

January 15, 2008

The Collected Commentaries of 2003

With election turmoil in Kenya erupting into virtual civil war along tribal lines, and with the war in Iraq emerging as a major political issue in the American presidential election, revisiting the archived *Commentaries* of 2003 seems reasonable; thus, the *Commentaries*, which were initially posted in locked pdf. files that could only be read or printed, not copied and e-circulated, are here made available for circulation.

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February 12, 2003

Commentary — From the Margins

In the conclusion of *Holiness, Righteousness & the New Covenant* [2002 edition], I wrote,

“President Bush speaks of bringing democracy to Afghanistan and Pakistan, which is nothing more than the demonic king of the North muscling his ideology into the historic domain of the king of the South. War is inevitable as the geographic edges of the spiritual realms slip and slide as if these realms were tectonic plates. Boundaries are ideological, theological, so wars without winners can spill out of the margins and into heartlands

“In these margins where ideology overlaps culture, taboos are broken with impunity. Edges melt at the boundaries of spiritual realms. But new edges will form, and can be mapped: possibly, both Iran and Turkey will align themselves with the king of the North as the new edges are extended.

“But the theology of lawlessness stretches across cultures as if it were a nylon stocking over the head of a thief. It masks the demon who will pose as the risen Christ. It conceals its fissures, where an attack might be launched. It deforms its edges along which war will eventually be waged. And it ensnares allies, absorbing them into a gelatinous colony of half-digested amebas. Nevertheless, the battle has been joined. The technology by which the king of the North devours with its iron teeth and bronze claws allows this beast's underbelly to be probed by printed words, each book like a flea that will eventually drive the beast insane.”

When I wrote the above, I didn't understand that what the Church of God labels as "nominal Christianity" is the actual nation of spiritual Israel in captivity to the spiritual king of Babylon. Christ labels *nominal Christianity* as the "synagogue of Satan" (Rev 3:9), and as I better understand prophecy, I understand that Christ intends to liberate all of spiritual Israel from spiritual bondage just as *YHWH* through Moses liberated physical Israel from Egyptian slavery. This liberation will be the remembered event throughout Christ's Millennium reign. This is the Israel for which there is a highway built. This is the Israel that will live in and around spiritual Jerusalem, which has theological, not geographical coordinates.

Just as Hitler invaded Poland to gain a common border with the Soviet Union, the nation he intended to attack, President Bush will invade Iraq to establish a common border from which the Athenian values of America can be surgically inserted into Islamic cultures, which seem to revel in the warrior cult values of ancient Sparta. Yes, the spiritual entities that empowered Athens and Sparta and used those two poleis as living sets of tin soldiers are, today, restrained only by the dominance of the great horn, the firstborn son of the spiritual king of Greece. When he is supernaturally broken at the Passover that liberates spiritual Israel, the spiritual kings of the North and of the South will no longer be restrained, but will attack each other with a fury that would leave no flesh alive if those days were not shortened by Christ coming to fight as on a day of battle.

Armies surrounding Jerusalem is not a sign of Christ returning as the all-powerful Messiah, but of Him coming to slay the demonic king of the North on a day of battle, a day on which He takes 144,000 physical Israelites to a place of safety, the day on which

He liberates all of humanity from spiritual bondage, the day on which Satan is cast from heaven and comes to earth, declaring himself to be Christ and requiring those who wish to serve him to accept the tattoo of the cross of Calvary. And many newly liberated humans will accept his slave mark, thereby returning themselves to the spiritual bondage with which they have grown comfortable and by which they have prospered materially. They will believe they are the true servants of God, and they will curse God when the Father's wrath rains down on them.

Today, the United States and a coalition of nations front for the spiritual king of Greece, who will establish a new world order, one that is spiritual but carries piggyback a secular manifestation, visible for all to see. It has been said that the 20th-Century was the American century—actually, it was the last century of the Medo-Persian ram that pushed north, and west, and south from Susa. The spiritual king of Greece will trample this ram, the symbolic representation of the spiritual *sars* that carry France, Germany, Russia, Greece, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and most of the world's nations. A he-goat flying out of the west is the symbolic representation of the new world order the United States will establish, a world order that isn't the production of the United Nations, or of a united Europe, but of the endtime descendants of the ancient house of Joseph, the patriarch who established Egyptian hegemony through the distribution of food.

While all eyes are on oil, oil production, and oil reserves, the theological successors of the Vandals shall overturn, again, their long time Trinitarian rivals by bartering food for spiritual servitude. That food is already stored and only awaits the ecological catastrophes that will make it valuable enough to cause hungry Trinitarians to sell the souls they think they have for bowls of porridge. But not enough food has been stored: the theological successors of the Vandals will be more successful than they have anticipated. More than half of the world's population will identify itself as part of greater spiritual Israel. So the means by which these neo-Vandals prevail will also be the cause of their tragic downfall.

The new world order that the United States and its allies establish will break as soon as it succeeds, leaving humanity to the merciless kings of the North and of the South. President Bush will only temporarily succeed in establishing an American hegemony in the Middle East. For a short while, though, we will be as successful as Alexander the Great.

I wrote the conclusion to *Holiness* in October 2002. It is now February 2003. What I needed in October was a common border from which to attack the theological synagogue of Satan. That border is the error of Bishop Arius.

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February 15, 2003

Commentary — From the Margins *A Response to "Coming Ashore"*

In *Time's* February 17, 2003, issue, Charles Krauthammer writes, in his Viewpoint piece, "Coming Ashore," that the war with Iraq isn't just to disarm Saddam, but to reform a whole part of the world. Indeed, it is, for this war signals the replacement of one world order with a short-lived another, one that will be broken while it is still ascending in power just as Alexander the Great's reign ended when he had no more enemies to conquer.

Biblical prophecy has been the nearly exclusive domain of Evangelical Christianity, the theology of President Bush, who can see in text (Rev 9:15) that at some specific hour four angels presently bound at the river Euphrates will be loosed to kill a third of humanity. As the President of this nation and as a born-again Believer with the available authority to eliminate weapons of mass destruction in and around the river Euphrates, he is without choice: he must do what he can to remove WMDs from this region and to eliminate the possibility of their return. To do anything less is irresponsible to both the citizens of this country and to the third of humanity whose death is prophesied, for prophecy can be abolished.

Theoretical Marxists find an economic cause for every societal action (they do not have to look far for one in our squabble with Saddam), but our coming ashore is prophesied in the visions of Daniel—if not our coming ashore, then the intervention of a lone superpower coming out of the west. The meaning traditionally assigned by Evangelical scholars to Daniel's Greek he-goat that tramples the Medo-Persian ram has the prophecy being fulfilled by Alexander, but the vision is for the time of the end; it was sealed and secret and not understandable by anyone until that generic period. So all traditional understandings need scrapped, as the intervention taken to eliminate WMDs from the region will bring about the prophesied destruction, making the President's actions those of a Cassandra.

The Athenian values of democracy and political correctness are those of the spiritual king of Greece, which explains why France, Germany, and Russia will only, after the fact, support the toppling of the present world order. Two topplings will occur, one physical or secular, the other spiritual. The secular toppling can be easily predicted. Oil, oil production and oil reserves are its catalysts—but as oil men, the President and Vice-President know that oil is not a finite natural resource, but is renewable at a not yet determined rate. So oil is only the toppling's lubricant. The issue is truly the installation of democratic reform instituted worldwide in an attempt to bring peace and prosperity to human society, thereby demonstrating that there is at least one social construct which will deliver all that it promises.

France, Germany, and Russia's objection to the US's coming ashore is not visibly predictable, and pertains to them being the spiritual spokes-nations for the [spiritual princes of Persia, the presently reigning *wicked spirits in high places*. The king of Greece's trampling of these spiritual *sars* will provide the context for war between Trinitarian and Unitarian or Arian Christianity, with the two "kings" over Trinitarians and Arians being subordinate kings to the great horn or first king of the king of Greece, a federation of demonic spirits].

Western cultures pride themselves on being the masters of their destinies. We philosophically reject the concept that we are pawns of spiritual powers in an unenterable dimension, yet that is the undeniable claim of Christianity: God governs the affairs of men. Yes, this is true. We [believe that we] have individual freewill, but we are collectively lab mice confined to a round cage, [with every person consigned to disobedience or sin (Rom 11:32)].

God has given prophecies, has sealed them, and has now unsealed them to establish His credibility with humanity. And what He has unsealed reveals that the single superpower flying out of the West will be suddenly broken. Four lesser powers [or kings] emerge from the breaking of this single horn. These four consolidate into two [the remainder of the paragraph has been omitted].

The biblical watchmen who would have us fretting about the forthcoming war with Iraq lack spiritual discernment, evident by their continued anti-Rome bias. They will still be looking for a united Europe to emerge as the world's premier superpower when ecological and military catastrophes make all life in Europe tenuous. There will, indeed, be another world war, one in which [two thirds] of humanity perishes. President Bush's good intentions will only set the stage for the rearrangement of the world order necessary for food, not oil, to be the leveraged commodity, thereby shifting the primary battlefields away from the Middle East.

Yes, world war will be *coming ashore* to a field near you. Food will be the weapon that topples Trinitarian Christianity as God softens psyches prior to the liberation of humanity from spiritual bondage to lawlessness. Liberation always seems to involve *coming ashore*.

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24 February 2003

Commentary — From the Margins *Marxism vs. Prophecy*

How was it that Noah could, for more than a century, build an ocean liner in his backyard and his neighbors remain unaware of *Elohim's* intention to drown humanity? The question can be dismissed by asserting that the Flood narrative is fiction, an allegory to match the equally allegorical fire that will again destroy the face of the earth. Or the question can be trivialized by asserting that the Flood was a localized phenomenon, a local legend exploited by early moralists to impose order over superstitious herdsmen and farmers. Or the question answered by saying that of course Noah's neighbors knew what he was doing, but that they didn't believe that Noah spoke for God, that they believed God was love and wouldn't destroy innocent life.

Jesus says that immediately prior to His return, cultural conditions will be as they were in the time of Noah. The implication is that the prophesied, endtime Tribulation will take humanity by surprise. But that seems hardly possible when a large segment of Christianity believes that we are presently living in the time of the end, that the Rapture could occur anytime, that Christ could return at any moment. And therein exists how this segment of Christianity can be taken by surprise: if the Tribulation precedes any rapture of saints, those who look for saints to escape divine catastrophes by being taken to heaven before these catastrophes occur will, indeed, be as surprised by fulfilled endtime prophecies as Noah's neighbors were when it began raining.

But the mass of humanity is not Evangelical Christian, is not Christian at all, and even in the United States, [the majority of the nation] doesn't believe that the God of ancient Israel will directly intervene in the affairs of men; [for] this God has delayed coming far longer than my grandfather did when I was sent out to the barn to await a promised spanking—my grandfather waited long enough that my cousin and I were having a wonderful time chasing chickens before he showed up with a yardstick, made of a good grade of beech. This God's promised return has been delayed so long that theoretical Marxists will be able to explain every event leading up to Armageddon.

We see this today: France's opposition to the United States militarily engaging Iraq can be explained by economic causes. Iraq supplies France with significant quantities of oil, and Iraq owes France debt that will be uncollectible under a democratic regime. It is not in French interests to have Saddam toppled. Nor is it in French interests to have the United Nations made impotent; France will never again acquire veto power over the actions of the United States, Russia, and China. Plus, there might well be French fingerprints on Iraqi weapons of mass destruction. So for very explainable reasons, France resists the implementation of an American hegemony in the Middle East.

What we don't see is that France and Russia are the leading spokes-nations for spiritual powers [*sars*] behind the existing world order that presently a turf war rages in the spiritual realm governed by the *Elohim* [*Theon* and *Theos*], that the spiritual king of Greece will utterly trample the spiritual *sars* of Persia, and by extension, Babylon.

The spiritual king of Greece has a great single horn, which is his firstborn son that will fly out of the West, carrying away all opposition just as Alexander the Great did.

Humanity refuses to perceive itself as a manipulated species: we are the masters of our destinies, or so we want to believe. The idea that we don't determine our collective fate is intellectually repugnant and philosophically alien; yet the underlying construction

of Christianity is that "God" governs the affair of men. The story of Nebuchadnezzar living as a beast concludes with the restored king acknowledging that the Most High God can give the kingdom of men to whomever He will—and His will has been made known in the prophecies and visions recorded by Daniel.

Theoretical Marxism solves two problems associated with prophecy. It eliminates the need to believe in a God that rules over humanity, and it excludes many of the prophetic readings of would-be experts and biblical watchmen. There will not be yet another revival of the Holy Roman Empire under the EEC/EU banner, with Germany as the dominant power. Won't happen. Rome is nowhere mentioned in prophecy, let alone in endtime prophecies, which were sealed and secret until that generic period identified as the time of the end, the period beginning approximately a year ago. A future pope will not be the man of perdition: that prophesied man of perdition must theologically hold the error of Bishop Arius. And Christ does not return when armies surrounding Jerusalem are destroyed—the one who will then claim to be Christ and who will require everyone to receive a tattoo of the Cross will be the true antiChrist.

Marxism, like evolution, offers humanity a reasonable explanation for what God does and has done without acknowledging the existence of a spiritual or supernatural realm. Natural forces, economical or biological, determine the course of humanity, thereby indirectly deifying "nature." And like evolution, Marxism makes more sense from a distance than it does when examined closely. It answers questions of a general nature better than it does questions that are specific, such as why would two oil men like President Bush and Vice-President Cheney implement an action that will exert downward pressure on oil prices when they know that oil is not a finite resource, but renewable at a yet undetermined rate? Why would these two oil men not allow oil prices to climb above \$40 a barrel, thereby making extraction from oil shale practical, or production from vegetative sources practical, or production from fields like Alaska's Cook Inlet that has a high water content practical.

When I lived on the Kenai Peninsula, drillers told me that the oil-bearing strata under the Inlet was 1,500 feet thick as opposed to the 55 feet thick strata under Saudi Arabia, but that the Cook Inlet strata was fractured shale which had allowed water to seep into the deposit, making drying the oil too expensive under our "old oil" pricing structure. Two oil-men, such as Bush and Cheney, know that we don't need oil from Iraq. Although Iraqi oil will indirectly benefit this nation by artificially depressing the price per barrel, that indirect benefit will come back to bite us unless existing fields refill at a rate faster than reason suggests, which might be the case since I am not privy to the same technological information that Bush and Cheney have.

So the existence of Iraqi oil provides the economic justification for excluding fulfilled prophecy as the reason we will bring democracy to the citizens of that nation while, at the same time, overturning an existing world order. Yes, we will be successful regardless of when we engage Saddam. We will be successful beyond even our expectations. For a short while, democracy and political correctness will sweep through the region. But just as French peasants were not ready for democracy in 1792, or Russian peasants weren't in 1917, or German workers weren't in 1918, Islamic fundamentalists are not ready for democracy. In the historic succession of Napoleon, Lenin, Hitler, a four-headed king of the South will emerge following the breaking of that first horn of the spiritual king of Greece. [The remainder of the paragraph has been omitted.]

When the first horn of the spiritual king of Greece is broken [no] Marxist will be able to explain how this first horn was broken—the "why" is that there will again be a Passover like the one when Moses led ancient Israel out of Egypt. Two men, like Moses and Aaron, will lead spiritual Israel (i.e., greater Christianity) out from bondage to sin, which is lawlessness.

The Old Testament's morals of 18th-Century [Puritanism] will return [to Christianity] with a vengeance—actually, the morality of 1st-Century Christianity will return. [Sentence omitted.] Half way through seven years of Tribulation, [when armies surround Jerusalem] Marxists will explain about food shortages, about food being leveraged to produce spiritual disciples for denominations that hold the error of Bishop Arius, about how the meteor strike has disrupted European economies, about how only the United States and Russia had the land mass necessary to absorb the use of weapons of mass destruction. And they will neither expect the arrival of Satan as the antiChrist, nor the return of the Messiah forty-two months later. I suspect it is my job to read prophecy for them, so that they can fit their explanations into a prophesied framework, given, then sealed until the time of the end.

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26 February 2003

Commentary — From the Margins *What the Watchmen Won't Tell You*

Biblical watchmen are self-identified prophecy experts who feel compelled to warn nations, especially the United States, Great Britain and the former Commonwealth countries, that God's wrath is about to be fulfilled if the nations don't repent and return to obeying God. The underlying message of repentance is scripturally valid. Divine wrath will occur against individuals, not nations, who are not in covenant with their Creator. So the premise under which the watchmen warn of God's wrath has merit, but these watchmen inevitably lack both divine inspiration and basic reading skills, as they shill for purveyors of accursed gospels that involve scaring converts into supporting efforts to warn the world about the evils of the New World Order, or the Roman Church, or a rearmed Germany. They find in the visions of Daniel, and in the vision of John the scriptural passages they need to twist, as if these passages were pipe cleaners, into national alliances, each bent on the destruction of the United States. They joust with themselves, each a windmill grinding the good seed God planted into a gritty meal good for nothing. They come in as many styles and colors as GM cars, all with a spiritual I.Q. like a rock. They produce slick magazines, radio and television programs, and millions in tithes and offerings. But they will not tell you, that neither Rome, the Roman Empire, the Roman Church, nor the Holy Roman Empire are mentioned in prophecy by either their ancient or by their modern names; that the mark of the beast is not 666, but *chi xi stigma* [χξς'], which can be read as Xx[tattoo] or the tattoo of Xx; that Christ doesn't return when the armies surrounding Jerusalem are destroyed, but rather the true antiChrist is cast from heaven and arrives on earth when these armies are swallowed by the Mount of Olives. [They don't tell you] that there will be two antiChrists, the first the man of perdition (a possessed human being), and the second a supernatural being that poses as Christ and attempts to establish a millennial reign during a period of continuous war. [They don't tell you] that converting assets into gold and silver will not help a person; that the future leveraged commodity is food following a period of climatic catastrophes, including a meteor strike; that more than half of the world's population will self-identify itself as Christian in the first half of seven years of tribulation; that two individuals, like Moses and Aaron before, will lead these spiritual Israelites out of bondage to sin (i.e., lawlessness); that prophecies which had a physical fulfillment will have a "spiritual" fulfillment; that there will not again be a physical captivity of the descendants of the ancient houses of Israel and Judah; that spiritual Israel (i.e., the Body of Christ) divided into the spiritual house of Israel and the spiritual house of Judah, with both houses being taken into spiritual captivity centuries ago; that the prophecies about which the watchmen warn the modern descendants of the ancient houses of Israel and Judah have been both physically and spiritually fulfilled; that God will not in the future send the descendants of the ancient houses of Israel into national captivity.

To teach that God the Father will bring about the loss of national sovereignty for any peoples prior to Christ's return as the all powerful Messiah is intellectually dishonest, scripturally unsupportable, and is emotionally a form of terrorism. Such teaching reveals a lack of understanding of what constitutes the new covenant. Salvation is individual, not national. Ancient Israel was made a holy nation when the assembled nation agreed to the terms of the Sinai covenant, but this holy nation as covenantee broke its agreement and

eventually killed the Covenantor. Spiritual Israel then replaced physical Israel as that holy nation, but spiritual Israel is not a genetically similar people identified by physical circumcision. Rather, it is a nation composed of theologically similar people from all ethnic origins, people whose hearts and minds have been circumcised by having the law of God written on them [remainder of sentence has been omitted]. And spiritual Israel divided into two houses and [both houses were] sent into theological captivity in the 4th-Century for the same reasons that ancient, physical Israel had previously been sent into national captivity in the 6th, 7th, and 8th Centuries BCE.

The watchmen are sixteen centuries late with their warning for Israel to repent and return to the covenant relationship into which a drawn disciple is placed when the disciple receives the Holy Spirit.

Today, in the 21st-Century, biblical prophecy must be understood from the perspective of a spiritual plane, which will affect the physical world and secular politics. God and Christ's focus, though, isn't physically circumcised Israel, but spiritual Israel — the Body of Christ. Yes, events will affect geographical Jerusalem, but theological Jerusalem is of more importance. When the spiritual Moses and Aaron, the two witnesses of the Book of Revelation, lead spiritual Israel out of sin and into the wilderness on the way to the Promised Land, their destination will be spiritual Jerusalem, not any particular set of geographical coordinates.

Theoretical Marxism will be able to offer a reasonable explanation for every single event leading up to the splitting of the Mount of Olives halfway through a seven year Tribulation. But even Marxist academicians will then accept the tattoo of the Cross of Calvary, for which no universally valid economic explanation exists, or they, too, will begin their journey towards spiritual Jerusalem, where I will leave the light on as was done along the underground railroad for escaping slaves.

* * *

March 7, 2003

Commentary — From the Margins *The Case Against Iraq*

Last night, President Bush firmly and solemnly established the case that nothing short of overturning the existing government in Iraq will satisfy the United States' need for, and sense of national safety. His mindset, his administration's mindset changed with the attack of 9/11. Containment was no longer a strategic option. The President said that he swore on the Bible to protect this country, our Constitution, me. And I wonder if he realizes that the decisions he will make, and the actions he will take during the next few weeks and months will impact national sovereignty and individual safety more than the collective decisions and actions by all preceding Presidents; yet, he probably has no choice about what he will do. If he does nothing, there will be another Islamic provocation. And if whoever is then President does nothing, there will be another until we fly out of the west to trample the physical remains of the Medo-Persian Empire, thereby instituting a new world order and ushering in what would be the American Century if it were not the time of the end, that period in history when one age ends and another begins.

Today, a clear division about how to read biblical prophecies has become apparent: the watchmen of all denominational flavors see in France's, Germany's, and Russia's opposition to a war in Iraq the rise of a unified Europe that will eventually unite with the Roman Church to become the dominant superpower in the world, the beast power that will impose peace in the Middle East through a man declaring himself god, thereby forcing everyone to take the mark of the beast in order to buy and sell. They see every world event through Cardinal Red glasses, and they couldn't be more blind. Europe will not prevail, but will become irrelevant if it doesn't join with the United States in establishing a democratic hegemony throughout the Islamic world, a hegemony that has within itself the seeds of its own destruction.

Moses set forth two guidelines for prophets: first, the prophecy the prophet spoke must come to pass; and second, the prophet must not cause the people to go after strange gods. Three and a half millennia later, the office of prophet has fallen on hard times. With no new prophecies being recorded since the reigns of the Caesars, and with each would-be prophecy expert reassembling poorly deconstructed Scriptures according to his or her denominational exegesis, would-be prophets and prophecy experts should thank God that community sanctioned stoning is no longer practiced. For too long, the Roman Church has been Protestantism's boogeyman. Each Pope was potentially the man of perdition. The sacramental wine he drank was the blood of Protestant saints. The whore of Revelation chapter 17—the great city that rules over the kings of the earth—was Rome, even though the name on her forehead reads, Babylon the great.

If we were to apply the same standards of getting it right to prophecy experts as were applied to prophets, we would find that the experts are false, each worthy of being stoned. Not one who finds Rome, the Roman Church, or the Holy Roman Empire in the prophecies of Daniel or Revelation is genuine. All are impostors. All will be blindsided by the spectacular ascendancy of an American religion that holds [a sophisticated form of] the error of Bishop Arius; a religion that will leverage food into discipleship.

But before food shortages occur, the United States, with or without a supporting coalition, will, as the fronting nation for the spiritual king of Greece, fly out of the west to

trample the nations fronting for the spiritual *sar* of the kingdom of Persia, which is an extension of spiritual Babylon. While rifle shots might only be exchanged in the Persian Gulf region, real war is being waged between fallen angels in the spiritual realm. France, Germany, Russia, modern Greece, Iraq, even the United Nations itself—all are fronting nations for the spiritual *sar* of Persia, and for the world order that he has established.

Intellectual Modernism and Post-Modernism require lip service be given to the idea that humanity is the master of its own destiny, but at best the idea is only partially true. [We believe that], individually, we have free will, but collectively, we execute schemata beyond our control. Historic events often seem to have lives of their own. These events overtake the individuals involved, as if the individuals were lab mice responding to outside stimuli—and we are [lab mice], according to the concept of "deity." We are air-breathing tin soldiers, positioned here, moved there, advanced, retreated, arrayed in this formation, or that one.

Can President Bush not overturn the existing world order? No, not really. He might not want to, but forces beyond his control are, indeed, at work.

Until the time of the Gentiles runs its course, the kingdoms of the world aren't of God, regardless of how much we want them to be. The ruler of this world is the devil, who desperately wants one of his organizational constructs to vindicate his rebellion against the Most High God. But he reaps what he sowed: he sowed rebellion, and is now reaping rebellion. And concerning the spiritual *sar* of Persia/Babylon, the Most High God inspired Daniel to write, "when he has become strong through his riches" (Dan 11:3), this *sar* shall provoke the spiritual king of Greece, causing this enraged angelic king to trample the Persian *sar* (Dan 8:7), as one world order is replaced by a short-lived another. The provoking has occurred, and was cited by President Bush as having changed our perspective about handling future security threats.

The Most High God sealed the visions of Daniel with a physical fulfillment of the longest and most detailed prophecy in the Bible. The biblical watchmen and would be prophecy experts recognize this fulfillment, and thereby fail to realize that the prophecies are records of events in the spiritual realm occurring today and in the near future.

Endtime prophecies are the revealing of what happens and will happen in an unfurled dimension that we cannot enter to make observations and calculations. Except by revelation, we would not even know of the existence of this spiritual dimension, and only by faith will we give credence to revelations about what occurs in this dimension. Without faith, though, God doesn't exist for us, even though He will forcibly make His existence known at the conclusion of this age.

