EUROPE BRACES FOR TSUNAMI OF AFGHAN MIGRANTS

by Soeren Kern, Gatestone Institute

The Taliban conquest of Afghanistan is poised to trigger an unprecedented wave of Afghan migration to Europe, which is bracing for the arrival of potentially hundreds of thousands — possibly even millions — of refugees and migrants from the war-torn country.

German Interior Minister Horst Seehofer, expressing an ominous sense of foreboding, has estimated that up to five million people will try to leave Afghanistan for Europe. Such migration numbers, if they materialize, would make the previous migration crisis of 2015 — when more than a million people from Africa, Asia and the Middle East made their way to Europe — pale by comparison.

Since 2015, around 570,000 Afghans — almost exclusively young men — have requested asylum in the European Union, according to EU estimates. In 2020, Afghanistan was the EU's second-biggest source of asylum applicants after those from Syria.

Afghan males, many of whom have been especially difficult to assimilate or integrate into European society, have been responsible for hundreds — possibly thousands — of sexual assaults against local European women and girls in recent years. The arrival in Europe of millions more Afghans portends considerable future societal upheaval.

The 27 member states of the European Union are, as usual, divided on how to prepare for the coming migratory deluge. The leaders of some countries say they have a humanitarian obligation to accept large numbers of Afghan migrants. Others argue

that it is time for Islamic countries to shoulder the burden.

Ursula von der Leyen, head of the European Commission, the administrative arm of the European Union, said that the EU has a “moral responsibility” to take in those who are fleeing the Taliban. The leaders of many EU member states disagree.

In Austria, which in recent years has taken in over 40,000 Afghans (the second highest number in Europe after Germany, which has taken in 148,000 Afghans), Chancellor Sebastian Kurz vowed that his country will not be accepting any more. In an interview with Austrian broadcaster Puls 24, he said that Austria had already made a “disproportionately large contribution” to Afghanistan:

“I am clearly opposed to us now taking in more people. That will not happen under my chancellorship. Taking in people who then cannot be integrated is a huge problem for us as a country.”

Austrian Interior Minister Karl Nehammer, in a joint statement with Foreign Minister Alexander Schallenberg, called for Afghans illegally in Austria to be deported to Islamic countries, now that they cannot, according to EU law, be deported back to Afghanistan:

“If deportations are no longer possible because of the restrictions imposed on us by the European Convention on Human Rights, alternatives must be considered. Deportation centers in the region around Afghanistan would be one possibility. That requires the strength and support of the European

Commission.”

Nehammer, in an interview with the APA news agency, insisted that deportations should be viewed as a security issue rather than as a humanitarian matter:

“It is easy to call for a general ban on deportations to Afghanistan, while on the other hand ignoring the expected migration movements. Those who need protection must receive it as close as possible to their country of origin.

“A general ban on deportation is a pull factor for illegal migration and only fuels the inconsiderate and cynical business of smugglers and thus organized crime.

“As minister of the interior, I am primarily responsible for the people living in Austria. Above all, this means protecting social peace and the welfare state over the long term.”

Schallenberg added:

“The crisis in Afghanistan is not unfolding in a vacuum. Conflict and instability in the region will sooner or later spill over to Europe and thus to

Austria.”

An opinion poll published by Österreich 24 showed that nearly three-fourths of respondents back the Austrian government’s hard line Afghan migration. The poll linked the support to a high-profile criminal case in which four Afghans in Vienna drugged and raped a 13-year-old girl who was strangled, lost consciousness and died.

In Germany, migration from Afghanistan has emerged as a major issue ahead of federal elections scheduled for September 26. Paul Ziemeck, general secretary of German Chancellor Angela Merkel’s Christian Democratic Union (CDU) party, said that Germany should not adopt the open-door migration policy it pursued in 2015, when Merkel allowed into the country more than a million migrants from Africa, Asia and the Middle East. In an interview with German broadcaster n-tv, he said:

“It is clear to us that 2015 must not be repeated. We will not be able to solve the Afghanistan issue by migration to Germany.”

CDU chancellor candidate Armin Laschet has



An aerial view of an Afghan refugee camp inside the US military base in Ramstein, Germany. Alongside Qatar, Germany has served as a major hub for holding refugees pending relocation.

Continued next page

remained silent on the Afghan issue, as has the chancellor candidate for the Social Democrats (SPD) Olaf Scholz. By contrast, the chancellor candidate for the Greens party, Annalena Baerbock, called for Germany to take in well over 50,000 Afghans. “We have to come to terms with this,” she said in an interview with ARD television.

Meanwhile, Afghan criminals, including rapists and drug traffickers, who previously had been deported to Afghanistan, have now returned to Germany on evacuation flights. Upon arrival in Germany, they immediately submitted new asylum applications. “It is not a completely new scenario that people come to Germany who previously had been deported,” said an interior ministry spokesman.

In France, President Emmanuel Macron has called for a coordinated European response to prevent mass migration from Afghanistan:

“The destabilization of Afghanistan will likely increase the flow of irregular migration to Europe... Europe alone will not be able to assume the consequences of the current situation. We must plan and protect ourselves against large irregular migratory flows that endanger those who are part of them and fuel trafficking of all kinds.”

Marine Le Pen, who is running neck and neck in the polls with Macron ahead of French presidential elections set for April 2022, said that France should say “no” to massive migration of Afghan refugees. A petition on her party’s website — “Afghanistan: NO to a new migratory highway!” — stated:

“We are fully aware of the human tragedies and the obvious distress of some of the legitimate refugees. But the right of asylum must not continue to be, as it is now, the Trojan horse of massive, uncontrolled and imposed immigration, of Islamism, and in some cases of terrorism, as was the case with certain jihadists involved in the attacks of November 13, 2015 [date on which a series of coordinated jihadist attacks took place in Paris in which more than 130 people were killed and more than 400 were injured.]

“The mayors of certain large cities have already announced their intention to welcome refugees. It is in our opinion an obvious risk to their fellow citizens.

“What matters to us first and foremost is the protection of our compatriots.”

Meanwhile, five Afghans who were airlifted to France have been placed under counter-terrorism surveillance for suspected ties to the Taliban, according to the French Interior Ministry. One of the men, who worked for the French embassy in Kabul, admitted, under questioning, to have previously managed a Taliban checkpoint. Another 20 Afghans taken to France are being investigated for asylum fraud.

In Greece, the government, fearing a repeat of the 2015 migration crisis, has erected a 40-km (25-mile) fence and installed a new surveillance system on its border with Turkey to deter Afghan migrants from trying to reach Europe. In recent years, Greece has been a key gateway to Europe for migrants from Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

Public Order Minister Michalis Chrisochoidis said:

“We cannot wait, passively, for the possible impact. Our borders will remain safe and inviolable.”

Greek Minister for Migration and Asylum, Notis Mitarachi, added that the EU needs to send “the right messages” in order to avoid a new migration crisis “which Europe is unable to shoulder.” He stressed: “Our country will not be a gateway to Europe for illegal Afghan migrants.”

