

*TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY*

# WATCH

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# DIGITAL CURRENCY

## *The Final Frontier*

by Mark Armstrong

Word is, all the major banks and credit card companies are participating in an experiment with digital currency. Except for cash or gold, isn't what we have now digital enough? Some people don't even carry cash, and buy everything with plastic. If the citizen loses access to cash, what's to become of freedom?

It's just a feasibility test, they tell us. Nothing to be alarmed about... What happens when you put ESG scores in the financial system and start making rules governed by those scores? There are all kinds of dark suspicions that streamlined, worldwide financial transactions with a digital system will be used to control what we say and do. You've heard the phrase, "Your money is no good?"

The simulation exercise is meant to be a proof of concept, and they plan to publish the results. No doubt it'll be all innocent. After all, it's all being done in conjunction with the New York Innovation Center, a branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. Kinda makes you tingly all over, doesn't it? According to their public statements, no financial institution is obligated to any course of action by participating in the simulation.

Maybe all this would be fine, but if the financial institutions have your "tokens" they can regulate what you do with them. Is this stuff not tied to everything else they're doing? Is it not working in concert with the European geniuses that know better than everybody? With all this talk of "streamlining global transactions" by the same people who are trying to help a corrupt administration "stamp out oil," maybe we have reason for a lack of trust.

Bible prophecy predicts global financial control by means of something called the Mark of the Beast. That should give you some idea that it's not a righteous plot, especially after they attach all their do-good nonsense, equity, inclusion, diversity, whatever. The way everything is shaping up with ESG scores, it's enough to make you wonder what the end-game is.

The elite of Europe act like "global government" is the answer to all the world's problems. But it comes with tremendous baggage. We reject the whole pretense! Global warming is nonsense. Even the corrupt polls show that it's way down the list of the population's concerns. But that doesn't slow down the constant brainwashing by gov-

ernment, media and institutions the world over. One headline said that most children are now "afraid" of global warming. Governments are bought in to the idea, because they think they can control the actions of entire populations if they can just eliminate freedom! That's right. They make all the decisions and we play along, or else there are consequences.

There's just one problem. We're not going to play along. Climate change, diversity, inclusion, sustainability; they're all catch words being taught at the colleges and universities. You must be some sort of throwback if you don't accept and play along with homosexual marriage. Our own Senate reportedly just passed a bill "protecting" same-sex marriage. Nope. We're not on board.

It may be that this FTX story has legs. Interesting that the whole exchange collapsed right after the mid-term winners and losers were announced. There was some real money all right. Several big names, many of which will be too embarrassed to make a big deal, are implicated.

What about all the money that's gone to Ukraine? Who's kept track of that? There is a



# CONTENTS

**2** *COMMENTARY:*  
Digital Currency

**4** *GARNER TED ARMSTRONG:*  
Jesus Christ Is Not A Pacifist

**10** *WORLD NEWS BRIEF:*  
In Case You Missed It

**23** *BIBLE STUDY:*  
The Purpose of Parables

**30** *BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE:*  
Lesson 14 - Baptism

# FEATURES

**7** Xi is 'Losing Control  
of his Society'  
*Bob Unruh, WND News Center*

**8** Freedom Requires a  
Way of Life  
*R. R. Reno, The American Mind*

**12** A Woman Rides the Beast  
*Craig White, FriendsOfSabbath.org*

**17** Will History Repeat?  
*John Mitchell*

**26** Trust and Confidence  
*Michael Armstrong*

**“Crypto currencies ... are better understood as programmable money. They leave a digital footprint, a complete transaction history of everything that’s ever happened inside their eco system. They are also fully controllable by the authority that issues the money.” - Forexop, Central Bank Crypto Currency: Is it the Future of Fiat Money?**

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# Jesus Christ Is Not A Pacifist

by Garner Ted Armstrong

The Savior clearly said He would fight! The prophecies concerning Christ said He would fight, and wage war! Specific prophecies said He would cheerfully carry out the death penalty for evil, wicked men.

Yet, Jesus Christ is usually portrayed as a “peacenik,” an anti-war, non-violent, pacifistic person who would invariably turn the other cheek, overlook every affront, appease and placate every aggressor.

Isaiah prophesied of Christ, “...the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;

“And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears:

“But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove

with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.

“And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins” (Isaiah 11:2-5). This is hardly the mental image of Christ which has been planted in the minds of millions of nominal Christians. “Slay the wicked?” The average nominal Christian who possesses a mental image of Jesus would never believe such a thing.

## YOUNG, WOULD-BE REVOLUTIONARIES

Christ’s disciples flocked to Him not because they believed they would become grey-haired old patriarchs who would die and molder in their graves for twenty or so centuries awaiting His second coming. Instead, they believed He would become the King of Israel; that He would usurp the

corrupt throne of the Herods; that He would expel the occupying Roman forces, and that He would reestablish the greater Solomonic Kingdom of Israel, which at one time extended from modern Iraq to the seven streams of the Nile in Egypt.

These young men were would-be revolutionaries, expecting a complete regime change in Israel. They were not vying for positions in the clergy, nor did they covet a religious office.

At the famous “Last Supper,” they argued vehemently over which one of them would be at a Cabinet-level position, like viceroys or chiefs of staff: “And there was also a strife among them, which of them should be accounted the greatest” (Luke 22:24). This was not merely a laid-back, casual discussion. It was strife. Voices were raised. Anger was present.

Jesus rebuked them, saying “The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and they that

exercise authority upon them are called benefactors. But ye shall not be so: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve” (Luke 22:25, 26).

Yet, moments later, He reassured them, “And I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me;

“That ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel” (Luke 22:29,30). They could hardly interpret this in terms of two thousand hazy years in the future! To them, it meant “here and now!” Sitting on thrones? Judging, ruling, handing down decisions? This was hardly a “religious” calling; hardly a description of somber religious rites, echoing chants, or administering communion.

The proof of this is easily discerned. At the feeding of the four and the five thousand, when the miraculous cornucopia basket gave forth its inexhaustible supply of bread and fish, the crowd assayed to take Him, hoist Him on their shoulders, and march on Jerusalem. Jesus went into a boat and crossed Galilee to avoid the crowd (John 6:14,15).

When Jesus twice cleansed the temple, He did so in what anyone would characterize as a violent act! He did not strike or injure any person, but He did throw over tables, crates and pens, and, using a hand-made cord, drove animals outside. Money changers were scrambling around on the floor, where their coins had been thrown; doves were flying wildly around inside; sheep, goats and

cattle were adding their voices to the cacophony.

What could anyone think who had been there? That this was the moment. This was it! He was exerting His authority, taking over. The Temple was the very center of religious and social life among the Jews; it was, in a real sense, the religious capital. He was taking charge of the temple. Or so they thought.

At the triumphal march into Jerusalem in those final days before His arrest and mock trial, Christ rode on a white colt, while the enthusiastic crowd played the game of using their garments to place on the rocky trail up from Kidron, insuring not a hoof touched the ground. Others were picking them up as the donkey passed, running to the head of the line, to place them on the path again. Many were waving palm fronds in the air, and the crowd took up a chant, “Hosanna! Hosanna! Glory to God in the Highest, Jerusalem, behold your king!” They did not

say, “behold your vicar, or your right reverend, or your priest!” No, they used a “political” term, “King!”

This was in every sense a huge, exciting political rally — a crowd of thousands, fully expecting that at the terminus of their march would come the culmination of their hopes and dreams; Christ mounting the throne of Israel!

Continually, the disciples were frustrated when it seemed He was determined to delay; to dash their hopes. Finally, at the moment of His arrest in the garden, Peter tried to precipitate the revolution! Just as they were arresting Jesus, he whipped out his sword, and tried to kill the person nearest him, Malcom, the servant of the High Priest. Malcom dodged, and Peter succeeded only in slicing off his ear.

Christ bent over, picked up the ear, stuck it back on Malcom’s head, and, as He uttered a quick prayer, Malcom’s ear was



**Jesus cleanses the temple by Andrei Mironov (Wikipedia)**



healed — perfectly whole as before. Christ then rebuked Peter for striking with his sword. Peter was outraged! He faded back into the darkness in shame, dismay, anger and disbelief. He felt betrayed! Only a few hours later, Peter cursed and swore three times, disclaiming any knowledge of Jesus, just as prophesied. He bitterly believed his hopes and dreams had been dashed into pieces. Not only Peter was disappointed. All of the disciples “forsook Him and fled.”

They didn’t stand around with their hands steepled, with a beatific expression of holy martyrdom on their faces, but they ran and hid. To them, the revolution was a complete failure!

It was not until these most unwilling witnesses were finally convinced, against their will, by Christ’s many miraculous appearances to them, that they believed — truly believed at last — that He really was the Son of God; that He had been murdered, buried, and had risen again.

Finally, just before He was taken up, the anxious group asked the most important question which

had perplexed them from the beginning. Time and time again they had supposed He would establish His government; overthrow the Herodian line; expel the Romans. Time and time again their hopes were dashed when He did not continue the events in motion which would have completed the revolution.

Now, they asked, “Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?” (Acts 1:6). Ponder that question carefully. Think about what they did not ask. The language is clear. They did not ask would He give them religious rites and orders; would He tell them which one should be the chief apostle; would He tell them what kind of liturgy to follow. No, they asked in plain language if He now, finally, at long last, would “restore again the kingdom to Israel!”

Their hopes and dreams were born in an occupied country; the hopes of a downtrodden, exploited people under a brutal dictatorship, and the fear of the dreaded Sanhedrin, whose agents could carry out death sentences. They wanted a

new government; a righteous, fair, equitable government. They knew He was the most qualified man they had ever known. Had not He continually talked about His coming Kingdom?

But now, Christ told them it was not for them to know “the times and the seasons,” and they watched open mouthed as He ascended from them.

Christ was not, and is not now, a pacifist.

When being grilled by Pilate, He said, “My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence” (John 18:36).

It was only because His time was not yet that He desisted from fighting.

The question is not whether Jesus Christ would fight, but in whose cause? He ultimately intends to fight the war to end all wars, not become embroiled in half measures of corrupt human politics. □

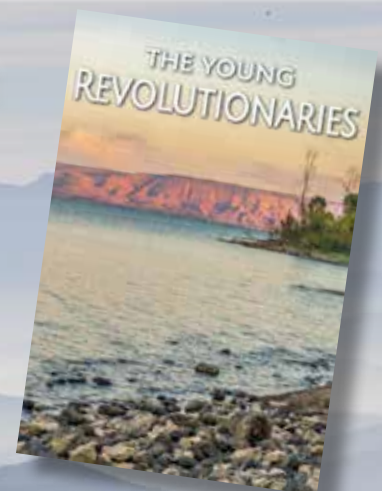
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## *The Young Revolutionaries*

by Garner Ted Armstrong

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# Xi is 'losing control of his society'

by Bob Unruh, WND News Center

China is becoming less and less stable because of internal turmoil – public protests against COVID lockdowns and other policies that are hurting the economy.