Because the watchmen explicate prophecies they can neither read, nor understand, they kill the faith of wannabe disciples through their errant explications. The watchmen can only cry, *Rome, Rome*, a limited number of times before they cause biblical prophecies to be dismissed as so much hooey. Whereas the recording, sealing, and revealing of age-ending events should cause doubters to reconsider their denial of God's existence, the watchmen have produced the opposite effect, leaving all of us to deal with being intellectually discredited whenever we introduce biblical prophecy into a serious discussion of historic events.

But we are living through a pivotal moment in prophecy: the spiritual king of Greece will prevail against the *sar* of Persia. One world order will replace another. Democracy and what we regard as democratic ideals will sweep all other contenders from the arena of ideas. But shortly after establishing an American hegemony, the first horn or great horn of the spiritual king of Greece will be broken in the manner that Alexander the Great's reign was broken when he had no more world's to conquer. From that first horn's breakage will come two [a portion of sentence has been omitted] coalitions that will front for the spiritual rulers known as the kings of the South and of the North. The United

States [will be divided, partly for] the demonic king of the North's coalition, [and partially for the king of the South's coalition, with both coalitions theological rather than political]. I suspect we will be [most for the king of the North], but we really don't want to be.

* * *

March 9, 2003

Commentary — From the Margins *A Texan in the Whitehouse*

Nearly three months ago, Pastor John Hagee of Cornerstone Church, San Antonio, in his message delivered during services on *A Night to Honor Israel*, held in Washington D.C., said, concerning Saddam Hussein, "There's a Texan in the Whitehouse who will take you down." Pastor Hagee received tremendous applause. The Honorable Tom DeLay, then newly elected Majority Leader of the House of Representatives, raised his fist in agreement. Someone in the tradition of Texas John Slaughter, Ranger, rancher, and Indian fighter, was going after the bad guys—and the American monomyth of one man against the wilderness, subduing all obstacles, conquering all foes, prevailing despite overwhelming odds encapsulated the spirit of the coming new world order, which won't have the United States surrendering national sovereignty to last century's Globalists, but will see an American hegemony similar to Alexander the Great's established at least as far East as the Indus Valley. And like the short-lived reign of Alexander, when no more worlds remain to be subdued this American hegemony will be broken, not by military defeat, but because the spiritual power behind it is broken. From the breaking of this newly created world order will arise two competing powers, [both theological, one Unitarian and including today's Islamic belief paradigms, one Trinitarian — the remainder of the sentence and following sentence have been omitted]. More than two billion people will die during the ensuing world war.

The inherent problem faced by those who explicate biblical prophecy is their failure to understand that endtime visions are about supernatural powers that cannot be seen or interviewed by CNN reporters. When prophecy experts attempt to impose their understanding of previously sealed texts onto physical nations and peoples, misunderstanding cannot help but occur. As I write this, real war is being waged in the spiritual realm—and God the Father and His Messiah, Christ Jesus, aren't attempting to stop that war. This war is between the spiritual king of Greece and the spiritual *sar* of the kingdom of Persia/Babylon, the present ruler of the world. The war isn't fought with geographical front lines, but with ideological jousting for philosophical supremacy. Whereas democracy and the elevation of individual rights has been only one of many competing ideological paradigms, this paradigm of Greek values will soon trample all others, or so now unsealed biblical prophecies assert.

Prophecy experts, like prophets of old, are both false and genuine. The same test of whether what they say will come to pass can be used to determine genuineness. So today, while spiritual war is being supernaturally waged with the outcome not yet certain, the readings and understandings of prophecy experts can be tested. Will future events—not generations in the future, but this year and next and a decade from today—prove or disprove the prophetic readings of this biblical expert, or that one?

Because I either have (my claim is that I have been) or haven't been spiritually given the task of reading prophecy, I will pit my understanding of what happens over the course of the next couple of [decades] against every prophecy expert who contends that Europe will unite and will enter the Middle East to establish peace. Europe appears more likely to unite and prevail against the United States than at anytime in the past century. If a person were to bet upon future events based upon the two divisions of Rome forming

the legs of the image of Nebuchadnezzar's vision, the person should, today, pit his or her understanding against mine—and the person will lose.

Europe and the United Nations will either join with the United States or become irrelevant in the new world order that will be established, not by old world Globalists, but by democratic idealists. Of course, this overturning of the existing world order isn't just secular: Trinitarian Christianity will be compromised by denominations originating in America, and holding the error of Bishop Arius. Food will be the leveraged commodity; for with the breaking of the new American hegemony will come ecological catastrophes that will reduce global food production by more than a third. The Roman Church won't be the unifying force behind a united Europe, but will actually be surpassed in membership and power by an American denomination [once the Tribulation begins].

I will go on the record even farther: all of Christianity is spiritual Israel, and except for a remnant, is in spiritual captivity just as the physical descendants of the patriarch Israel were enslaved in [spiritual Babylon as they were in] Egypt. Those ancient Israelites were liberated when Moses and Aaron led them out of Egypt and into the Promised Land. Spiritual Israel will be philosophically or theologically liberated when a latter day Moses and Aaron lead them out of spiritual bondage to sin/lawlessness. That liberation occurs immediately following the breaking of the spiritual king of Greece's first horn and the killing of all spiritual firstborns who are not covered by the Passover blood of Christ. Spiritual Israelites must take the Passover as instituted by Jesus.

That American monomyth of one man against the wilderness began with my ancestors, and with President Bush's—both of us descending from the same cabin boy who left Holland for the opportunities afforded by religious individualism. As the President uses the myth's vernacular to say, referring to Islamic terrorists, "We're on their trail, we're smokin' them out, we've got 'em on the run," I use the myth's inherent truth to engage and eventually subdue the prophetic wilderness, painted cardinal red, and where would-be experts howl like coyotes, their yips hauntingly loud inside Cornerstone Church, San Antonio.

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March 13, 2003

Commentary — From the Margins *Can This Marriage Be Saved*

Time magazine's February 24, 2003 article by Michael Elliot, titled the above, begins, "It was, so far as anyone could remember, unprecedented." Indeed, what we are seeing is unprecedented: we're seeing spiritual warfare manifest in our realm. What is occurring as been prophesied for two and a half millennia, but those prophecies were sealed and secret until the time of the end, that generic identification of age-concluding events which includes seven years of tribulation greater than humanity has never known.

The prophet Amos wrote, "For the Lord God does nothing without revealing his secret to his servants the prophets" (3:7); but the office of prophet has fallen on hard times, with no new prophecies having been recorded since the reigns of the Caesars. The Book of Revelation concludes with language suggesting that there will be no additional revelation; yet both Peter and Paul cite Joel's prophecy about sons and daughters prophesying.

If the visions of Daniel are sealed until the time of the end, their unsealing will cause these visions to be read differently than they previously were—if they are not read differently, then they were never really sealed and secret until the time of the end. So either linguistic marmalade will be made of Scripture by asserting that the time of the end began in the 1st-Century, or a person's intellectual honesty will require the person admits that God uses human language in somewhat the same way humanity does. That said, the time of the end didn't begin two millennia ago, or two centuries ago, or even two decades ago. The time of the end is a period of turmoil, of wars, of ecological catastrophes, of human survival becoming questionable. It begins with the escalation of these attributes, not with twelve years of unprecedented worldwide prosperity. Thus, the visions of Daniel could not be understood when the Universal Church adopted *amillennialism*, or when early Protestant scholars determined that Rome was the fourth empire of the image Nebuchadnezzar saw, or when a pre-tribulation rapture of the Church was found. Endtime prophecies are only understandable now if we have entered that age-ending period of history identified by the generic expression, the time of the end.

My argument is that humanity has entered the period known as the time of the end; that sometime shortly post September 11, 2001, war broke out in the spiritual realm; that the spiritual *sar* of the kingdom of Persia attacked the spiritual king of Greece; that what we are witnessing and are about to witness is the physical manifestations of the spiritual he-goat of Daniel's eighth chapter vision trampling the Persian ram, both the he-goat and the ram representing fallen angels that resisted the angel of God sent to Daniel with the vision recorded in chapters ten through twelve. My argument goes on to claim that the visions of Daniel are no longer sealed, that more of Revelation can be better understood because of Daniel's visions being unsealed, that I was drafted just as if I received a *please-report-to* letter from Selective Service to explicate these prophecies.

The test of a genuine prophet was that what he said came to pass. Today, that same test can (and should) be applied to those who explicate prophecy: teachers and experts need to rightly discern what God has revealed to the prophets, since He does nothing without having first made what will happen known. If the Church, then, applies the same getting-it-right standard to prophecy experts as was applied to prophets, we can soon

determine whether those experts that find Rome, the Roman Church, or the Holy Roman Empire in the prophecies of Daniel or Revelation are genuine. My contention is that Rome and the Roman Empire are not mentioned directly anywhere in prophecy, and only tangentially mentioned in prophecies about spiritual Israel. Thus, prior to the overturning of one world order and the establishment of another, one in which the Roman Church will be eclipsed by the spectacular ascendancy of an American religion that holds the error of Bishop Arius, a religion that will leverage food into discipleship, I will figuratively lead with my chin—I will state for the record that the existing world order will shortly (in somewhat the length of time it took Alexander the Great to conquer the then known world) be overturned and replaced by one that has the values of ancient Greece; that the United States will play a leading roll in the toppling of the existing world order; that American hegemony will be established through the Middle East, and probably worldwide through the institution of democratic ideals; that shortly after this hegemony is established, it will be broken; that from the breaking of this American hegemony will rise two [theological] coalitions, [one] holding a variant form of the error of Bishop Arius, [the other based upon worship of a triune deity — remaining portion of paragraph has been omitted].

Because my claims are, as one prophecy expert said, "Radically controversial," I will not hedge what I write in vagaries: the man of perdition is not the true antiChrist, but the antiChrist's forerunner. Satan, when cast from heaven, will come as the antiChrist. It will be Satan who requires newly liberated humanity to accept his slave mark, which is the mark of the beast (*chi xi stigma* or the tattoo of *Xx*, not 666). Humanity will either accept spiritual slavery, or will live completely by faith for three and a half years. And the churches of God have been set up by that old dragon who deceives the entire world to accept the antiChrist as the true messiah, for most of the Christian Church will be able to identify the man of perdition as an antichrist because of him holding the error of Bishop Arius, the logic supporting this person's belief that he really is god.

Enough for now. Attend a prophecy seminar and hear how insidious Satan's plan of deception really is.

The secular marriage of nations known as the United Nations cannot be held together as presently constituted. All of its members, including the United States, have been empowered by the spiritual *sar* of the spiritual kingdom of Persia/Babylon; so there is considerable hesitancy to damage this marriage. However, secular nations front for spiritual powers, the consistent claim of the Bible. The spiritual king of Greece is presently flying out of the west to trample the spiritual *sar* of the kingdom of Persia/Babylon; real war is being waged in the spiritual realm that humanity can neither enter to make observations nor measurements. President Bush will, more reluctantly than he should, use the secular power of the United States to establish here on earth what will be established in the spiritual realm by the king of Greece. The time of the Gentiles will conclude with Christ smashing the coalitions that will arise when the great horn or first horn of the spiritual king of Greece is broken. Endtime prophecies are about spiritual powers, not physical, which is why world events will blindsides so many experts, who remain unaware of the physical/spiritual shadowing of prophetic events, even to the spiritual liberation of Israel from Egypt.

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March 14, 2003

Commentary — From the Margins *No More Hype*

Will "Christian" television admit it has hyped the promises of God, thereby creating in too many disciples unrealized expectations? It did tonight at the beginning of Trinity Broadcast Network's "Praise the Lord" broadcast. It aired an unscripted program in an attempt to "get real" with the Holy Spirit, little realizing that within its attempt to be honest with God, Scripture, and disciples were the hyped proclamations that will lead to its undoing.

I seldom have the opportunity to watch popular Christian telecasts, so perhaps my opportunity to view portions of today's "Praise the Lord" program was of the Holy Spirit (Πνεῦμα Ἅγιον). After all, we are, today, witnessing the earthly manifestations of war in the spiritual realm. Not a war for the affections of human beings. Rather, the war occurring is between two fallen angels for the control of spiritual Babylon, as the time of the Gentiles winds toward its conclusion halfway through seven years of tribulation, its conclusion coming when Christ Jesus fights on a day of battle, destroying the armies surrounding Jerusalem. Then, the Lord's Day begins. All of humanity will be liberated from bondage to sin—and fleshy vessels of clay will be sculpted by war as liberated humanity learns to live by faith in Christ and in God the Father, for everyone who doesn't voluntarily return to slavery by accepting the mark of the beast will be excluded from participation in the antiChrist's economic system and will have to trust God to provide all of the person's needs.

Certainly Christian television has hyped the promises of *YHWH* to circumcised Israel, declaring those promises to be the will of Christ for spiritual Israel. Certainly the glorified Christ as the mediator of the new covenant wishes that all of spiritual Israel prospers and has good health. But those promises come with conditions, the primary one being that Israel believes God unto obedience by observing all of the commandments and decrees written in Deuteronomy. Hundreds of Christian broadcasters have hyped what God promised to do for circumcised Israel when Israel kept His commandments and Sabbaths without telling spiritual Israelites that God didn't write His laws on their hearts and minds for them to ignore the fine print of the covenant in which they were placed when drawn from the world. They weren't called to be spiritual Gentiles and to continue living as Gentiles, but they were called to be spiritual Israelites and to live as Judeans, meaning that those hyped promises apply when Gentiles drawn by the Father live as Judeans. The law or covenant that separated physically circumcised Israelites from the world has been abolished. One new humanity now exists. Circumcision is of the heart and mind, and that spiritual circumcision determines who is in covenant with God by believing Him unto obedience.

But hyping the promises of God isn't the greatest problem Christian broadcasters face: hyping escapism is.

For too many spiritual Israelites, Christianity is about escaping unpleasantness in every form, especially the endtime tribulation through which humanity will emerge either broken, as cracked clay pots, or glorified as mature heirs of God. As a doctrine, the pre-Tribulation rapture is without Scriptural support—those who are alive will not precede in resurrection those who have died. Yet most Evangelical Christians believe they will be raptured to heaven prior to the woes of Revelation; they believe hype about

spending heaven in Jesus while humanity wrestles with survival. And when they are not raptured—and they won't be—their faith will be severely tried. Disillusioned, bewildered, betrayed, they will be easy prey for an American denomination holding the error of Bishop Arius, as food becomes the leveraged commodity throughout the industrialized world. They will still believe they deserve to be protected from the turmoil engulfing the world, turmoil that will result in their liberation from sin/lawlessness; they will continue to believe that God wouldn't put those disciples who are "right" with Him through what they're experiencing. Home and community stored food will seem like protection, so they will change "Christianities," becoming what they previously ridiculed.

But not enough foodstuffs will be available for the unprecedented conversion of former Trinitarian Christians. The spiritual house of Israel will turn against the spiritual house of Judah, as these two divisions of spiritual Israel again struggle for dominance within spiritual Babylon, little realizing that both houses will be liberated in a future Passover when the Death Angel slays all firstborns, spiritual and physical, not covered by the blood of the Lamb's sacrifice. [The remainder of the paragraph has been omitted.]

We cannot really imagine death on that scale, but passages prophesying such carnage have been in the Book since John saw the end of this age in vision. John saw what would happen on the Lord's Day, the day when the kingdom of the world becomes the kingdom of the Father and His Messiah, when all of humanity not just spiritual Israel is liberated from bondage to sin/lawlessness, when Satan is cast from heaven and comes here as the antiChrist who requires humanity to accept the mark of the beast to buy or sell, when the 144,000 physical Israelites enter a geographical place of safety, when the Elect of spiritual Israel closes the gates of spiritual Jerusalem, its walls composed of living stones strengthened by the doctrines of Jesus. Christ won't return as the all-powerful Messiah for another 1260 days beyond the Lord's Day. No one is resurrected, or raptured until His return.

Christian television has hyped more blessings and greater escapism than God has promised to well-meaning disciples who abound in sin and celebrate a theology of lawlessness. As was done to circumcised Israel, God sent both houses of spiritual Israel into spiritual slavery because they profaned His Sabbaths and transgressed His laws, written on the hearts and minds of these disciples when they [are spiritually circumcised by] the Breath of God. Their lawlessness grieves the Holy Spirit: they transform Grace into justification for erasing what the Father wrote on their consciences. A great many disciples upon whom judgment has come and who should be in the first resurrection will fail because Christian broadcasters have hyped what disciples will get from God, rather than have taught what they, what we, through love, should desire to give to God. [Sentence omitted.] They will have squandered their chance for salvation because of hype broadcast today. So tell me, you who hype what you don't understand, how do you think you will fare when judged? How responsible will you be for the death of two billion potential sons and daughters, heirs, of God? Just a little? How little will be enough to cost you your salvation?

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March 18, 2003

Commentary — From the Margins *The Demise of Diplomacy*

French defense of the status quo wasn't effective. Out of the West has ridden a cowboy turned marshal who has given the black-hatted villain forty-eight hours to get out of town. This is the plot of many westerns I watched during Saturday afternoon matinees: for ten cents, I saw Roy Rogers or Gene Autry or the Cisco Kid right wrongs, protect women and children, defeat the arrogant and defend the defenseless. This is what the United Nations was created to do, but championing the cause of the little guy is a quixotic application of justice, requiring from all parties involved the values of muscular Christendom. When member nations are tolerant of duplicity or reluctant to act, the UN becomes a Parliament of Fowls, where no mate for the eagle roosts.

The French cannot help themselves: they are the unknowing front nation of the existing world order, representing "old Europe" and centuries of civilized development. They span both the republicanism of the United States and the colonialism of Europe. Remembering having had colonies in Asia, Africa, and America, they are globalists, practiced at savior-faire. They would never think of wearing a white Stetson and tooled leather boots to an affair of state, let alone to the liberation of an oppressed people. They are not American, not cowboys, not a superpower. Yet, they are the best that the spiritual *sar* of Persia/Babylon can send to battle the nations fronting for the spiritual king of Greece, with the United States being the principle power in the world today.

The United States and President Bush didn't set out to front for the spiritual king of Greece: the battle being fought between the spiritual king of Greece and Persia has no geographical or national boundaries. When a person realizes that this war is fought without an established frontline, then the person can begin to comprehend how endtime prophecies are being and will be fulfilled. Yes, there will be a physical fulfillment: the United States and its coalition allies will trample Iraq, and will bring democracy to the Arab world, but little French, German, or Russian blood will be shed as these fronting nations for the king of Persia are utterly defeated. These nations will either belatedly support an American hegemony in the region and throughout the world, or they will complain to themselves about the United States going it alone.

Last century's biblical watchmen would have us fear a union of European nations as the final revival of the Holy Roman Empire, but the Roman Empire isn't mentioned anywhere in biblical prophecy. Insertion of Rome, the Roman Empire, or Roman Church into prophetic passages is adding to Scripture. The person who finds Rome in endtime prophecies is always a false prophet, or a false teacher, who has taken upon himself the plagues of the Book.

Harsh words? How can I say that Rome isn't mentioned prophetically when every commentary has the two legs of the image Nebuchadnezzar saw as the two divisions of Rome; plus, commentaries have the fourth beast of Daniel being the Roman Empire? But where in Scripture is Rome mentioned? Babylon is mentioned, as is Media Persia, Greece, and the four divisions of Greece. Those four divisions quickly become two, and these two divisions are the two legs of the image that is Babylon, named for its head. Greece's reign extends down into the thighs—the division of the kingdom is during Greece's reign. And about Greece, Daniel tells Nebuchadnezzar that this kingdom shall rule the world. The fourth kingdom is divided from its conception. It never rules the

world. Thus, the person who identifies this fourth kingdom as the Roman Empire is false. I cannot say this more bluntly: And with both guns blazing, I leave diplomacy to die a messy death in a French alley where Algerians whet their knives.

Rome is not directly mentioned in biblical prophecy. The two legs of Babylon are the two theocracies empowered by the kings of the North and of the South. The king of the North backs Christendom; the king of the South is also the spiritual power behind [Christendom]. Both powers are part of the dragon's rebelling coalition, but they do not like each other, and have periodically fought the other as far back as Athens and Sparta. They will again fight during the first half of the Tribulation.

Before the kings of the North and the South empower national coalitions to fight each other, the spiritual king of Greece will fly out of the west to establish a short-lived, new world order. This is where we are right now in endtime prophecy: a battle in the spiritual realm is occurring between the king of Greece and the spiritual *sar* of Persia/Babylon, who, increased with wealth, pushed at Greece. Because of the vision of Daniel at Susa, we know what the outcome of this battle will be: the he-goat, white Stetson on his single horn, tramples the ram; no one can save the spiritual *sar* of Persia. Both France and Russia are on the wrong side, but then, they wouldn't believe they are earthly puppets for spiritual powers even if someone told them.

The concept of deity is more encompassing than even Christian apologists comprehend: I can turn on Christian radio nearly anytime, day or night, and within a few minutes here a version of *God has a plan for you*, and *God is in charge of what happens here on earth*. Both statements are true, but only partially convey the truth. *YHWH* sent both houses of Israel into physical captivity because of unbelief that became disobedience. Both went after foreign gods, would not keep His commandments, and profaned His Sabbaths. Both serve as the shadow of spiritual Israel, who went after Platonism, adopted a theology of lawlessness, and profaned the Father's Sabbaths by ignoring the annual festivals, ignoring new moons, and changing the weekly Sabbath from the seventh day to the eighth.

Spiritual Israel did what physical Israel did. So, for the same reasons that *YHWH* sent both houses of circumcised Israel into captivity the Father sent both houses of spiritual Israel into spiritual captivity. The Father has that prerogative, and He exercised it. Yes, He is in charge. Yes, He can liberate humanity whenever He pleases. And we will see that liberation occurring in the middle of seven years of tribulation. But until then, Satan remains the prince of this world, and the vast majority of spiritual Israel remains deceived by him; thus, both the world and spiritual Israel remain in spiritual captivity.

I will anger many sincere but deceived Christians when I assert that they are in spiritual captivity. Their first impulse will be to reject everything I write. They are free to do so, and they will thereby affirm their captivity.

Tell me, spiritual Israel, if you can, what are the terms of the new covenant? As a spiritual Israelite, you are being judged by those terms. So if you don't know what those terms are, don't you suppose you should find out; for the Father didn't write His laws on your hearts and minds to have you ignore the fine print. Paul's law of faith will have you keeping everything written in the Book of Deuteronomy. The law that has been abolished is the Sinai covenant. The second or Moab covenant was made with [the mixed nation of] physically [circumcised and] uncircumcised Israelites. You, regardless of the status of your foreskin, are uncircumcised under the second covenant [until you cleanse your heart by a journey of faith equivalent to Abraham's physical journey of faith]. You, who would enter the Promised Land, were not called to become spiritual Gentiles, but spiritual Israelites, whose hearts and minds have been circumcised.

Diplomacy would have me pedal softly around your lawlessness, your profaning of God's Sabbaths, your pursuit of other gods. Diplomacy would have me discussing the

areas in which we agree. Diplomacy would have me check my guns at the edge of town. But prophecy says that even after a third of humanity dies, you will still worship idols and demons (Rev 9:20). You didn't suddenly start worshiping demons, but have been all along. So, will diplomacy get your attention? Did the weapons inspectors get Saddam to disarm? Maybe you'd like me to take the French approach and ask the king of Babylon for a little more time for you to get "right" with God. If you aren't right now, you won't get right by continuing to do what you have been doing.

Diplomacy on my part isn't showing you love. Judgment is upon you today.

Your theology of lawlessness will result in you being called least in the kingdom of heaven [if you are there], despite all of the good works and mighty deeds you have done in Christ's name. Why should you settle for being least? Why not begin keeping, by faith, the laws of God that have been written on your hearts and minds.

Diplomacy is for negotiating from a position of strength—and there can be no negotiating with sin, which is simple lawlessness (1 John 3:4).

I don't have a white Stetson or tooled leather boots with Spanish rowels. I don't have time to give (only God can give time). I don't have absolutions. I was called to take a fight to a spiritual Goliath. I wasn't called to be a diplomat. As such, I share with the President that American monomyth of one man taming the wilderness, where diplomacy hangs lonely on cholla cacti thrones, looking for all the world like the white flag of a surrendering Iraqi. So what if the French take their roosters and go home. The eagles can then soar.

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March 23, 2003

Commentary — From the Margins *The Battle for the Mind of Humanity*

When discussing Shakespeare's *King Lear*, literary critics recognize that the mental and physical landscapes have merged when the tempest rages in the old king's mind. The storm's fury is no longer confined to the elements of nature, but has transcended the barrier of thought. Within the play, this link between geography and the domain of the mind exists for a temporary period. Within the theology of the primitive Christian Church, this linked landscape was the reality created by abolishing the covenant separating physically circumcised Israel from the uncircumcised world. Circumcision for disciples was of hearts and minds. Disciples were dead to the physical law, for disciples now lived in this linked landscape.

The Apostle Paul's one new humanity was created in this linked landscape; it was not created in a landscape bound by geographical coordinates. But it remained within existing geographical coordinates; i.e., the "flesh" of disciples. A born again disciple wasn't suddenly vaporized to become like wind, but received a wind-like addition to the mental paradigms governing the disciple's construction of reality.

Eventually, this addition overwrote the disciple's prior mental constructs in a manner similar to how a computer virus works. The disciple becomes Christ-like, becomes increasingly self-aware of his or her location within the person's mental landscape that remains linked to personal geography until death, meaning that a born-again disciple's behavior acquires greater spiritual attributes the more the disciple grows, with one of those attributes being awareness of life in this mental landscape.