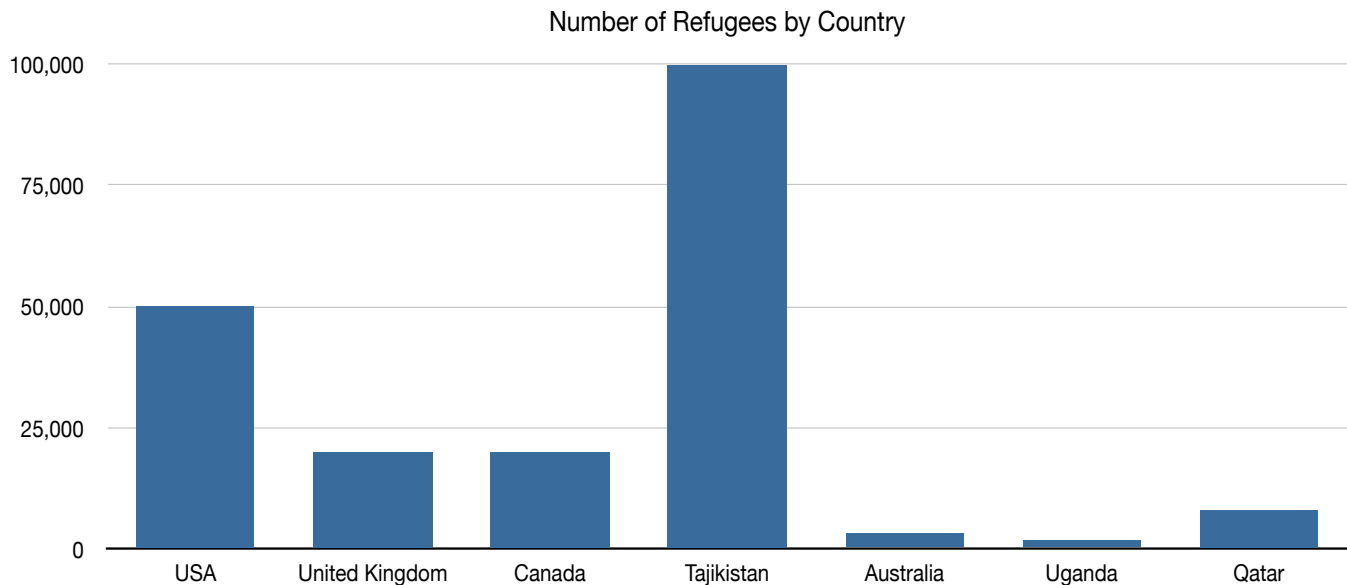
In Italy, Prime Minister Mario Draghi called for the Group of 20 major economies to hold a summit on the situation in Afghanistan. The Italian newspaper *La Repubblica* noted:

“The G20, for Draghi, has a strategic value: it is in that forum that one can and must reach a commitment that binds not only the forces of a West that has come out battered from its twenty-year mission in Afghanistan, but also and above all those countries such as China, Russia, Saudi Arabia and Turkey which have interests and influence on the self-proclaimed Islamic state.”

In the United Kingdom, Prime Minister Boris Johnson, in a statement to Parliament, announced a plan to take in 20,000 Afghan migrants:

“We must deal with the world as it is, accepting what we have achieved and what we have not achieved...”

“We will not be sending people back to Afghanistan and nor, by the way, will we be allowing people to come from Afghanistan to this country



Many other countries have also accepted smaller numbers of Afghans. Some, such as France and Germany, are unwilling to commit to specific numbers due to political repercussions. Tens of thousands more Afghans are attempting to make their way out of the country by land. Iran and Pakistan have been deluged, though many have sought to reach Turkey, hoping to enter the E.U.

in an indiscriminate way.

“We want to be generous, but we must make sure we look after our own security.”

In Turkey, the government is building a 295-km (180-mile) wall along its border with Iran to prevent a new influx of migrants from Afghanistan. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan said that a new wave of migration is “inevitable” if Afghanistan and Iran fail to secure their borders. He added that Turkey will not become a “refugee warehouse” for fleeing Afghans:

“We need to remind our European friends of this fact: Europe — which has become the center of attraction for millions of people — cannot stay out of the Afghan refugee problem by harshly sealing its borders to protect the safety and wellbeing of its citizens. Turkey has no duty, responsibility or obligation to be Europe’s refugee warehouse.”

Meanwhile, thousands of Afghan migrants are arriving in countries across Europe, including Belgium, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Hungary, Ireland, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Serbia and Sweden, among others.

Albania, Macedonia and Kosovo agreed to temporarily shelter hundreds of Afghans who worked with Western peacekeeping military forces and are now threatened by the Taliban.

Spain said that it would temporarily host up to 4,000 Afghan migrants at two military bases used by the United States.

Slovenia, which currently holds the EU’s six-month rotating presidency, said that the European Union will not allow a surge in Afghan migration. Prime Minister Janez Janša tweeted:

“The #EU will not open any European ‘humanitarian’ or migration corridors for #Afghanistan. We will not allow the strategic mistake from 2015 to be repeated. We will only help individuals who helped us during the #NATO Operation. And to the EU members who protect our external border.”

Meanwhile, dozens of Afghan migrants are trapped along the border between Poland and Belarus. Poland and the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania said that Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko’s practice of sending migrants across their borders is an act of “hybrid warfare.” Lukashenko is accused of seeking revenge for sanctions the EU imposed over his disputed reelection and a crackdown on dissent.

Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki said that although he sympathized with the Afghan migrants, he said that they were “a tool in the hands of Mr. Lukashenko” and that Poland would not succumb to “this type of blackmail.” □


**WORLD NEWS
BRIEF**

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

AN UNORTHODOX ATTACK

In Greece, a Priest in the Orthodox Church attacked seven Bishops during a disciplinary council. The 37 year old deacon was being investigated for fraud and had also been arrested in possession of cocaine. When the council informed him he was being “defrocked” he revealed a bottle of acid he had been concealing and threw it on those assembled. Three other bystanders were injured along with the seven Bishops. Reports indicate that the walls of the room were burned and bloodied as well as the clothes the victims had frantically discarded. All ten were hospitalized, two in critical condition, and at least one will require plastic surgery. Even the officer who caught him trying to escape was admitted for burns. A lawyer for the attacker claims his client didn’t “comprehend the consequences of his action” due to “taking strong medication.”

INCLUDED OR EXCLUDED

Western European nations are facing off with their Eastern counterparts amidst a dispute that is short on gaiety. After the outlandish displays of “pride month,” the traditionally oriented governments of nations like Poland, Hungary and Slovakia are pushing back. Polish Education Minister Czarnek referred to a march as insulting to morality, asserting it had nothing to do with equality. He also said, “You saw people dressed bizarrely, a man dressed like a woman. Are they normal people in your opinion?” Poland also has some municipalities declaring themselves LGBT free zones, asserting that parades and other public events are not welcome. The country also prohibits homosexual couples from adopting children. The Czech President, Zeman, described transition surgery as disgusting, calling it “a crime of self harm.” Hungary is under fire for a law that

prohibits any promotion of queer lifestyle or gender fluidity in schools. Many big names in the EU are threatening Hungary with consequences if they don’t repeal the law, saying it should leave the bloc if it does not agree on “core values.”