The situation is that now the protests no longer simply aim at local malfeasance but target the overall Communist Chinese Party dictatorship, according to China expert Gordon G. Chang.

And that means that CCP chief Xi Jinping is becoming more dangerous.

In a column at the Gatestone Institute, Chang, who has authored *The Coming Collapse of China*, wrote, “Popular attitudes suggest China will remain unstable for some time. So why should the international community care about the current instability in China? Because China’s regime might lash out.”

He continued, “If the Communist Party looked as if it would fall quickly, Xi could not lash out. He would have to devote all his resources at home, deploying the People’s Liberation Army internally. If, however, the crisis plays out over a long time, Xi will have the opportunity to try to direct popular anger at neighboring countries or the United States and aim the Chinese military abroad.”

He pointed out it was fortunate that the Soviet Union, when it failed, went fast.

“Do not expect China to go as quickly. Xi Jinping, in a secret speech to Communist Party cadres in December 2012 — the month after he took power as Party general secretary — criticized Mikhail Gorbachev for allowing the Soviet state to fail. The Soviet leader, Xi said, was not a ‘real man.’

“Xi, who does consider himself a ‘real man,’ has already during his ten years as general secretary

exacerbated xenophobia in China. Fomenting hatred of America, to save the Communist Party from popular unrest, would not be a big step for him,” Chang wrote.

He said Xi “probably knows he cannot win back Chinese hearts short of starting a war.”

He cited outrage in China over COVID restrictions that prevented firefighters from responding to a blaze that killed 10. And the fact marchers began marching toward Tienanmen Square over the weekend.

Experts Chang cited warned that the issue now is that protesters are wanting “to get rid of the Party.”

He explained, “The Chinese people have had enough of Xi Jinping and CCP rule. They recognize the fundamental fact that the Party’s system does not work. Xi cemented his position over the Communist Party at last month’s 20th National Congress, but the Party is losing control of Chinese society.” □



**Photo from Southwest Jiaotong University, protestors hold up blank sheets of paper to symbolize the lack of free speech.**



# FREEDOM REQUIRES A WAY OF LIFE

**INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY  
CAN'T STAND ON ITS OWN.**

*by R. R. Reno, The American Mind*

Freedom is not enough, says Tom Klingenstein. He's right. Freedom is central to the American tradition: Don't tread on me! Live free or die! But our freedom is nurtured, sustained, and protected by our way of life. If we don't preserve that way of life in its fullness, we'll lose our freedoms—even as we sing hymns to liberty and venerate the Bill of Rights.

More than 50 years ago, National Review editor Frank Meyer theorized “fusionism.” He sought to explain the postwar alliance of hardline anti-Communists, proponents of free enterprise, and social conservatives. By his reckoning, all three strands shared a commitment to individual freedom. In contrast, postwar liberals emphasized government-led solutions to social problems, which is to say “collectivism.”

Meyer's approach spoke to the realities of his generation. But those realities have changed. 1968 inaugurated a left-leaning project of liberation, epitomized by sexual freedom from old social norms. Multiculturalism expands this project of liberation. Why should the West set the norms for society? Why presume a Judeo-Christian horizon for our society? Why tolerate “heteronormativity” and “cisgender” supremacy? Shouldn't every individual have the freedom to determine and define his own truth?

At first glance, we are living in a time of what seems like unprecedented freedom. We're free to have children out of wedlock without social censure or shame. We're free to call upon doctors to end our lives. We're free to

divorce for any reason, or none. The liberation projects of the last generation have advanced so far as to claim that we're free to decide if we are male or female.

Unlike my grandfather's and father's generations, we're free from conscription. We're free to get passports from other countries. We're free (and often encouraged) to denigrate our country.

Yet upon closer examination, we're remarkably constrained. Young people who enjoy the highest credentials are fearful that they'll make a wrong professional step. They anguish over grades, internships, and job offers. When they're not anxious, they're cynical. They believe that DNA determines outcomes. Economic and material interests run the show. These outlooks allow no role for

freedom.

We're supposedly free to define truth for ourselves, but Twitter mobs punish dissent from today's orthodoxies. I was heartbroken when a university student recently told me “the first thing you learn at college is never to say what you actually think.” Teched-up political correctness is a sleepless monitor, so much so that we even self-censor our innermost thoughts.

America in 2020 suffers from a crisis of freedom—not because there are too many formal limitations, but rather because our way of life is disintegrating. The most advantaged young people at the most prestigious universities clamor for safe spaces. Rich parents are so anxious about their progeny that they invest huge sums in private education, seeking





every marginal advantage. Working-class Americans are dying “deaths of despair” in record numbers. Out-of-wedlock births are at record levels.

These are not signs of a confident, free citizenry. They indicate a people in bondage.

#### FOR THE ASHES OF OUR FATHERS AND THE TEMPLES OF OUR GOD

The right of free speech is empty if we don't have the courage to speak up. Our freedom of association means little if we're too atomized and isolated to come together to pursue common causes. A way of life characterized by freedom must be capable of cultivating enduring commitments. We're only as free as we want to be, and wanting to be free requires a substantive, strong desire to say, do, or stand for something.

Freedom requires a spirit of self-governance, courage, and pluck. These qualities arise from the depth and intensity of our loves and loyalties. They galvanize our souls, providing the aims and purposes that drive us to claim our rights—and give us the determination to defend the rights of others.

Klingenstein points us in the right direction. We need to preserve the American way of life, for strong social bonds give us a solid place to stand, a basis on which we can exercise our freedom. Our way of life has countless facets. But three stand out: family, civic life, and a spirit of transcendence.

The family is a school of loyalty. The decline of the family contributes to the diminution of freedom in American society. If people do not have stable families,

they are alone and vulnerable. This makes them more likely to be slaves to their passions, as well as more easily intimidated and manipulated by others.

Alexis de Tocqueville feared that an excessive individualism would lead to a great mass of weak and vulnerable citizens eager to submit to the ministrations of a remote and all-powerful government. Sadly, we are well on our way toward that dystopia.

If we are to remain a free people, we need to renew the American family. This means economic policies that encourage our free-market system to create well-paying, middle class jobs. If the majority of Americans are economically self-sufficient, then they are more likely to restrain government overreach and hold our globalized billionaire class accountable to the common good of our nation.

Communal solidarity and national loyalty is another source of freedom. Klingenstein rightly targets the *1619 Project* for criticism. It denigrates our national inheritance under the false pretense of giving birth to a more just nation. In truth, it strips the rising generation of dignified patriotic love, leaving them to shiver in the nakedness of a free-floating individuality.

The great sacrifices men and women have made in the defense and reform of our country are among the profoundest expressions of human freedom. These noble acts rise above bondage to self-interest. However nuanced and critical our historical pedagogy, we rightly teach our children to honor the spirit of sacrifice which

animated our forebears. It is the surest guarantee of freedom.

Family and nation inspire loyalties that allow us to stand against those who would cow, coerce, and seduce. But more powerful still is the lure of transcendence. For many, transcendence is explicitly religious. For others it is moral, philosophical, or merely intuitive. But in each case, a deep sense that our lives are ordered toward a sacred purpose provides us with a profound sense of freedom.

#### PRESERVE THE REALM

Our American tradition of religious freedom and non-establishment is wise. It has sustained a vibrant religious culture while forestalling political control of religion—and religious control of politics. But today's secularism and materialism are cancers in our way of life. If we're to sustain a free society, we need to encourage the religious life of the American people.

A ruler's first duty is to preserve the realm. This does not mean reform is unimportant. Original sin imposes a social law of entropy, so preserving a way of life invariably requires the constant work of renewal. As G.K. Chesterton observed, if one wishes to keep a fence post white, one needs to repaint it on a regular basis. Or as Newman said, “to live is to change, and to be perfect is to have changed often.”

Those who care for the American way of life must change. If we're to sustain our culture of freedom we need to renew its foundations—family, civic loyalty, and the spirit of transcendence. ◻

**WORLD NEWS  
BRIEF****IN CASE YOU MISSED IT****NETANYAHU BACK ON TOP**

The “national unity” government of Israel formed in June 2021, was doomed in a year. Their single seat majority dissolved with the resignation of one of their members last April. This June, with a stymied agenda, they were forced to dissolve the government. The resulting elections were held November 1st. Netanyahu’s Likud party gained seats in the Knesset, Israel’s unicameral governing body. With 64 out of 120 members, Netanyahu’s coalition has the largest majority in years.

**LULA IN, BOLSONARO OUT**

Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva is slated to lead Brazil again. He previously served as President from 2003-2010. The labor union and Worker’s Party leader has had some turbulent years since then. After being appointed Chief of Staff in 2016, Lula was forced to step down by the Supreme Court of Brazil. He was subsequently convicted of money laundering and corruption and blocked from running for President in 2018. Then in 2019, the court began ruling in his favor. He was released from jail and the trial against him was declared void due to jurisdiction issues. In 2021, the Supreme Court declared the Judge in Lula’s initial trial had been biased. All charges were dropped, clearing the way for his 2022 Presidential run. Narrowly defeating Bolsonaro in a run-off election, Lula will bring big changes to Brazil’s direction. He has already been very vocal at the COP27 meetings and will undoubtedly lend Brazil’s weight to many future climate resolutions. Lula has also often blamed the United States for his political and legal troubles. It would not be surprising if this leads to somewhat

cooler relations between our two countries, a cause for concern when the US and western allies need major markets like Brazil and India to back them on trying to contain Russia and China.

**PAKISTAN AND CHINA**

Under its Belt and Road initiative China is developing a corridor to the Arabian Sea through Pakistan. There is some resistance to becoming dependent on China as well as other regional conflicts inside Pakistan. One such region, which considers itself independent, lashed out in a suicide attack that specifically targeted Chinese teachers. What is really strange is that the attacker was a 30 year old mother of two that, according to Reuters, held advanced university degrees. This is a significant departure from the stereotypical, fringe, single male. Pakistan has accused both India and Afghanistan for fostering extremism and rebellion inside of its territory in the past.

**TANKER TROUBLES**

A tanker with ties to Israel was struck by a drone in the waters off Oman. Iran is suspected to be behind the attack. The tanker was not seriously damaged. This comes at the same time Iran is releasing two Greek ships it has held for nearly six months. The seizure itself was retaliation for Greece’s cooperation in US action against embargoed Iranian oil. The Navy also just stopped a fishing vessel with nearly 200 tons of fertilizer, to be used in explosives, on its way from Iran to Yemen. A bitter civil/proxy war has raged for years in Yemen, a focal point for the broader conflict between Iran and its Sunni neighbors.