How to write about the presently occurring worldwide war for domination of mental landscapes without using philosophical double talk remains the problem I must overcome if I am to effectively explain biblical prophecy. The war against Iraq isn't limited to desert battlefields, but is being fought in Europe and here in the United States. American troops will not [successfully] occupy Iraq for an extended period, but American hegemony will be established through our insertion of democratic ideals into the Islamic culture. Our mental occupation of Iraqis will continue in one form or another until Christ liberates humanity from mental bondage. Our victory in the desert, though, will be less important than the victory won against the established world order that has for centuries had its capital in Paris.

Knowledge of this victory (and of what will happen next) is the message revealed in endtime biblical prophecies, which are about linked mental and physical landscapes with emphasis placed on the forces reigning over the minds of humanity. These spiritual entities reign in the physical realm through their control of humanity's mental realm. Only occasionally does one of these entities actually enter the physical realm.

But the problem is less one of word usage than of culture acceptance. Is it really possible for all of humanity to be in mental servitude to spiritual entities when so many divergent ideas vie for ascendancy? Surely, not everyone is deceived? Someone must possess the Truth. Christians will tell all who listen that Christ's words are truth; that they are the sole possessors of truth; that those who haven't accepted Christ as their personal Savior are in spiritual bondage. But canonical Scripture says Satan has deceived the whole world (Rev 12:9); no caveat is given for Christians. And Islamic clerics label the United States as the Great Satan, because of our secular mores. So deception is

widespread by everyone's agreement, but no one wants to believe that he or she has been deceived and made a mental captive. No one wants to admit that he or she doesn't fully control the thoughts of the person's mind. Yet medically, we acknowledge that clinical depression can occur from chemical imbalances, producing in the person uncontrollable thoughts. If thoughts, then, can be connected to biological problems, why can't thoughts be subject to a deity?

Do Christians really believe that the Father hears unspoken prayers? If God does, then it logically follows that life forms upon whom humanity has bestowed the concept of deity are able to influence thoughts.

In *King Lear*, audiences see enacted the linked mental and physical realms in a recognizable form, but in Shakespeare's words, *All the world is a stage*, a statement never more true than today as American troops approach Baghdad. In vision, the prophet Daniel saw a he-goat fly out of the west to trample a ram. Also in vision, the symbolism was explained to Daniel by the archangel Gabriel, who said this vision was for the time of the end, that what Daniel saw was the king of Greece utterly destroying the king of the kingdom of Persia. The kingdom of Persia/Babylon would remain, but would henceforth be ruled by the king of Greece, but only for a little while. The he-goat is the king of Greece, not the horns even though the great horn is identified as the first king of Greece.

The angel who brings Daniel the vision of what will happen to Israel at the end of age fights against the *sar* of Persia, and will have to fight against the *sar* of Greece. Both the *sar* of Persia and the *sar* of Greece are rebelling angels. The *sar* of Greece, then, becomes the he-goat that supports a great horn, or its first king, followed by four additional horns or kings. The king or *sar* of Greece is not a human, but an angelic being.

The shadow of his "time of the end" conquest of Persia occurred when Alexander the Great conquered all enemies with then lightning speed. But that shadow was of geographical landscape. The king of Greece mentally conquers the kingdom of Persia/Babylon when the end of the age is near. His first horn or king now isn't Alexander, but a spirit being. Flesh and blood conquerors occupy physical territories, not mental territories. If they occupied the minds of the vanquished, there would never be rebellions. Only when a conqueror loses control of an occupied people's mental landscape can rebellion occur.

The essence of Christianity is the liberation of disciples from bondage to sin or lawlessness through the forgiveness of sin and the creation of the "new man." The assumption present in the concept of liberation is that of prior enslavement. We don't see every disciple drawn coming from a physically enslaved population, so the assumption of enslavement must be of a mentally captured people. And we can begin to explain the reality of the passage that has Satan deceiving the whole world—all of the world has been taken captive by the prince of the air, who portrays himself as an angel of light. No exceptions are given. There is none for the French foreign minister, or for President Bush. There is none for the Muslim, or for the Christian; none for you, or for me (to the inverse of our possession of the mind of Christ, we are subject to being deceived). But the conjoined mental and physical landscapes conceal the reality of mental captivity.

A Christian can determine the extent of his or her captivity by the person's attitude towards the law of God, for the carnal or natural mind is hostile to the law of God. The changed or liberated mind, then, is subject to the law of God. Sin is lawlessness (1John 3:4), or the practice of not keeping the laws of God that have been written on the hearts and minds of disciples as a condition of the new covenant (Heb 8:10; 10:16 & Jer 31:33). Thus, if you reject God or submission to God, you don't claim to be in covenant with Him. As such, you are carnal, no question about it. But if you think keeping the law of

God is a good idea, but are unwilling to actually put this good idea into practice, your mind is also carnal; you remain tacitly hostile to God. Same if you say keeping the law of God is legalism, and the great apostasy. Your mental landscape rejects the concept of you being required to observe the laws of God. You were mentally taken captive by “lawlessness” prior to your conversion, but you were not fully liberated by your conversion to Christianity. You are still in bondage to sin, even though you will vigorously deny that you are in bondage of any kind. And you are not even seeking to rebel against your captors; you’re a victim of the Patty Hearst syndrome. For God the Father would not have written His laws on your heart and mind unless He intended that you keep them. But your mental landscape remains part of the enemy’s territory. Literally, your lack of belief in God unto obedience has left you still brainwashed.

The ongoing battle for control of humanity’s mental landscape will be won by the spiritual king of Greece, but this king’s reign will be as Alexander’s once no empires remain to be conquered. The ideals of ancient Greece and modern America will prevail. An American hegemony will be established in both physical and mental landscapes, this hegemony won by bombs and bags of rice, missiles and medicine. Imbedded journalists as a tactic is an idea whose time has. What nation or what peoples will want to fight against us, or will not want to be liberated by us? Imbedded journalists is a tactic worthy of the spiritual Alexander, for the victory won this time will not be by technology alone, but by the ideas producing that technology. Occupation will not be by foot soldiers, but by the exercise of democratic rule.

France has been the ideological center of the spiritual kingdom of Persia/Babylon. French fashion reigned supreme, as has French cuisine. The intellectual elite went to Paris. French loan words introduced sophistication into one’s writing. Derrida has confused a generation of literary critics, as deconstruction left the literary canon in shambles. And for a decade the French have fought against the introduction of American culture and language into France, but their fight against the mental hegemony of the spiritual king of Greece will fail, for the citizens of the nation are combatants in a battle they neither understand nor can conceive.

Just as the French foreign minister doesn’t understand the mental paradigms that have his government supporting the use of the United Nations’ inspectors, most 21st-Century Christians don’t understand endtime biblical prophecies because these prophecies are about the liberation of their minds—spiritual Israelites are like the enslaved Israelites in Egypt. They cry out to God for deliverance. They recognize their need for physical deliverance, and for spiritual deliverance. But their present pleas for liberation are really pleas for fewer “bricks” to be required of them. They seem perfectly content to remain in Egypt, where the leeks and garlic enhance French cuisine.

However, on a future Passover—on the night of the second Passover, taken a month after the first—spiritual Israel will again see death angels pass over the land, killing all firstborns not covered by the blood of the Lamb. These Israelites will finally be mentally liberated, will be delivered from bondage to sin. They will want to keep the laws of God; they will abhor themselves for not having kept the laws of God. Christians will return to being spiritual Judeans, not spiritual Gentiles.

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March 25, 2003

Commentary — From the Margins *The Preaching of Hell*

When Jonathon Edwards delivered his sermon titled, “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God,” he galvanized the preaching of hell, fire, and brimstone with the zinc necessary for the concept of an everburning hell to withstand the ravages of revelation and reason. Unfortunately, Edwards, for all of his powerful intellect, never understood that eternal life is the gift of God. Without this gift, humanity dies as deer and dogs do. King Solomon assured ancient Israel that there is no distinction between humanity and beasts: all are of one breath, and all return to dust. But Platonic hubris says that cannot be. Hunter and hunting dog cannot both come to the same end. Surely some difference must exist. And Greek converts to Christianity, by rejecting the wisdom of Solomon, embraced philosophical hubris, and voluntarily accepted mental slavery, offered to them by the god of this world, the king of Babylon. They didn’t believe God, and two millennia later, a “Christian” ministry trained in historical exegesis accepts the intellectual bondage of the prince of the spiritual kingdom of Persia. They read Scripture, read that the gift of God is eternal life, but they cannot liberate themselves from the idea that humanity possesses an immortal soul, received by the union of egg and sperm that occurs in or outside of wedlock. In their mental bondage to the spiritual powers that reign during this time of the Gentiles, they are unable to comprehend that for a soul to be immortal it must possess eternal life; it must possess the gift of God. Therefore, since the wages of sin/lawlessness is death, or the absence of eternal life, sinners do not receive the gift of God. They theologically cannot be in an everburning hell. They are, instead, in the grave, awaiting judgment. They are dead, knowing nothing and not existing in any state. They have or will shortly return to dust. Only their names remain, recorded in a Book kept by the Most High God. If they are not resurrected from the elements of the earth, they will never live again. And to teach otherwise is to reveal oneself as still being in mental bondage to the spiritual princes of Babylon, Persia, Greece.

Liberation, however, from mental bondage is coming—that is the good news of Christ. For spiritual Israel, this liberation occurs at a forthcoming Passover.

The Lamb of God has already been sacrificed, but the slaughter of spiritual firstborns did not occur the night the Lamb was slain. Spiritual Israel didn’t then exist. The second or spiritual Eve was not created until the evening after Christ’s ascension (John 20:22–23). Children were not born until spiritual Eve was filled (as a husband fills his wife) with the Holy Spirit on that day of Pentecost. Spiritual Israel did not immediately go down to Egypt for spiritual food. The nation lived by faith in the hill country as spiritual Judeans. They kept the Sabbaths of the Most High. They kept His law. They were as the uncircumcised children of the Israelites who had left Egypt: they lived by the second covenant of Moses (Deut chaps 29–31), while they prepared to cross the Jordan to glorification.

But famine entered the hill country of faith through the conversion of both Pharisees and Hellenistic Greeks. Pharisees wanted Greeks to become physical Israelites before they were accepted as spiritual Israelites; they figuratively wanted these Greeks to slip across the Jordan where circumcision awaited them (Joshua 5:2–5) instead of glorification. And these Greeks wanted assurance that heaven awaited them if they

slipped across prematurely. So hollow promises were made as both returned, walking hand in hand, to Egypt, where the garlic and leeks of spiritual bondage awaited.

Once spiritual Israel returned to Egypt/Babylon, a future liberation became necessary. As the reality of the Egyptian Pharaoh whose heart *YHWH* supernaturally hardened so that a human could be the shadow of the devil, Satan will not voluntarily let his captives go. Instead, he will inspire his disguised servants who appear as ministers of righteousness to preach about being in the hands of an angry God, so that through intimidation, Christians will fear returning to the Most High God, who remains Love, who has promised not to give sinners eternal life.

You, who appear as a minister of righteousness, need to understand you will abhor yourself for what you have preached when you are spiritually liberated from mental slavery to Satan. Christ's promise is that you will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, if you are even there—if you are not of those to whom He says, *Get away from me, you evildoers*.

How can you recognize that you have been taken mentally captive? A truly deceived person doesn't realize and indeed cannot realize that he or she has been deceived. Thus, a mental mirror of some sort is needed so that you can see yourself as you are. You as a minister of spiritual Israel know that one exists. It is the word of God. But because you assign meaning to words, you need the magnification offered by this mirror in one specific passage: "For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace, because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be" (Rom 8:6–7). Is your mind subject to the law of God? As a condition of the new covenant, the laws of God have been written on your heart and mind (Heb 8:10 & 10:16). Are you subject to what has been written on your heart and mind?

Jesus said that to break the least of the commandments will cause you to be called the least in the kingdom of heaven (Matt 5:17–19). Are you subject to the least of the commandments? Test yourself. Do you keep the Sabbath as Jesus did, and as He would if He lived within you? Your answer will reveal to you whether you are carnally or spiritually minded. And remember, to be carnally minded is death. It isn't to live eternally in an everburning hell.

Two future liberations occur: the first is of spiritual Israel: i.e., of all of Christianity not presently keeping the laws of God. The second is of the remainder of humanity when the kingdom of the world become the kingdom of the Most High and of His Messiah (Rev 11:15 & Dan 7:9–14), halfway through seven years of Tribulation. This is the open salvation about which Joel prophesies (2:28–29).

For the entirety of the last 1260 days prior to Christ's return as the all-powerful Messiah, Satan's former slaves have to accept the mark of the beast (*chi xi stigma*, or the *tattoo* of *Xx*) to remain in mental bondage to him. However, Satan will have been cast from heaven; he will be here claiming to be the messiah. He will, because of him still being the king of fallen Babylon, control the world's economic systems. For [a second period of] three and a half years, genuine disciples will be required to live by faith. A trip back to Egypt will earn a person a share in the wrath of God.

There is presently a battle being waged for the control of the mental landscape of every person hostile to the law of God. This battle is being fought between the spiritual king of Greece and the spiritual prince of the kingdom of Persia. The king of Greece will win, will establish a new world order, and will control the mental landscapes of commentators and politicians, ministers and lay members. But the spiritual great horn of this Greek king will be broken when no one remains to be deceived. This great horn, or first horn will be broken the night of that spiritual Passover when all of Israel is liberated, when Christ turns His hand against two-thirds of spiritual Israel. It is a fearful

thing to fall into the hands of an angry God, especially when being under His shed blood would have protected the disciple from the death angels. But it is far more fearful to be, as an evildoer, ordered away from Christ's presence on the person's day of judgment. If that happens because the person has consistently refused to be ruled by Christ, then he or she will, indeed, be thankful that the person does not have eternal life.

As a rebel, on the day of your judgment, you will regret your refusal to submit your thoughts to the reign of Christ, but your torment will only last the length of time it takes to again end your conscious life. God as Love has no everburning fire prepared for eternal torment. Rather, He has an age-ending fire that will prepare glorified humanity for life in the new heaven and on the new earth. This age-ending fire will consume Satan himself (Ezek 28:18–19), thereby forever ending his rebellion and the preaching of hell. And you should have believed the warning you just received.

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March 26, 2003

Commentary — From the Margins *The Race for Baghdad*

American and British troops are less than fifty miles from Iraq's capital as I write. Two columns of Iraqis are on the move. Within the next day or two, the world will know if Saddam's Republican Guard will use the chemical weapons that the Iraqi government claims not to have. By leaving their defensive positions around Baghdad, the Republican Guard will shorten this war by days, if not weeks, regardless of whether they use gas or bio-toxins. They have transformed themselves and their equipment into moving targets—and in classrooms this coming Fall semester, military strategists will ponder their decision to expose themselves to the rolling thunder of high altitude bombardment. It will seem as if the Iraqi commanders suffered some form of sandstorm delusion, with both their field commanders and classroom strategists failing to comprehend the spiritual nature of this conflict for the mental landscapes of soldiers, politicians, protesters, and supporters; for the minds of all humanity.

The attack of September 11th and the ensuing war against terrorism began the most pivotal period in recent human history. The Bush doctrine of military and ideological intervention in, perhaps, the last remaining region of the world that philosophically resisted democratic Capitalism—even China has been partially captured by Greek values—began as the physical manifestation of spiritual warfare in an unfurled dimension humanity is unable to enter or to observe, an alien concept to the social constructs underpinning current Western mental paradigms.

Translated: the minds of men are manipulated by major and minor deities. The claim of God the Father is that He is the Most High God, that there is none like Him. But humanity doesn't, even after a future catastrophe occurs that will leave a third of humanity dead, worship the Most High God, but rather, worships demons and the works of its hands (Rev 9:20). That worship of demons doesn't begin during the Tribulation, but has been occurring all along. It occurs today. Both Muslim and Christian believe that Buddhists worship demons, without realizing that they, too, worship the rebelling angels whom the Father has allowed to reign over the mental landscapes of men until the lawlessness of humanity reaches its full measure (Dan 8:23). Then, and not before, the kingdom of this world shall be given to the saints (Dan 7:27). God the Father doesn't even set about reclaiming the kingdom of the world until halfway through seven years of tribulation (Rev 11:15; Dan 7:9–14). Only then is the old dragon cast from heaven (Rev 12:7–12; Dan 12:1). Thus, the claim of pre-millennialist Christianity is that Christ, not Satan, will reign sovereign for a future millennium. The assumption present in this claim is that Satan reigns today. But we don't see Satan (we will when he is cast from heaven and comes as the true antiChrist; the man of perdition is his antetype). We see men and women in political offices. So how does Satan and his most powerful cohorts reign, if he indeed does? Through control of the mental landscapes of humanity, that's how. And how will Christ reign during the Millennium? The same way.

What the Iraqi commanders cannot appreciate is how controlled their thoughts are by spiritual entities outside of humanity's perception. Commanders on both sides are air-breathing tin soldiers, carefully arrayed in a world that has more in common with *Shandy Hall* than we care to acknowledge. Fallen angels ride their hobby horses, each demon vying to prove that its construction of society will work better than the Most

High's. All swallowed Satan's lie of competition's superiority over cooperation, just as Eve swallowed the serpent's lie that she would not die.

Most of humanity still believes the lie of humans possessing an immortal soul, thereby possessing eternal life apart from receiving it as the gift of God. Likewise, the fallen angels reigning with Satan strive with one another as Satan reaps the rebellion he sowed through his advocacy of competition.

The United States had not previously ideologically occupied the Persian Gulf region—this war has never been about sandstorms, or GPS jamming equipment. From its conception, it's about overturning the mental paradigms of one world order, and the ascendancy of the paradigms of another, Greek in values and ideals. For us, it is ideas that will get trampled as the he-goat representing the spiritual king of Greece flies out of the west to utterly destroy the two-horned ram representing the spiritual *sar* of the kingdom of Persia/Babylon. Thus, Babylon today is, for us, the philosophical construction of its spiritual king, Satan. It is the world-ruling image Nebuchadnezzar saw in vision. In the landscape of the mind, it has reigned continuously over the world since *YHWH* sent circumcised Israel into both physical and spiritual captivity. Daniel's interpretation of the king's vision has been trustworthy, but scholars have looked for physical fulfillment of world-ruling and endtime prophecies. Humanity doesn't need prophecy to provide it with a history text written in advance of events; it needs prophecy to "see" into the supernatural realm where war is presently being fought between the spiritual king of Greece and the reigning prince of Persia. And when we "see" into this realm, we realize that the physical fulfillment of endtime prophecies is the uncoupled shadow of a reality that occurs outside of space-time. The outcome of the present struggle for occupation of humanity's mental landscape can be seen by how Alexander defeated the Persians. Following his victory in the geographical landscape of Iraq, Iran, Pakistan, and Afghanistan, he ventured east to the Indus Valley where he defeated elephants with long spears before making an alliance and returning west to be broken suddenly. The spiritual first king of the fallen angelic coalition identified as the king of Greece will also be broken after he has prevailed with equal success in the mental landscape of all humanity. Yes, what will be defeated in this war are the social constructs that inform all societies worldwide. What will emerge from this war isn't a stronger United Nations, nor a politically powerful Europe, but an American philosophical hegemony that revolves around Athenian democracy and individual rights.

Iraqi commanders will never be able to fully explain why they left Baghdad. They will mention the sandstorm, and the bridge taken by American forces, and the aerial pounding they were taking where they were dug in. They will tell their captors that they were going to be destroyed if they stayed put, but it won't occur to them to blame an angel, or a demon for their decision to leave Baghdad. The world is too sophisticated to truly believe spiritual powers directly and powerfully influence the minds of men. Even among Islamic fundamentalists, mistakes are *The will of Allah*. Humanity is programmed to mostly deny the possibility that an idea could be implanted in our minds by supernatural powers. We want prayers answered, but we don't want God or any other spiritual entity exercising dominion over our thoughts. We want to receive a word from the Lord, but we cannot conceive of humanity being universally deceived—yet, that is the claim of the Book of Revelation (12:9). We cannot conceive the possibility that the received "word" was not from God or Christ, but from a demon.

Christians are commanded to test the spirit, but what test is applicable under the new covenant, especially if a dispensation of grace as opposed to law is falsely taught?

There really is only one test revealed in either the Sinai, or in the new covenant by which the spirit can be determined—"the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be" (Rom 8:7). The previous verse says,

“For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace”; so the juxtaposition of the carnal mind versus the spiritual mind is firmly established. The test then is to determine whether a person’s mind is subject to the law of God. The singular icon is more encompassing than when it is commonly used to represent a singular prohibition. It represents a single body of commandments, ordinances, statutes, and decrees as contained in the Sinai covenant, abolished by the death of Christ (Eph 2:15), or as mentioned by Jeremiah (31:31–34), or by Moses (Deut 30:11). When asked which was “the greatest commandment in the law” (Matt 22:36), Jesus summarized the law and the prophets (two of the three divisions of the Old Testament and a euphemistic expression for all of the Old Testament) by citing two commandments, one from Deuteronomy and one from Leviticus. So in Jesus’ use of language, the law of God can be summarized by the two commandments He cited. Therefore, there should be no debate over the law to which the spiritual mind is subject. Abraham kept *YHWH’s* ordinances, commandments, statutes and laws (Gen 26:5) long before ancient Israel agreed to do so and thereby become a holy nation. Under the new covenant, God the Father writes His laws on the hearts and minds of disciples [after they have cleansed their hearts by a journey of faith]. Accordingly, Jesus’ command to keep and to teach keeping the commandments of God is as binding on disciples today as when He addressed His original disciples (Matt 5:17–19).

Theologians who teach otherwise are carnally minded, regardless of whether they believe Christ died for them and rose again after three days. Yes, I meant what I wrote: theologians who teach a dispensation of grace are enslaved by a spirit of rebellion, or lawlessness. By definition, sin is lawlessness (1 John 3:4). To teach that disciples do not have to keep the laws of God is to teach disciples to sin, thereby leaving both disciple and teacher in bondage to sin. Thus, through its teaching of a dispensation of grace—not understanding what grace is—the greater Church of God has taken spiritual Israelites captive, and has done the work of the prince of the power of the air through deceitful ministers of righteousness. A harsh claim? Certainly. But a supportable claim, for a deceived person does not, nor, indeed, cannot realize that he or she is deceived, or no deception has truly occurred.

If you, as a Christian, are hostile to the laws of God that were written on your heart and mind as a condition of being placed in a new covenant relationship with Christ and the Father, you are carnally minded; you are not spiritually minded. You are still in bondage to sin in your mind. And until you are liberated from this bondage, which will, every time, cause you to want to keep the laws of God, you remain a mental bondservant to Satan. You were not called by God to become a spiritual Gentile, but a spiritual Judean, in that you will live as a Judean would, sans the physical sacrifices. Your submission to the laws of God is your reasonable service to God, considering that Christ’s atoning sacrifice is all the work that ever needs done. Submission to the laws of God is not doing works. What work is involved in not doing murder, in not committing adultery, in not coveting the things of your neighbor, in not taking God’s name in vain? It takes works to violate the laws of God; it takes works to labor on the Sabbath, to create idols, to bear false witness. The teaching of a no-works gospel always has disciples doing the heavy work of breaking God laws. Fornication is work of the flesh. To not commit fornication is the application of not committing a proscribed act; so those who teach a dispensation of grace have inverted word usage, for grace covers all of those times when the flesh defeats the spirit after a real battle. A person mocks Christ by willfully practicing lawlessness/sin. Again, the Father didn’t write His law on your heart and mind for you to ignore the fine print.

The race for Baghdad has been won—I know for the shadow of what will occur is available to be studied in many historical texts. Alexander’s victories are ours.

Time has been created along with matter. The war presently occurring in the spiritual realm for the mental landscape of all Babylon occurs outside of time. Thus, the shadow of these real events can appear anywhere within time, depending on the location of the light source. Just as your three-dimensional body casts a two-dimensional physical shadow, three-dimensional spiritual entities cast their two-dimensional shadows on the mental landscapes of humanity. Their shadows cause human psyches to act out the dramas of the spiritual realm, as if humans were mental automatons. When a person is drawn by the Father (John 6:44, 65), the person receives a small measure of the Holy Spirit, enough so that the person can break free of the mental paradigms of Babylon. Usually, the person's body isn't enslaved, but the person's mind is. Christian conversion is liberation of the mind. And at some future hour, all who self-identify themselves as Christians will be mentally liberated following the slaying of spiritual and physical firstborns not covered by the blood of the Lamb. Shortly afterwards, the remainder of humanity will be liberated 1260 days before Christ returns as the all powerful Messiah. Unfortunately, two of every three Christians, when liberation is offered, will not place themselves under the blood of the Lamb. They will perish, because they are never able to comprehend the possibility that they are presently enslaved by mental paradigms that celebrate lawlessness.

The spiritual war being fought is for control of your mind, with neither side representing Christ. However, for those disciples who are being called out of season—they need to be in place and at work teaching the gospel of Christ prior to the liberation of greater Christianity—the battle you have to fight will be for control of both your mental and geographical landscapes. Christ has armed you for this fight by giving you the very Breath of God. No demon can prevail against Christ, so to the extent that you have the mind of Christ in you, your mental landscape is liberated territory.