VATICAN’T

Though policy has been trending towards a more liberal approach to social issues under the leadership of Francis, there are apparently lines the Vatican does not want to cross. An Italian law now threatens to make many Catholic doctrines illegal in practice. Refusing to perform marriages for homosexuals or excluding them from Catholic adoption services would be criminal acts under a new anti-discrimination law. Schools would also be forced to teach curriculum that violates their dogma. Calls for redress include concern the law violates the Vatican’s sovereignty under the Lateran Pacts.

Social issues and Catholic doctrine have become a major source of conflict recently. Another example is a push by U.S. Bishops to define the qualifications for communion, a move that may lead to Joe Biden and other prominent politicians being denied the sacrament. They are currently drafting a document to this effect. Such a measure would require the unanimous assent of the Bishops for implementation. Short of this, Francis would have to uphold the document, which is thought to be extremely unlikely.

BRITISH NANNY STATE

A new pathetic law for self determination is set to take effect in Great Britain next year. Apparently, citizens cannot be trusted to see advertisements for fast food or other items deemed unhealthy during daytime hours. Ads will not be allowed on television or the internet so as not to lead the popu-

lous into temptation. What's next, covering the billboards? Such regulation implies that the government considers its own constituents so feeble minded and easily manipulated that they can't be trusted not to rush out and kill themselves with crisps. Overreach of this kind can be linked to the public health services many countries have adopted. When they are footing the bill for medical treatment it's easier to justify Nanny-type interventions. Both advertisers and media companies are outraged by these new regulations.

PEGASUS

Not the mythical flying horse, alas. Pegasus is the name of a spyware program produced and sold by NSO out of Israel. While the premier nations of the world produce spyware to monitor their own citizens, there are some who lack the resources but not the desire. Pegasus fills this need, allowing governments to access all the data available on your smartphone. Texts, calls, emails, and photos can be retrieved in addition to monitoring your camera and microphone in real time. Installation can reportedly be accomplished in a single text message, often without the user having to click a link. NSO has stressed that its products are only available to national governments and law enforcement agencies that meet certain standards for use against terrorists, violent criminals and the like.

They claim to have clients from 40 different nations, stable places not known for corruption such as Saudi Arabia, Morocco, and Mexico. These practices have been acknowledged for years. Ongoing investigations claim dozens of heads of state and hundreds of journalists' devices have been compromised. French President Macron changed a personal phone number on account of Pegasus and it is alleged that murdered journalist Jamal Khashoggi was also targeted. Privacy is a thing of the past in the digital age, a sacrifice to convenience. How long will the outrage last when most of the world has accepted their own government's use of similar technologies with barely a murmur?

TRAGICALLY AVOIDABLE

A Rwandan man is highlighting many of the shortcomings of European immigration policies and law enforcement. Having illegally migrated to France, he was ordered to leave in 2019. He did not,

and apparently the state did not physically deport him. He was arrested again in 2020 and admitted to setting fire to a Gothic cathedral in Nantes. While not as devastating as the Notre-Dame fire, many irreplaceable and historic items were lost. Awaiting trial, he was released on bail. With nowhere to go, a French Priest took him in. Horrifyingly, the Priest has been murdered by the Rwandan man to whom he had shown compassion.

This tragedy has rocked France and the attention it receives will definitely factor into their ongoing debate about immigration. With a federal election looming, the government's lackadaisical handling of these issues will not be an asset.

NEW PLAYERS, SAME GAME

Iran's nuclear ambitions have been a cause of concern for many years, particularly to Israel. Both countries have recently undergone changes in leadership. In Israel, former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was ousted by a shaky coalition with little in common. It includes liberal and conservative elements as well as an Arab party and was confirmed in the Knesset by only one vote. Naftali Bennett is serving as Prime Minister for the first two years and will be followed by Yair Lapid for the last two of the scheduled four year term. Benny Gantz, formerly Netanyahu's main rival despite ideological similarities, is continuing in the post of Defense Minister. Should Gantz and Netanyahu come to an agreement, they could force a vote of no confidence in the current government at any time, an option that Gantz has publicly avoided ruling out.

Iranian elections, such as they are, installed Ebrahim Raisi as President. Low turnout, with only half the eligible population casting a ballot and millions not selecting a candidate for President, has been blamed on virus regulations, general dissatisfaction, and many candidates being summarily disqualified by the Ayatollah. Raisi has long been sanctioned by the U.S. for crimes that include mass political execution. "The Butcher of Tehran," as he is known, is extreme, even for Iran. He has abruptly ended the indirect negotiations with western powers in Vienna to revive the nuclear deal. Iran is already openly enriching uranium to 60% purity and could achieve the 90% necessary for nuclear weapons in a very short time. The deal, which sought to limit enrichment to 3.67%, is hardly relevant at this point. □

BIBLE STUDY*by Dr. James & Natalie Ricks*

God Is Never Wrong

GOD'S LAWS ARE FOR THE GOOD OF MANKIND

We, of course, do not understand all things done by deity, but one must study God's word with this premise: God is always right! We should ask ourselves, "Why did God say that and how can we gain deeper insight, to avoid deceiving ourselves?" One misinterpreted verse can be the blind alley leading us to profound errors and misunderstandings. Really understanding God's word requires correct foundational knowledge and stable thinking.

2 Peter 3:15-17, "...Our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures. You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked;"

UNDERSTANDING THE NEW TESTAMENT THROUGH THE OLD TESTAMENT

The foundation necessary to understand the Bible in its entirety is the Old Testament. The great Apostle Peter is telling believers that to understand

New Testament scriptures one must be knowledgeable and stable. One of the primary pieces of knowledge one must have is that God is infallible. His word cannot be broken or false. This includes the Old Testament, the largest portion of His written testimony. Jesus Christ said this very thing himself when referring to the Old Testament.

John 10:34-35, "Jesus answered them, 'Is it not written in your law, 'I said, 'Ye are gods?'"

"If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken;

"Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, 'Thou blasphemest'; because I said, 'I am the Son of God?'"

It is a false assumption that the Old Testament is done away. People use this idea to get around the fourth commandment and stay in step with the world. Keeping the sign of God — THE SABBATH — is very difficult in our society. Therefore many desire to ignore this part of the Bible. They can cherry pick the Old Testament. But a true believer cannot even fully understand the New Testament without understanding the Old Testament. The New Testament is built upon the Old Testament! Jesus Himself often validated the Old Testament. Note His reference to Daniel the prophet:

Matthew 24:14-15, "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

"Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (whoever reads, let him understand)."

BIBLE STUDY

THE WORLD'S FALSE NARRATIVE ABOUT GOD AND JESUS

The world's premise, or narrative, is that the old, harsh God depicted in the Old Testament was inflexible and without compassion. This "Old God" was too Law oriented, they say. The problem with that argument is that JESUS is the GOD of the Old Testament!

John 1:1-3, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

"The same was in the beginning with God.

"All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made."

V.14, "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."

The God of creation, the God of the Old Testament, is the spokesperson, *logos*, or "Word," Jesus Christ. No one has seen God the Father and humans in the Old Testament only dealt with God the Son before he came in the flesh as Jesus. He said, "If you have seen me you have seen the Father." Paul further elaborates on Jesus as the God of the Old Testament that cared for Israel.