### THE GOOD OL' DAYS

As the headlines compel contemplation of the Cold War in our not-so-distant past, no stroll down this lane of memories would be complete without considering the USSR's close Caribbean collaborator Cuba. Our communist neighbor hasn't been forgotten by their old red buddy Russia either. They are close allies amid this time of international turmoil. The President of Cuba will be visiting Russia shortly and will meet with Putin. No doubt they will share many tender reminiscences and possibly even a vodka or two as a new monument in Moscow is revealed: a statue of their dearly departed friend, the late-leader of Cuba, Fidel Castro. (Let's hope *RT* does a TV special.)

### RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION

Kroger has elected to settle a lawsuit from two employees at their Conway, Arkansas store who claim their termination was religious discrimination. The pair refused to wear aprons with an "Our Promise" rainbow they said supported LGBT etc. issues in violation of their own convictions. Kroger denies that is what was represented but describes their core values as "honesty and integrity, diversity and respect, safety and inclusion." Kroger did come up with 180,000 excuses not to get to the bottom of the issue in court however.

### MAGNETIC TIMELINE

Archaeological researchers in Israel are using earth's magnetic field to date or order ashes from various cities, verifying accounts of invasion and destruction in the Bible. The magnetic field around earth changes, but ashes will retain evidence of the state of the field at the time of burning. The times of many major changes to the field are known. There are many ruins throughout the country, knowing when a certain site was destroyed paints a vivid new picture of how different conquering armies moved over the land and the extent of their depredations.

### SPACEPORT

The first ever license for a spaceport has been issued in the UK. The site in Cornwall will be the first ever approved launch site in Europe. Britain hopes to rush to the front of the space launch

industry, a nice compliment to the many thousands who are already employed in the country building satellites and other relevant technologies. Virgin Orbit will be offering to launch small satellites from the Cornwall location but many other places around the UK have similar permits pending and there is the expectation that the industry will blossom.

### FAMINE

The standards for declaring a famine vary: A quarter of the population suffering severe shortages; The death rate doubling; Two out of every 10,000 dying each day. Regardless of the standard, an enormous amount of suffering and loss takes place before any formal government declaration can be made. Somalia, Kenya, and Ethiopia have been suffering a years long drought. The area has been particularly susceptible to global price pressures. It is feared that at least parts of Somalia will be in a state of famine in the near future. The last time one was declared, in 2011, it is estimated that almost a quarter of a million people died over 3 years. Private aid donations have lagged since the beginning of the conflict in Ukraine. According to reports, millions of cattle have already died and people are flocking to cities to look for food and water.

### SUSHI, ANYONE?

Construction of hydroelectric dams in the United States began to dry up in the 1960's and 70's. Concerns about fish migration and river health turned this technology into the red-haired step child of the green movement, effectively halting new construction. Apparently preventing future projects was not enough. Many are actually destroyed, like the four set for removal in the Klamath Basin. According to NPR, "The dams produce less than 2% of PacifiCorp's power generation — enough to power about 70,000 homes — when they are running at full capacity, said Bob Gravely, spokesperson for the utility." Despite having functioned for between 75 and 100 years each, new conservation rules would have required updates so costly that the company elected to destroy them instead. Some are celebrating that miles of spawning ground will once again be open to salmon. May their sushi comfort them through the cold dark winter. □

# A WOMAN RIDES THE BEAST

by Craig White, FriendsOfSabbath.org



The great God of the universe who created all that is, inspired the Bible in its entirety from Genesis to Revelation. Within it are precious gems of truth laid deep inside for us to dig out. He has constructed the Bible in a way which is designed to exercise the human mind with the express purpose of ensuring that we inculcate within us His interesting and mighty mind.

Let us dig deep into His precious Word and discover yet more of His truth. In the book of Proverbs, we are told:

“Yea, if thou criest after knowledge,  
And liftest up thy voice for understanding;

If thou seekest her as silver,  
And searchest for her as for hid treasure;  
Then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord,  
And find the knowledge of God” (Prov 2:3-5).

“It is the glory of God to conceal a thing:  
But the honor of kings is to search out a matter”  
(Prov 25:2).

This includes history that dovetails into prophecy, presenting us with precedents and patterns to investigate. Thereby opening up new avenues of understanding.

## WHY PROPHECY?

Detailed, accurate prophecy, is closely related to Christian living for the following reasons:

- it keeps the bride excitedly anticipating the bridegroom (Matt 25:1-13)
- it leads one to repentance, to God’s Law and to a close relationship with Him (this is the theme of the prophets and the greatest prophet of all, Jesus Christ)
  - if we understand the prophecies, we will be in a position to escape the coming terrors which will descend upon the earth. We are charged to watch (this includes watching world events, the condition of the Church and our spiritual states) (Luke 21:36; Matt 24:42; 25:13)
  - as we are living in the Latter Days, it behoves us to know the signs of the times and how world events line up with prophecy to enable us to warn a sick and dying world (Ezek 3:17; 33:1-7; Jer 6:17, 27)
  - “Where there is no vision the people perish” (Prov 29:18). The RSV translates “vision” as “prophecy”. The Hebrew word “hazon” is translated similarly elsewhere (see II Chron 32:32; Dan 8:1; Ob 1). Should we neglect these futuristic warning words of God, we will perish (see I Sam 3:1; Lam 2:9)
  - prophecy is a major proof of the Bible
  - prophecy, by its very nature, encourages us to want to dig deeper and deeper into God’s Word, to uncover its precious nuggets.



The Apostle Peter wrote:

“Neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ [about Christ and His knowledge – the Word of God]. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off ...

“We have also a more sure word of prophecy: whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts” (II Pet 1:9, 19. See II Cor 4:6).

### STRANGE BULLS

With the above in mind, let us consider the bull symbolism in Scripture which is replete with typology which portrays spiritual counterparts or future events. This duality of Scripture takes digging and a figurative magnifying glass to find these wonderful and pleasurable treasures. It is not easy to dig deep into the Word of God – it takes some mental exercise and self-discipline.

We find bulls sacrificed during the Feast of Tabernacles (Num 29:12-38) in reduced numbers each day, viz:

Day 1	13
Day 2	12
Day 3	11
Day 4	10
Day 5	9
Day 6	8
Day 7	7
Total	70

Another is counted for the Last Great Day, but of the 70 sacrificed during the Feast of Tabernacles, the Jewish Talmud asks: “To what do these seventy bullocks correspond? To the seventy nations” listed in the mysterious Table of Nations. A footnote reads: “Seventy is the traditional number of Gentile nations, and the seventy bullocks are offered to make atonement for them”.

In Israel, the priests were the ruling class. In God’s sacrificial system, bullocks were offered to make atonement for them (Lev 4:3) while Israel as a nation were also to sacrifice a bullock for national sins (Lev 4:13-14). In contrast a leader was

to sacrifice a male goat (Lev 4:22-23) while the common people sacrificed a female kid or female lamb (Lev 4:27-28, 32).

Therefore, the Jewish interpretation of the 70 bulls seems reasonable as they relate to rulers, leaders and nations. In Genesis 10 where we find the Table of Nations, we find, beside the name of Noah, 70 other names, representing the 70 nations: Ham, Shem, Japheth, their 16 grandsons and 51 others. These spread out across the world and all nations and peoples descend from them, becoming the great kaleidoscope of humanity in all its variations and diversity.

Several other scriptures bear this out: in Psalm 68:30 Gentile kings are likened to bulls; as is the arrogance of Assyria (Is 10:13); the rulers and leaders of Edom (Is 34:7) and Babylon as well (Jer 50:27).

We know from the Scriptures that there is organisation in Satan’s Kingdom (Eph 6:12; Col 1:16) which he uses to manipulate and control this world’s nations. One such evil spiritual leader over a nation is described by Daniel as the “prince of the kingdom of Persia,” a very powerful demon (Dan 10:13, 20). These spirit rulers of nations may be the bull demons of ancient mythology — national gods in the religious belief systems of these civilisations. David himself may have been surrounded and attacked by these vile bull forces when he cried out to God to deliver him from them (Ps 22:12-13, 16, 20-21).

### A WOMAN RIDES THE BEAST

In the Book of Revelation we are revealed a mysterious prophecy about a woman riding on the back of a beast:

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

“And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication:

“And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE



**Above - Stele dedicated to an Apis, dating to Year 21 of Psamtik I c.644 BCE.**

**Below - Indian women worship a cow and her calf during the Hindu holy Govatsa Dwadashi or Bach Baras festival in Bewar.**



## MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

“And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.” (Rev 17:3-6)

Could the imagery that God inspired John to use have symbolism and meaning that might be found in history? I stumbled across this while undertaking research in the Parramatta public library (located in the geographic heart of Sydney) in 1996. The initial article was sent out to a lot of people and churches including some that then wrote their own versions based on this article, I am pleased to say.

Let us peer briefly into what I researched for the answer.

All over the ancient Middle East we find reference to the bull which is used as a symbol of strength and fertility as well as to bull gods. El, the supreme deity of the decadent Canaanite pantheon, was often called “the Bull El” (he was a fertility god). Baal, the god of fertility, storms, rain and vegetation was also associated with the bull. Similarly, among the Hittites, Aramaeans and Babylonians, the bull gods were a dominant feature of their religions, not to mention the many bull and calf-cults linked closely to the Egyptian god Horus. Cattle cults among the Cushitic peoples of Ethiopia and India may be found to this day! In Mithraism, bull worship was an important aspect of their beliefs.

In Babylonia, figures of bull gods guarded the entrance into temples, houses and gardens (in contrast to the lion of Judah which was utilised extensively in the British Empire). (NB: it has even been suggested that Nebuchadnezzar ate grass like cattle or a bull as outlined in Daniel 4:33). During the Assyrian period a human face was added: at Khorsabad colossal human-headed winged bulls were found at the palace of Sargon II. To the Babylonians these bulls were actually spirits which brought both good and evil upon mankind (demons sometimes bring good upon someone to deceive and to lead astray) and which filled the air where they produced storms and thunderbolts.

Demons may indeed bring good to deceive,



followed by evil. Their practices and ministers may appear to be of the light, but in reality they represent the darkness (II Cor 11:13-15) and their fruits follow them. Note also that these bull gods or extremely powerful demons, filled the air which is one of the thoughts Paul may have had in mind when he condemned the “prince of the power of the air” and “spiritual wickedness in high places” (Greek: “heavenlies”) in the letter to the Ephesians (Eph 2:2; 6:12). There may also be another connection to the heavenlies: the bull was identified with the constellation of Taurus of the star Gud-ana – the bull of heaven.