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March 30, 2003

Commentary — From the Margins *False Prophets*

The war in Iraq has produced a defining moment in the understanding of biblical prophecy: All prophecy experts who find Rome, the Roman Empire, or the Holy Roman Empire in the visions of Daniel have used historical textbooks and human reasoning to arrive at their understandings. They have not been sent by Christ, or by the Father, who sealed Daniel's visions until the time of the end. Strident words? Certainly. But is declaring these experts false a supportable claim? Yes, indeed. The four empires of Nebuchadnezzar's vision are the theocracies of Babylon (Dan 2:37–38), Media Persia (Dan 5:31 & 8:20), Greece (Dan 8:21 & 11:2), and the conjoined reign of the kings of the North and of the South (Dan 11:4–5), which is why Greece shall rule the whole world even though all peoples were given into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar. Without leaving inspired Scripture, the uninterrupted reigns of these four kingdoms extend from when Daniel interpreted the king's vision until when the kingdom [plural in the KJV] of the world becomes the kingdom of the Most High and of His Christ (Rev 11:15 & Dan 7:9–14); for these kingdoms are ruled by spiritual powers (Dan 10:20). Satan, himself, is identified as the king of Babylon (Isa 14:3–21); the taunt against him takes place when God has returned Israel to its own land, at or after Christ's return. The king's "sons" will be slaughtered for "the guilt of their father" (verse 21 NRSV used throughout). These are not human *sons*, but rebelling angels. They are the fallen angels that have ruled with Satan over spiritual Babylon since *YHWH* sent spiritual Israel to Babylon because of disobedience.

A leap in logic? The ancient house of Judah, sent into Babylonian slavery, becoming spiritual Israel? I have written extensively about the historical record of ancient Israel being the shadow of the history of spiritual Israel—just as the warring of Alexander the Great is the shadow of the spiritual war presently being fought between the spiritual king of Greece and the *sar* of the kingdom of Persia; the exodus of ancient Israel from Egypt is the shadow of the future exodus of spiritual Israel from spiritual Egypt/Babylon. On the holy day calendar, only one convocation is repeated: the Passover service.

There are seven high Sabbaths: the first day of Unleavened Bread and the last day, Pentecost, Trumpets, Atonement, the first day of Tabernacles, and the Last Great Day. Each of these high Sabbaths is a memorial to when God intervened, or will intervene mightily in the affairs of Israel. The first high Sabbath of Unleavened Bread commemorates leaving Egypt, or sin. The second high Sabbath of Unleavened Bread commemorates entering [heaven] after living sin free[; commemorates the Second Advent]. Pentecost commemorates the birth of Israel as the holy people (for why it is more encompassing than receiving the law/Holy Spirit, see *Prophecy and the Passover*). Trumpets [begins the fall calendar, or the calendar for the great White Throne Judgment]. *Yom Kippurim* or Atonement commemorates when Christ returns the sins He presently bears to their rightful owner, Satan. The first high Sabbath of Tabernacles commemorates when Christ's millennial reign begins. The Last Great Day commemorates the resurrection of the great White Throne Judgment when all of humanity who never knew God receives their first chance for salvation (there are no second chances after death for anyone). Now, returning to the first high Sabbath of Unleavened Bread: the Israelites leaving Egypt never lived sin free. No one can unless in

covenant with Christ. The Apostle Paul writes to the saints at Corinth that because Christ, “our paschal [Passover] lamb ... has been sacrificed” (1 Co 5:7), they should celebrate the feast “not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth” (v. 8). So until disciples celebrate the feast of Unleavened Bread with sincerity and truth, they are still leavened. The reality of the shadow hasn’t happened. A second day of Passover was added (at even the 14th of the second month) as the acknowledgement of the second liberation of Israel, [for Israel remained defiled by touching a dead body, itself]. On the first Passover, all firstborns of Israel and Egypt, men and beasts, not covered by the blood of the lamb were slain, but the spiritual reality of this physical shadow moves those who will be slain up to the firstborns of spiritual Israel and of the world, spirit and flesh. Angels don’t conceive children, but the *sons* of the king of Babylon will be killed. Thus, the firstborn of the spiritual king of Greece would be the first king, or the great horn of the spiritual entity portrayed by the he-goat in Daniel’s vision.

Angels don’t conceive children, so *firstborns*, like *sons*, are linguistic icons used figuratively when referencing angelic beings. Christ as the Lamb of God was “penned” in Jerusalem on the 10th day and sacrificed on the 14th, but there was no liberation of Israel that night. Spiritual Israel didn’t yet exist. The second Eve (or spiritual Eve) wasn’t created until Christ returned from heaven the day of His ascension and breathed on His disciples and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit” (John 20:22–23). After the days of spiritual purification, the second Eve is “filled” with the Holy Spirit just as a husband fills his wife; so on that day of Pentecost, the second Eve brings forth 3000 new disciples. Spiritual Israel now exists.

The relationship between the physical shadow, ancient Israel, and the spiritual reality, the Body of Christ, is the same as between the Sinai covenant and the new covenant. By the terms of the Sinai covenant, physical Israel was made a holy nation (Ex 19:5-6); by the terms of the new covenant, spiritual Israel is made a holy nation (1 Pet 2:9). Moses is the mediator of the Sinai covenant; Christ is the mediator of the new covenant. When Israel and Pharaoh asked who God was, *YHWH* told Moses to identify Him by the singular “I AM”; for spiritual Israel, the Father is God. Everything gets moved up a notch. There was a first Adam, made of flesh; there is a second Adam, made of spirit. The first Adam names the animals, from which no helpmate can be found. The second Adam names the animals (*Hypocrites, Vipers, etc.*), from which no helpmate could be found. The first Adam undergoes a deep sleep, and from a wound in his side, Eve is made. The second Adam is in the grave three days, and from a wound in His side, the second Eve is made (John 20:22-23) and presented to the second Adam at about the same time as the first Eve was presented to the first Adam. All of the prophecies have a type/physical fulfillment; all also have a spiritual fulfillment. And prophecy experts have never previously comprehended this physical-spiritual analogy. Some realize that there was an earlier fulfillment to be followed by a later fulfillment, and as such come close to understanding the mysteries of God, but they never took that last step. They don’t see that Alexander the Great’s conquest of Persia and of the world was the physical shadow of the spiritual conquest occurring right now of the conjoined physical and mental landscapes of the world. Daniel 8 is for right now. The King of Greece is a demon. His horns are not the spiritual king, even though the great horn is labeled as the king of Greece’s first king, which makes the king of Greece a coalition power; he is the first beast of Revelation 13. So all of the prophecy experts who only look for physical fulfillment of endtime prophecies will be taken by surprise by what will happen, which is how the time of the end can be like the days of Noah. To understand endtime prophecies, we need to elevate our thoughts in exactly the same relationship as exists between Moses and Christ as mediators of the covenants by which Israel is made holy.

When the word of *YHWH* came to Ezekiel commanding him to prophesy against the false prophets of Israel, *YHWH* has Ezekiel say to these prophets, “Because you have uttered falsehood and envisioned lies, I am against you.... My hand will be against the prophets who see false visions and utter lying divination; they shall not be in the council of my people, nor be enrolled in the register of the house of Israel, nor shall they enter the land of Israel; and you shall know that I am the Lord God. Because, in truth, they have misled my people, saying, ‘Peace,’ when there is no peace” (Ezek 13:8–10).

The subject of the false prophets’ utterances was the fate of Jerusalem: they proclaimed peace for the city when there would be no peace because of Israel’s sins. *YHWH* decreed that the inhabitants of Judah and of the city would be sent into Babylonian slavery. They were not sent into slavery because *YHWH* couldn’t protect them, but because they refused to obey Him. Israel returned to slavery, and Babylon becomes synonymous with Egypt. Only a remnant of Israel ever returns to Jerusalem.

Today, the false prophets of spiritual Israel proclaim “peace” when there will be no peace for either the spiritual house of Israel, or for the spiritual house of Judah. All of spiritual Israel will experience the Tribulation. No one will be raptured to heaven to sit out the catastrophic events that will occur here on earth. Rather, spiritual Israel will be liberated on the second Passover and will begin to live by faith until Christ returns as the all powerful Messiah. After its liberation, spiritual Israel will experience events so terrible that if those days were not shortened, no flesh would be saved alive—and we are not yet to the mid-point in the Tribulation [when it comes to reading Scripture]. The shadow has physical Israel saying on the 15th day of the second month, the morning after the second Passover would have occurred if it had then been instituted, “If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you [Moses and Aaron] have brought us out into the wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger” (Ex 16:3). Spiritual Israelites will wish that they had died. There will be no peace for them. Their minds will be freed from Satan’s deception (Rev 12:9), but realizing that heaven doesn’t await them will leave them wishing they were dead; for the world will actually expel them from spiritual Babylon.

Physical Israelites ate manna in the wilderness. Jesus said, “I am the bread of life” (John 6:35); so spiritual Israelites will have eaten of Christ’s body, or they will die of unbelief. Just as *YHWH* provided meat and bread for the Israelites that left Egypt, the Father will provide spiritual meat and bread to the spiritual Israelites who are now in a wilderness. By supernatural signs, these spiritual Israelites will be reintroduced to the Sabbath, which they have been ignoring until this time ... the second covenant of Moses (Deut chaps 29–31) was made with uncircumcised [and circumcised] Israelites (Josh 5:2–5); their hearts and minds, rather than their foreskins, were to be circumcised (Deut 30:6). And this second covenant of Moses is the Apostle Paul’s law of faith (Rom 3:27), which becomes his “the righteousness that comes from faith” (Rom 10:6–8).

Returning now to the false prophets of Israel: God and Christ’s hand will be against these false prophets. He will cut their names off from the roll of Israel. They will not enter the Promised Land; they will not be glorified. They are those to whom Jesus says, *Get away from me, you evildoers*. And this should frighten all who come with a word from God, but who haven’t been sent by God.

If you, as a teacher of spiritual Israel, find Rome in the visions of Daniel; if you, as a prophet of spiritual Israel, teach that the saints will be raptured to heaven, then you are false. You have not been sent by God. You haven’t received a word from God. You are a liar. And may you repent before it is too late for you.

Christ was penned in Jerusalem on the 10th day of the first month exactly as the Passover lamb was to be penned. He was sacrificed on the 14th, close to when the

Passover lamb would have been sacrificed. But the remainder of what should have spiritually occurred when the Passover Lamb was sacrificed remains to happen.

There will be another slaying of firstborns not covered by the blood of the Lamb. It should occur the night of the second Passover for that year, and on that night spiritual Israel will be liberated from bondage to sin. But in the shadow of the fulfillment, Pharaoh tells Moses that there are more Israelites than Egyptians, suggesting that more than half of the world's population will identify itself as Christian. Christ will turn His hand against two-thirds of the holy ones, which could represent the slaying of a third of humanity (two-thirds of one-half of the world's population), leaving a billion newly liberated disciples to face the man of perdition. Yes, there will be martyrdom as no one has ever imagined, and now Revelation 6:11 & 7:9 makes sense, as does the messages to the seven churches. The *Philadelphia Church* engages the synagogue of Satan directly to try and recover as many genuine disciples as possible. By restoring those who are genuine but who are trapped within the synagogue of Satan the saints in this church cover a multitude of their own sins, the reason why nothing more will be added onto them. By faith, they do a work unlike anything the world has ever seen. And this is the work for which I have been drafted. Yes, laborers are needed. I don't know who they are, but the deciding qualification is that they have enough love for all Christians to engage those whom they have never regarded as genuine, and who are not in covenant with God, but upon whom judgment has come because these disciples asked for it. If a person is baptized in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, the person has asked for judgment to be upon the person. If this person is now out of covenant, the situation exists of being called least in the kingdom of heaven. Jesus doesn't say this person is headed into the lake of fire as an evildoer, but that this person will be called least.

The two witnesses of Revelation are the spiritual types of Moses and Aaron, and the battle is for control of the minds of humanity. All who call on the name of Jesus, who do not accept the mark of the beast, and who will live by faith through truly harrowing times will be part of the first resurrection. The false prophets say, *Peace, peace, when there will be no peace*. They teach a message of escapism, when the only thing that will escape is their salvation ... if you, for all of your good works, prophesy without having been sent, quit! Quit today.

How can you tell if you have been sent? One test exists: are you spiritually minded—"the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be" (Rom 8:7). The previous verse says, "For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace"; so the juxtaposition of the carnal mind versus the spiritual mind is firmly established. The test then is to determine whether a person's mind is subject to the law of God. The singular icon represents a single body of commandments, ordinances, statutes, and decrees as Jesus summarized the expression *the law* and the prophets. In Jesus' use of language, *the law of God* can be summarized by the two commandments He cited (Matt 22:37–38). Therefore, there should be no debate over the law to which the spiritual mind is subject. Abraham kept *YHWH's* ordinances, commandments, statutes and laws (Gen 26:5) long before ancient Israel agreed to do so and thereby become a holy nation. Under the new covenant, as a condition of being drawn, God the Father writes His laws on the hearts and minds of disciples. Accordingly, Jesus' command to keep and to teach keeping the commandments of God is as binding on disciples today as when He addressed His original disciples (Matt 5:17–19). Theologians who teach otherwise are carnally minded, regardless of whether they believe Christ died for them and rose again after three days.

The prophet Ezekiel was sent to the house of Israel, which wasn't the northern kingdom of Samaria, but all of the Israelites who remained in the promised land. He wasn't sent to foreign nations; i.e., to Gentiles. And he was given a hard forehead, for the

people would not listen to him because they refused to listen to *YHWH*. They preferred to hear the words of peace shouted from hilltops, rather than mumbled warnings about them needing to keep the law of God. But *YHWH* has Ezekiel say, “Clap your hands and stamp your feet, and say, Alas for all the vile abominations of the house of Israel! For they shall fall by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence” (6:11).

Spiritual Israel today wants to hear, Rapture, rapture, when there will be no rapture prior to Christ’s return as the all powerful Messiah. Spiritual Israel has not kept God’s Sabbaths, and does not keep His laws and decrees, written on the hearts and minds of disciples as a condition of the new covenant. This nation believes it has been called to be spiritual Gentiles rather than spiritual Judeans. And with few exceptions, its prophets have badly misled the people. Thus, God will turn His hand against the holy ones to test who is genuine. A third of spiritual Israel will prove to be. That is the good news. Hopefully, this third includes you. If it doesn’t, why doesn’t it? What excuse can you possibly give to Christ, who bears your sins, for ignoring what has been written on your heart and mind?

Someone in San Antonio or in Thief River Falls will label me a false prophet; yet, my words come directly from inspired Scripture. Someone in Bend or in Lynchburg will say that I preach another gospel. They will be correct, I do. Truly, I do. I teach the same gospel the early disciples did, not the gospel received from historical exegesis. Every teacher in the Body of Christ knows that Christ kept the high Sabbaths, and the weekly Sabbath—and if Christ lives in you, why aren’t you keeping the Sabbaths that He did? Any excuse you give will convict you of sin/lawlessness. So how will you answer?

If Jesus tells you to keep the commandments of God, and to teach keeping them, why won’t you? Because you’re under a dispensation of grace? Paul writes, “Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it?” (Rom 6:1–2). Sin is lawlessness (1 John 3:4). How can spiritual Israelites, dead to lawlessness, go on living in it? You know the answer. You cannot. And you won’t once you have been liberated from mental serfdom to spiritual Babylon. So why not leave now? Become part of this work of the Church in Philadelphia. Shuck your label of false prophet. You can if you are not now hostile to the law of God.

If you are absolutely hostile to the law of God, you are carnally minded. But there will be a day when you are mentally liberated. Understand, though, that if you’re a firstborn, you’re gambling with your life—and with the life of your firstborn son or daughter. And you still want to teach, *Rapture, rapture*, when there will be no escaping the Tribulation? You are also betting your salvation on your reading of Scripture.

I don’t like your odds.

* * *

March 31, 2003

Commentary — From the Margins *This Gospel into all the World*

All biblical commentators recognize one sign: “And this good news of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the world, as a testimony to all nations; and then the end will come” (Matt 24:14 NRSV used throughout). When the gospel of Christ is preached to the world, the end of the age will be upon humanity. But does this passage really say what it is purported to say? Is the preaching of the gospel of Christ the sign of the end? One energized voice on radio thirty, forty, fifty years ago claimed that the gospel that must be proclaimed wasn’t a gospel about Christ, but the good news of the soon coming kingdom of God; that the gospel that must be proclaimed was the gospel Christ proclaimed. This voice (that could be heard all night long as I drove across the continent in my youth) insisted that the gospel of Christ hadn’t been proclaimed for 1900 years, a claim for which he was vigorously ridiculed. Christian leaders of all persuasions demanded to know what message had been taken to the world for these nineteen centuries if not the gospel of Christ. Yet, the *prima facie* evidence validating the correctness of this energized voice’s claim was the objection made to the claim: if the gospel to have been preached was the gospel of Christ, then the end would have come long ago. So the message that must be taken to the world for the end to come necessarily differs from the gospel of Christ as delivered through the middle of the 20th-Century if Jesus’ words are reliable.

Today, the charismatic gospel of Protestant Christianity is beamed from satellites into Catholic or Orthodox lands. At the same time, young missionaries bring another testament of Christ to these same nations. Converts from one form of Christianity to another form are being made, as missionaries baptize the children of former missionaries. The far corners of the world have been reached, yet the end of the age hasn’t come. So perhaps the gospels being preached and the gospels that have been preached are not the ones required. Perhaps that energized voice of a generation ago was onto something.

Using close reading skills, the direct referent for *this good news of the kingdom* is contained in the preceding sentence: “But the one who endures to the end will be saved” (Matt 24:13). So the *good news of the kingdom* is that the one who endures to the end will be saved. This, however, is not the gospel of the charismatic church. Their gospel is that the church will be raptured and will escape being handed over to be tortured, killed, and hated by all nations because of Jesus’ name (verse 9); will escape seeing many false prophets arise (verse 11); will escape the increase in lawlessness, and the love of many growing cold (verse 12). So the gospel of the charismatic church is decidedly not the gospel that will bring about the end of the age.

The gospel contained in another testament of Jesus Christ doesn’t promise escapism to heaven instead of salvation coming by enduring to the end; rather, it is a gospel that comes from another prophet. According to those who follow this prophet, the test of this gospel is reading it and seeing *if in your heart you don’t know that it’s correct*. The prophet Jeremiah, though, says the heart is deceitful above all things, so an emotional judgment is never a valid judgment. The only criteria for whether a prophet is genuine is found in Deuteronomy 13: “If prophets or those who divine by dreams appear among you and promise you omens or portents, and the omens or the portents declared by them

take place, and they say, 'Let us follow other gods' (whom you have not known) 'and let us serve them,' you must not heed the words of those prophets" (verses 1–3). So the scriptural test of a prophet isn't whether a prophecy or a dream is true, but whether the prophet teaches Israel to follow other gods. *YHWH* told Moses to tell the Israelites, "You shall keep my Sabbaths, for this is a sign between me and you throughout your generations, given in order that you may know that I, the Lord, sanctify you" (Ex 31:13). So the sign of *YHWH*, Israel's Elohim, is the Sabbaths that commemorate "that in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed" (verse 17). *Yah*, of *YHWH*, is then born as the man Jesus of Nazareth (John 1:1–2); and this same Jesus said that disciples were not to break even the least of the commandments of the law (Matt 5:17–19). Therefore, keeping the seventh day Sabbath becomes the test of whether a disciple or a prophet worships other gods besides the Son of Man and His God and Father (John 20:17).

If a prophet teaches Israel to worship on any days other than the Sabbaths of its God, the prophet is false, regardless of the truth of the prophet's utterances. So the gospel of this "another testament" of Jesus is a false gospel.

Apparently the gospel that the person who endures to the end will be saved hasn't been preached to the world, meaning that a work remains to be done. A great work. A worldwide work. This gospel isn't that Christ returns to reign as king of kings for a thousand years, nor is this gospel the message about who Christ was and what He did as a man. Rather, this gospel is a consoling message that despite everything that will happen to spiritual Israelites and to Gentiles prior to their liberation from spiritual slavery and after, the person who endures to the end (a person cannot accept the mark of the beast and endure) will be saved, will have a part in the first resurrection. Salvation will be available to everyone who endures. All who endure will be glorified.

Spiritual Israel will be liberated from bondage to sin at a future second Passover, when all firstborns not covered by the blood of the Lamb will be slain. Then halfway through seven years of Tribulation, the kingdom of the world becomes the kingdom of the Most High and of His Messiah (Rev 11:15). Satan is cast from heaven, and comes to Earth as a roaring lion seeking to devour whomever he can because he knows his time is short. But he comes as the antiChrist. He comes deceiving whom he can, for if he deceives the person, he has devoured the person. Once a person, liberated by the Father and called out of Babylon by Christ (Rev 18:4), accepts Satan's slave mark, the person has made him or herself an enemy of the Father. The person will not have a part in the first resurrection, for the person didn't endure in faith. And endurance in faith is required for glorification.

That energized voice of a generation ago was correct: the gospel that would bring about the end of the age hadn't been proclaimed for 1900 years. Actually, it never was previously proclaimed, for endtime prophecies were sealed and secret until the time of the end. Only now can they be understood. Only now can this gospel be proclaimed. Only now can this gospel be taken to the world. Only now can the end of the age come.

* * *

April 4, 2003

Commentary — From the Margins *The Birth Pains of Spiritual Israel*

For nearly two millennia, the good news of the kingdom of heaven has been preached to the people of the world. Early disciples took this “gospel” into the farthest corners of the world. The English literary tradition of the solitary monk in the woods doesn’t come from the Roman Church, but from the Christianity brought to the British Isles in the 2nd-Century by disciples largely forgotten. Likewise, when Spanish Conquistadors overran Mexico, they found Amerindians believing a gospel that was close enough to the teachings of the Roman Church that Conquistadors said the devil had delivered to these peoples a counterfeit gospel, little realizing that six centuries earlier the Bishop to Iceland had taken the gospel of the kingdom of God to the “Western lands.” So, while it cannot be said with certainty that all peoples of the world had received the good news of Christ prior to the modern era of mass communication and worldwide travel, that possibility certainly seems to be the case. And 19th-Century missionaries probed the underbellies of the remaining physical wildernesses where the gospel might not have been delivered. The dark heart of Africa heard the good news of Christ’s mighty deeds. The frozen reaches of the Yukon River became home to missionaries. Even the mountain man Joe Meeks preached Christ to the Nez Perce peoples for a bride, as a reformed gospel was taken to peoples converted to a “dead faith of works.” One gospel message wasn’t enough. The right gospel hadn’t been delivered to all nations. This was why the end of the age hadn’t yet come. Another gospel must be proclaimed to all tribes and tongues, and the world evangelism received new life as missionaries “converted” the children and grandchildren of missionaries. The world needed to receive the Protestant gospel instead of the gospel of the Roman Church, or of the Orthodox Church, or of the Coptic Church.

But the end of the age did not occur in the 19th-Century. It didn’t occur in 1843, or in 1844, or in 1905, or in 1914, or with the conclusion of World War I. Jesus’ Olivet discourse needed to be rethought. No man of perdition appeared although for a while Hitler seemed to qualify. Clearly, the world had not been reached with the “correct” gospel message.

In the first half of the 20th-Century, two competing gospels began to be preached. One, the *Holiness Gospel*, devalued the importance of keeping the laws of God, and stressed the experience of receiving the Holy Spirit. God the Father was no longer a stern disciplinarian, but a kindly grandfather. He became *Daddy*, instead of *Father*. The cultural informality of post-war America was transferred to the theology of the Cross. Christianity dressed itself in bobby socks and saddle shoes as it danced to the beat of a different drummer. Hell was still there, but all it took to avoid hell was confessing with one’s mouth that Jesus was Lord.

The other gospel said, *even the demons confess that Jesus is Lord*. This competing gospel insisted that the good news of the soon-coming kingdom of God hadn’t been proclaimed for nineteen centuries, that when this gospel of Christ’s Millennium reign over humanity was preached to the world, the end would come. And this gospel of Christ’s return as the Messiah was proclaimed over radio and television to all nations, and was proclaimed by personal evangelism to most nations.

But the end of the age did not come.

Out of the *Holiness* movement has come the Charismatic Church, which is now beaming its *just-believe-&-confess* gospel into areas of Asia and Africa (especially the 10-40 window) 19th-Century missionaries might have missed. But the Charismatic Church wasn't ready to move aggressively into Eastern Europe when the Iron Curtain rusted away, nor has it been able to effectively evangelize Afghanistan since the Taliban were defeated. Now the liberation of Iraq poses an even greater challenge if the gospel of the kingdom that must be proclaimed to the world before the end comes is the *just-believe* message. But one Christian tradition has the Apostle Peter going to Babylon, and being crucified upside-down there. Certainly Asia Minor and the Middle East had the gospel of the kingdom delivered to these regions by the early Church. Thus, the implication of Christ not yet returning because these regions haven't heard the gospel of the kingdom is that this *just-believe* gospel isn't the message of the primitive faith, but is "another gospel," a gospel contrary to the one preached by the Apostles. If this *just-believe* gospel were the message of the Apostles, then there would be no need to again take it to these regions until half way through seven years of tribulation.

Meanwhile, missionaries of Arian Christianity are taking the gospel of another testament of Christ to the world. Missionaries of another sect of Arian Christianity attempt to correct the name by which Jehovah is worshiped. And these combined missionaries will have greater success than even they anticipate. In the next few years, they will be as spiritually successful as the U.S. military has been in Afghanistan and Iraq—until the man of perdition is revealed, the spiritual creation lags a little behind its physical shadow. So, before the end will come these missionaries will reach all peoples. They might have already reached all peoples such is the enthusiasm of their missionaries, especially in South America. But still no end has come. And no end will ever come if that end is contingent upon the gospels of Arian Christianity being preached to the world.