1 Corinthians 10:1-4, "Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea,

"All were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,

"All ate the same spiritual food,

"And all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ."

Paul, the writer of most of the New Testament, told these mostly gentile believers that Jesus was the God who led Israel through the Red Sea! Jesus is clearly the deity of the OLD TESTAMENT.

Even though we no longer live in a Theocracy governed by God, the principles behind His Laws are still valid. Everything God gave Israel was good for them. In 1 Cor. 9:9-11 the Apostle Paul is apply-

ing a minor law from Deut. (25:4) to a gentile New Testament church. Paul clearly did not believe the Old Testament laws were all done away for gentiles.

1 Corinthians 9:9-11, "For it is written in the law of Moses, 'You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain.' Is it oxen God is concerned about?"

"Or does He say it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written, that he who plows should plow in hope, and he who threshes in hope should be partaker of his hope.

"If we have sown spiritual things for you, is it a great thing if we reap your material things?"

He used this Old Testament law as proof that he could have asked for a salary from the Corinthians, but deferred because he did not want it to be a barrier to growth in their situation. He thought that some would be suspicious of this Jewish cleric wanting their money! He did this out of love, yet they did not appreciate his sacrifice. Note also that the Old Testament is quoted liberally throughout the New Testament as doctrinal support and guidance.

Acts 24:14, "But this I confess to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect, so I worship the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the Law and in the Prophets."

Paul totally believed in all of the Old Testament and he plainly stated such in his legal hearings.

GOD IS UNCHANGING BECAUSE HE IS NEVER WRONG

Be wary of biases from past religious teaching which could have been due to our uninformed teachers with no real understanding. Many of those biases are based on the idea of a harsh God of the Old Testament who has been replaced by a young reformer, Jesus, who changed much of the Old Testament laws. The God of the Old Testament was actually slow to anger! Furthermore, God put curses on those that would alter or do away with any part of His written word. See Rev. 22:18-19 and Num. 23:19, as well as Deut. 4:2 and Heb. 13:8.

BIBLE STUDY

Hebrews 13:8, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.”

Numbers 23:19-20, “God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?”

“Behold, I have received a command to bless; He has blessed, and I cannot reverse it.”

God does NOT need to change. People need to change — by repenting! Christ said in Matt. 5:17-18 that He did not come to do away with the law but to show its deep spiritual fulfillment and applications.

Matthew 5:17-18, “Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.

“For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.”

This verse directly contradicts the worldly story-line that Jesus came to undo the laws of God. The earth is still here. How to apply the law in our modern world requires thought and understanding, but Jesus did not come to invalidate them. Christ did come to bring many to salvation through the proper use of grace. Grace and the law work together when correctly understood.

Romans 3:30-31, “...There is one God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith. Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary,

we establish the law.”

Faith and grace together establish the law. For example, if there were no law which said stealing was wrong, then no grace, also read “unmerited pardon,” would be necessary when one is caught stealing. One cannot be forgiven if there is no law saying what you did was wrong.

Romans 6:1-3, “What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?”

“Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?”

“Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?”

Paul is explaining that new covenant believers should now strive to be free of sin, which is law breaking. Why? Because now we are dead to sin. Our old, sinful self died in the waters of baptism!

Romans 6:14-15, “For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

“What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not!”

God gave the Apostles the power to make legal decisions regarding new situations that required a ruling to bind or to loose. This Apostolic authority does not indicate that God was wrong in any manner. This authority is meant to be used with Godly insight which would never be used to contradict God’s unchanging wishes or laws. □

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The Elephant in the Room

Continued from page 2

have missed it. The big investigative bureau admitted that those arrested on January 6th were “one offs” and not part of a larger conspiracy. That came amid the Kabul catastrophe with no fanfare at all. So they’re still talking insurrection on the mainstream outlets.

How is it possible to have awarded the Taliban (even the UN has designated the group a terrorist organization) \$85 billion worth of weapons, vehicles and assorted armaments? It looks like the very definition of treason. Not to say that it was done on purpose. Surely not! Who would do that?

You don’t suppose the guy who bowed to the waist to Islamic hierarchy would do such a thing? Will those weapons be used against our own military or one of our allies?

A video is starting to circulate. It’s a conversation between that insufferable Steven Colbert and the fake messiah himself about the possibility of a third term. The fake one says he wouldn’t seek another term, but if he had a front man with an ear piece, he could sit in his sweats in his basement and tell him what to say. If you doubt it, look it up. That is the elephant in the room, though you’d probably be banned from every social media outlet if you were to repeat it.

Did the Kabul catastrophe happen by accident? Is it possible that the American military is on the run from the likes of these derelicts by design? That’s a good possibility. Maybe we’ll find out. Some day. For now, everyone is out of Kabul. Not everyone, but all that could be saved by August 31. The Taliban has conducted their customary celebrations. Not only did they run off the U. S. military, they got unbelievable

military hardware. The terrorists now have more vehicles than we’ve ever seen in one place, hundreds of thousands of high tech firearms, night goggles and scopes, helicopters and aircraft including C-130 transport aircraft. No wonder they’re having a party.

However, they celebrate in ways we wouldn’t understand. They hang people from helicopters. A radio report says they’ve cut queers into small pieces and scattered them in the streets. Yeah, it’s a great victory for the suspect administration. What a great job they did.

We’re starting to get a sense of the fallout. Allies are saying publicly they’ll not participate with the U. S. under the circumstances. The world will not soon forget the disaster unfolding in Kabul, particularly as the blood-letting of the Taliban gets under way. Hopefully we’ll never experience the mental anguish of having to know the details. We already know too many. They held a mock funeral for the United States. Some of the celebrations got so wild that people were killed. That’s OK. Life is cheap in their culture. Besides, they think they won the war and who’s going to argue?

The White House occupant comes out and reads a speech proclaiming the evacuation operation an historic success. Watch it if you can. Meanwhile the media is awash in heartbreaking stories of people who are marked for death in some gruesome fashion for the cardinal sin of having cooperated with our guys. It seems



Newly equipped, an Afghan Taliban member stands guard outside the airport in Kabul, capital of Afghanistan, Sep 6, 2021.

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like cooperation is the norm when soldiers show up in overwhelming force with armaments on display. To the Taliban, this was treason.