Such bull-worshipping practices were condemned and outlawed in the Bible: Ex 32; Josh 24:2; I Kings 12:28; Hos 8:5; 13:2. The perversions, weird practices and atrocious way of life were such a stench to God that Israel was to eliminate these religions from their land. Unfortunately, this was never successfully accomplished.

In pagan Rome, a bull was killed to enable the baptism of blood at the Roman Taurobolium in honour of the deities such as Mithra. In a trench, the blood of the bull dripped over (or ‘baptised’) the initiate and drenched his body. He even drank the warm blood. Afterwards he came from this literally bloody baptism, believing that he was purified from sins and ‘born again for eternity’. In contrast, a Christian is covered in water at his or her baptism, washed clean metaphorically by the blood of Christ, the Lamb of God, and must then absorb Christ’s flesh and blood by symbolically eating and drinking of it (John 6:53-56), undertaking a process of spiritual growth until finally being born again at the resurrection.

In any event, the mythology surrounding one bull is fascinating. The supreme deity of Greek mythology was Zeus. He had various other names such as Ombrios (rain god), Keraunos (lightning), Pater (father), and Soter (Saviour). In the myths he fell in love with Europa, a beautiful daughter of Agenor, king of Phoenicia (Canaan). Entranced by her, he assumed the shape of an animal or beast — a white bull — and mingled with the herds of Agenor while Europa was gathering flowers. When she came upon him, she gently caressed him

and had the courage to sit upon his back. Taking advantage of this situation, they went to the shores of the Mediterranean Sea where he whisked her off to Crete at which point he took on his normal form and she bore him 3 sons. This Hellenic tradition, was, however, derived from pre-Hellenic ideas of the moon-priestess triumphantly riding on the sun-bull. Figurines of this lady riding the bull beast may be found throughout the eastern Mediterranean region.

Europa, according to one tradition, was the Great Goddess and mother of the continent of Europe.

This is where prophecy fits in. Turn to the book of Revelation, chapter 17, verse 2. Here we are told about a great whore who sat upon many waters and in verse 3 she also sat upon a scarlet-coloured beast. It may well be that what is meant is that she sat on the beast on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea in similitude to Europa. God inspired these words, and it seems likely that John borrowed the basic imagery or broad concept, at least in part, from this Hellenistic legend well known in that day. Why? Because in so doing He is indicating how thoroughly pagan the roots of the whore and the beast are. Further, as they spring



from Phoenicia (land of the Canaanites, many of whom migrated out of Babylon), it shows us a little more of the origin and mind of the religion symbolised by the whore. The Canaanites were the original Babylonians, and as such the carriers of their religion. And the name of Europa shows us that the continent of Europe is deceived and seduced by that religion.

There is a great false church which has dominated Europe for centuries. She is the mother of many other “whores” which have sprung from her in protest. It may be no coincidence that this imagery is now being utilised by the great European Union – apparently the stirrings of the revival of the Roman Empire and its successor power – the Holy Roman Empire. The Roman beast system was ridden by an ancient church which roots are clearly Babylonian/Canaanite.

Almost 40 years ago I found it remarkable that on the cover of *Europe* magazine (May 1984) a stamp to celebrate European Community landmarks, portraying the beautiful Europa riding the bull, over the sea, assisted by a cherub – there it was in front of me at the newsagent! Seven years later, in the December 1991 *Time* magazine (page 13) a woman riding the bull while she is holding aloft the European flag is used to picture the European movement. In *The Australian* 16 September 1996 an article appeared on the approaching European currency (“Europe’s Currency of Hope”). The currency unit symbol

of the Bank of Europe is portrayed as a winged bull surrounded by the European stars from the European flag. Winged bull? This was an Assyrian symbol and for those that understand history and prophecy, in Germany dwell the descendants of ancient Assur (Gen 10:22).

The second series of Euro currency notes even contain the face of Europa as a hologram (a security feature) providing a link between modern Europe and its ancient roots.

It may also be more than passing interest to observe that the goddess Inana, more ancient than Europa, was often portrayed as riding on the back of a lion, signifying her co-operation with this terrible beast — this is an indication of how far back the legend may originate.

Eventually, the ten-horned Beast (these are probably bull horns) will turn upon the Whore and devour her (Rev 17:16). Note the following old poem:

*“There once was a lady from Niger,  
Who smiled as she rode on a tiger;  
They returned from the ride  
With the lady inside,  
And a smile on the face of the tiger”*

Later the beast will be destroyed by Jesus Christ Himself (Rev 19:17-21). Thus ends the Great Whore and the Beast—Europa and the bull imagery finding its final end. □







# WILL HISTORY REPEAT?

*by John Mitchell*

We could notate the many economic collapses and resulting civil unrest, widespread hunger and poverty that eventually leads to war, including world wars as nations deploy extreme and drastic measures to survive, but that would require volumes beyond the scope of this article. Let's take the most recent events that you and I are familiar with that occurred in the last ninety years. To do this will require us to focus on history, which, if not learned from, will repeat itself.

## **WHY DID JAPAN ATTACK PEARL HARBOR?**

*History.com* gives us an excellent review of the events surrounding the infamous attack: "The attack on Pearl Harbor ranks as the most successful military surprise attack in the early years of combined naval/aerial combat. On December 7, 1941, the Imperial Japanese Navy Air Service struck the United States naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii Territory. The attack directly led to the United States' entrance into World War Two. Japan quickly followed up the attack with the invasion of numerous Pacific Islands. They held them through several years of gruesome fighting.

"By the time the first Japa-

nese bomber appeared over Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, tensions between Japan and the United States had been mounting for the better part of a decade, making war seem inevitable. When Japanese bombers appeared in the skies over Pearl Harbor on the morning of December 7, 1941, the U.S. military was completely unprepared for the devastating surprise attack which dramatically altered the course of World War II, especially in the Pacific theater. But there were several key reasons for the bombing that, in hindsight, make it seem almost inevitable. Tensions began several years earlier between the U.S. and Japan during the 'Great Depression' era.

"The wealth of a nation has always been based off of the natural resources they have; gold, minerals, oil. The island nation of Japan, isolated from the rest of the world for much of its history, embarked on a period of aggressive military expansion near the turn of the 20th century. Two successful wars, against China in 1894-95 and the Russo-Japanese War in 1904-05, fueled these ambitions, as did Japan's successful participation in World War I (1914-18) alongside the Allies. During the Great Depression of the 1930s, Japan sought to solve its economic

and demographic woes by forcing its way into China, starting in 1931 with an invasion of Manchuria. When a commission appointed by the League of Nations condemned the invasion, Japan withdrew from the international organization; it would occupy Manchuria until 1945.

"In July 1937, a clash at Beijing's Marco Polo Bridge began another Sino-Japanese war. That December, after Japanese forces captured Nanjing (Nanking), the capital of the Chinese Nationalist Party, (or Guomindang), they proceeded to carry out six weeks of mass killings and rapes now infamous as the Nanjing Massacre.

"In light of such atrocities, the United States began passing economic sanctions against Japan, including trade embargoes on aircraft exports, scrap metal and oil, among other key goods, and gave economic support to Guomindang forces. In September 1940, Japan signed the Tripartite Pact with Germany and Italy, the two fascist regimes then at war with the Allies in a geo-political shift on alignment of nations.

"Specifically, the oil embargo that America organized with the British and the Dutch was a thorn in the side for Japan, which imported 90% of its oil. Without

*Continued next page*



**View from space of Pearl Harbor, Oahu, Hawaii. NASA**

oil, Japan's military could not function, and all war efforts would come to an end.

"Negotiations had been going on for months between Washington and Tokyo, without any resolution, so Japan decided to attack first. Tokyo and Washington negotiated for months leading up to the Pearl Harbor attack, without success. While the United States hoped embargoes on oil and other key goods would lead Japan to halt its expansionism, the sanctions and other penalties actually convinced Japan to stand its ground and stirred up the anger of its people against continued Western interference in Asian affairs. To Japan, war with the United States had become to seem inevitable, in order to defend its status as a major world power.

"Emperor Hirohito issued the following statement on the day of the attack outlining their attack on the United States:

"It has been truly unavoid-

able and far from Our wishes that Our Empire has been brought to cross swords with America and Britain... They have obstructed by every means Our peaceful commerce and finally resorted to a direct severance of economic relations, menacing gravely the existence of Our Empire. Patiently have We waited, and long have We endured, in the hope that Our government might retrieve the situation in peace. But Our adversaries, showing not the least spirit of conciliation, have unduly delayed a settlement; and in the meantime, they have intensified the economic and political pressure to compel thereby Our Empire to submission."

"Because the odds were stacked against them, their only chance was the element of surprise.

"Destroying the Base at Pearl Harbor Would Mean Japan Controlled the Pacific. In May 1940, the United States had made

Pearl Harbor the main base for its Pacific Fleet. As Americans didn't expect the Japanese to attack first in Hawaii, some 4,000 miles away from the Japanese mainland, the base at Pearl Harbor was left relatively undefended, making it an easy target. Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto spent months planning an attack that aimed to destroy the Pacific Fleet and destroy morale in the U.S. Navy, so that it would not be able to fight back as Japanese forces began to advance on targets across the South Pacific.

"At first, however, the Pearl Harbor attack looked like a success for Japan. Its bombers hit all eight U.S. battleships, sinking four and damaging four others, destroyed or damaged more than 300 aircraft and killed some 2,400 Americans at Pearl Harbor.

"Japanese forces went on to capture a string of current and former Western colonial possessions by early 1942—including Burma (now Myanmar), British Malaya (Malaysia and Singapore), the Dutch East Indies (Indonesia) and the Philippines—giving them access to these islands' plentiful natural resources, including oil and rubber.

"But the Pearl Harbor attack had failed in its objective to completely destroy the Pacific Fleet. The Japanese bombers missed oil tanks, ammunition sites and repair facilities, and not a single U.S. aircraft carrier was present during the attack. In June 1942, this failure came to haunt the Japanese, as U.S. forces scored a major victory in the Battle of Midway, decisively turning the tide of war in the Pacific."



Lemielleux.com adds, “Japan’s surprise attack on Pearl Harbor would drive the United States out of isolation and into World War II, a conflict that would end with Japan’s surrender after the devastating atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945.”

World War II began with Germany’s military aggression to obtain additional territory and the natural resources of those defeated. It involved the geo-political realignment of nations involved including Japan for the above stated reasons of obtaining natural resources in order to survive. World War II ended with two atomic weapons possessed only by the United States at the time.

That’s history you say, we all know that. What does that have to do with us today?

The new question is: “Is there a parallel situation in world events today that could lead to another world war?”