How are the words of Christ's Olivet discourse to be read? The translation into English seems correct: "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come" (Matt 24:14). The translation seems free of ambiguity. When *this gospel of the kingdom* is preached worldwide, the end of the age will occur. But *Christ* has been preached to the world—and the end of the age has seemed at hand a few times, but it hasn't come. We are all still here. So perhaps, this unambiguous passage needs to be more closely read.

The antecedent for the pronoun phrase, *this gospel*, is in the preceding verse: "But he that shall endure to the end, the same shall be saved" (Matt 24:13). So the *good news of the kingdom* that is to be preached to the world before the end can come is, *the person who endures to the end of the age will be saved*. This is indeed good news if enduring isn't living a life of emotional and material prosperity. The linguistic implication of "enduring" is that life will be difficult. So there seems to be more to *this gospel of the kingdom* than merely *enduring*.

The phenomena that reflect directly upon the phrase *enduring* are found in the preceding verses:

Then they will hand you over to be tortured and will put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of my name. Then many will fall away, and they will betray one another and hate one another. And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. And because of the increase of lawlessness, the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. (Matt 24:9–13 NRSV)

Enduring means surviving being handed over to be tortured and being put to death. It means surviving being hated by all nations because of Christ's name. It means surviving having many fall away, having many betray one another, and having many hate

one another. It means surviving the seduction of false prophets, and the increase of lawlessness, and the failing of love. *Enduring* isn't simply keeping on keeping on, as the saying goes. It is something more than doing what a person is doing. It will be a difficult thing to perform, but its performance is required if a person is to be saved. The gospel that must be taken to the world is that salvation requires a person to endure to the end of the age. Halfway to the end isn't good enough.

The carrot Jesus' gospel offers to humanity is that if a disciple will endure to the end, this disciple shall be saved. That is truly good news, for all of humanity will be liberated from spiritual bondage to Satan, the king of spiritual Babylon, halfway through seven years of tribulation. Everyone can come to Him; everyone can be His disciple. The mental barriers have been removed. The call has already gone out (Rev 18:4). No longer will Satan supernaturally deceive humanity (Rev 12:9) by controlling its mental landscape. He is cast to Earth, and he must now deceive individuals one at a time. And he will have considerable success, for he will still control the world's economic systems. But if a person will resist him, and will endure in faith to the end of the age, this person will be in the resurrection of firstfruits.

But why will the world so hate Christ's disciples that they torture and kill them?

The question almost seems inane. The world has been torturing and killing disciples since the 1st-Century. When has the world not tortured and killed disciples? Yet the linguistic structure of what Jesus said implies changed conditions. Something changes. The fate of disciples isn't the same as it was. If it were, then why hasn't the end of the age come? The gospel of persecution could have been delivered in the 1st-Century. Indeed, the Apostles thought they would live to see Christ's return such were the conditions they faced. Therefore, if linguistic sense is to be made of what Jesus said, there must be the development of deteriorating world conditions that adversely impact disciples. The level of persecution and martyrdom isn't the same as before. The level of the hatred isn't the same. The level of betrayal isn't the same. *Enduring* has become more difficult, and is actually something special, something that separates disciples into two categories, saved and lost.

There is one event that lies ahead of humanity that will cause the world to hate spiritual Israelites as it has never hated anyone: that event is the death of all firstborns not covered by the blood of the Lamb on a future, second Passover night. Not only will the firstborns of the world be killed, the firstborns of spiritual Israel will be slain if those firstborns are not covered by the blood of the Lamb of God. So betrayal of spiritual brothers is almost inevitable, considering that most Christian denominations do not observe the Passover. Disciples who didn't keep this future Passover will turn upon those that did. These same disciples will turn against their teachers who didn't convey the spiritual importance of the Passover to their flocks. Christianity will experience both the wrath of the world, and its own self-inflicted wrath—and the wrath of the Father still lies ahead.

This endtime gospel of *salvation goes to whomever endures in faith until Christ returns in power* is an easy gospel to preach. The Church is the woman who will bear many sons and daughters in glory; she is the second Eve, betrothed to the second Adam, impregnated by the Holy Spirit, and about to give birth. She was, centuries ago, deceived by Satan just as, in Eden, the first Eve was deceived by the serpent. Both swallowed the lie that she would not die if she ate forbidden fruit [that the Church would not die]. The penalty was that she would receive pain in childbirth, and that her desire would be for her husband. Certainly, spiritual Eve's desire is Christ. Her desire is nothing more than to be with Christ. And she will experience pain in childbirth—the Tribulation is that pain. But those who endure this pain will be saved. Those who endure will be the teachers of liberated spiritual Egyptians half way through the seven years of travail. And the endtime

gospel that must be preached is no more complicated than endure and be saved. A person has no immortal soul. A person doesn't receive eternal life except as the gift of God. A person won't be raptured until glorified at Christ's return. The Church goes nowhere. Christians will be here on Earth experiencing their own spiritual birth pains, because they haven't believed God unto obedience. Their desire is Christ, but they don't want to be ruled by Him. So, guess what, they will learn to be ruled by Him, or they will accept the mark of the beast. They will not have endured, and they will go into the lake of fire.

Indeed, the endtime gospel is easy to teach, but two-thirds of the Church will not believe it. And apparently, a third of that remaining third will not bear spiritual fruit and will join the rebels in the lake of fire. Jesus' parables suggest that only twenty percent of the Church will be in covenant with Him when He returns, so enduring really becomes much more important than just desiring Christ. Enduring begins with believing in faith unto obedience then continues on to teaching others to believe unto obedience. And this gospel hasn't been preached since Jesus sat on the Mount of Olives.

But after most of twenty centuries, the gospel that will bring this age to a close has begun going to the world.

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April 11, 2003

Commentary — From the Margins *Who Rides the Beast?*

A plethora of Protestant theologians will, without hesitation, assert that the woman “clothed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and jewels and pearls, holding in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the impurities of her fornication” (Rev 17:4 NRSV used throughout) is the Catholic Church. For five centuries, these theologians have linked spiritual Babylon and the Roman Church, as they found in the papacy evidence of Satan reigning over the Body of Christ.

The Pope, himself, became the embodiment of evil. Any ecumenical spirit that might have existed was burned at the stake, with a bag of gunpowder hung from its neck, as the great schism leaped centuries, swung on its axis, and stands to this day between the Roman See and the Church’s protesting daughters. And no image better personifies that schism than the great whore of Babylon.

One theological construct more than any other keeps the schism separating the Roman Church from her daughters from being bridged: that construction is the elevation of Mary, mother of Jesus of Nazareth. And it is the role of Mary as the shadow of a spiritual reality that I wish to examine in this season when Christianity again remembers the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus; for it isn’t a fallen *Mary* who rides the seven-headed beast. It isn’t the Roman Church, or any other religious organization as formulated today.

The great whore will be the derivative Christendom created from the liberation of spiritual Israel at a future second Passover. She will consist of those self-identified Christians who either remain in spiritual Babylon after being liberated, or who choose to return to spiritual Babylon by accepting the mark of the beast (*chi xi stigma*). The blood of martyrs on which she became drunk isn’t blood shed in the 1st or 2nd or 3rd Centuries, but the blood of the saints martyred during the Tribulation. The Apostle John sees her in vision during the second half of seven years of tribulation. The liberation of spiritual Israelites from their present mental paradigms occurs during the first half.

The Christian Church is spiritually circumcised Israel, created when the law or covenant that divided the circumcised from the uncircumcised was abolished. Arguably, it began when Jesus sent forth the seventy, saying to them that *the harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few*. Traditionally, it began on that day of Pentecost when the one hundred twenty were filled with the Holy Spirit, and three thousand disciples were added to the Body of Christ. In actuality, it began when the glorified Christ returned to earth the day of His ascension and breathed on ten of His disciples, saying, *Receive the Holy Spirit* (John 20:22–23).

The Church becomes the second or spiritual Eve, created from the wound in the side of the second Adam. The Sinai covenant, the law by which circumcised Israel had been made a holy people (Ex 19:5–6), was abolished with the death of the Covenantor, *Yah* of *YHWH*, born of Mary as the man Jesus of Nazareth. Spiritual Israelites became the holy nation and royal priesthood (1 Pet 2:9) that was in covenant with God the Father. While *Yah* of *YHWH* was physical Israel’s *Elohim* (Ex 20:2) and was the Creator of life and of the physical universe (John 1:3–4), *Yah* of *YHWH* (*Theos*), when born as flesh (John 1:14) and when again glorified as God has a God (*Theon*), who was not previously known to physical Israel. God the Father is spiritual Israel’s *Elohim* (John 20:17).

The problem theologians have had for the past two millennia is seeing the parallel between two creations, one physical, one spiritual. The physical creation is the shadow of the spiritual, or at least, that portion of the physical creation that has been recorded in Holy Writ is the shadow of the spiritual creation that begins with the birth of Jesus of Nazareth. For theologians to understand biblical prophecies, they must see the typology present in what has been included and excluded in Holy Writ. For example, Moses was the mediator of the Sinai covenant. *YHWH* instructed him, when asked the name of the God of these Israelites' ancestors, to say that the singular, *I AM*, had sent him. He was not to say that *Elohim*, or *YHWH*, both linguistic icons plural in construction, had sent him. Rather, he was to use an icon that can only be singular in construction. (*Elohim* is plural although usually singular in usage. *YHWH* is always singular in usage, but in actuality, is plural, revealing both *Theon* and *Theos* and their Breath—the “h” or apostrophe in *Elohim* also reveals the Breath/*Pneuma* of both deities). So when the Sinai covenant is given, the physical shadow has circumcised Israelites receiving the spoken law of God, and accepting a covenant that promises material blessings for obedience, this covenant mediated by Moses as the intercessor for *I AM*. The spiritual reality of what the Sinai covenant foreshadows has all people receiving the laws of God by having these laws written on their hearts and mind when [hearts are circumcised] by the Holy Spirit/*Pneuma*, with the glorified Christ as their intercessor with God the Father. The Sinai covenant corresponds to the new covenant to the extent that hearing the spoken Living Words of *YHWH* corresponds to receiving the Holy Spirit, or Breath of God. Moses corresponds with the glorified Christ, and *I AM* corresponds with God the Father. Likewise, the first physically created first man is Adam; the first spiritually-created first man is Christ Jesus. There was a first Eve, who believed the lie of the serpent when told that she would not die; there is a second or spiritual Eve, who believe Satan's lie that humanity had an immortal soul. Physical Israel rejected *YHWH* and asked to be ruled by a king. Spiritual Israel rejected the Father and asked to be ruled by the spiritual power behind the Roman Emperor. Because physical Israel profaned God's Sabbaths and would not keep His laws, *YHWH* sent first the house of Israel, then the house of Judah into national captivity. Because spiritual Israel profaned God's Sabbaths and would not keep His laws, God the Father sent first the spiritual house of Israel (Arian Christianity), then the spiritual house of Judah (Trinitarian Christianity) into spiritual captivity. Then, as a remnant of circumcised Israelites under Ezra left Babylon to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem, a remnant of spiritual Israel left spiritual Babylon to rebuild the temple of God in spiritual Jerusalem, which doesn't have geographical coordinates, but theological doctrines. So everything recorded in Holy Writ prior to Jesus of Nazareth's baptism is the shadow of a spiritual reality, such is the tightness of the inspired typology, with spiritual Babylon the mental landscapes by which Satan has deceived the whole world (Rev 12:9).

Everything physical has been raised a level in the spiritual creation: whereas the focus of biblical prophecies given under the old covenant was the world's physical geography and geopolitics, the focus of endtime prophecies is the spiritual landscape of the world. The prophecies of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel are primarily about physical nations and peoples—Israel, Tyre, Babylon, etc.—and these prophecies were fulfilled. But these prophecies retained spiritual fulfillments, many of which have come to pass without theologians recognizing what occurred because these theologians are, themselves, reading Holy Writ from the perspective of living in spiritual Babylon. Their mental landscapes are occupied territory, for a truly deceived person does not, and indeed, cannot realize he or she has been deceived until the person escapes from enemy-occupied mental landscapes.

Reasoning becomes circular. Catch-22 logic abounds. And the Christian Church spiritually corresponds to the nation of Israel in Egyptian bondage, with Satan being the reality that Pharaoh typed. Spiritual Israel will be liberated from the mental landscapes of spiritual Babylon on a future second Passover night. This should be good news for every Christian, but most of spiritual Israel will not take the Passover, will not place themselves under the blood of Christ as instructed to do so by both Jesus and the Apostle Paul. They will instead take communion however and whenever they choose. As such, when the firstborns of spiritual Babylon are killed, so will be the firstborns of spiritual Israelites who have determined for themselves when and how they will take the Passover.

When firstborns are slain, the great horn of the spiritual king of Greece will be broken, for this first king (a spiritual being) has already rebelled against *Elohim*, and will never again place itself under Christ/*Theos*. Today, the spiritual king of Greece as the he-goat of Daniel chapter 8 is trampling the spiritual king of Persia/Babylon. The shadow of this trampling is the success of Alexander the Great. The physical manifestation of this spiritual warfare is America's success in Iraq, which will result in the implementation of a new world order. The mental landscape of the United States and Britain will be imposed upon the mental landscapes of ancient Persia. Victory won't consist of physically occupying the land as Alexander did, but of mentally occupying the spiritual landscapes of that geographical region. The democratic ideals of the spiritual king of Greece will replace the ideals of the spiritual king of Persia. Spiritual Babylon will have a new king, but one that is still subservient to Satan.

When the great horn of the spiritual king of Greece has been broken, four lesser horns or demons will arise. Two of these four horns will make war on each other. They are the king of the North and the king of the South. And these horns are supernaturally broken halfway through seven years of tribulation. If they were not broken, humanity would not survive. So many saints are martyred prior to day 1260 (day "0" is when the Messiah comes in power) that if Christ didn't then crush these two warring kings with their coalitions that militarily surround and occupy a portion of Jerusalem, humanity would exterminate itself (i.e., in religious parlance, *if these days were not shortened, no flesh would be saved alive*).

The gospel or good news of the kingdom of God that must be taken to the world prior to when the end of the age can come is that despite the martyrdom of the Tribulation, despite the betrayals, the lawlessness, the love of many growing cold, those individuals who endure will be saved (Matt 24:9–13). [All of humankind will be born of Spirit on Day 1260, for on this day the world is baptized in Spirit.] Enduring requires, though, not accepting the mark of the beast.

Elohim [plural] said, *Let us make humankind in our image* (Gen 1:26), and Adam was created from red mud by *Elohim* [singular] (v. 27). The creation of many spiritual heirs of God the Father began with making humankind in the image of the *Elohim* kind. The first Adam was an air-breathing being (1 Co 15:45). The first Eve was created from a wound in Adam's side, and she swallowed the serpent's lie that she would not die, but would become like *Elohim* if she ate the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. She ate, and she gave the fruit to her husband. He also ate. They then hid from their Creator, who pronounced judgment upon them and expelled them from Eden. And as promised by their Creator, they both died. But humanity derives its air-breathing life from being the offspring of this first Adam and this first Eve.

While the creation of many spiritual heirs began with the physical creation of Adam, this creation has a second stage prior to the actual glorification of heirs. The Apostle Paul writes, "The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so

are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven” (1 Co 15:47–49). Christ Jesus is this man of heaven, the second Adam.

The Church, created when the glorified Jesus breathed on His disciples (John 20:22–23), is the second Eve. This spiritual Eve, though, doesn’t conceive children through spiritual intercourse with her husband. Rather, she conceives children when she is immersed in the Breath of God, or in the vernacular of Christianity, when she is baptized by the Holy Spirit on that day of Pentecost when three thousand are added to the Body of Christ. She is a sexual virgin, just as was Mary, mother of Jesus.

Mixing metaphors is, for writers, a cardinal sin. Mixing analogies when explicating Scripture is also problematic unless the text clearly does this mixing—Paul assures disciples that they will bear the image of Christ. Disciples, when glorified, will be like Christ is now. Heirs are not of some lesser kind or specie, but are descendants of those to whom they are heirs. Angels are not heirs of *Elohim*. They are ministering spirits. They are not family members even though they presently have higher status than humans; thus, since glorified humans will be like Christ is now, their spiritual conception and gestation will also be analogous to Christ’s. But the analogy of Jesus as the second Adam breaks down when Jesus doesn’t eat the forbidden fruit; rather, he overcomes the spiritual serpent, Satan. Jesus remains in spiritual Eden; He remains in the garden of God—[until He is born of the virgin Mary]. Spiritual Eve, though, does not. Just as the first Eve believed the serpent’s lie that she would not die, the second Eve swallowed Satan’s lie about humanity having an immortal soul, thereby not dying at death but living on in an altered state, fully conscious of its surroundings.

Because the analogy of Jesus being the second Adam seems to break down when He defeats Satan, a second analogy is merged with the first. That analogy is the role Mary shadows. Matthew writes, “Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit” (1:18). The Church is identified as the Bride of Christ—this second Eve is betrothed to Christ, but the wedding doesn’t take place until Christ returns as the Messiah. The Church has the same relationship to Christ today as Mary had to Joseph. The Church has conceived many sons and daughters who are not yet glorified. Their conception was by the Holy Spirit, and began on that day of Pentecost when three thousand were added to the Body; so the Church is the spiritual reality of the physical shadow that Mary, mother of Jesus, cast in history.

When Joseph was going to quietly put Mary away because of her pregnancy, “an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit’” (Matt 1:20). Mary’s pregnancy fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah, *Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel*. But the angel told Joseph that he was to name the Messiah Jesus, which is a Greek transliteration of the Hebrew name Joshua. The child wasn’t to be named Emmanuel, so let’s look at the name Emmanuel, meaning “God is with us” (Matt 1:23). As a description of Jesus, the name applies: Again, Jesus was *Theos*, the Creator of Adam and of everything physical (John 1:1–2). As such, He was *Yah* of *YHWH*, Israel’s *Elohim*. So He was literally God made flesh, dwelling with humanity. But the primary referent for the name *Emmanuel* isn’t God, but “us.” The meaning of the name implies discipleship, implies the presence of *Elohim* being with disciples. As such, the name *Emmanuel* introduces the analogy of Mary being a type, or the shadow of the Church.

Joseph was told not to be afraid to take Mary as his wife. Today, we should not be afraid to identify the spiritual *Mary* as the future Bride of Christ. And the question of whether analogies should be mixed enters the discussion: the second Eve eats the

forbidden fruit of taking to herself the knowledge of good and evil. She has been driven from the garden of God. *Elohim* pronounced judgment against her, that judgment being that she shall desire her husband, the second Adam, and she shall have pain in childbirth. Indeed, her desire is for Christ, and she will experience the pain of living through seven years of Tribulation. [She will experience the hard labor pains of childbirth after she delivers children (Isa 66:7-8).] The spiritual *Mary* also gives birth to spiritual sons and daughters. Both analogies work equally well when the Messiah marries His Bride.

Neither a spiritual Eve nor a spiritual *Mary* exists apart from the disciples that comprise the Church. Metaphors exist only until examined closely. Again, the reality of what physical Israel in Egypt foreshadowed is spiritual Israel in spiritual Babylon, subject to Satan as the spiritual type of the Egyptian Pharaoh. It is easy to see how the second Eve is deceived and in spiritual bondage to Satan, who deceives the world (Rev 12:9); no caveat is given for spiritual Israel, or for anyone else. Only the man Jesus defeated Satan. So only to the extent that a person possesses the mind of Jesus is a person free from being deceived. Thus, spanning analogies, if Joseph was told not to be afraid to take Mary for a wife, and if Joseph is a type of the spiritual Bridegroom, then Christ isn't afraid to take the spiritual *Mary* as a wife—and if Christ will accept the spiritual *Mary* as His Bride, and if judgment has been given to Him to determine which disciples shall be in the resurrection to life and which in the resurrection to condemnation (John 5:29), then it [can be] presumptive of us to label any disciple as not genuine. We can judge fruits; [we can judge the Church (1 Co 5:12)]. We can identify where there is an abundance, or a want of spiritual fruit being manifest in a person's life. But we cannot say who is, or who isn't genuine. Paul says schisms will separate those who are genuine from those who are not, but when schisms cut across schisms (and have for two millennia) after all of spiritual Israel was sent into spiritual captivity, identifying genuine Israelites from Egyptians becomes a task worthy of God. All self-identified Israelites must be presumed genuine until they prove themselves not so. Therefore, a Mormon, a Catholic, and a Baptist stand equally tall before Christ though not before each other. Each is a spiritual Israelite living in Babylon; each is part of spiritual Eve/*Mary*; each will be mentally liberated on that future night of the second Passover. The two witnesses of Revelation chapter 11 are the spiritual reality of Moses and Aaron, and it is these two witnesses who will lead spiritual Israel out of Babylon and into the wilderness where God the Father will again feed His holy nation with manna (John 6:53–58), while showing Israelites His Sabbaths. The work of the remnant of Israel that has already left Babylon is to rebuild the temple of God, and the walls of spiritual Jerusalem—this is the work of the Church in Philadelphia.

Again, Christ will make the determination of which spiritual Israelites are genuine when all of spiritual Israel is liberated at a second Passover. Those who are genuine will live by faith. Those who are not will eventually accept the mark of the beast. It is these false Israelites who become the great city identified as Babylon. They constitute the fallen woman that rides the beast; they are the great whore. And they will have expelled the genuine saints from the Church they represent.

The mental paradigms that form the social constructs upon which humanity recognizes “reality” are the production of the spiritual powers reigning in Babylon.

Because the early Christian Church rejected keeping the laws of God which the Holy Spirit wrote on the hearts and minds of disciples as a condition of [being spiritually circumcised]; and because the early Christian Church profaned the Sabbaths of God; and because the early Christian Church did not believe that eternal life was a gift of God, God the Father drove the early Christian Church out of His garden. The Father sent the early Church into spiritual captivity—and that captivity has been continued through historical

exegetis. Again, the mental landscapes of “Christian” theologians have been and continue to be enemy occupied territory. And a person’s thoughts are derivatives of the social constructs upon which the person recognizes reality. Until a person is mentally liberated, the person is a spiritual slave of the king of Babylon, Satan himself. The person is deceived, and has no hope of becoming undeceived until drawn or liberated by the Father from mental bondage. The person is as a chess piece manipulated by Satan. The person can tire of being black, or of being white, and can change sides of the board, but the person cannot leave the game until God the Father draws the person. The good news of the endtime gospel is that liberation will shortly come, and the liberated person who endures to the end will be saved (i.e., will be part of the first resurrection). The downside of this good news is that there will be martyrdom and betrayal, that enduring will not be easy. There will be no pre-Tribulation rapture of the Church. Saints must live by faith; they must not return to mental or physical slavery by accepting the mark of the beast.

The great whore isn’t the Roman Church, or any other singular entity. She is the woman who accepts the tattoo of the Cross (*chi xi stigma*) on her hand or forehead. She consists of two-thirds of the holy ones or the seventy percent who won’t be ruled by Him (Luke 19:27). She is a fallen *Mary*. And she doesn’t exist until after spiritual Israel has been liberated from bondage to Satan, the king of Babylon (Isa 14:3–21). Until then, only Christ knows what is in the hearts and minds of self-identified disciples; for part of Satan’s deception is concealing the law of God from drawn disciples through the reassignment of linguistic objects to icons. But when liberated from spiritual bondage, genuine disciples will manifest themselves through their obedience to Christ. The Bride and the whore will part company, with the whore betraying and slaying many genuine disciples. Again, the endtime gospel that must be proclaimed to the world is that those disciples who endure to the end will be saved. They are the face of the Bride.

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April 21, 2003

Commentary — From the Margins *Committing Philosophical Suicide*

When Rush Limbaugh asked how moronic does Gary Camilla, executive editor for *Salon.com*, have to be to admit that more casualties would have been preferred in Iraq to any victory boosting President Bush's reelection chances, Limbaugh correctly observed that opponents of the new American hegemony are committing political suicide. These liberal opponents of America's use of its military, political and economic power have strapped on spiritual suicide belts. Their targets are the miss-aligned emotions of a generation fearful of any display of force, whether by a parent or a nation. And as if under direct orders from the soon to be defeated spiritual *sar* of Persia, these culturally-imbedded liberals are blowing themselves up while doing minimum damage to forces fronting for the spiritual king of Greece.

Those who have been either politically conservative or religious, or both, have known for decades that the world's cultural elite despise the use of force to advance democracy, Capitalism, or Christianity. The double Cs (Capitalism and Christianity) are, for them, the source of the illness that prevents world harmony. They *understand* the use of force by third-world despots to resist what they perceived as *imperialistic exploitation*; they *understand* the use of force by the Communist representatives of peoples repressed by *Christianity* to achieve mental liberation. But America's use of force was never understandable, except maybe in WWII when Fascism threatened Communism as well as Capitalism.

The social constructs by which the intellectual elite of this world identify *Philistines* are as twisted as beanstalks a gardener neglects to trellis. The nightlife of Amsterdam is, for the elite, preferable to Sabbath mornings in Springfield, Missouri, where the Bible Belt is said to buckle. Global warming is, for them, of greater concern than aborted fetuses that should have a Constitutional "right to life." Universal health care to treat the effects of fornication and French fries should, they believe, replace the existing Second Amendment as firearms join fetuses in dumpsters that can no longer be taken to landfills from Massachusetts to Maryland.