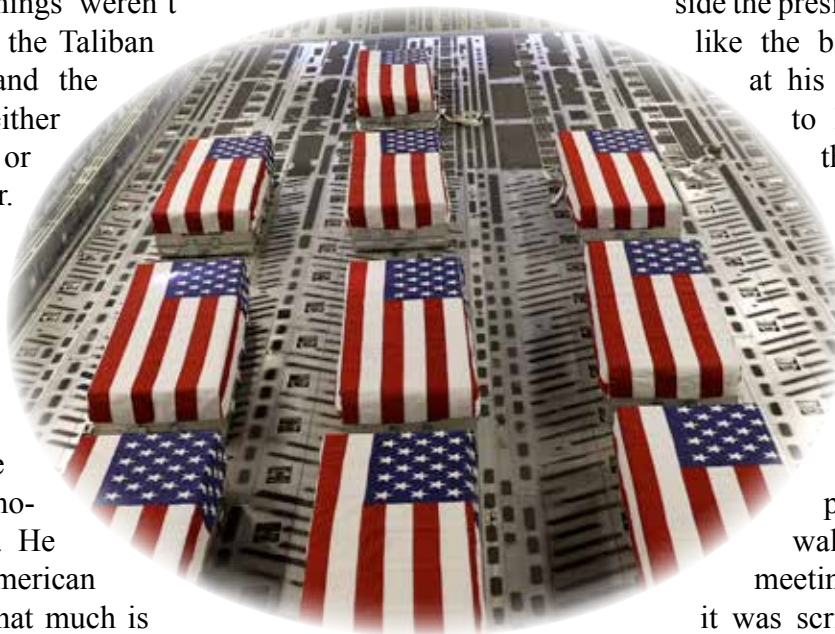
Nobody knew what was coming. Except they did. Maybe you've seen some of the inside communications that are coming out now. Reuters printed a transcript of a conversation between the occupant and the President of Afghanistan. The problem was the "perception" that things weren't going well. In fact the Taliban were moving in and the Afghan army was either there to greet them or running for cover. But that wasn't the "perception" that was beneficial from a public relations standpoint.

The Afghan president took the money and ran, nobody's sure where. He took millions of American dollars with him, that much is fact. The Afghan government was so obviously corrupt, and so was the army. It was propped up courtesy of the American taxpayer. It didn't stand a chance against a committed enemy. Not even the Taliban.

We hope the goat ropers are enjoying their celebrations. They won't last long. The country is in economic collapse. It required foreign currency, and without it things will spiral out of control. We hope the Taliban will rue the day they thought taking over Afghanistan was a good idea. The chaos so far is but a preview of what's to come. We're apparently

supposed to keep pretending this was all an accident, or that it couldn't have gone any other way.

It's hard to know how things could go any worse if the high officials were TRYING to screw everything up, ensure that people were left behind or killed, embarrass the military and slime America in disrepute while arming the Taliban and allowing them to claim victory. Try to fathom a worse outcome.



Here at home our southern border is so out of control that some charitable entities are threatening to bring displaced Afghans to the Mexican border and walk them in. We citizens get lockdown orders and mask mandates. Those crossing the border get free transportation to the destination of their choice.

Both Canada and Australia have gone over the edge with authoritarian mandates. Australia is encouraging people to call authorities if they see anyone flaunting the rules. You might have seen the massive protest in

Sydney. The police were holding a line, wrestling some to the ground and who knows what all. Protests aren't illegal in Australia, but these protesters were in violation of Covid regulations. Do these police not have families? No doubt they're nice polite people, but they have their orders. Kind of reminds you of another time, doesn't it? They better figure out whose side they're on.

We better figure out whose side the presidency is on. It seems like the big guy is squinting at his teleprompter, trying to keep up with what the words mean. He botched the homecoming of the flag-draped coffins. Who looks at their watch five times during a somber ceremony? Or any ceremony? Some parents of the slain walked out on their meeting with him and said it was scripted. He thought it would be a good idea to remind them that he lost his son to cancer. They weren't amused.

The sad fact is that he's expendable. How long does he have, after all? Will there come a point where he simply can't keep it together in public? Nobody knows. What everybody knows but few will say, is that these developments, catastrophic for the United States as they may be, suit the aspirations of a former administration perfectly. While we convulse with the pain of apparent idiots running the show, parties are animating the mansion on the coast. That justifies the cover. □



While All Eyes Are on Afghanistan, North Korea Just Took a “Deeply Troubling” Step: Report

by Dillon Burroughs, *Western Journal*

A new report by the International Atomic Energy Agency said North Korea appears to have restarted a nuclear reactor capable of producing plutonium for nuclear weapons, which the group called “deeply troubling.”

“Since early July 2021, there have been indications consistent with the operation of the 5MW(e) reactor,” said the IAEA report, which was dated Aug. 27.

“The DPRK’s nuclear activities continue to be a cause for serious concern,” the report said. “Furthermore, the new indications of the operation of the 5MW(e) reactor and the Radiochemical Laboratory are deeply troubling.”

“The continuation of the

DPRK’s nuclear programme is a clear violation of relevant UN Security Council resolutions and is deeply regrettable.”

“Yongbyon, a nuclear complex at the heart of North Korea’s nuclear programme,” is the location of the reactor, Reuters reported Monday.

“More plutonium could help North Korea make smaller nuclear weapons to fit on its ballistic missiles, said David Albright, president of the Institute for Science and International Security,” the report said.

“It appears to indicate North Korea has resumed producing plutonium for its nuclear weapons program,” said Gary Samore,

director of the Crown Center for Middle East Studies at Brandeis University, according to *The Wall Street Journal*.

“While North Korea already has a significant stockpile of nuclear weapons,” Samore added.

In March, Air Force Gen. Glen VanHerck, who is responsible for the defense of the U.S. mainland, said North Korea was inching closer to an ICBM that could reach the United States.

“The Kim Jong Un regime has achieved alarming success in its quest to demonstrate the capability to threaten the U.S. homeland with nuclear-armed ICBMs, believing such weapons are necessary to deter U.S. military action and ensure his regime’s survival,” VanHerck told the Senate Armed Forces Committee.

U.S. intelligence officials have been watching a site in Sanum-dong where they believe ballistic missile and space launch vehicles have been constructed, the report said.

A March 12 analysis of satellite images by 38 North found that North Korea’s Yongbyon nuclear center had been conducting activities as well.

“It would be a violation of U.N. resolutions on a grand scale;



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it would require [a] strong Biden admin response; and it would curtail diplomatic outreach,” Heritage Foundation senior research fellow Bruce Klingner said of a potential ICBM test, according to CNN.