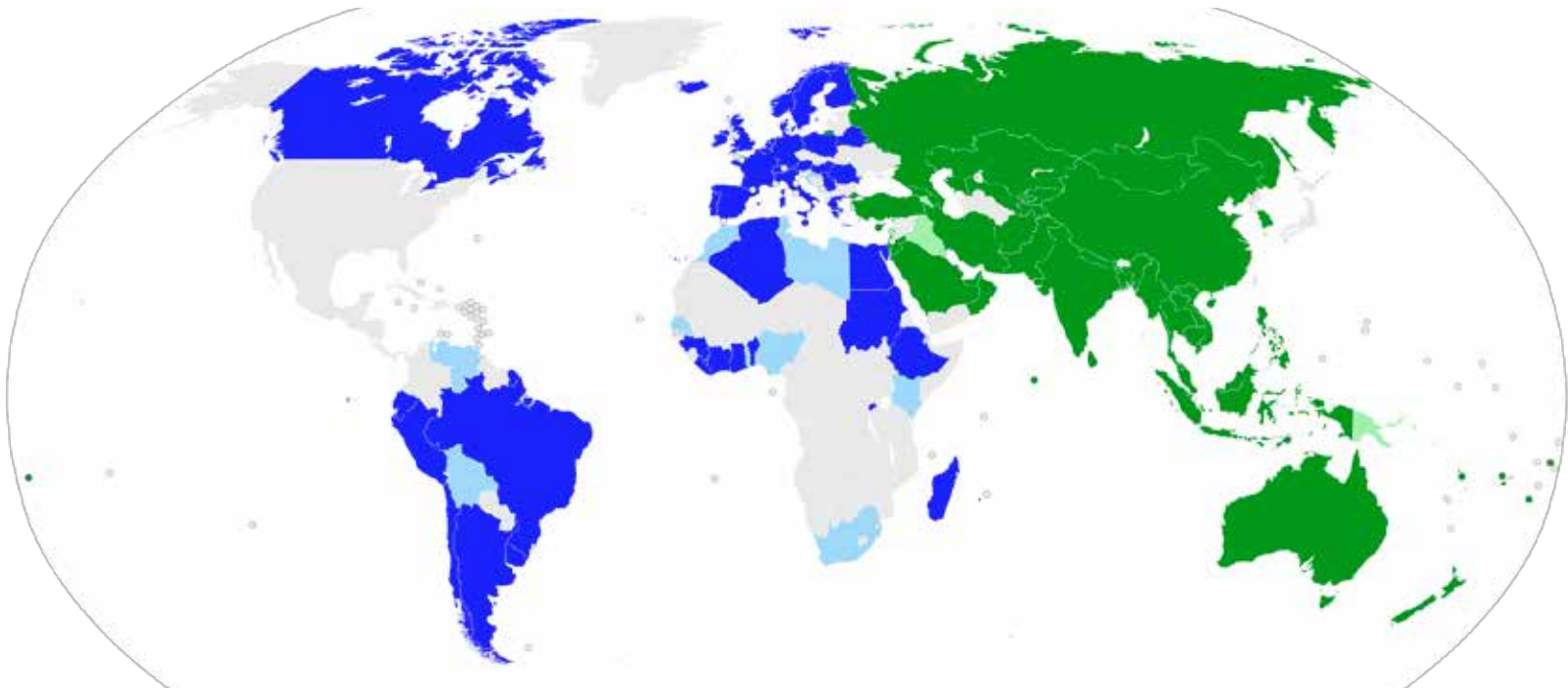
If so, in what situation and with whom? What could trigger prophetic events to unfold?

Mark Moss, investment advisor and Cryptocurrency guru reports, “For the past few years our TV news reports, and documentaries have been replete with the coming domination of the world by China! For several years China has not militarily as Japan expanded in the 1930’s but has secretly in most instances and in broad daylight in others sought to expand its territory and take possession and control of other territory’s natural resources.”

China is in the same circumstance of Japan in that China has very few natural resources and must import nearly everything it

needs to survive in this “digital age” of the 21st century. To counter this and insure not only survival but domination, China developed what is known as the, “One Belt One Road or OBOR for short, which is a global infrastructure development strategy adopted by the Chinese government in 2013 to invest in nearly 150 countries and international organizations. It is considered a centerpiece of the Chinese leader Xi Jinping’s foreign policy. The BRI forms a central component of Xi’s ‘Major Country Diplomacy’ strategy, which calls for China to assume a greater leadership role for global affairs in accordance with its rising power and status. As of August 2022, 149 countries were listed having signed up to the BRI.

“Xi originally announced the strategy as the ‘Silk Road Economic Belt’ during an official visit



**Potential signatories, signatories and parties to the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank**

<span style="color: #90EE90;">■</span> Prospective members (regional)	<span style="color: #008000;">■</span> Members (regional)
<span style="color: #ADD8E6;">■</span> Prospective members (non-regional)	<span style="color: #0000FF;">■</span> Members (non-regional)

to Kazakhstan in September 2013. ‘Belt’ is short for the ‘Silk Road Economic Belt,’ referring to the proposed overland routes for road and rail transportation through landlocked Central Asia along the famed historical trade routes of the Western Regions, whereas ‘road’ is short for the ‘21st Century Maritime Silk Road,’ referring to the Indo-Pacific Sea routes through Southeast Asia to South Asia, the Middle East and Africa. Examples of Belt and Road Initiative infrastructure investments include ports, skyscrapers, railroads, roads, bridges, airports, dams, coal-fired power stations, and railroad tunnels. The initiative was incorporated into the Constitution of China in 2018.” (*Wikipedia*)

Until now all has been going to plan with China domination of more and more natural resources and being a leader in the electronic age.

This “Grand Plan” of the Chinese Communist Party led by Chairman Xi came to a screeching halt on August 9, 2022! Just as the United States starved Japan of its

oil which led to the attack on Pearl Harbor, the United States just initiated the starving of China of its necessary resource to realize not only its world dominance ambitions, but to simply survive.

From SemiWiki.com we find the *Brief History of Semiconductors*, which states: “In the last few decades, electronics has become more and more central to our lives. When I was a child the only electronics in the house were the radio and the television, both of which contained tubes. Two big things happened that upended that world: the invention of the transistor and the invention of the integrated circuit by American engineers. A modern integrated circuit, or microchip as some people like to call them, may have over a billion transistors on it and yet sell for just a few dollars. Perhaps more surprising, every one of those transistors works correctly.

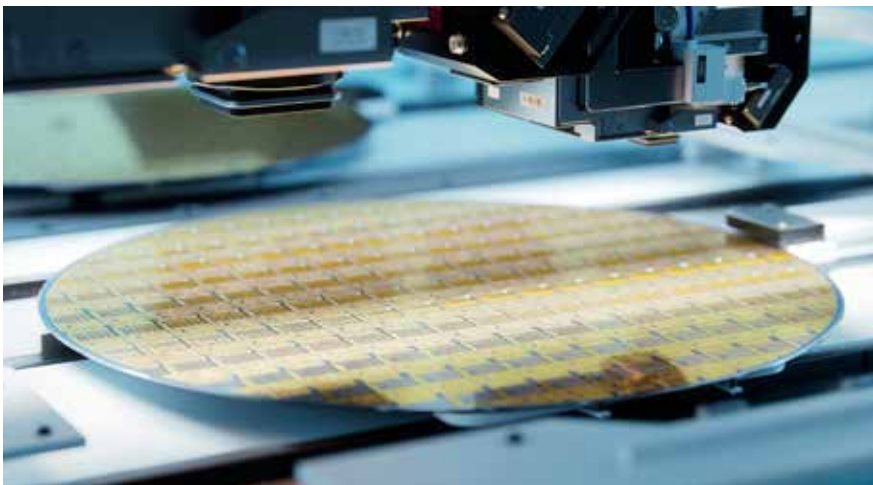
“As a result, today our cell phones have more power than the supercomputers of yesteryear. Our cars contain dozens of microprocessors. We shop online. We read

books on our Kindles or iPads. We play video games on consoles that are more powerful than the flight simulators of twenty years ago.

“It turns out it is really expensive to make electronics that cheap. Chips are built in factories known as fabs (actually short for fabrication line). Fabs cost more than nuclear power plants. They are filled with specialized machines costing tens of millions of dollars each. Chips are designed by teams of hundreds of design engineers, and they are surrounded by an ecosystem of specialized software that sells for tens if not hundreds of thousands of dollars per copy without which these chips wouldn’t be possible. Getting a chip designed and manufactured is incredibly expensive, but when you are done you have something that can be manufactured for a few dollars and enable products that can be sold for hundreds of dollars. The first chip may cost millions of dollars, but you can make hundreds of millions of dollars if you sell a lot of them.”

This is what China has banked its path to dominance on!

Energy is what the whole world needs; it is what drives the entire world and oil is the most desired commodity in the world! But another resource is referred to today as the “New Oil.” What is that resource? MICROCHIPS or SEMI-CONDUCTORS! Anything that turns on has some form of a microchip or semi-conductor powering it. China’s entire current and future plans are dependent on microchips. China and the United States have been in a



**Close-up of silicon wafer at an advanced semiconductor foundry. These wafers are used as semiconductors in electronic devices.**



trade war in the tech sector since the Trump Presidency. But what just happened on August 9, 2022, is so much bigger than anything that has happened before in this trade war and the implications are enormous on a worldwide scale. Today, China spends almost twice as much importing semiconductors as it does on oil. Why? China is the one manufacturing all these electronic marvels, aren't they? But the means to manufacture them has to be imported. China has no natural resources for manufacturing microchips. The three top semiconductor manufacturers are the United States, Taiwan and South Korea. But the United States holds all the natural resources for the manufacture of semiconductors.

Enter the CHIPS ACT!

The Chips Act lowered the hammer on China and basically sent China figuratively back to the Dark Ages. China has been around forever with its dynasties but when the world went onto the gold standard, China chose to be on a silver standard. It was a huge mistake, and they lost their place in the world. They had been fighting to recover but then Mao Tse-tung took over. His regime went on a killing spree to get rid of all ideological opposition and set China back, way back, in international trade and status.

On November 15, 1999, the United States and China signed an agreement on trade and tariffs that welcomed China into the WTO (World Trade Organization). This allowed China to import new technology which they used to



**President Joe Biden signs H.R. 4346, “The CHIPS and Science Act of 2022”, Tuesday, August 9, 2022, on the South Lawn of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Erin Scott)**

rapidly come up to speed on the global stage and become more and more advanced in the world of technology. This is why you hear so much about China “taking over the world” and being the dominant superpower with their AI, ballistic missile systems, quantum computing, etc. China exploded technologically because we let them into the WTO and gave them access to the importation of knowledge and systems they cannot manufacture themselves.