The world's elite are pink to their spoiled core. They sire watermelons, and squire Barbie dolls, and hire hand puppets to reign over feelings and the Federal largess—a hand puppet with a blue dress in tow mumbled, while abroad, treasonous sweet-nothings to its puppeteers, and only *right-wing wackos* seemed to care.

But the landlord of the elite's mental topographies made a mistake. He became rich enough he thought he could mock a member of his ruling coalition. He ridiculed the American monomyth of one man against all odds taming the wilderness. He ridiculed the Greek concept of family values that stretches from ancient Athens to the former American vice-president who dared criticize having a child out of wedlock. He ridiculed Capitalism, and all of its associated constructs. And while he was busy mocking the spiritual king of Greece, nineteen Islamic fundamentalists flew three planes into buildings and would have flown a fourth into the Capitol if they could've.

In a vision for "the time of the end" (Dan 8:17), the archangel Gabriel revealed to the prophet Daniel what would happen at the end of this present age in the spiritual realm or dimension that humanity cannot enter to make measurements. Of course, not everyone agrees that such a dimension exists outside of space-time, but acceptance of this

dimension is the essence of Christian apologetics. The God of the patriarch Abraham wasn't a created entity of sticks or stones or even of flesh. This deity's claim was that He created all that can be observed, and that He revealed through His prophets the course of human affairs beforehand. The cultural elite, however, can hardly contain their rage when someone injects biblical prophecy into serious discussions of world affairs, such is their loathing of Christianity in particular, and religion in general. Yet they are the ones who worry most about overpopulation and dwindling resources; they are the ones who advocate eliminating forty percent of humanity, which is what the prophesied events at the end of this age will do. They just don't want to surrender to a deity that defines love with, *Thou shall not...*

While some will agree that there are life forms in a dimension beyond our four, few will agree that these life forms influence human affairs. Still fewer understand that the mental topography of every human is the contested territory over which these life forms reign. And very few comprehend that wars, battles, rebellions in this dimension beyond the fourth cast shadows in the affairs of humanity while also being manifest in human activities. This is correct: phenomena in this spiritual realm doubly effect humanity. These phenomena both cast shadows in the observable dimensions as well as cause physical events to occur when the phenomena occur. Thus, the battle presently being fought between the spiritual king of Greece and the spiritual *sar* of the kingdom of Persia cast its shadow in the military successes of Alexander the Great. But this battle is for the mental landscapes of humanity. Therefore, in addition to casting a shadow that conveys our sense of "shadowing"—as three dimensional life forms, human beings, cast two-dimensional non-living shadows that are connected in the fourth dimension of space-time—this war between fallen angels manifests itself through how it effects the mindsets of all humanity today. These fallen angels possess life in the spiritual realm, or in the vernacular of Christianity, these angels have eternal life in heaven.

Humanity has no life beyond its breath. The gift of God is eternal life. The wages of sin is death, not eternal life in hell. Therefore, in relation to the life angelic beings have, humans are as lifeless as our shadows are.

God the Father and Christ are the light source that cause shadows of phenomena in the spiritual realm to be cast into the affairs of men—and scriptural passages that traditionally have been regarded as strictly metaphoric can be now perceived as descriptive, within the limitations of human thought and language.

Theoretical Physics struggles with language to expound what can be seen mathematically. Religion has the language, but uses it without sufficient discipline to capitalize on the concepts that are linguistically present in prophecy. Therefore, each largely dismisses the other. All the while angelic beings reign over the mental topography of humanity, empowering the cultural elite while mocking Christ by turning the means of murdering Him into the icon of belief in Him.

The effect of the present war between the spiritual king of Greece and the *sar* of Persia is manifest in the actions of the United Nations, the primary human institution by which the spiritual *sar* of Persia has sought to demonstrate that his organizational schema for society will produce world harmony. When each of these fallen angels joined Satan's rebellion, each was convinced that there was a better way to construct society than the way God the Father dictated. The *time of the Gentiles* is that portion of the human historical record during which these fallen angels receive their chance to demonstrate their ideas. This period began with neo-Babylon occupation of Jerusalem, and will continue until halfway through seven years of tribulation. So the emergence of an American hegemony isn't because God the Father wanted to remove a truly evil man from power, but because the spiritual king of Greece realized that if he didn't take control of spiritual Babylon, God the Father would be proved right. This demonic king of

Greece is certain that his ideals of democracy and individual rights will produce world harmony. Thus, he has to (and is into the process of doing) overturn the existing world order, and establish a new one brought about by America's military successes in Afghanistan and Iraq, and by America's, Britain's, and New Europe's political successes against old Europe and the cultural elite. Humanity can expect to see ancient Athenian values become universal for a short while, here, at the beginning of the 21st-Century.

Perhaps the most difficult concept to convey to a person is that he or she doesn't own the mental landscape from which the person's thoughts sprout, take root and grow. A major premise of Christianity is that Satan instills evil desires in a person that must be overcome. This concept, though, while possessing a small amount of merit, is factually flawed. A person's thoughts are the person's with few exceptions. However, the mental landscape, or logjam of social constructs from which thoughts originate is controlled topography, so that the weed seeds of rebellion that Satan sowed throughout the spiritual realm can be sprouted and rooted out. This landscape has been the battlefield over which spiritual forces have warred with each other for millennia, and the message at the core of Christianity is that Christ will retake these fields when He comes to reign as the King of kings. His millennial reign isn't about Him sitting on a physical throne as a physical king. Rather, He will rule over the mental landscape of all humanity. For a thousand years, there will be no thoughts of rebellion, or of breaking the laws of God. The underlying social constructs of the Millennium will have humanity desiring to obey God, desiring to practice love, desiring to do those things that are right even when no one is looking. The human tendency to rebel against authority comes from humanity's mental landscapes being enemy-occupied territory.

The thoughts of every person are as weeds or wheat. Today, a person, unless drawn by God the Father (John 6:44, 65), is actually hostile to God and to His laws. This person cannot obey God (Rom 8:7). This person isn't even interested in finding out whether there is a God that reigns over the affairs of humanity. This person's thoughts are weeds that might be pruned and cropped, but the landscapes on which these thoughts grow will not allow thoughts about obeying God to sprout.

When Christ reigns as the Messiah, ownership of human mental landscapes will be given to Christ.

Then, thoughts of rebellion cannot sprout. An individual's thoughts will be as wheat, in that a person will desire to bear much fruit. His or her thoughts will sprout in soil that encourages a person to keep the laws of God. This person's mental topography will be toxic to weed seeds.

The cultural elite have been empowered for centuries by the spiritual *sar* of Persia, the reason why they are the cultural elite. But this fallen angel will be trampled by the spiritual king of Greece until he is no more—again, this trampling is presently occurring. How long it will take cannot be known, but its shadow has Alexander overrunning the world (minus China) in eleven years. So this trampling won't last long. When it is finished, there will be an American hegemony that will elevate democracy and individual rights, including for the unborn. The Christianity of today will experience a revival like none it has ever known. Within a very few years, half or more of the world's population will profess Christ. And denominations that have their roots in the United States will dominate this revival, much to the chagrin of disenfranchised liberals.

As Saddam Hussein and his son ordered suicide belts for themselves in case they were captured, the cultural elite have strapped on the intellectual equivalent—and they are blowing them up at an astonishing rate. Gary Camilla said, "I have at times as the war has unfolded secretly wished for things to go wrong. I wished for the Iraqis to be more nationalistic. I wished for them to resist longer. I wished for the Arab world to rise up in rage. I wished for all the things we feared would happen. And I'm not alone. A number of

serious, intelligent, morally sensitive people who opposed the war have told me they've had identical feelings." He certainly saved the spiritual king of Greece from having to use a *smart bomb* to neutralize him.

Limbaugh, who needs to untie that hand he has behind his back, couldn't be more correct in his assessment of what these elitists are doing. The only problem is that Limbaugh doesn't yet realize that his mental topography has been the property of the king of Greece's for years. He is a primary advocate for the king he serves, which isn't Christ, but rather the he-goat that flies out of the west to trample the ram in the vision that placed the prophet Daniel near Susa, the touchdown point for the earthly military power fronting for this spiritual king of Greece.

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May 5, 2003

Commentary — From the Margins *A Response to Cal Thomas' "False prophets"*

When Cal Thomas suggested that a *cultural war crimes tribunal* be established following the demolition of the Berlin Wall, I was in graduate school at University of Alaska Fairbanks. I was there as a middle-aged writer without a viable trade, without an undergraduate degree, without a wife after a quarter century of marriage, but with three daughters in college and living with me. I was in graduate school so my daughters could live at home while obtaining their degrees. Otherwise, they would have had to leave the state for their schooling. Alaska's economy has traditionally been the inverse of the Lower 48. Weakened by President Carter's disastrous economic policies, Alaskans experienced President Reagan's economic boom as cultural collapse. For example, during the fall of 1978, I received weekly price increases of about 5% on the two lines of Swedish and one line of Norwegian chainsaws I sold. Everything imported—cars, electronics, fishhooks, even grapes from Chili—had prices regularly adjusted upward because of the weak dollar on currency exchanges. But wages were rapidly falling as Pipeline construction ended, leaving many workers unemployed or underemployed. So with a glut on the labor market and with the prices of everything imported skyrocketing upward, President Carter used the Antiquities Act to lock up vast portions of the State, thereby limiting both potential for employment and existing employment. Those economic niches where Alaskans traditionally sought refuge during the "bust" portion of the boom-bust cycle were suddenly no longer available. The land was now National Monuments the size of states in the Lower 48. And President Reagan's repair of the economy caused a suddenly strengthened dollar to limit Alaskan exports to Asian markets. Thus, the few refuges where Alaskans had sought economic shelter shriveled like raw wool washed in hot water. The felting was felt in the number of homes FHA repossessed, in the number of businesses that failed, in the political climate that allowed a former governor to borrow a political party and win an election, the party itself dedicated to Alaska seceding from the Union.

The State is still trying to recover from years of economic cannibalism following President Carter's D-2 legislation that left many Alaskans, such as myself, jobless and with few prospects. Generational ways of life were wiped out when President Carter's "regulators" declared war on all forms of resource extraction. Although James Watt as Reagan's Interior Secretary defused the situation by not enforcing Carter's regulations for long enough that the anger abated, the overall picture for Alaska hasn't changed. The State's resources are for wolves and tourists. They remain largely unavailable to working-class Alaskans. And the economic cultures that developed over three-quarters of a century became the enemies of young environmental activists. Their willing allies have been Democratic lawmakers that needed a political toehold in the otherwise Conservative resource states. And never was there a more co-dependent assemblage of Democratic lawmakers than during President Carter's administration.

I became the enemy of these environmental activists, who look like me and speak like me and have the same ancestry, but who hated their fathers, successful in a world that was inherently unfair. These activists, tutored by an enabling academia, needed an enabling media that would allow them to express their anger at being privileged Caucasians. They didn't have to look far a field to find one—and because the media

served as their cultural megaphone, they were heard in Senate and in House and in Appellate Court chambers. So if any *cultural war crimes tribunal* is established, I want to lobby for charges to be brought against ex-President Carter and his entire administration for his abuse of (and their support of his abuse of) the Antiquities Act.

My list of cultural culprits has shrunk some during the past two decades. I've mellowed a little. I'm more willing to forgive Carter's 1978 lie that bulldozers were posed to rip up the last shreds of wilderness if he didn't hastily act to protect *Tundra Roses*, which some in his administration apparently thought were endangered shrubbery. President Carter couldn't help being influenced by a *Zeit Geist* of environmental protectionism that originated outside of humanity's collective consciousness. He was, truly, a dancing *marionette*, with his spiritual strings being pulled by the ruler of this world. President Carter's desire was to serve God. And he seemed unable to resolve the conflict between his role as President and his Christianity. He has been a far better ex-President than President, for that conflict of being a world leader and of being a Christian has no resolution until humanity's mental topography is forcibly seized by Christ halfway through seven years of tribulation.

Cal Thomas wanted people from academia, the media, government, and the clergy to be forced to confront their mistakes. They were the enablers and apologists who helped sustain communism's grip on a sizable portion of humanity, Thomas's observation. And they are still tenured within the institutions of power today.

I want—in addition to the clergy that teach a theology of lawlessness—the environmental activists who have no god other than an old-growth forest to be tried for their destruction of the cultures brought by Pilgrims, Puritan and Separatist. A nation doesn't atone for the sins of its fathers by slaying grandsons.

Therein lays the difficulty of creating a *cultural war crimes tribunal*—the false prophets of global warming and ozone holes should be burned on stakes made of environmentally safe soy ink and recycled paper. They have been the enablers and apologists for clean waters legislation that doesn't allow a miner to dip a bucket of water from a creek and pour it back in without first constructing a settling pond to remove the glacial silt.

Yes, I am lobbying for the return of the *Thou shalt not* culture that begins with, *Thou shalt not have any other gods before Me*. That means wolves will no longer be deified, and the *Adversary* will no longer be a logger with a chainsaw. The *man of perdition* won't be a Republican, and *the abomination of desolation* won't be the statute of an armed Minuteman. The *mark of the beast* won't be a N.R.A. membership card, and the demonic *prince of the power of the air* won't be Rush Limbaugh.

Today, Thomas would have the "scores of false media prophets" who predicted military disaster in Iraq remembered for their many mistakes. Those mistakes should permanently discredit these prophets, but as Thomas knows, the collective memory of Americans is so short that this nation should be named Manasseh ... who remembers spending two hours in gas lines to buy five gallons on either even or odd days? It was those gas lines, and being unable to buy gas for two and a half months (December 1973 through the middle of February 1974) where I then lived on the Oregon Coast that pushed me North to Alaska. I had to trap to keep the electricity turned on during those two months. Today, I don't know how I will pay next month's light bill.

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May 19, 2003

Commentary — From the Margins *Intellectual Bulimia*

Liberal Protestant theologians locate Puritan Christianity within the logjam of social constructs underpinning the development of Western thought in the 17th & 18th Centuries. These theologians, with very few exceptions, do not believe the Bible is the divinely inspired Word of a creating deity that exists outside of the dimensions of space-time. Thus, these theologians, again, with very few exceptions, do not accept literal explanations or applications of Scripture. They leave such “nonsense” to born-again Evangelical scholars, who are always feasting on the Word, but never arriving at any intellectual understanding, for these born-again scholars regurgitate the laws of God. These born-again scholars are as river otter that catches a fish, then away from their dens, puke up their partially digested catch. Otters receive sustenance from their catch for as long as it remains in their digestive tracts, but they deal with the bones by vomiting them out, along with a goodly amount of flesh.

The question can be posed: is it better to reject the Bible as the literal Word of God in totality, or to swallow all of it, then puke up the structure that holds it together. The theologians of Post-Modernism have intellectual eating disorders, either anorexia or bulimia. Whereas Puritan theologians, with Jonathon Edwards foregrounded, sought spiritual muscle through the consumption of the Word of God, their biographers and apologists are as sockeye salmon, whose digestive tracts shut down once they enter freshwater, or as the river otter that feed on sockeyes if they can catch them.

In graduate school, in a course on American spiritualism, I was told that to appreciate how controlling religion was of Puritan mindsets, a person would have become part of an ultra-Orthodox Jewish sect. I begged to differ with the instructor then, and still do. Christian sects then existed and still do exist that use the laws of God as the social constructs underpinning their mental paradigms. These sects are usually dismissed as heretical by the Evangelical Church, which suffers from being physically minded (the *more-than-enough* gospel, and the escapism of a pre-Tribulation rapture of the Church) rather than spiritually minded. Liberal theologians dismiss these sects as philosophical relics, out of touch with reality. And truly, disciples in these sects do not experience the same “reality” as do liberal theologians. Plus, the practices and beliefs of these disciples are contrary to those that stem from historical exegesis.

Jonathon Edwards sought to introduce intellectual heft to the Calvinism he received, a Calvinism that would have a person’s future predestined from the foundation of the world, which is, when examined, the pronouncement of judgment upon the person before Christ returns as the all-powerful Messiah. So the Calvinism Edwards received should have been shorn of its understanding of predestination by the literal application of the epistles of Paul. But that would have also required Edwards to reject the lie of the old serpent, who told the second Eve that she would not surely die, that she had an immortal soul.

In Edwards’ quest for intellectual heft, he should have realized that eternal, or spiritual life is the gift of God, and that the literal wages of sin is death. Spiritual life doesn’t come from fornication when a bundling board isn’t high enough. It doesn’t come as the result of adultery. It doesn’t come with the union of a man and his wife in wedlock. It comes when God the Father gives it to a person by drawing the person out of the

mental paradigms of the world (John 6:44, 65). It is what happens when a person is born-again, or born from above. And any sin now credited to the person who has been born again or born a second time will result in the second death. But by the terms of the eternal covenant into which the born again person has been placed, Christ bears all of this person's sins. No sin will even be imputed to this person as long as he or she remains in covenant with the Father. However, the boundaries of that covenant are the laws of God. If the born again individual chooses to live outside of those boundaries (which is different than accidentally wandering across them), this born-again individual has taken him or herself out of the covenant by which Christ bears the person's sins. Now, this individual bears his or her own sins—and awaits the resurrection unto condemnation (John 5:29). The person is a hypocrite.

Much of the problem Edwards experienced and others since him have is in the concept of “eternal” and “forever.” All language speakers assign meaning to linguistic signifiers or icons. Translators, then, attempt to assign the appropriate icon of another language to the object of the icon in the first language. The assumption of a translation is that the translators properly assigned a linguistic object to the icon of the first language. Thus, because humanity exists only inside the four dimensions of space-time, the assignment of objects to Greek or Hebrew icon phrases that should be rendered *age-ending*, of *from age to age* become *eternal*, or *forever*, or *ever-burning*. To me, an age-ending fire differs substantially from an ever-burning fire. But if the translator believes the individual receives spiritual life through fornication, then this translator will not comprehend the difference between ever-burning (since the person will live forever) and age-ending, which has spiritual life ending in a lake of fire that isn't an oxidizing agent, as Moses observed about the burning bush. Spiritual fire will change matter into energy in a controlled manner. In addition, it can change spiritual constructions into the elements from which those constructions were assembled, just as physical fire serves as an oxidizing agent. Thus, *eternal life* is really spiritual life in the heavenly realm. And it is this life that the Father gives to every disciple when He places the disciple in the spiritual covenant that has Him writing His laws on the hearts and minds of the disciple.

So all of those liberal theologians who no longer believe they have immortal souls can rest assured that they are correct. They have no life other than that which comes from their breath until they receive the Holy Breath/*Pneuma* of God the Father. At that time, they receive spiritual life. They have been born from above. They are not yet glorified—and they will never be glorified if they voluntarily leave the covenant walled by the laws of God.

All judgment of humanity is given to Christ, who will decide both the hard and the easy cases. If you have once been enlightened and now know that you will not be ruled by Christ and the laws of God, you are an easy case to judge. The lake of fire awaits you, where you won't be tormented forever, but only until you are consumed.

The hard cases are those individuals who were enlightened that did the *hokie-pokie* with one foot in the world and one foot out. Neither Christ, nor the Father is in the business of creating additional Satans; so if there is any doubt about whether you will be ruled by the laws of God “forever,” don't expect to be glorified. There are too many enlightened Puritans who have demonstrated in this life that they will, indeed, be ruled by Christ.

The key to the above is “if enlightened.” The vast majority of human beings have never been enlightened. God the Father would be a respecter of persons if He didn't also give each of these individuals a chance to be ruled by Christ and His laws. This is what the great White Throne Judgment is about. Every person receives *one* (and only one) chance to be governed by the laws of God. If your chance is now—and judgment is upon all who have been baptized in the name of Christ Jesus (1 Pet 4:17)—you have been

predestined to be judged out of season, or prior to the time of general judgment. Your reward potential is greater, and so is the difficulty of being accounted worthy (which is why you can be called out of season and God not be a respecter of persons). You were pre-ordained from the foundation of the earth to be a vessel of special use, as opposed to a vessel meant for ordinary use. So do not desire that which is “common.” You were not called to be a spiritual Gentile, but a spiritual Judean. You have been made holy; you are to live as one who is holy. And here is why that instructor of mine in graduate school didn’t understand that Puritans still exist within the Christian community: I have been so pre-ordained to be called at this time, he had not. I don’t physically appear different from any anyone else. I wear no special clothes, nor cut my hair in a special way. I seem a bit odd when I refrain from doing certain things on the Sabbath, which is the manifestation of a “special” mindset. And it is in the mind where I differ from those whose calling is not yet. It is the differing social constructs that inform the same kinds of thoughts and the same types of emotions occurring in my mind as occurs in everyone else’s. Because the underlying social constructs differ, the thoughts and emotional feelings planted in them develop along differing paths from the world. A spiritually minded Christian (me) literally doesn’t arrive at the same conclusions as does a carnally minded individual even though our thought processes are similar. The difference stems from the soil in which the idea sprouted and took root.

Lucifer, now Satan, is the spiritual king of Babylon, and of Tyre, and he will be destroyed by having fire come out from his belly. Judgment has already been pronounced upon him (Ezek 28:18–19). And if God the Father will deconstruct Satan, He certainly can have a born-again Christian who has been judged unworthy thrown into the lake of fire.

This past semester I received several essays about eating disorders. One astute observation was made by a young woman whose best friend suffers from bulimia. Her friend’s emotions were out of control—this friend had no control over them. Thus, this friend exercised the control she desired to have over her emotions over her eating. She literally would experience the gorging of her stomach as she felt emotionally gorged. Then she would make herself vomit all she had eaten as if she were purging herself of her overwrought emotions. The only problem was that her friend’s eating disorder did nothing to solve her friend’s emotional disorder. And no treatment of her friend’s eating disorder had been effective, because the nature of the problem wasn’t being addressed.

The nature of the Evangelical Church’s spiritual problems also aren’t being addressed as the Church feasts on the Word of God while busily erasing the laws of God that He wrote on the hearts and minds of born-again disciples. These Christians appear in prophecy (Matt 24:12). It won’t be the world that becomes increasingly lawless. The entire passage (vv. 9–14) pertains to spiritual Israel, as does all of Jesus’ Olivet discourse. And Jesus said His disciples would be known by the love they have for one another ... I have enough love for you to not pull any punches. As a disciple upon whom judgment has come, you either will remain within a spiritual Eden that is bordered by the laws of God, or you will go into the lake of fire. The tree of life is inside of Eden, not growing on some sharecropper’s farm in the boot-heel of Missouri. Wal-Mart doesn’t have a contract for its fruit—it cannot be purchased anywhere. It is a gift to all of those who are in Eden when judgment comes upon them, regardless of whatever eating disorder they might have had.

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September 17, 2003

Commentary — From the Margins *Garner Ted Armstrong*

Gifted, talented, autocratic, Garner Ted Armstrong died this week. His death completed a classic tragedy in which a royal character's strengths become the character's undoing. His strengths were the quality of his voice, his ability to speak without notes and without preparation, and his knowledge of Scripture. His undoing wasn't the rumored philandering, or even his insubordination to his father. Rather, it was his inability to correct a forty-year-old mistake.

I confessed privately to Garner Ted a year ago that I questioned whether he was ever drawn by God the Father. I here confess publicly: in 1983, in Anchorage, Alaska, I stood in Earl Roemer's driveway and asked Earl, then a pastor for the Worldwide Church of God, if he thought GTA had ever been converted. His answer was, yes, but he added that he hadn't seen the evidence of conversion since 1972. I saw that evidence of conversion the summer of 2001. I spoke to GTA, told him it had been a long time since I sat behind him at Squaw Valley in 1973. He agreed that 1973 was, indeed, a long time ago.

The man I spoke with in 2001 wasn't the arrogant heir-apparent to Herbert Armstrong's theological empire who tramped into Blithe Arena with his entourage after services' opening prayer and left in the same manner before the closing prayer in 1973. Instead, he was a humble man, wearing an off-the-rack suit and interested in speaking with lay members. He acknowledged in his sermon that he was a flawed messenger, but said that his flaws didn't affect the message: Christ would shortly return to rule as King of kings. Everything he said was correct. And he was still the best speaker within the splintered churches of God.

Instead of arrogant, Garner Ted Armstrong was eloquent when he spoke in Marion, Illinois, the summer of 2001. My doubts about him dissipated. Whereas thirty years earlier he had seemed like a slick used car salesman to me, had seemed like a spoiled superstar who had been gifted by God, when I spoke with him in Marion, none of those negative qualities were apparent. He had continued to teach the gospel of Christ's soon-coming reign as he understood that gospel even though he was the disfellowshipped son of Herbert W. Armstrong, and had himself taught that work of his father was the only true work of God. He had confronted theological shunning, financial setbacks, and being removed from the leadership of the church he began when disfellowshipped. He had survived each of these trials, apparently becoming spiritually stronger through adversity. While only Christ judges saints, I strongly suspect GTA will be in the first resurrection. The tragedy is that he never fulfilled his potential.

I have told the following story in *A Philadelphia Apologetic*; I will summarize it here. In 1961, Herbert Armstrong realized that something was amiss with his prophetic understanding. He scheduled an Advanced Prophecy Seminar at Ambassador College, Pasadena, for the spring 1962 semester. All of the senior men of WCG then in Pasadena were in the seminar, and Mr. Armstrong taught the first session. He told the senior men what was troubling him, said that they had to get prophecy right, and asked that these men explore any and all ideas and concepts that might improve the church's understanding of prophecy.