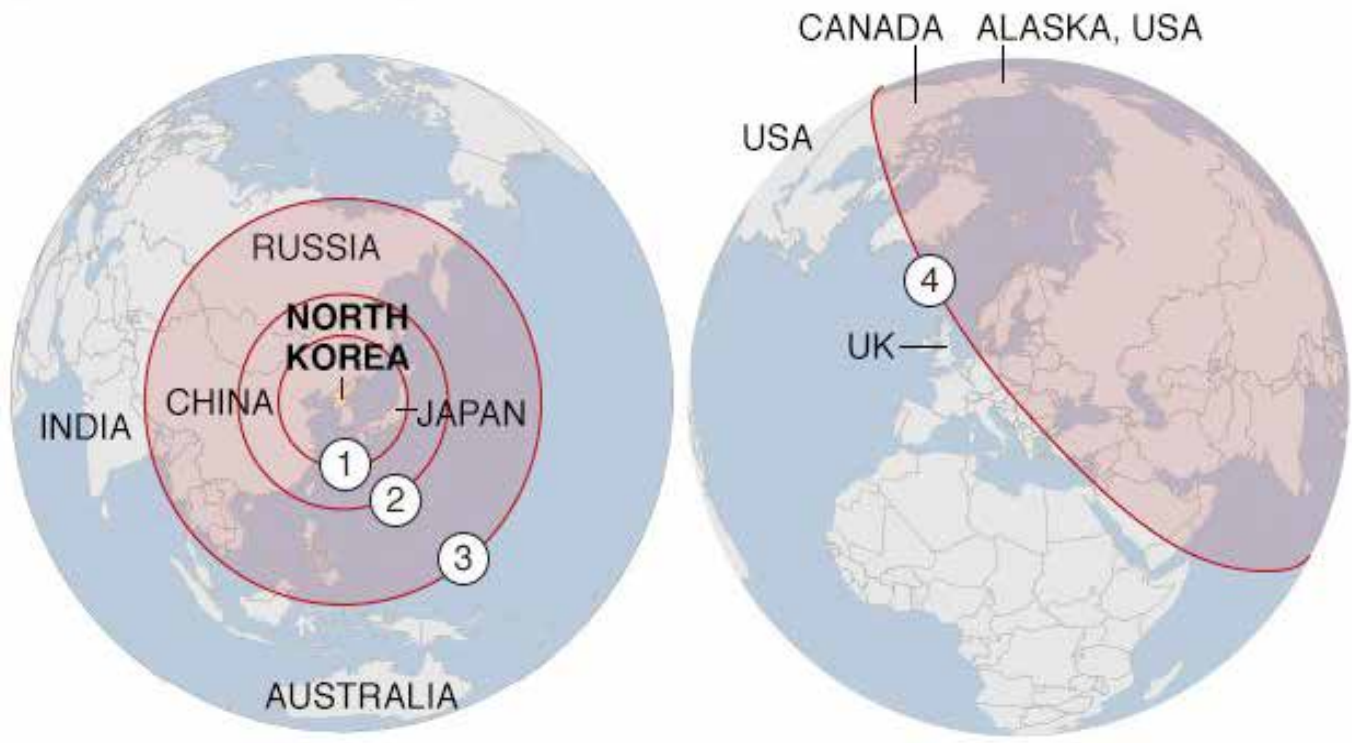
“When they do something provocative, it puts a three-to six-month pause on diplomacy because no one wants to be seen rewarding that kind of behavior.”

If North Korea does in fact perform an ICBM test, the Biden administration’s response will be critical to both the perception and safety of the United States. □



**Above: Kim Jong-un pictured with nuclear warhead adapted for use with ICBMs.
Below: Figure showing North Korean missile range capabilities.**

- ① Nodong 1,300km ② Taepodong 1 2,000km
- ③ Musudan 4,000km ④ Taepodong 2 8,000km



SIGNS OF TRIBULATION

An excerpt from *The Abomination of Desolation* by Garner Ted Armstrong

Christ warned, "When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:...For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not from the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved" (Matthew 24:15-22).

Obviously, the setting up of the "abomination of desolation" is the one most important event signaling the beginning of the Great Tribulation! But what is it? Where is it to be set up? Who, or what, does it represent? When will we see it in place? Matthew warned, "Whoso readeth, let him understand," so God intends we should understand what Christ meant, not be ignorant of one of the most important events in future history.

WHAT IS "THE GREAT TRIBULATION"?

Christ said the tribulation would be a time unparalleled in all history. Notice what Daniel wrote: "And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book..." (Daniel 12:1).

There cannot be two such times, for each is the superlative the worst time of "trouble," meaning droughts, famines, disease epidemics, the unleashing of horrifying, death-dealing weapons of destruction in war that has ever taken place since civilization began!

But wait. Daniel said, "And at that time..." (Daniel 12:1). At what time? The chapter break interrupts a flow of thought from Daniel 11:40. Read all five verses carefully, from Daniel 11:40 to 45.

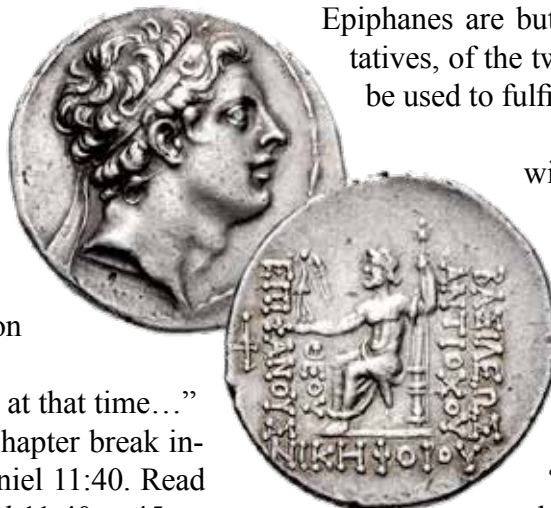
The "king of the south" was, anciently, one of the Ptolemys of Egypt, a lesser dynasty of pharaohs who waged war with Syria. Syria and Egypt

were but two of the four smaller kingdoms left after Alexander's death (Daniel 11:4). The "king of the north" was, eventually, the same Antiochus Epiphanes who set up a typical abomination of desolation.

But the prophecy is specifically stated to be for a definite time in history "the TIME OF THE END" (Daniel 11:40).

Therefore, Ptolemy Soter and Antiochus Epiphanes are but types, historical representatives, of the two human leaders who will be used to fulfill this end-time prophecy.

Probably, the man who will fulfill the role of "king of the south" will be an Arab leader. He will "push at" the "king of the north," who is the same personage as the beast of Bible prophecy, as we shall see. The expression "push at," seems to fall short of armed aggression. Is



Coin depicting Antiochus IV Epiphanes. The Greek inscription reads "King Antiochus, God manifest, bearer of victory."

Continued next page



The Siege and Destruction of Jerusalem,
by David Roberts (1850) depicts the typical
fulfillment of prophecy by Titus in 70 A.D.

it some political affront? Could it be an oil embargo, or threatened disruption of energy to Europe and the world? Because of Saddam Hussein's occupation of Kuwait, and the resultant concentration of military forces and supplies from about thirty nations in the Persian Gulf region, many are tempted to assign Saddam the role of one of the two, either the "king of the north," or the "king of the south."

Certainly, Saddam Hussein is "pushing at" others. But is he "pushing at" someone called "the king of the north," or any modern day political/military leader who is filling such a role?

No. Hussein is "pushing at" the United States, Britain, France, Germany, the Soviet Union, Israel, Japan, Saudi Arabia indeed, the whole world! The response to Saddam Hussein is not a sudden occupation of Israel, Egypt, and other nearby countries by some northern power, but the deployment of hundreds of thousands of troops into Saudi Arabia.

Notice that the reaction of the "king of the north" is not protracted economic embargo, or warfare in the Persian Gulf, but a lightning-like attack into Israel, and "many countries" in the region, including Egypt! (Daniel 11:40-42).

It is not Europe or the United States threatening to invade Israel in this current crisis but Saddam Hussein of Iraq. Study Daniel 11:40-45 carefully, and do not be misled by those who would leap to impossible conclusions, or become hysterical about the nearness of "Armageddon."

Israel and Egypt are both occupied by this "king of the north" at the end time. Daniel 11:40-45 absolutely precludes the possibility that the "king of the north" could be an Islamic leader, for Egypt is an Islamic nation, the largest in population of all Islam. Egypt is Arabic and, though currently observing the Camp David accords, is nevertheless staunchly united religiously and emotionally with all other Arab nations in calling for the withdrawal of Israel from the "occupied territories." No other Arab state would occupy Egypt. This is the final head of the "Holy Roman Empire" which was always a Germanic power! The king of the north is the final beast of prophecy.