Starting with the Trump Administration steps were taken to curb China’s plans to dominate the world due to the fact that China did not develop the technology, THEY STOLE IT! We all know that China literally steals our intellectual property and uses it to develop all its technology with plans dominate the world. That’s all you hear about, how China is the new Superpower of the planet

and we all better take lessons in speaking Mandarin. This brings us to the same historical “flash point” between the United States and Japan, ultimately leading to Japan’s attack on the U. S. at Pearl Harbor. Remember, we had cut off Japan’s ability to manufacture products and to wage their expansion wars by cutting off their supply of oil. What the U. S. has done to China is exactly the same scenario we used then. What does the Chip Act do to China and its ambitions?

The Chip Act forbids the exportation to China of any types of tools or equipment in the manufacture or service of Microchips. China has to import all the materials used to make the chips. China cannot make, service or even operate any chips. On top of all that, all U. S. persons or companies working in the Chinese chip sector are forced to choose. Either leave

China or lose your U. S. Citizenship. So, China's chips are dead! What are the implications of this move by the U. S.? They are unable to advance technologically! They can't buy or make the chips and are unable to operate facilities for Level 1 chips. Basically, any industry that needs hardware dies! Their AI, firewalls, Social Credit Score system, surveillance, ballistic missiles, their space program, robotics are dead in the water!

How serious is this? Under Chairman Xi, China embarked on a program called "Made in China in 2025." They wanted to lead the world in practically every product that can be manufactured in this "digital age." With this act and the stroke of President Biden's pen, all this is dead! China is on the ropes. We have the ingenuity and resources and we just cut them off from any of it. Does it sound like

the historical situation between the U.S. and Japan which led to war?

Enter Taiwan. Chairman Xi has vowed to take the island of Taiwan back into the Chinese sphere, even if this expansion is to be done by military force. Chairman Xi just stated China is to prepare for war, with his sights directly on Taiwan, which we have agreed to protect if attacked. Sound familiar? Taiwan is the largest producer of chips but is reliant on the U. S. for design and resources. The U. S. controls the supply of materials to make chips. The Chips Act simply states that the U. S. wants to take back into America the manufacturing of chips previously done by Taiwan and South Korea. Construction for these new chip manufacturing plants has begun in New York and Arizona.

How many in America saw

the Japanese Attack on Pearl Harbor coming? Only a few in the war department. America was blind to the danger at their doorsteps. How many in America see a threat of direct war with China today? Some in the war department, some in the news media. The greatest portion of America is blinded to the danger at our doorsteps once again. We see the close realignment between China, Russia, Iran and to a lesser degree, India. The United States is negotiating with South Korea, Japan and Taiwan to align together for absolute control of all microchip manufacturing in the world.

Jesus told His disciples in Matthew 24 that at the time of the end there "would be wars and rumors of wars."

The church has taught that there will rise a ten-nation beast power in the end time to rule the world. The wars fought will be horrific with the use of nuclear weapons. The many national economic collapses and resulting civil unrest, widespread hunger and poverty that eventually lead to war, including world wars as nations deploy extreme and drastic measures to survive, will happen again. What will be the "New Flash Point" that will set off the end time events? No one knows. China is now like Japan in 1941, starved of the main resource enabling it to not only survive, but thrive. China is becoming the proverbial "cornered rat" that will strike out in full fury to maintain its position on the world stage. Where and when is the unknown factor left to be seen, but time will tell... perhaps very soon! ☐



**BRICS is an acronym for five leading emerging economies: Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. The BRICS leaders in 2019, from left to right: Xi Jinping, Vladimir Putin, Jair Bolsonaro, Narendra Modi and Cyril Ramaphosa. (Alan Santos/PR)**



## BIBLE STUDY

by Dr. James &amp; Natalie Ricks



# The Purpose of Parables

## WHY CHRIST USED PARABLES

When asked, “Why do you speak to them in parables?” Jesus quoted the biblical account of the Prophet Isaiah. He explained that not everyone is called by God so they will not really listen and some people have the same attitudes as those in the days of the prophet Isaiah.

Matthew 13:14, “And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says: ‘Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, And seeing you will see and not perceive;’” (NKJV)

Judah was descending into apostasy. They had begun the process of turning away from God. The decadence of both Israel and Judah was increasing so God sent a prophet to warn them of impending danger.

Isaiah 6:8-10, “Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: ‘Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?’ Then I said, ‘Here am I! Send me.’

“And He said, ‘Go, and tell this people: ‘Keep on hearing, but do not understand; Keep on seeing, but do not perceive.

“‘Make the heart of this people dull, And

their ears heavy, And shut their eyes; Lest they see with their eyes, And hear with their ears, And understand with their heart, And return and be healed.’”

The first item we notice is that God was telling this young prophet that even though the God of the Universe was sending him, they would not receive the message. They would both hear and see him, but not learn from his warning messages. Why? The people of God had calloused and hardened hearts! At this point in their history, they were beyond repentance. God chose to allow them to remain in this spiritual attitude.

Isaiah asked God when they would finally learn the lessons God needed them to perceive?

Isaiah 6:11-12, “Then I said, ‘Lord, how long?’ And He answered: ‘Until the cities are laid waste and without inhabitant, The houses are without a man, The land is utterly desolate,

“‘The LORD has removed men far away, And the forsaken places are many in the midst of the land.’”

God’s patience with chronic rebellion had finally been exhausted, and He had decided to abandon them temporarily. The two nations would go into painful captivity. Israel would go into captivity first, but in spite of further warn-

*Continued next page*

## BIBLE STUDY

ings, Judah also continued going astray and eventually fell into captivity.

God witnessed to them for their future repentance using the prophet. The people of God would start to repent once disaster struck. Judah repented by the waters of Babylon and returned to the Holy Land seventy years later. Read Ezra and Nehemiah for details.

### THE DECADENCE THAT HARDENED THEIR HEARTS

What kind of actions put God's people in such a spirit that they could not — or would not — perceive the warning message to alter course and repent? They became too wise in their own minds. They no longer needed the words of God to define right from wrong.

Isaiah 5:20-21, "Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, And prudent in their own sight!"

The Eternal God's standards were abandoned because the people thought they knew better. God was explaining to the prophet that when people blur the distinction between good and evil, terrible consequences occur. We often call the modern world The Days of Unintended Consequences. A lot of modern policies and the relaxing of moral standards may sound good, yet the results are devastating to society. The longer these bad practices exist, the greater the disaster. For instance, government policies that replace fathers with money have led to an explosion of angry young men who are responsible for the upshot in violent crimes. Two or three generations of fatherless boys are dangerous!

Isaiah 5:22-25, "Woe to men mighty at drinking wine, Woe to men valiant for mixing intoxicating drink, Who justify the wicked for a bribe, And take away justice from the righteous

man!... So their root will be as rottenness... Because they have rejected the law of the LORD of hosts, And despised the word of the Holy One of Israel."

Rejecting God's laws invites disaster. Abandoning the core moral laws and justice only makes the calamity worse. The unintended consequences are horrific. Are churches culpable also because of their silence on these moral issues? If the clerics do not speak out, who will? People are left to believe they can say, "I have my truth and you have your truth!" How outrageous! Only ONE truth exists. God is the author of truth.

### THE PEOPLE WERE NOT READY FOR THE TRUTH

The people of God in Jesus' days shared a similar attitude to those in Isaiah's days. Most were not really eager to learn the full truth or repent, so God allowed them to be locked into the spiritual blindness they preferred.

Matthew 13:11-13, "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. For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see... nor do they understand.'"

Note that those called who have a receptive spirit will grow in understanding while those who do not have such an attitude will decline in knowledge.

Matthew 13:15-17, "For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed... Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.

"But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear; for assuredly, I say to you



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that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.”

People are not listening with a desire to learn and repent. It is marginal listening. There must be a deeper kind of listening, with an open mind and heart. The people had an incredible opportunity to hear truth from the Messiah Himself and did not appreciate it. Many great prophets of the past would have envied them this opportunity for truth.

### A WORD TO THE WISE...

Paul warns us New Covenant believers to be sure to put God’s truth above our own wants and desires.

2 Timothy 4:2-4, “Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will

heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.”

If we obey the truth we are given, our minds will be opened to more truth. One cannot repent with a closed heart and mind and ears. In the end of this age the trend toward man’s arrogant false knowledge will put pressure on us all to NO LONGER respect the whole truth of God. It will become unpopular to obey God.

2 Timothy 3:1-7, “But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers... lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power... led away by various lusts, always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.”

In the parable of the sower, Jesus explains that the majority of seeds of truth fall on hardened soil or minds. Truth cannot grow and blossom except on the good. Are our hearts open to God’s pure truth? See Matthew 13:18-23. □



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# Trust and Confidence

by Michael Armstrong

More than just a comfortable feeling, we continually rely on our ability to tell fact from fiction. Discernment underpins many business decisions that lead to success or failure. Markets move on what people believe is going to happen or, as we have seen in much of the meme stock and crypto currency falderal, a loosely coordinated frenzy of limited cooperation. Those who showed up to the party late were not winners. Confidence in the value of these somewhat intangible assets can be misplaced. The durability of certain exchanges — and many are going bankrupt — is less than or equal to the life expectancy of some young billionaires.

“The dynamics of trust are delicate in important relationships, and the loss of trust can be costly — not only psychologically, but also financially and in terms of work and livelihood. What’s helpful to remember is that trust is an ongoing exchange between people and is not static.” Dennis Jaffe, *The Essential Importance Of Trust: How To Build It Or Restore It*

Where is trust more valuable than our personal relationships? It is the key to happiness. We need dependably predictable behavior from those closest to us as a foundation to plan the rest of life around. One author stresses the importance of what may be considered trivial inconsistencies:

“So if you are looking to increase trust within your relationship, it’s imperative that you stop saying things that you won’t follow through on, or that don’t represent your actual feelings. Even what seem like minor lies, when chronic, will tell the other person that they should no longer trust the things that come out of your mouth.” Andrea Bonior Ph.D, *Psychology Today*

Empty threats or a broken promise still impact the perception of reliability, though possibly over something unimportant in and of itself. This is equally applicable to business, media, and government. No business relishes having to re-evaluate their essential relationships for a lack of confidence in performance. It takes time and energy that could be spent more productively.

For instance, the last

issue of 21st Century Watch magazine was delayed over a month at the printer. Paper supplies have become increasingly hard to come by as major manufacturers have switched to producing cardboard, accommodating the boom in online shopping and shipping. While the lack of paper is not exactly the printer’s fault, the delay would be unacceptable if it were the norm. Even this single instance led to conversations about “Plan B” over what has otherwise been a perfectly satisfactory relationship.