Unfortunately, Herbert Armstrong only taught the first session of that Advanced Prophecy Seminar. Garner Ted took the second session, and began that session by saying

there would be no new revelation, that his father was correct in his prophetic understanding, that endtime prophecies were well understood ... forty years to the hour and I believe to the minute of when GTA said that *all was known*, I was drafted to explicate prophecy in a manner only a little less striking than the Apostle Paul's induction notice. And I took what I found in prophecy to GTA—as well as this story. His was the job to take the gospel that *all who endure to the end will be saved* (Matt 24:13) to the world. Unfortunately, to suddenly begin teaching another understanding of prophecy was more admitting error than he could do.

I tried to return to Garner Ted Armstrong the job for which he had been gifted. I am only a relief pitcher. GTA was the starter who was to do the work of the spiritual Nehemiah in conjunction with his father who had been given the work of Ezra, that of rebuilding the temple of God. GTA was to have rebuilt the walls of spiritual Jerusalem, but he took himself out of the game because of a Laodicean attitude. And once he was removed, as in baseball, he couldn't return to the playing field. I didn't know that when I tried to get him back into the game.

Garner Ted Armstrong endured to his end. He was faithful to teach what he knew. And I am actually grateful for the opportunity to play in the theological big leagues. I only wish that my opportunity hadn't come at his expense.

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October 6, 2003

Commentary – From the Margins *War on Yom Kippur*

Thirty years ago today, on *Yom Kippurim* 1973, the modern nation of Israel was attacked by its neighbors. This attack initiated a series of events that affected the United States, and myself. As historians remember, the U.S. resupplied Israel with munitions as Israeli tank columns crossed the Suez Canal and were only hours out of Cairo in one of the most astonishingly aborted victories the history of warfare has known. Arab members of OPEC responded with an oil embargo that left me unable to buy fuel for two and a half months. The U.S. began a program to produce alternative energies. As a nation we coupled this program to energy conservation, and produced more bureaucratic pork and rhetoric than energy. And I relocated to Alaska's Kenai Peninsula, where the oil embargo was a minor annoyance.

In the minds of biblical prophecy pundits, the *Yom Kippur* War forever welded "oil" to their newly sculpted endtime conflict between Islam and Judaism. Prior to 1947 and the creation of the modern state of Israel, the predecessors of today's pundits read scriptural references to endtime Israel as pertaining to the Church, which would have made the conflict at Christ's return as a final European Catholic-Muslim crusade. Today, the pundits craft their eschatological scenarios around a united Europe intervening in an Arab-Israeli war, with an endtime pope either becoming or giving his power to the man of perdition, and with the Evangelical Church being raptured to heaven before their judgment is revealed with the coming of the Messiah (1 Co 4:5). These pundits actually have less spiritual understanding than their predecessors for whom the visions of Daniel were sealed. If the damage they are doing to the Church were not so great, their eschatology would be laughable. But because of this damage, their names will be erased from the resurrection to life as they fulfill the reality of which the false prophets of ancient Israel were the shadow.

By standing on the shoulders of typology, disciples can peer into the spiritual realm to see shadows of endtime events occurring in that supra-dimensional realm usually identified as heaven. What can be seen is an "all Christian world" for the last 1260 days prior to Christ's return, with Muslims and Buddhists and Atheists having received the Holy Spirit and becoming either genuine or false *Christians*. What also can be seen is that for days 2520 to 1260, the world is in turmoil as two versions of false *Christianity* make war on genuine saints and upon the remainder of the world, breaking, devouring and trampling every mental paradigm that does not acknowledge the man Jesus of Nazareth as the Son of Man. One additional event can be seen: the slaying of spiritual and physical firstborns not covered by the blood of the Lamb of God. This second Passover slaughter of firstborns will cause the world to hate Christians for Christ's name's sake. It will also break nations such as China that have promoted a secular, one-child family planning policy.

The above events here on earth result from the jousting and sparring of spiritual kings that reign over the mental topography of humanity, a concept that is difficult for anyone to accept. Every person wants to believe that he or she is the master of his or her own mind, but the essence of Christian theology is that God knows the thoughts of the righteous and the wicked. The human subconscious mind forms real landscapes in the spiritual realm, where Satan reigns today as the prince of the power of the air (Eph 2:2).

Generations (prior to the evolution of space-time being understood as a fourth dimension) lacked the social constructs necessary to envision heaven as a supra-dimensional realm, or time as a fluid in which humanity lives as a fish lives in water. Therefore, the philosophies of these generations elevated mastery of one's mind to divine status, thereby idolizing human freewill. All the while, "freewill" grew on soil poisoned by the prince of the power of the air.

God knows, or can know your thoughts at this very moment, or mental prayers would not result in communication. Yes, God knows your thoughts even when you don't want those thoughts known. And your thoughts originate from a mental landscape that is as real as the soil of a backyard garden. Which thoughts will sprout and grow is determined by the soil, but which thoughts you cultivate is determined by you. Thus, you are ultimately responsible for the fruit of your thoughts even though some fruits wouldn't grow in your mind.

Without the Holy Spirit, spiritual thoughts won't grow in your mind, which remains hostile to God (Rom 8:7). You cannot please God, or accept Christ as your sovereign until you receive the Holy Spirit, which results in a change of ownership of your mental landscape.

Too many Christians, however, like their former mental landlord and return to bondage to sin. They confuse liberty with lawlessness, transpose innocence and iniquity, and celebrate no longer being under the law (now written on their hearts and minds) by profaning the Sabbaths of God. And this revelation provides the logic for being foreknown by God (i.e., being drawn by the Father – compare John 6:44. 65 with Rom 8:29-30), for the second Passover, and for the great White Throne Judgment.

This revelation also accounts for why the prophecy pundits who look for united Europe's intervention in an Arab-Israeli conflict cannot understand endtime prophecies that were sealed until a year ago. They remain in mental bondage to sin—and that bondage hinders all spiritual understanding even though they were made parts of spiritual Israel.

I realized, on *Yom Kipporim* one year ago, that a new work had begun. A pastor of a splintered Church of God fellowship said that he could see in Scripture that both goats represented the sin offering of Israel. Yes, both goats represent Christ (physical and glorified), the pastor could see that. But he wasn't willing to teach that, for the tradition of the splintered churches of God was to have the Azazel goat represent Satan. However, if the Azazel goat represents the devil, Satan becomes half of Israel's sin offering, an honor that will not be afforded him upon his death (Ezek 28:18-19).

Thus, I was forced to conclude that the splintered churches of God had ceased being text-based fellowships and had become tradition based, a realization that was truly apparent months earlier but a realization I didn't want to cultivate.

When the Yom Kippur War occurred, the end of the age wasn't in sight even though the pundits of the then-not-yet-splintered churches of God had been hawking the soon coming arrival of Christ for forty years. They were, possibly, themselves largely responsible for what has seemed like a three decade long interlude in the course of historic events. Their culpability stems from their rejection of revelation eleven years earlier, when they refused to consider that endtime prophecies about Israel pertained to the Church. In their elitism they considered themselves the entirety of true Christianity.

Evangelical prophecy pundits today consider themselves the entirety of the true Christian Church. While they will grudgingly acknowledge that among Mormons or Catholics are a few spirit-filled disciples, they refuse to recognize that the Evangelical Church is only a portion of endtime Israel, all of which needs mentally liberated from bondage to sin at a second Passover. They don't understand that Christ spoke in parables so that physical Israelites wouldn't understand the mysteries of God and turn and be

saved before it was time (Matt 13:34-35; 11-17). Prophecies have been sealed so they, as spiritual Israelites and as teachers of Israel, wouldn't understand them and turn and be saved before it is time.

Only to His disciples did Christ reveal the meaning of the parables in which He spoke to the crowds that followed Him. Only to His endtime fellowships of disciples has He unsealed endtime prophecies. And on this *Yom Kipporim*, a memorial of Grace (i.e., the glorified Christ bearing the spiritual sins of spiritual Israel as the reality of the Azazel goat), Christ is still calling the *Philadelphian* fellowships that will comprise the spiritual reality of His twelve disciples whom He sent to the cities of the lost house of Israel. The second Passover and the seven-year-long Tribulation are still a ways ahead of us in the historic narrative. But many events can be compressed into a small bowl of time [the entirety of the Passover season is compressed into the one day, *Yom Kipporim*]. Daniel's vision of the 2300 morning and evening sacrifices is true. At some point after the twelve (six pairs of disciples) become the seventy, represented by the patriarch Israel and his household going to Egypt, Israel's liberation from mental bondage occurs. The second Passover slaughter of firstborns will be history, and Israel's (i.e., the greater Christian Church's) journey from the north country of spiritual Babylon will have begun. All of the landscapes will be mental, as the logjam of social constructs upon which world civilization has been assembled are blown apart and bucked into firewood.

Christ's calling of His endtime discipling fellowships began one year ago today. The war against Satan as the king of Babylon was joined in Vienna, Illinois, in the heartland of America, that portion of the nation long known as *Little Egypt*. The first fellowship called was Stonefort, at an appropriately named location. At least four additional fellowships remain to be called before the seventy are sent to spiritual Babylon, not to become slaves but to become guides for liberated Israelites on their journey to spiritual Jerusalem, a city with theological not geographical coordinates.

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November 2, 2003

Commentary – From the Margins *Who Locks Up?*

In Alaska in the early 1980s, the economy took such a downturn it became common to hear some variation of, *Will the last person out please turn off the lights*. Today, Old Bedford Village, Bedford, Pennsylvania, closed for the season. But the doors of the historic houses remain open as I write, late into the night. Amidst the controversy that has hung as a dark cloud over the village for the past month, everyone left without locking up.

Well, almost everyone left: I live in the village. I rent a house that doubles as residence and studio, a house that causes me to wear period clothing and spurn radios, televisions and air conditioners. It is a quiet place to live, especially since the other year round residents have packed up and moved off over a controversy that began with the site's director firing the blacksmith who leased the blacksmith shop ... someone should be quick to point out that the director cannot fire a lease holder. The director could not renew a lease, yes. But fire, no! And so the controversy began when the board of directors neglected to act on the matter, thereby leaving the site director in place as a little autocrat.

I came here in August; I came with the promise of having use of the church. The site director reneged on that promise when he learned that I intended to hold weekly Sabbath services in the building. He pulled me aside after I preached one service, and said that I might convert someone, which would never do. I jest not. He told me that the Bedford community was very religious, and very tight knit, both of which are correct. He said that teaching disciples to live within the laws of God that have been written on their hearts and minds when they [are spiritually circumcised] was too controversial, that he couldn't have me teaching that in the community. Plus, he said that the church needed to be available for weddings, that the Village made a considerable amount of money on couples renting the church to hold their weddings – there has been one wedding since the first Sabbath in August, and that wedding was held in the evening.

I have temporarily let the matter go. Right now, I am involved in a budding worldwide work that really hasn't left me time to do considerable evangelism within the community. Yes, I am neglecting the local community in favor of a larger, more distant work. But with the closing of the village for the season, it is time to take the good news that all who endure to the end shall be saved (Matt 24:13) to neighbors.

Unfortunately, my neighbors in the village have left, leaving me to take this controversy between site director and love for neighbors to Christ for His resolution. And what the site director doesn't realize is that Christ will pick up the gauntlet. Christ is the reality of love. He will affect the mindsets of all involved – or He will remove them if they prevent little ones from coming to Him.

I don't, tonight, know how Christ will resolve this controversy, which is now known worldwide. But no one locked up the village when it closed for the season. How much should be read into doors standing wide open as if the last person out forgot to close them?

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November 5, 2003

Commentary – From the Margins *Teaching Hubris*

The teaching ministries of television evangelists, built upon the tithes and offerings of businessmen and bib-overall farmers, factory workers and social security recipients, advocate sowing seed in the good soil of ground they own, that seed growing into the finer things of life for the televangelists. Their telethons encourage viewers to pledge amounts far above what viewers can afford; even to encouraging viewers to borrow the tithe of the amounts pledged if necessary. They promise their viewers increased material wealth—and they join with other televangelists to bilk billions from those whom they profess to serve, while teaching a flawed gospel to their audience. They bilk billions from their viewers for starving children in sub-Saharan Africa, and in the Philippines; for water wells in southern Africa; for street children in South American cities; for children in Russian and Chinese orphanages; for Bibles for Chinese Christians (but only the New Testament). Each of these ministries receives support after the cost of raising the money is deducted, that cost to include the televangelists' salaries.

When Jesus' disciples came to Him on the Mount of Olives to ask about the end of the age and the sign of His return, He first described what would lead up to the birth of many heirs of God (Matt 24:4-7), saying, "All these things are but the beginning of the birth pains" (v. 8). He then described the birth pains themselves: "Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you shall be hated by all nations for my name's sake. And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold" (vv. 9-12). So the birth pains of Israel, the woman of Revelation 12, will have disciples being martyred, being hated by the world because they are *Christians*; will have disciples falling away and betraying one another; will have many false prophets leading many disciples astray through teaching lawlessness; will have the love of many disciples growing cold. So far, these birth pains don't offer disciples much hope. The carrot, though, that keeps disciples going is, "But the one who endures to the end shall be saved" (v. 13). Jesus said, "And this gospel [good news] of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come" (Matt 24:14). What good news? The good news that He delivered in the preceding sentence, that *the one who endures to the end shall be saved*. This is the good news that will be proclaimed worldwide before the end comes. Not a gospel about Christ's soon-coming kingdom. Not a gospel about the mighty works of Christ. Disciples have already heard about His mighty deeds. They know that He will shortly return. They will recognize that a man of perdition has come. They recognize the meteor strike is what John describes in Revelation when he says that he saw a smoking mountain thrown into the sea. But they expected Christ to protect them from carnage occurring all around them. They expected to be raptured, or to be in a physical place of safety. They truly didn't expect to be killed, tortured, imprisoned, hunted like wild beasts—during the hard labor of Israel's birth pains, disciples are betraying one another, hating one another, practicing lawlessness (sin—from 1 John 3:4), being martyred, quitting on Christ. Being a *Christian* who doesn't practice sin has become too difficult for too many disciples. Too many false prophets are teaching disciples lies. And what disciples need is some good news—that good news has already

been given: all who endure to the end shall be saved. And the end will not come until this good news is proclaimed worldwide.

A Catch-22 situation? If Satan can keep the good news of *all who endure to the end shall be saved* from being proclaimed to the world, he can prevent the end of the age from occurring. He can indefinitely extend his reign as the spiritual king of Babylon (Isa 14:4-21). He rules over the mental topography of humanity through being the prince of the power of the air (Eph 2:2). And if he can prevent the Church from proclaiming the good news that all who endure in faith to the end will be saved, that all who endure the spiritual birth pains of Israel will become the glorified sons of God, he will not be cast from heaven. He will have foiled God's plan for humanity. And with the Church being delivered into his hands for its good, he truly believes he can thwart Christ, that he will have stalemated God. And that thinking is the epitome of hubris.

Yes, Satan as spiritual king of Babylon believes that because Israel was delivered into mental captivity to him—just as *YHWH* sent the physical nation into physical captivity in Babylon—he can control what the Christian Church teaches. The evidence is all around him. He has compromised every reform ministry undertaken. Today, the worldwide teaching ministries of televangelists proclaim a message of lawlessness. They preach Christ and Christ crucified, and they are proud that they teach the Cross. But they do not teach disciples to live within the laws of God, which form the spiritual boundaries of the garden of God. Rather they teach disciples to commit spiritual suicide by spurning the laws of God—and for teaching disciples to commit suicide, they reward themselves handsomely. After all, they should be well paid, for they have been very successful. The man Jesus of Nazareth—the Logos who was God (*Theos*) and who was with God (*Theon*) (John 1:1-2, 14)—was sacrificed on a cross at Calvary. This is a historic truth to all Christians. He was removed from the cross by Joseph of Arimathea and by Nicodemus, and He was entombed with about seventy-five pounds of spices at dusk on the 14th of Nissan (John 19:38-42). He was the paschal Lamb of God, sacrificed for the sins of Israel. And here is where the teaching ministries of the many televangelists fail: as the Lamb of God, He was sacrificed from the foundation of the earth. The six hours between when the paschal lamb is sacrificed to when the death angel passed through Egypt killing all firstborns not covered by the lamb's blood represents that period between when the Lamb of God was slain and Israel is liberated from bondage to sin. Those six hours have become six thousand years [remainder of this sentence has been omitted]. All of Israel will be liberated from mental bondage on the second Passover—this begins the hard labor of Israel giving birth to many sons of God, for the world will suddenly hate Christians for being *Christians*, for Christ's name sake. Why? Because the firstborns of the world will have been slain. All firstborns not covered by the blood of the Lamb of God will be dead. Presidents. Prime ministers. Business leaders. All will be dead if the person is a firstborn not covered by the blood of the Lamb. The nation of China will be hurled back into the abyss, because of the nation's one-child policy coupled to its political disdain for Christ. Either that or the leaders of the nation will repent, will accept Christ as their personal savior, and will use their political muscle to get their citizens into Passover services even though televangelists will decry their sudden turn toward Christ as *legalism*. The empty cross is not a symbol of Christ's resurrection, but a statue to the murder weapon by which the Lamb of God was slain. It symbolically represents the stake to which disciples are tethered as if they were goats. Disciples are to break that tether and to follow Christ. They are to unshackle themselves from the world. They are in the world, but they are not to be a part of it. They are to live by the laws of God that have been written on their hearts and minds (Heb 8:10) when they were drawn from the world by the Father (John 6:44, 65). They are not to teach or to practice lawlessness. To do so marks them as being of the synagogue of Satan.

Hubris as a concept is perhaps best exemplified by King Agamemnon in the play by the same name. This powerful warrior king could have certainly slain his assassin if the king would have seen the attack coming. He had to be slain by ambush—and to get him to walk close enough by the ambush point where he could be killed, his wife rolled out a red carpet. As king and conquering warrior returning home victorious, Agamemnon walked on the red carpet, a representation of tremendous labor and expenditure of resources. He walked on the labor of his wife—and he was murdered because he had the audacity to think himself worthy of treading on a red carpet, on the labor of others.

The teaching ministries of the many televangelists have the audacity to promise their viewers that God will materially bless viewers if they will sow seed in good ground. They commit God to giving material blessings to spiritual Israelites who should be storing up treasure in heaven, not in mortgage payments. They teach a cruel variation of the Apostle Paul's doubly accursed gospel, which would have disciples first becoming physical Israelites (i.e., Israelites in the flesh) before they could become spiritual Israelites (i.e., Israelites in hearts and minds). These televangelists promise to those who will send them money the material blessings of the abolished Sinai covenant (Eph 2:15) while teaching their viewers not to keep the laws of God that have been written on disciples' hearts and minds. They teach their viewers to commit spiritual suicide while committing God to materially prospering those who plan for their resurrection to condemnation.

Today's televangelists follow unwittingly in the tradition of Herbert Armstrong, who promised his disciples that they would figuratively put the frosting on the universe as if all of God's creation were a cake baked for the express purpose of being decorated. Herbert Armstrong had his disciples annually sending his administrative headquarters ten percent of their income, plus offerings. In addition, his disciples were to save an additional ten percent of their incomes to attend the annual festivals, where they could give a portion of this second ten percent to headquarters as offering. Then on every third and sixth year of a seven-year cycle, his disciples were to send to headquarters a third ten percent of their income as a widow and orphan tithe. And Herbert Armstrong used advertising techniques to "sell" his disciples upon the necessity of sowing their tithes and offering into his work—he claimed that God only worked through one man at a time, and he was the man. Well, God does only work through one man, that man being Christ Jesus. To believe that God only works through one human being at a time takes considerable hubris, especially if you are that human being. Few of today's televangelists have that degree of hubris with the noticeable exception of Gerald Flurry, who has idolized Herbert Armstrong.

Disciples are to tithe. There is a second tithe, and a third tithe – and altogether, they equal ten percent of one's increase, not one's income. And they are to go to the disciple's local church, if the disciple has one. But paying tithes does not commit God to prospering a disciple materially. God chooses whether He will commit Himself to anything. And under the Sinai covenant, He committed Himself to giving Israel material wealth in exchange for national obedience. That commitment ended at Calvary, but remains dynamic. If, as a nation, the United States did not steal, the security industry would collapse, but in its place would be an overall reduction in the cost of goods and services. If the nation didn't practice adultery, the pornography industry would collapse, but far fewer marriages would break up, resulting in greater family cohesion, fewer traumatized children, and greater mental health and wealth. The list goes on. So the promises of national prosperity for national obedience to the laws of God are dynamic principles around which societies should organize themselves. We have the expression, *A rising tide raises all ships*, which addresses the question of national prosperity for national obedience.

It takes on the part of a televangelist as much hubris to commit God to materially prospering the person who gives money to the televangelist as it took for Herbert Armstrong to claim that his work was the only work of God being done on earth. This is especially true when the salaries of Herbert Armstrong's top ministers and the salaries of today's televangelists are compared to the incomes of the disciples who gave/give to these ministries.

The Apostle Paul said that he supported not only himself but those with him through his work as a tentmaker. Yes, he received help from various churches; and yes, he was entitled to that assistance. But he didn't pay himself a \$300,000 salary (in 1967 dollars) as Herbert Armstrong did, nor did he build himself a 1.1 million-dollar home as one major televangelist recently did. Jesus told His disciples to sell all they had and follow Him. He gave the same advice to the rich young ruler who asked what he must do to receive eternal life. And what He said was same thing that Paul said: a disciple is to break whatever tethers him or her to the world. The disciple is to follow Christ at the expense of everything that would restrict following. The disciple doesn't need to take a vow of poverty—the disciple will become involved in situations that just work out that way, for the world loves its own. It doesn't love those who would overturn it. But that is what Christ is all about. Disciples are to participate in overturning the world, not with physical force but through the coming of the kingdom of God.

The end of the age will not come until the good news that *all who endure to the end shall be saved* is proclaimed to the world as a witness and a warning. This message is going out today from *The Philadelphia Church*, a small but growing association of autonomous fellowships, united in declaring this gospel. And the extent to which this gospel must be proclaimed will be determined by the Father. For the sake of all firstborn disciples who have never taken the Passover as Christ ordained the service, pray that a greater proclamation of this gospel is necessary than is presently being done.

I will repeat myself so there can be no mistake about what I have written. The teaching ministries of today's television evangelists advocate committing spiritual suicide. They are false teachers. They are charlatans. And they teach other ministries to practice the same hubris of which they are guilty; i.e., committing God to promises He made in a covenant nailed to the Cross.

If someone were bold enough to claim I am guilty of hubris for trying to save the person's eternal life while attacking the Cross, then I will plead guilty when the one making the claim can show how I have materially prospered from this ministry beyond the level of a school teacher. I will, though, admit to mischief against all who would walk on red carpets, beginning with the ministries that keep alive the work of Herbert Armstrong.

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November 8, 2003

Commentary – From the Margins *Out of Egypt*

In August of this year, I left Little Egypt, literally and figuratively—Southern Illinois was dubbed Little Egypt more than a century ago when northern farmers went to the southern part of the state to supply their early summer need for feed grains. The farms of southern Illinois had mid-West fertility while bringing crops to market a month or more before the same crops ripened in central and northern portions of the state. Before wide spread cold storage of apples was possible, southern Illinois supplied the market with fresh apples (Yellow Transparents) in late May. The area is the northern limit for Southern Magnolias and Cyprus trees. And it celebrates its “Little Egypt” reputation by having named many towns and businesses after Egyptian landmarks.

The ancient prophet Hosea recorded, “When Israel was a child, I loved him, / and out of Egypt I called my son” (Hos 11:1). Matthew writes that second clause of this sentence pertains to Christ Jesus (Matt 2:15), but it first pertained to the descendants of the patriarch Jacob: “Then you [Moses] shall say to Pharaoh, “Thus says the Lord, ‘Israel is my firstborn son, and I [the Lord] say to you, “Let my son go that he may serve me.’ If you refuse to let him go, behold, I will kill your firstborn son”” (Ex 4:22-23). And in this second clause, we see the layering of shadows that unlocks understanding the endtime story of Israel. Jesus is the reality that Israel foreshadows and shadows as the holy nation of God.

Hosea further records:

[I, the Lord, will destroy] you, O Israel, for you are against me, against your helper ... I gave you a king in my anger, and I took him away in my wrath. The iniquity of Ephraim is bound up; his sin is kept in store. The pangs of childbirth come for him, but he is an unwise son, for at the right time he does not present himself at the opening of the womb. Shall I [the Lord] ransom them from the power of Sheol? Shall I redeem them from Death? O Death, where are you plagues? O Sheol, where is your sting? Compassion is hidden from my eyes. (Hos 13:9-14)

When the kingdom of the world becomes the kingdom of the Most High and of His Messiah (Rev 11:15)—when the Holy Spirit is poured out on all humanity (Joel 2:28), and when Satan is cast from heaven (Rev 12:9 — all three events occur on the same day)—all of humanity becomes the holy nation of Israel, the single nation promised to Abraham (Gen 12:2). The harvest of the earth will have ripened and will be ready for reaping (Rev 14:15). The woman clothed with the sun with the moon under her feet and with a crown of twelve stars who gives birth to the man child that will rule all nations, and whose children keep the commandments of God and hold the testimony of Jesus (Rev chap 12) is Israel, first the physical nation from which Christ came (v. 5), then the spiritual nation (v. 17). Same woman, same nation—physical Israel became the holy nation of God (Ex 19:5-6) when the spoken laws of God entered hearts and minds through the hearing of their ears (Job 42:5). Spiritual Israel became the holy nation of God (1 Pet 2:9) when hearts and minds rather than penises were circumcised, when the laws of God were written on hearts and minds (Jer 31:33; Heb 8:10 & 10:16) by the Holy Spirit—Israel actually saw God with the nation’s eyes.