Now, when does this northern military power come storming into Israel? "At the time of the end," says Daniel. And then, reading on to Chapter 12, verse 1, we see Daniel's prophecy that "at that

time” Michael stands up, and a time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation begins! In other words, the great tribulation. So the tribulation commences at the same time this king of the north invades Palestine.

Christ’s warning about the abomination of desolation included this invasion of Palestine by armies. Those forces are identified in Daniel 11:40-45 as being the forces of the king of the north. Christ said, “And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh” (Luke 21:20).

UPON WHOM DOES THIS GREAT TRIBULATION DESCEND?

Christ warned, “Then [when the abomination of desolation is set up] let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains...” He continues to say the flight is so urgent; so sudden, that one should not return to retrieve clothing or household items, even food! He warned, “Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take anything out of his house:

“Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes” (Matthew 24:16-18).

Those to whom this warning applies will not read of some impending attack in their weekly news magazines, or see it on nightly television for months at a time. It will occur **SUDDENLY**, with shocking swiftness. The scene set by Christ is of a normal working day where a man might be in the fields, his wife on top of the roof, hanging up washing.

Yet, suddenly, when people least expect it, attacking military forces are seen around Jerusalem.

In the Jerusalem of Christ’s day, houses were

set adjoining each other. Roofs were flat, with parapets, and were used for sitting and talking, hanging laundry, play areas for children, even sleeping at night in hot weather. Commonly, families would erect temporary shelters of fronds and branches, and move into these little booths during the Feast of Tabernacles.

The rabbis wrote of the “road of the roofs,” wherein one might walk across several adjoining rooftops, then descend to the street without having to go back inside one’s own house. Christ referred to this practice in His warning.

Daniel’s prophecy says the tribulation is the time when Michael stands up. Michael is identified as “Michael your prince” (Daniel 10:20-21) an archangel who is the prince of Israel. The 12th chapter says Michael is to stand “for the children of Israel,” the children of the people of Daniel, who was a noble of Israel.

Christ’s prophecy specifically pointed out events to take place in Jerusalem; the Middle East, and Palestine! But the Great Tribulation will be global in its effects, for Christ said, as did Daniel, that it will be a “time of trouble such as there has not been from the time there was a nation”! He also said that if God did not cut short this terrible time of global trouble, not a man, woman, or child would be left alive (Matthew 24:21-22). Therefore, while events in Jerusalem provide a positive sign that the tribulation is beginning, the tribulation is not confined to Palestine, and the city of Jerusalem.

Yet, from Christ’s warnings, we see it is obvious the great tribulation begins in Jerusalem; in Palestine, by the setting up of an “abomination,” which causes desolation, or destruction. ◻

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LESSON NINE: ANGELIC REALM

God has created powerful spirit beings as His aides, agents, and messengers. Since man's creation, these spirit beings, called angels in the English Bible, function as ministering spirits to help mankind attain salvation. Like man, angels have free moral agency. Although created to help God, some of them —led by Satan the devil — rebelled against God's government transforming themselves into demons.

DOCTRINAL OVERVIEW:

Before the time of man, God created powerful spirit beings (Job 38:7) in vast numbers (Rev. 5:11). Although created before and on a higher plane than man, these beings will eventually be under man in authority when humanity has entered God's family (Heb. 2:7-8).

The Bible gives relatively few specifics about the numerous types and responsibilities of these spirit beings, mentioning them in context but not dwelling on them in point apparently. All of these created spirit beings of whatever variety or power are generally labeled as "angels," although the Bible nowhere directly makes that statement. The English word "angel" comes from the Greek word *angelos* which means "messenger" or "agent." The Hebrew word *malak* has the same meaning.

A number of specific types of angels are generally described. Cherubim are explained in Ezekiel 1 and 10 as having four wings and four faces (of a lion, ox, eagle and man) and covering (or carrying) God's throne. Seraphim are "full of eyes before and behind," having six wings and appearing either like a lion, a calf, an eagle or with the face of a man (Is. 6:2-3; Rev. 4:6-8). "Twenty-four elders" who apparently serve as counselors for God Himself are described in Revelation 4:4, 10-11. Angels have at times

appeared on earth as men (Gen. 19:1-2), although it is not revealed whether this indeed can be their actual form or whether they had assumed the appearance of humans for their visit. (Some have wondered that since the physical world reflects the spiritual world — Romans 1:20 — could some of the animals of this earth be, at least in some fashion, physical counterparts of angelic beings? (Rev. 19:11.)

Although the above scriptures make plain that God has assigned angels various responsibilities, Hebrews 1:14 states they are also to help man attain salvation. "Are they not all spirits sent forth to serve, for the sake of those who are to obtain salvation?" The exact way or manner in which angels minister to men in this capacity is not comprehensively described in the Bible, but there are some allusions and references. Cherubim were sent to guard the way to the tree of life after Adam and Eve had been cast from the garden of Eden (Gen. 3:24). Parts of the law were given by the angels (Acts 7:35; Gal. 3:19; Heb. 2:2). In Genesis 18, angelic beings came to tell Abraham that he would have a son and in Genesis 19, they helped rescue Lot from the city of Sodom before it burned. Angels ministered to Jesus Christ after He withstood Satan for forty days and nights (Matt. 4:11). Matthew 18:10 suggests that God's angels watch over God's converted sons. Likewise we

are told, “there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents” (Luke 15:10). The angels even desire to “look into” the specifics of salvation (I Pet. 1:12). One angel seems to be assigned to each of the seven churches in Revelation 2-3 (Rev. 1:20); and different angels will be intimately involved in God’s future intervention in world affairs (Rev. 7:1-2; Ezek. 9; Rev. 8:3-5; 10:1, etc.), specifically in the final seven trumpets (Rev. 8:6 ff) and the seven final plagues (Rev. 15:1 ff). Further verses can be cited to show other specifically revealed times when angels have served man physically or spiritually. The thrust of all these passages is that the angels play an important role in God’s salvation plan for man, and that their relationship with man is one of interest and personal concern.

Long before man, one of the cherubim — his name in Latin is the familiar word Lucifer — had the honor of covering the very throne of God (Ezek. 28:14), indicating a position of very high authority and power in God’s government. However, he was lifted up in his own vanity, became resentful and jealous of God, and finally rebelled against God’s government. He drew with him as cohorts a third of the angels. These became evil angels or demons with Lucifer, now Satan the devil, as their leader.

Satan is called the god of this world (2 Cor. 4:4) and the accuser of the brethren (Rev. 12:10). Some form of satanic “spirit” is now at work in the sons of disobedience (Eph. 2:2). These attitudes enter into the mind of man through the spirit in man (see lesson on MANKIND), perverting it to the twisted thinking of Satan. By this means, Satan and his demonic allies hope to destroy all human beings and ruin their chance for entering the family of God. These wicked spirits try to separate Christians from the love of God (Rom. 8:38-39). A primary battle of a Christian is “against wicked spirits in high places” (Eph. 6:12). It is a battle to resist the influences of Satan and his demons against a person’s mind.