Media and government showcase this issue of reliability on a larger scale. Bias, both real and perceived, has had a horrendous effect on credibility in general. We have adapted to the point that assuming some level of partiality (and which way it flows) is a normal part of gathering information. Incessant clamoring about fake news and misinformation have left little room for trust, and rightly so when you consider the frequent differences between what happens and what is said about what happens.

“The challenge of course is that we have entered an era



of declining trust (though to varying degrees) in government and institutions of all types and across most nations. As has been widely documented, this poses serious challenges to those of us seeking to engage communities in an effective discussion, decision-making and participation processes.” Penn State, *The Role and Importance of Building Trust*

When statements and facts are constantly exaggerated, minimized, or otherwise twisted to suit the agenda of the presenter, can we really be confident that we have received the whole truth? Of course not. And the reaction to this created atmosphere of distrust has been even more detrimental.

Two of the most controversial issues of recent years illustrate this issue. Vaccination is one. Somehow it degenerated to a screaming match between “toxic poison” and “miracle cure” crowds. The “safe and effective” mantra became the only publicly allowable opinion with the occasional caveat for individual liberty. Control of the conversation became very heavy handed.

Side effects are a risk with any medicine, which is why manufacturers are required to list them on packaging and in advertisements. Yet the atmosphere around this issue was so charged that even the sharing of personal experiences was censored online. Does that create trust? Rather, the opposite. It creates the question, “If there is nothing to hide, why can’t it be discussed?” Both extremes anticipate dire consequences from following the opposing viewpoint. Won’t the

truth assert itself in time?

Elections have also been treated authoritatively. It will be a problem in any nation where the majority of people cease to believe they are legitimate. History and current events show us this plainly enough. Many African nations have suffered with contested elections, uprisings, and military coups since gaining independence. Angola is in turmoil at this writing. Elections in the former Soviet Bloc were notorious. Any pretense of choice in a “one-party” system would be humorous if it weren’t tragic.

Brazil is unsettled right now as well. What has transpired in the United States will be familiar enough to most readers. In order to restore trust in the system, they refuse to discuss even potential flaws. Maybe that’s why less than 50% of eligible people vote,

according to statistics from the *Washington Post’s* 2022 election reporting. Belief in some level of corruption is practically universal. The world has never been short of politicians disgraced for padding their pockets. When public sentiment reaches critical mass “heads will roll,” as they say in France.

The government of ancient Israel was a Theocracy that was supposed to be ordered around the law of God. The hereditary High Priest had an executive type role. The Levites maintained the civil structure around the country. In 1 Samuel chapter 2 you can read the nefarious dealings of the sons of Eli. Verse 17 says, “Wherefore the sin of the young men was very great before the LORD: for men abhorred the offering of the LORD.”



**Gerbrand van den Eeckhout’s depiction of Hannah presenting her son Samuel to the priest Eli.**

*Continued next page*

Their behavior undermined the role of the priesthood. Samuel is called the last judge and the first prophet. He anointed both Saul and David to be King at God's direction. The avarice of his own sons in their official duties led directly to the people demanding a king.

"And it came to pass, when Samuel was old, that he made his sons judges over Israel. Now the name of his firstborn was Joel; and the name of his second, Abiah: they were Judges in Beersheba. And his sons walked not in his ways, but turned aside after lucre, and took bribes, and perverted judgment. Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel unto Ramah, And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations" (1 Samuel 8:1-5).

The nation could have turned back to the Priesthood for leadership, but they demanded a new institution, one they thought they could trust. What is obvious is that all governmental structures perish after periods of flaunting the basics of God's covenant. Aren't our current scandals all about lying, stealing, killing, and every flavor of covetousness?

Trust begins on a personal level. It is amplified through every friend, family, job, and judge throughout society. It is easy to lose and hard to rebuild. Faith is trust in God Almighty and the truth of His ultimate providence. It supersedes every other trial and betrayal. John chapter 18 tells of Jesus being brought before Pilate. When Jesus was asked if He was a king, He replied that it was to this end He was born and that He came to bear witness to the truth. Pilate asked a question that many

struggle with, "What is truth?" Yet even he acknowledged the innocence of Christ.

Jesus Christ lived the truth in perfection. He will reign in the same manner when the time comes. He will return when mankind has finally demonstrated their inability to govern themselves on every level and brought all life to the brink of extinction. Until then, there is still time to get it right.

When God was calling out to Israel for reconciliation in Malachi chapter 3, He invited them to prove Him; to test and see His faithfulness. He enumerated their sufferings and they are the exact same betrayals we are sick with today. He invited them to return, to cease oppressing one another and be people worthy of trust. The same offer is open to us all still, and accepting it would save a world of trouble. □

**MY SON, FORGET NOT MY LAW; BUT LET THINE HEART KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS: FOR LENGTH OF DAYS, AND LONG LIFE, AND PEACE, SHALL THEY ADD TO THEE.**

**LET NOT MERCY AND TRUTH FORSAKE THEE: BIND THEM ABOUT THY NECK; WRITE THEM UPON THE TABLE OF THINE HEART: SO SHALT THOU FIND FAVOUR AND GOOD UNDERSTANDING IN THE SIGHT OF GOD AND MAN.**

**TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL THINE HEART; AND LEAN NOT UNTO THINE OWN UNDERSTANDING.**

**PROVERBS 3:1-5**



## Digital Currency

*Continued from page 2*

big controversy underway. The usual suspects have leaped into action to deny that money sent to Ukraine was laundered back into the U. S. and spent on getting certain candidates elected. Ukrainian officials have gone on record saying that it's not true. There are stories claiming that Ukraine partnered with the collapsed FTX. The mainstream assures us that no Ukrainian money was given to FTX, and that there was simply an arrangement to convert digital money to currency that could be spent. Humanitarian payments of course. We still don't know what's going on, despite the on-the-spot reports. We're told that Ukraine is winning, driving Russian forces out of one town after another.

Now there's speculation about succession in Russia's leadership. There are claims about maneuvers within the Kremlin and about Putin's health. Sadly, we no longer know what or whom to believe.

Apparently Bitcoin was a great investment for those who got in early, but digital currencies have taken a beating in the wake of the FTX collapse. It seems odd that no one was interested in this bizarre company, run out of a penthouse in the Bahamas in which ten people lived. A lot of famous people had gone to bat, in some cases lending their names and their investments. They presumably lost their money. We probably won't be hearing from them. It's too big an embarrassment.

Big promises were made, and big money promised. Millions were reportedly donated to politicians, and some of that may be responsible for the mid-term outcomes. Headlines are being made about the money being returned, or donated to charity. But it's only a fraction so far.

Don't think this spells the end for digital currency controlled by all manner of regulation. We used to like cash for lots of good reasons. But how are these global institutions going to save the planet if they allow us to be free? They want to control

what we think as well as what we say.

Meanwhile, the world's leaders are pursuing panic over their plans to save the planet. They've attended conferences that no longer question the theory. It's time for action! (Sarcasm) They now want nations to implement their "climate change goals," and it's being couched as human rights. But that's not all. They want to blend it with all the other catchwords, and some of them make the most abhorrent of behavior sound like a "human right."

If they control the money and what we do with it based on their own strategy for saving the planet and promoting perversion, we're not going to like it. There's bound to be some way to opt out. This is one time we hope to be wrong. But the big players in Europe are saying that GLOBAL rules that check all their boxes must be established. We'd hate to see their regulatory agenda. Turn policy decisions over to European institutions? That's not going to work! ☐

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# BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE

## LESSON FOURTEEN: BAPTISM

*The ceremony of water baptism is performed by immersion for the forgiveness of sins upon true repentance and acceptance of Christ's sacrifice. After this ceremony, and as a result, one receives the baptism of the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands. Baptism symbolizes the renunciation of the past sinful way of life, the burial of the old man in a watery grave, and the emergence of a new spirit-led man living with Christ's mind and following in His footsteps.*

### DOCTRINAL OVERVIEW:

The New Testament places great stress upon the ceremony and symbolism of water baptism. It is a deeply meaningful initiatory rite referred to in Hebrews 6:1 as one of the foundational doctrines of Christian belief. John the Baptist is the one who introduced water baptism as a ceremony through which one outwardly demonstrates his inward attitude of repentance and his desire to submit to God.

Christ placed His stamp of approval upon John's baptism and set the example for us by Himself undergoing the ritual (Matt. 3:13-17). The Father likewise expressed His favor with Jesus' baptism by saying through an angel immediately afterwards that Jesus was His beloved Son in whom he was "well pleased" (v. 17). Jesus' disciples continued to baptize in a similar manner to John until the death and resurrection of their master, when the practice took on newer and deeper significance. (John's baptism did not make available the Holy Spirit. Later we have an example which shows the necessity of rebaptism in the name of Jesus for some who had undergone only the baptism of John in Acts 19:1-6.)

In Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus commanded that the apostles go into all nations preaching the gospel and baptizing the disciples. They followed Christ's command and themselves both stressed the

importance of baptism and carefully explained its meaning in their preaching and teachings. Acts 2:38 is a fundamental scripture in this regard: "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." This clearly explains one must be baptized in order to have his sins forgiven so that he may consequently receive God's Holy Spirit through the laying-on-of-hands ceremony (Acts 8:12-17).

The main prerequisites for water baptism are repentance and belief (i.e., faith) in the person and message of Jesus Christ. Repentance includes godly sorrow over one's past sins and wrong way of life and a deep conviction to obey God. To believe in the person of Jesus Christ means that one believes Christ was indeed the Son of God, Savior and Messiah. Hence, in Acts 8:37 it is noted that Philip baptized the Ethiopian eunuch upon his certifying the conviction, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."

But this general belief about the person of Jesus Christ must be more specific before baptism. One must come to acknowledge, accept and desire Christ as his personal Savior — he must fully and deeply believe that Jesus' death on the cross (stake) was to pay for his (the sinner's) own, individual sins.



Thus, the faith in Christ required for baptism is far more personal than merely a general belief in God or a theoretical understanding (however accurate) of New Testament theology. One who has this faith in Christ and His sacrifice will demonstrate his true conviction and belief by his actions. He will begin to obey Christ, “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” (Matt. 7:21). Peter said that God will give His Holy Spirit only to those who obey Him (Acts 5:32). The apostle James also makes abundantly plain that faith and works go hand in hand (James 2:18 ff).

In addition to belief or faith in the person of Christ, one needs belief or faith in the message of Jesus Christ which is the gospel. It would not make sense to believe that Christ was the Savior yet disregard His message. Christ Himself commanded that all repent and believe the gospel (Mark 1:15). Thus, one who wants to be baptized must not only be convinced of the reality of Christ as Savior of the world and Savior of the person’s own life, but he must also believe the gospel. In every way this faith is “toward our Lord Jesus Christ” (Acts 20:21).