God has given us the means to fight this spiritual battle. We must “put on the whole armor of God ... to stand against the wiles of the devil” (Eph. 6:11); this spiritual armor includes truth, righteousness (v. 14), peace (v. 15), faith (v. 16), salvation, the Word of God (v. 17), prayer and supplication (v. 18). Satan our adversary “prowls around like a roaring lion,

seeking someone to devour” (I Pet. 5:8); but he will flee from us if we resist him and draw near to God (James 4:7-8).

While angels are now above man in authority, they are not to be worshipped or prayed to, nor regarded as mediator between God and man (Col. 2:18; Rev. 19:10, 22:8-9). Nonetheless, we must, of course, acknowledge and respect their authority as powerful spiritual helpers of God and His created “sons” (Job 38:7). Even the archangel Michael dared not revile Satan the devil, but appealed to God’s authority when confronting him rather than his own (Jude 9). The biblical record shows that angels’ authority over man is temporary (Heb. 1:13-14), and explains that man will eventually be in the position of judging the angels (I Cor. 6:3).

God is in supreme command and is only temporarily allowing Satan to influence man within certain confines (Job 1). This process actually enables man to build greater character by resisting Satan and by learning how to rely more on God. During the millennial rule of Christ, Satan is to be removed from the world scene along with his demons. Jesus Christ will replace Satan as the ruler of this world (2 Cor. 4:4 and Rev. 20:4-5). Following the millennium, Satan is to be released for a short span of time and then finally, to be removed to a place of restraint for all eternity where he and his demons can no longer affect men or angels. But the faithful angels who have followed God throughout these countless eons of time will continue as servants of the greatly expanded family of God for all eternity.

It is understandable how some have an extremely simplistic impression of the angelic/spiritual realm. From the brief glimpses the Bible gives of God’s throne (Rev. 4), one can get the naive idea that angelic beings bow before God all the time as though in a beatific trance; repetitively incanting “holy, holy, holy...” constantly, without ever stopping or thinking. Likewise, one can easily think that the entire spiritual realm is very ethereal and rather dull when compared with the reality and tremendous variety of the physical realm as we know it.

In point of fact, this must be a total misconception. The spiritual realm is the true reality while the physical realm maintains an ethereal existence; the spiritual world is the true “substance,” while the

physical world is the “shadow.” We can only begin to comprehend the invisible things of the spiritual realm by observing the visible things of the physical realm (Rom. 1:20). Indeed, the incredible variety and abundance of the physical universe must be paled into insignificance by the unimaginable majesty, beauty, complexity, and diversity of the spiritual universe. The few hints seen show an abundance of, for lack of a better term, spiritual “things” (which comprise just a portion of spiritual reality) that extends incredibly far beyond even angelic beings. The symbolism of spiritual cities, gates, rivers, trees, fruits in Revelation 21-22; horses, armies, and swords in Revelation

19; thrones and wheels in Ezekiel 1 and 10; thrones, clothes, crowns, gold, lightnings, thunders, voices and lamps in Revelation 4, testify to an existence so incomprehensible that even the profuse utilization of physical analogies can scarcely do more than whet our appetite. Going farther, there are spiritual books, seals, incense, vials, songs, hair, etc., with no indication of any limit to the scope of spiritual “things.” Indeed, there is every reason to conclude that our present physical realm is drab, plain, and dull when compared with the unfathomable variety and ineffable splendor of the spiritual realm. □

SUMMARY: Read these scriptures in your own Bible:

- **Hebrews 2:6-8** — Man was made a little lower than angels.
- **Genesis 19:1-2** — Angels have appeared as men on earth.
- **Hebrews 1:14** — Angels help man in the Salvation Process.
- **Acts 7:35; Galatians 3:19 and Hebrews 2:2** — Parts of the Law have been given by angels.
- **Luke 15:10** — Angels rejoice when a person repents of sin.
- **1 Peter 1:12** — Angels are interested in the Salvation Process for mankind.
- **Ezekiel 28:14 and Isaiah 14:12** — Satan was once an angel known as Lucifer.
- **2 Corinthians 4:4 and Revelation 12:10** — Satan is the god of the world and the accuser of the brethren.
- **Ephesians 6:12** — As Christians, we wrestle against spiritual wickedness in high places.
- **Ephesians 6:11-18** — To fight Satan, we must put on the whole armor of God.
- **1 Corinthians 6:3** — Man will one day judge angels.
- **2 Corinthians 4:4 and Revelation 20:4-5** — Jesus Christ will replace Satan as ruler of this world.



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QUESTIONS (ANSWERS BELOW):

1. One of the functions of angels is to help mankind attain salvation. True or False?
2. Angels do not have free moral agency. True or False?
3. Satan was originally created as an angel. True or False?
4. The word “angel” comes from the Greek word “angelos” which means _____ or _____.
5. All angels are of the same kind or class. True or False?
6. Cherubim cover or carry _____. [what?]
7. Cherubim have __ wings and __ faces. [how many?]
8. Seraphim have __ wings. [how many?]
9. The 24 elders are resurrected saints, such as Abraham, Moses and Noah. True or False?
10. Angels can appear as humans on the earth. True or False?
11. Since angels are spirit beings and already immortal, they are not concerned with the subject of Salvation. True or False?
12. A Cherubim known as Lucifer later became known as _____. [whom?]
13. Lucifer allowed his own _____ to lead him to resentment and jealousy of God and to rebel. [what?]
14. Lucifer drew away _____ of the angels into his rebellion against God. [what fraction; how many?]
15. Who is the god of this world?
16. Satan accuses the brethren (converted members of the Body of Christ) before God. True or False?
17. Satan’s purpose is to destroy all of mankind. True or False?
18. A primary battle of Christians is against _____ in _____. (Eph. 6:12).
19. Satan is in a battle for the _____ of man. [what?]
20. Christians are on their own when it comes to battling the influences of Satan. True or False?
21. Satan will flee from a Christian if they _____. [do what?]
22. It is permissible to pray to an angel. True or False?
23. Angels act as mediators between man and God. True or False?
24. Angels are, at present, in authority over man. Will this always be the case? Yes or No?
25. Man will one day be in a position to judge angels. True or False?
26. Though Satan is the god of this world, God is in supreme command. True or False?
27. Satan can do nothing without the permission of God. True or False?
28. In the future, Satan is to be replaced as ruler of this world by _____. [whom?]
29. After the 1,000-year reign of Christ, Satan will be loosed once again upon the earth. True or False?
30. Eventually Satan and his demons will be put away forever. True or False?

LESSON NINE — ANSWERS:

- | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 30. (True) | 20. (False) | 10. (True) |
| 29. (True) | 19. (mind) | 9. (False) |
| 28. (Jesus Christ) | 18. (wicked spirits in high places) | 8. (6) |
| 27. (True) | 17. (True) | 7. (4, 4) |
| 26. (True) | 16. (True) | 6. (the throne of God) |
| 25. (True) | 15. (Satan) | 5. (False) |
| 24. (No) | 14. (1/3) | 4. (messenger; agent) |
| 23. (False) | 13. (vanity) | 3. (True) |
| 22. (False) | 12. (Satan) | 2. (False) |
| 21. (draw near to God) | 11. (False) | 1. (True) |



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