Before baptism one must be deeply aware of the significance the act of baptism has in his own life. He must understand that baptism symbolizes a break with the old way of life and demonstrates a full commitment and determination to begin a new way of life obeying God. One who is baptized can never go back to the old way, or else he stands in jeopardy of losing out on eternal life and consequently being consumed in the lake of fire. One who will be baptized should thus carefully consider that he has the depth of conviction and the fortitude to put Christ first in his life, even before family and friends (Luke 14:25-33).

Upon such true repentance and faith, a person is baptized by a representative of Jesus Christ. The baptism is by complete immersion under water in accordance with the many New Testament examples of baptism and with the very meaning of baptism itself.

There is only one proper method of baptism described in the Bible. The word “baptize” comes from the Greek word *baptizo*, which means “immerse,”

“plunge into” or “put into.” Many churches today practice baptism by sprinkling and pouring, even though the Greek words which normally indicate these actions are not used in the New Testament in reference to baptism. Usage of the time indicates the world has its classical meaning of “immerse.” Complete submersion in water is the proper way to picture death and burial which Romans 6 shows is a major symbolic meaning of baptism.

In addition, the mode used by John the Baptist and Christ’s disciples showed there must have been a great physical similarity in their general baptismal procedures. The scriptural descriptions of certain baptisms reinforce that the method was total immersion. Christ was baptized in the Jordan, and upon baptism, came out of the water (Matt. 3:13-17); John baptized in Aenon because there was “much water” there (John. 3:23); Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch traveled in the chariot until they came to waters in general, and they both went down into the water (Acts 8:36-39). Finally, proof is found in the biblical meaning of baptism, analogous to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. One must be totally immersed in water to symbolize having been buried with Christ in a watery grave (Rom. 6).

Peter drew the analogy between baptism and the flood in (I Pet. 3:20). “And I cannot help pointing out what a perfect illustration this is of the way you have been admitted to the Christian ‘ark’ by baptism, which means, of course, far more than the mere washing of a dirty body: it means the ability to face God with a clear conscience” (*Philips*). Baptism, then, does far more than removing figurative dirt from the body, meaning the removing of sin from our spiritual record. It actively gives one the ability to face our Creator with a clear conscience.

The RSV translates this verse slightly different, amplifying the intrinsically rich meaning: “Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a clear conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ” (v. 21). Baptism in fact does both: it gives the repentant sinner both “the ability to face God” and is “an appeal to God.” But this ability or appeal for a clear conscience can only be through the resurrection of Jesus Christ; “For there is in every true baptism the virtue of Christ

rising from the dead” (verse 21, *Philips*).

Water baptism is the most important (of the very few) New Testament ceremonies or rituals commanded by Christ and followed by the apostles and early New Testament Church. It is, in a sense, the formal initiatory rite to Christianity and is replete with profound spiritual significance and rich personal meaning for every true Christian and prospective member of God’s kingdom. The biblical injunction of water baptism is an outward sign showing an inward attitude of repentance and faith toward Jesus Christ, and is the only way by which an individual can receive God’s Holy Spirit which makes him part of the body of Christ. “For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body [the Church], whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit” (I Cor. 12:13).

Baptism pictures and symbolizes the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ (Rom. 6:2-6; Col. 2:12-13). Baptism is also symbolic of the repentant believer’s own death, burial and resurrection from a watery grave, as already noted. In Romans 6, Paul explains that just as [Christ died for mankind’s sins and was buried, baptism, being plunged into a watery grave, as it were — is symbolic of the death and burial of one’s old sinful life.] And as Christ was resurrected in newness of life, when a person comes up out of the waters of baptism it is symbolic of his rising up out of his past “grave” to live a new, life free from the guilt of past sins and the death penalty those sins incurred.

“How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His. We know that our old self was crucified with Him so that the sinful body might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For he who has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him” (Rom. 6:2-8).

Paul explains again in slightly different terms the same principle in Colossians 2:12-13. “. . . and you were buried with Him [Christ] in baptism, in which you were also raised with Him through faith and the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. And you, who were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God hath made alive together with Him . . .” Paul adds in Colossians 3:1 that since we have symbolically risen from the grave with Christ, we should set our orientation of mind on spiritual things instead of carnal, physical things. “If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above. . .”

Of all the symbolic and deep spiritual meaning associated with baptism, there remain three fundamental reasons why a person should be baptized: to follow Christ’s example, to have one’s sins forgiven and to receive the Holy Spirit. In his sermon on the day of Pentecost, Peter clearly stated that one is baptized to have his sins forgiven. He clearly explained Christ was the Messiah and that in killing Christ the people had killed their Savior. “Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and unto the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?” (Acts 2:37). Peter’s response was that they should “Repent and be baptized . . . for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost” (verse 38). Thus one is baptized because he wants to have his sins forgiven and covered by the shed blood of Christ.

In addition to his own baptism “with water unto repentance,” John the Baptist made a brief reference to two further uses of the concept of baptism; referring to Jesus Christ, he said, “He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire” (Matt 3:11). To be baptized with the Holy Spirit shows that a Christian must be “immersed” in it. The baptism of fire refers to the lake of fire which will totally “immerse” and burn up unrepentant sinners at the end of this age. John the Baptist compared those who will not obey God to “chaff” (v. 12) which would be burned up by Jesus Christ instead of being gathered to Himself as will the “wheat” (referring to Christians who obey God). ◻

**SUMMARY: Read these scriptures in your own Bible:**

- **Hebrews 6** - Baptism is a foundational doctrine of the Christian belief.
- **Matthew 3:13-17** - Jesus is baptized.
- **Matthew 28:19-20** - Jesus commands His apostles to go into all nations preaching the gospel and baptizing.
- **Acts 2:38** - Peter preaches urging people to be baptized.
- **Acts 8:37** - Ethiopian eunuch states he believes that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.
- **Matthew 7:21** - He that doeth the will of my Father will enter the Kingdom.
- **Acts 5:32** - We must obey God.
- **James 2:18** - We show our faith by our works.
- **Mark 1:15** - Christ commands that we repent and believe the gospel.
- **Acts 20:21** - We must have faith toward Jesus Christ.
- **Luke 14: 25-33** - We must love Christ more than family and forsake all that we have in order to be His disciple.
- **1 Peter 3:20** - Peter draws analogy between baptism and flood.
- **1 Corinthians 12:13** - By one Spirit, we are all baptized into the Body of Christ.
- **Romans 6:2-6** - Baptism pictures and symbolizes the death, burial and resurrection of Christ.
- **Colossians 2:12-13** - Baptism shows the repentant believer's death, burial and resurrection from a watery grave.
- **Colossians 3:1** - When risen with Christ, seek those things which are above.
- **Matthew 3:11-12** - Christ will come baptizing with the Holy Spirit and fire. With the Holy Spirit in water baptism and with the lake of fire for those who disobey God.

**QUESTIONS (ANSWERS BELOW):**

1. Baptism symbolizes...

- a) renunciation of the past sinful life
- b) the burial of the old man in a watery grave
- c) the emergence of a new spirit-led man living with Christ's mind and following in His footsteps
- d) all of the above

2. What person in the New Testament introduced the water baptism as a ceremony?

3. Through the water baptism ceremony one outwardly demonstrates...

- a) his or her attitude of repentance
- b) his or her desire to submit to God
- c) both

4. Both Jesus and God the Father give their stamp of approval to the baptism ceremony in...

- a) Matthew 3:13-17
- b) Acts 19:11
- c) Matthew 17:8-10
- d) Luke 3:1-4

5. Christ commanded the apostles to go into all nations preaching the gospel and baptizing the disciples. True or False?



- 
6. Who said, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins?”
- a) John
  - b) James
  - c) Peter
  - d) Jesus
7. Repentance includes...
- a) godly sorrow over one’s past sins
  - b) a deep conviction to obey God
  - c) both
8. One must believe that Jesus’ death was to pay for his (the sinner’s) own individual sins. The person who has this faith in Christ and His sacrifice will demonstrate this true conviction and belief by their...
- a) intellectual understanding of theology
  - b) actions
  - c) sincerity
9. Fill in the missing word of this verse: “Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that \_\_\_\_\_ the will of my Father which is in heaven.”
- a) acknowledges
  - b) accepts
  - c) does
  - d) believes
10. Acts 5:32 says that God gives His Holy Spirit to them that \_\_\_\_\_ Him.
- a) obey
  - b) believe in
  - c) desire
  - d) love
11. In James 2:18, James speaks of showing his faith by his \_\_\_\_\_ [what?]
- a) love
  - b) works
  - c) sincerity
  - d) understanding
12. One seeking baptism must have faith (belief) in...
- a) Jesus Christ, the person
  - b) the message (gospel) of Jesus Christ
  - c) both
13. One must understand that baptism symbolizes...
- a) a break with the old way of life
  - b) full commitment to God
  - c) determination to obey God
  - d) all of the above
-

14. Once one is baptized, he or she enters the Salvation Process. If one then falls away from this process they...

- a) can repent and get a second chance or opportunity at eternal life
- b) are harshly rebuked and put back on track toward the kingdom
- c) are placed into the lake of fire.

15. Upon repentance and faith, one is...

- a) baptized by the pouring of water on his head by a friend or family member
- b) baptized by full immersion into the water by a person of his choosing
- c) baptized by sprinkling of water by a representative of Jesus Christ
- d) baptized by full immersion in water by a representative of Jesus Christ

16. The word “baptize“ comes from the Greek word baptizo, which means “sprinkle“ or “pour water onto.“ True or False?

17. The Bible reinforces that the method of baptism was by full immersion. True or False?

18. Baptism gives the repentant sinner...

- a) the ability to face God with clear conscience
- b) an appeal for a clear conscience
- c) both

19. In every true baptism is the virtue of Christ rising from the dead. True or False?

20. Baptism is the only way for a true Christian to enter the Body of Christ. True or False?

21. In Colossians 3:1 Paul states that if we be risen with Christ we should seek...

- a) physical things
- b) spiritual things or those things that are above

22. John the Baptist said that he baptized with water but that Christ would come baptizing with the Holy Spirit and with fire. The Holy Spirit for those who obey and the lake of fire for those who disobey God. True or False?

**LESSON FOURTEEN — ANSWERS:**

- |            |             |                       |
|------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| 17. (True) | 17. (c)     | 1. (d)                |
| 18. (c)    | 18. (a)     | 2. (John the Baptist) |
| 19. (True) | 19. (b)     | 3. (c)                |
| 20. (True) | 20. (c)     | 4. (a)                |
| 21. (b)    | 21. (d)     | 5. (True)             |
| 22. (True) | 22. (c)     | 6. (c)                |
|            | 15. (d)     | 7. (c)                |
|            | 16. (False) | 8. (b)                |



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