With God, there is no male or female (Gal 3:28). So the woman of Revelation chapter 12 is also the firstborn son of God: Israel. And it is Israel that God first calls out of physical Egypt, and finally out of spiritual and physical Egypt/Babylon when God calls, “Come out of her, my people, lest you take part in her sins, lest you share in her plagues” (Rev 18:4) shortly before Christ returns to physically and spiritually reign over all of humanity during the Millennium.

But there is a gap between physical circumcision, and being both physically and spiritually circumcised during Christ’s Millennium reign (Ezek 44:7, 9). The promise of the second covenant mediated by Moses (Deut 29:1) was spiritual circumcision (Deut 30:6) following [a return by faith to] obedience to the laws of God. The better promise added to this second covenant (made with circumcised and uncircumcised Israelites — Josh 5:2-7) is spiritual circumcision prior to obedience—receipt of the Holy Spirit causes the laws of God to be written on hearts and minds. This is spiritual circumcision. So the gap is spiritually circumcised Israel, who, like the uncircumcised Israelites with whom the second covenant was initially made, lives like Judeans (Gal 2:14 — read the passage in its Greek original) with the laws of God written on their consciences.

Satan as the prince of the power of the air (Eph 2:2) has deceived all of humanity (Rev 12:9). He is the true king of Babylon (Isa 14:4-21), into whose hand the children of men were given wherever they dwelt (Dan 2:37-38). Nebuchadnezzar served as the physical type of Satan, with the seven years the king lived as a beast representing Satan being cast to earth, where he will live as a man for 1260 days prior to Christ’s return, then will be released for a short while after a thousand years (Christ’s reign technically never ends, but physical humanity does when the new heaven and the new earth come), that *short while* probably being another 1260 days.

Returning to what Hosea prophesied: the Lord will destroy Israel for His holy nation has turned against Him—and this is what we see in the parable of the pounds (Luke 19:11-27). Seven of the ten servants or slaves to whom the young nobleman gave a pound apparently joined with the citizens of the country to send a delegation after the nobleman saying that they would not be ruled by him. These seven do not appear before the nobleman to give an accounting of the business they did with the pound they received. And the nobleman orders that his enemies be brought before him and slaughtered. The seven were counted among the nobleman’s enemies.

The Lord destroying Israel is also what the prophet Zechariah records: “Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered; I [the Lord] will turn my hand against the little ones. In the whole land, declares the Lord, two thirds shall be cut off and perish, and one third shall be left alive” (13:7-8). Christ identifies Himself as this shepherd (Matt 26:31). So the one third of the little ones that remain are Christians, about whom Zechariah writes, “And I [the Lord] will put this third into the fire, and refine them as one refines silver, and test them as gold is tested. They will call upon my name, and I will answer them. I will say, “They are my people”; and they will say, “The Lord is my God”” (Zech 13:9).

Seven-of-ten and two-thirds represent comparable percentages. So a large number of holy ones will perish before Christ returns as the Messiah—and they perish because they will not be ruled by Him, because they are actually against Him. Halfway through seven years of Tribulation, all of humanity will become the holy nation of God—but let us return to the example of physical Israel becoming the holy nation of God. When Israel was in physical bondage to the Pharaoh, *YHWH* appeared to Moses in a burning bush, and Moses returned to Egypt with a commission. Then before Moses ever met with Pharaoh, *YHWH* identified Israel as His firstborn son. But Israel doesn’t become the holy nation of God until the third month after the nation’s Passover liberation.

Christ is today Israel's paschal Lamb. He was penned in Jerusalem on the 10th of Abib, determined by counting backwards five days from when He was crucified on the Preparation Day for the High Sabbath, the 14th (John 12:1, 12 & 19:31). He was killed close to the time when Israel killed its paschal lambs. And He entered the tomb when Israel gathered to eat the paschal lamb. It is His body, His sacrifice that spiritual Israel is to eat. Today, taking the Passover service as He gave an example and as Paul instructed the saints at Corinth to observe represents eating His body as Israel's true paschal Lamb.

Christ was slain for the sins of humanity from the foundation of the earth. The six hours between when Moses instructed Israel to slay the paschal lamb and when the death angel passed through all of Egypt slaying firstborns not covered by the blood of a paschal lamb represents the six thousand years between the foundation of the earth and the beginning of the Lord's Day, with one day being as a thousand years. God rested on the seventh day of creation week—and it is into His rest that disciples are to enter as glorified saints upon Christ's return. Thus, the Genesis account of the creation of humankind, beginning in verse 27, bears a similar relationship to Hosea's prophecy of God calling Israel out of Egypt as the resurrection of saints has to Jesus being called out of Egypt as the Father's firstborn Son. Expressed in other words, the creation account of humanity being created male and female (Gen 1:27-31) typologically represents endtime Israel being called out of Egypt/Babylon and into the promised land; i.e., glorified sons of God.

Now, allow me to combine the unraveled prophecies. Shortly before all of humanity becomes the holy nation Israel by the kingdom of the world becoming the kingdom of the Most High and of His Messiah—in relatively the same length of time as between when the death angel passed through Egypt and when circumcised Israel became the holy nation of *YHWH*—the four angels bound at the river Euphrates will be released to kill a third of humanity (Rev 9:13-19). *YHWH* identified Israel as His firstborn son before that nation was liberated from physical bondage to Pharaoh, a type of the king of Babylon. That identification preceded the slaughter of all firstborns not covered by the blood of the paschal lamb. Moses delivered the warning to Pharaoh to let Israel go, or his firstborns would be killed. But since all of humanity is already *Israel* prior to its liberation from Satan, the true king of Babylon, these four angels kill only firstborns who can now be anybody not covered by the blood of Christ. But after the four death angels kill a third of humanity, “The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands nor give up worshiping demons and idols” (Rev 9:20). After the death angel passed through Egypt, Israel was liberated, but Israel did not “cast away the detestable things their eyes feasted on, nor did they forsake the idols of Egypt” (Ezek 20:8). And after the Passover slaughter of firstborns that occurs when spiritual Israel is liberated from mental bondage to the king of Babylon, spiritual Israel will also not forsake worshiping demons and idols.

[The sixth Trumpet Plague, though, casts a time-linked shadow backwards to the liberation of the Christian Church from bondage to indwelling sin and death at the beginning of the seven endtime years of tribulation: the event that begins the Tribulation will be the second Passover slaughter of firstborns not covered by the blood of Christ at a time like that when Noah entered the Ark on the 10th day of the second month, with his neighbors eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriages. So there is one slaughter of biological firstborns the beginning of the seven endtime years and another slaughter of spiritual firstborns approximately halfway through the seven endtime years. In each, a third part of humankind will be killed.]

A new concept? Another Passover slaughter of firstborns? The prophecy of Zechariah uses an idiom that is more inclusive than is its English counterpart: what is translated as two-thirds is literally “parts two,” or *two parts*. The implication is that this represents

two of three parts. But before making this assignment of meaning, we should return to Hosea's prophecy: "I [the Lord] gave you a king in my anger, and I took him away in my wrath" (13:11). Indeed, *YHWH* gave circumcised Israel Saul to be king when He said to Samuel, "Obey the voice of the people in all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them. According to all the deeds that they have done, from the day I brought them up out of Egypt even to this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so they are also doing to you" (1 Sam 8:7-8). But physical Israel becomes spiritual Israel when Jesus becomes the firstborn Son called out of Egypt. And as circumcised Israel rejected *YHWH*, causing the Lord to give His holy physical nation a human king, spiritual Israel rejected the Father, spurning the laws of God He wrote on their hearts and minds when He gave them His Holy Spirit, thereby causing the Lord to give His holy spiritual nation a spiritual king. And the Lord will take away this spiritual king in wrath.

Certainly spiritual Israel spurned the laws of God that the Father wrote on the hearts and minds of this holy nation—how does the fourth commandment read in your Bible? Or the third if you have a Catholic printing? Circumcised Israel profaned *YHWH*'s Sabbaths (Ezek 20:12-13, 16, 19-21, 24; *et al*). So has spiritual Israel. Israel goes from being the physical nation to being the spiritual nation to being all of humanity. The transition between Israel being a physical nation and a spiritual nation occurred during the three and a half year earthly ministry of the man Jesus of Nazareth. The transition between Israel being the spiritual nation and all of humanity occurs during the *time, times and half a time* (Dan 7:25) when the saints are given into the hand of the little horn of Daniel 7, or during the 1260 days preceding the kingdom of the world becoming the kingdom of the Most High and of His Messiah. Two three and a half year transition periods—the second of three transitions will also be three and a half years long. And this is the transition about which the least is written in Scripture. This transition occurs immediately prior to the second Passover liberation of spiritual Israel.

The Shepherd will turn His hand against two parts of the holy ones—better, the Shepherd will twice turn His hand against the holy ones, the first time because, "The pangs of childbirth come for him, but he is an unwise son, for at the right time he does not present himself at the opening of the womb" (Hos 13:13). The right time for Israel to present himself is at the Passover of the Lamb of God. All firstborns of Israel, like the firstborns of spiritual Egypt, will be slain if not covered by the blood of the Lamb when the Lord, in His wrath, takes away the spiritual king He, in His anger, placed over Israel for its good.

I have previously written that Israel is today in bondage to Satan—and this is true. I have also written that the spiritual kings of the North and of the South, as subservient kings to the king of Greece, himself subservient to Satan, were placed over the spiritual house of Israel (Arian Christianity) and the spiritual house of Judah (Trinitarian Christianity)—and this is true. But it was into the hand of the first horn, or great horn of the spiritual king of Greece that the Lord delivered Israel in His anger when the holy nation rejected Him. And it is this king that the Lord will, in wrath, remove from being over Israel when He liberates the Church from mental bondage to demons.

The story of Christianity from the 4th-Century to the present time reflects the compromises made in the supernal realm by the great horn of the king of Greece to keep peace between the cross-shaped king of the North and four-headed king of the South. But in wrath—because of this great horn murdering the sons of God by teaching them to commit spiritual suicide just as Pharaoh was killing the sons of Israel when Moses was born—the Lord will liberate Israel from this king, slaying both the king and all of his firstborns. The firstborns of man *and* beast slain in Egypt are moved up one level to spiritual and physical firstborns of God and man. All of humanity will become born again

Christians when the Holy Spirit is poured out on all flesh. Today, though, born again Christians number only a third of humanity, with that percentage moving towards half. When physical Israel was liberated, Pharaoh told Moses there were more Israelites than Egyptians (Ex 5:5). When spiritual Israel is liberated from bondage to its spiritual king, there will be more born again Christians than spiritual Egyptians. So the liberation of spiritual Israel can be platted through the growth of the greater Christian Church, with 50% of humanity pointing directly at the following second Passover.

The season of liberation is only a short while ahead of us, not another millennium away.

Finally, I have arrived at where I wish to begin: during the last 1260 days prior to Christ's return as the Messiah, all of humanity will be born again Christians, but many will take the mark of the beast; i.e., the tattoo (*stigma*) of the *Xx*, or Christ's cross (*chi xi*). They will worship the dragon (Satan) and the beast (the fourth beast of Daniel 7), saying "Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?" (Rev 13:4). They will, literally, continue to worship demons and idols while believing that they worship Christ. When the dragon is cast from heaven, all dominion is taken from him and from the four beasts (one of whom has been dealt a deadly wound — from Dan 7:9-14) that form the king of Greece, the first beast of Revelation chapter 13. Yet the dragon gives his great authority to this king of Greece—what authority? He no longer has any legitimate authority. The only authority he possesses is what he steals from Christ, to whom the Ancient of Days has given the kingdom of the world so that the ripened harvest of the earth (Rev 14:15) can be gathered. Yes, Satan comes as the antiChrist, stealing authority that belongs to Christ by posing as the messiah. And he makes born again humanity worship the image of the beast who was dealt a deadly wound and whose body has been given over to be burned—the image of this beast is the same as its mark, *Xx*. That image is of the empty Cross, which has become an idol of gold, silver, stone and wood for the greater Christian Church.

If during these last 1260 days of this age a person doesn't take the mark of the beast, the person cannot buy and sell; the person is excluded from the world's economic system. Thus, the time-linked shadow of the fallen Satan as the antiChrist is Satan as the little horn of Daniel 7 possessing a human being and coming as the man of perdition—and the liberated Church as the shadow of liberated humanity will be excluded from buying and selling if it doesn't go along with the little horn changing "times and the law" (Dan 7:25). In other words, the shadow of the mark of the beast is the change of times and the law. Once the Church is liberated, Christ will reveal the need to keep the Sabbaths of God, just as physical Israel received the Sabbath immediately following the day that would become the second Passover. Allow me to explain: when Israel left Egypt, they took enough food with them to last a month. They were liberated on the 15th of the first month. On the 15th of the second month (the second Passover, or when the Passover is taken by Israelites who were unclean), Israel came into the wilderness of Sin—and the nation grumbled against Moses for bringing them into the wilderness without any food. Israel said to Moses and Aaron, "Would that we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the meat pots and ate bread to the full, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger" (Ex 16:3). *YHWH* answered with manna, thereby revealing the weekly Sabbath to the nation.

Again, spiritual Israel when liberated from mental bondage to the king of Babylon at the second Passover is the shadow of liberated humanity once Satan is cast from heaven. The mark of the beast is foreshadowed by the changed times and the law. Genuine saints will not take the mark of the beast; genuine saints will not go along with the changed times and law. The Sabbath will be revealed to Israel. Genuine Israelites will become Sabbath-keepers as they live within the laws of God. Therefore, since the man of

perdition will use the changed times and law to exclude saints from the economic system, the change is of the Sabbath—Sunday observance—will become mandatory after the liberation of spiritual Israel. Even though all of Israel will then know to keep the Sabbath—no Christian will, any longer, be deceived—the majority of Israel will go along with the man of perdition. The greater Christian Church, against what it knows is right, will support the Christianity of the Cross, leaving genuine disciples to economically fend for themselves as they are prohibited from buying and selling because of them keeping the Sabbath. No hypocrite will enter the kingdom of God. The righteousness of saints must exceed that of the Pharisees (Matt 5:20). And once liberated from bondage to sin, every Israelite who returns to keeping Sunday as the Sabbath will be a hypocrite! Is that shrill enough? You will either live by faith, trusting God to supply your needs just as *YHWH* delivered manna every day to physical Israelites in the wilderness of Sin, or you will go into the lake of fire. Your choice. And it is a simple choice.

The Lord of Hosts who turned His hand against the Shepherd (Christ — Matt 26:31) will turn His hand against two parts of Israel. The first time is at the second Passover when firstborns not covered by His blood will be slain. The second time is when the four angels bound at the river Euphrates are released to kill a third of humanity. Israel goes from being half of humanity to being all of humanity. When Israel becomes the Father's firstborn son (Christ is the First of the firstfruits), the uncovered firstborns slain are a third of humanity—we can expect that same percent of Israel to be uncovered at the second Passover. So in addition to the firstborns of the world that die when Israel is released from bondage to sin [approximately a third of humankind], another third of Israel (or a sixth of pre-Tribulation humanity) will also die ... the second Passover isn't a small event occurring in relative isolation. It rocks the world, and it will cause today's prophecy pundits to identify it as the second woe. **BUT IT ISN'T ANY OF THE WOES!** The Tribulation will not have yet arrived! [It is the event that begins the Tribulation.]

Did I scream that loud enough to be heard? The Tribulation begins when the second Passover liberation of Israel occurs. Humanity isn't halfway through the Tribulation as the many false prophets will claim. There aren't 1260 days of tribulation ahead of the Church, but 2520 days.

The Church will not be raptured prior to the Tribulation. That is a false doctrine doing, today, great harm to Israel. It will be a faith-killing doctrine the morning after the liberation of Israel. Satan has already had the Church swallow the poisoned pill that causes, and will continue to cause saints to commit spiritual suicide. The antidote is in Scripture, is in understanding that in all things the physical precedes the spiritual, that the visible reveals the invisible.

The false prophet rides a white horse carrying a bow. He comes conquering and to conquer. But he has already been defeated. Outside of time, those whom the Father foreknew, He predestined, justified, and glorified (Rom 8:30)—and they sit with Christ as His many brothers watching, as if a rerun, them working out their salvation. They are only there if they succeeded. And because they are there, we know that we have the victory over Satan; we can resist the man of perdition and the antiChrist and win. We can live by faith for the little while necessary to obtain this victory.

Victory will not be easy. Obtaining it will be the most difficult thing most of us have ever done, but the fight is for the greatest prize ever offered: salvation. And all we have to do is endure to the end. That's all. We don't have to do anything but endure by faith.

If *enduring* were easy, it wouldn't be enduring.

The genuine ministers of Christ will either prepare the saints Christ has given them to endure to the end, or these ministers will not even be recognized by Christ when resurrected to condemnation. I didn't write error. That is what I said: the shepherds who hear Christ's voice will prepare a people to endure to the end, to endure being excluded

from the world's economic system, to endure being persecuted, to endure being imprisoned and martyred. They will prepare a people to annually take the Passover as Christ left disciples an example. The great works of casting out demons and healing the physically sick mean nothing if these shepherds teach their sheep to commit spiritual suicide by erasing the laws of God written on hearts and minds by the Holy Spirit. Christ will call them *workers of lawlessness* and order them away from Him (Matt 7:21-23).

I was spiritually called out of Egypt decades ago, but I was only recently physically called out of Egypt, or Little Egypt. I am, today, a shadow of all saints who do not take the mark of the beast. There are other shadows, and there will be two primary shadows, the two witnesses. Christ is the reality that casts these shadows, so all who are excluded from the world can be of Christ. Those who are of the world can never be.

The good news that *all who endure to the end will be saved* must be proclaimed to the world as a witness to all nations (Matt 24:13-14) before the end of the age comes. The reason why this good news must be proclaimed is in Israel being called out of Egypt/Babylon. Humanity needs to know that it will receive the Holy Spirit and will become Israel for the last 1260 of this age. Its liberation from bondage will be such a great event that circumcised Israel's liberation from Pharaoh won't even be remembered (Jer 16:14-15) during the Millennium.

Today, much work needs to be done before spiritual Israelites will leave Egypt and live by faith within the laws of God. Their teachers have taught them that to live as uncircumcised Judeans is legalistic—both God the Father and His Son are covenant keeping deities, which makes them legalists that would have Israel live within the laws of God. It is the spiritual king of Babylon who, today, would have Israel break covenant with God, thereby causing the holy nation to commit spiritual suicide.

The choice is yours. Under the second covenant, you have your judgment in your hands. The Lord has given you instructions: choose life and good (Deut 30:15). The book of Revelation adds a final note to coming out of Egypt: the angel tells John, “Let the evildoer still do evil, and the filthy still be filthy, and the righteous still do right, and the holy still be holy” (Rev 22:11). *Doing* requires works, good works or bad. The implication is that saints who do evil and are unclean will not leave Egypt, that God will let them be. At some point, He won't waste any more effort on them. Yes, He will have them cast into the lake of fire—but that was their choice. He did everything but die a second time for them, and they would not give up their leeks and garlic, their BMWs and beachfront condos. They will curse God, all the while believing that they are worshiping Him through the empty Cross.

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November 29, 2003

Commentary – From the Margins *The Mating of Medium, Message, and Market*

Mid-December 1979, I returned to the mainland from Dutch Harbor, Alaska. I had sold a business on the Kenai Peninsula the previous spring, had purchased a small boat, and had fished commercially out of first Kodiak, then Dutch. I had made a little money, but I had lost everything I had left on the mainland. Acquaintances heard I had drowned at sea, and several of them had picked through possessions I had left in storage, taking whatever the person found of interest. More of what I had interested some of them than they could easily lug home, so those possessions were left piled outside in the weather. Bob Clucas learned of what had occurred, and saved as much as he could. He was really the only good guy to emerge from many friends and acquaintances.

I spent the spring of 1980 in Anchorage, without a vehicle that ran. My wife was working for the Department of Motor Vehicles, and she had to take a city bus across town, making a transfer in the downtown bus station where a newsstand offered copies of the free *Plain Truth* magazine. When she arrived in the mornings, the newsstand was empty, and the magazines that had been on the stand were in the garbage can. When she returned in the evenings, the stand had again been filled. She knew the person who was servicing the stand, and she was a little surprised when the person enthusiastically mentioned how many copies of the *Plain Truth* magazine were being distributed to the residents of Anchorage. After that, she would retrieve, if not too badly soiled, the copies that had been trashed. The distribution numbers decreased sharply, and eventually the stand was removed from the bus station.

When Jesus sent His disciples to the lost sheep of the house of Israel (Matt 10:6), He instructed them to proclaim, "The kingdom of heaven is at hand" (v. 7). They were to freely give what they had received free (v. 8). They were to acquire no gold, silver, or copper for their money belts—they were not to sell the good news committed to them—and they were to take no bag, for the laborer deserves his food (vv. 9-10).

Herbert Armstrong identified the United States and Britain as the descendants of the lost house of Israel, so it was primarily to the English-speaking world that he took the good news of the soon-coming kingdom of God. He freely distributed this good news through the massive distribution of the *Plain Truth* magazine as a follow up to his radio (and later, television) broadcasts. His focus was on the physical descendants of the northern kingdom of Israel, and on the physical arrival of Christ's Millennium reign. In fact, everything about Herbert Armstrong's work was physically focused. He had no understanding of the spiritual birth process. He utterly lacked any understanding of endtime biblical prophecies. And the tithes and offerings of a hundred-plus thousand members, along with many more co-workers, ended up in the trashcan of history. His work was tried by fire, and was consumed by a double handful of senior ministers who built spiritual homes for themselves.

The Apostle John is in vision on the Lord's day (Rev 1:10), the spiritual Sabbath or seventh day of the spiritual creation week. Seven named churches, plus an eighth co-exist, just as their visible, physical shadows co-existed along a Roman mail route through Asia Minor in the 1st-Century. These churches are not eras of one true church as has been taught within certain sects. Rather, they are contemporary collections of saints, grouped together because of states of mind. The physical characteristics of each of the physical

churches along that Roman mail route becomes descriptive of the spiritual characteristics of these seven spiritual collections of saints at the beginning of the Lord's day. All seven of these churches are Sabbath-keeping fellowships. All seven stem from reforms made to the Roman Church in the late 16th and early 17th Centuries. All seven are part of the remnant of spiritual Israel that left spiritual Babylon to rebuild the spiritual temple and the walls of spiritual Jerusalem. And without apologies being offered, I will here state that the Sabbath-keeping splinters of Herbert Armstrong's ministry constitute the spiritual church in Laodicea. This is intentionally provocative and not at all what some of those splinters want to hear, especially Gerald Flurry and Rod Meredith, both of whom head ministries producing large quantities of slick magazines that look like the old *Plain Truth* magazine. I will retrieve their magazines from trashcans if the opportunity arises. They deserved to be read before their work is discarded for being without love and without spiritual understanding.

When Jesus sent out the Twelve to the lost sheep of the house of Israel, He sent out six pairs of disciples. His physical ministry was the shadow of His endtime spiritual ministry—Christ came as His own shadow, just as Satan comes as the little horn of Daniel chapter 7, comes possessing the man of perdition, comes as the shadow of him coming as the true antiChrist when he is involuntarily cast into time to drown. And endtime Israel is the greater Christian Church. All of humanity will become Israel when the Holy Spirit is poured out upon all of flesh (Joel 2:28) when the kingdom of the world becomes the kingdom of the Most High and of His Messiah (Rev 11:15). Everyone who then endures to the end will be saved (Matt 10:22 & 24:13). This is the good news that must be proclaimed to the world as a witness to all nations before the end comes (Matt 24:14).

The physical message taken by Jesus' twelve physical disciples to the physical lost sheep of the house of Israel is that *the kingdom of heaven is at hand*. That message was taken to the world by the physically-minded Worldwide Church of God in its radio and television broadcasts, and in its printed magazines and booklets. An annual budget of multiple millions was spent to deliver this physical message to the physical descendants of the lost house of Israel.

But the endtime house of Israel is the Christian Church, not any physically identifiable descendants of the patriarch Jacob. The lost sheep of the endtime house of Israel are the billions of Christians presently in bondage to the spiritual king of Babylon. They will be liberated from their spiritual or mental bondage to sin following the second Passover slaughter of firstborns not covered by the blood of the Lamb of God. The false shepherds of these lost sheep will then try to keep these sheep from escaping the murderous Cross. The task of the six pairs of endtime disciples will be to gather as many of these sheep as will hear Christ's voice into spiritual Eden, the walls of which are the laws of God that have been written on the hearts and minds of all born-from-above disciples. And the good news that these six pairs of endtime disciples take to the lost sheep is that all who endure to the end shall be saved (Matt 24:13), for all of humanity will become Israel—and these lost sheep need to become the teachers of the other half of humanity when the world is baptized with the Holy Spirit (Matt 3:11).

Thus, the message that must be delivered to the lost sheep of Israel is Christ's words about patient endurance (combine Matt 10:22 with 24:13-14 and Rev 3:10). The market or audience is the lost sheep of spiritual Israel, or the greater Christian Church. And because the *Philadelphia Church* delivers these words of Christ to these lost sheep of spiritual Israel, Christ will keep this church from the hour of trial coming to try all who dwell on earth.

Herbert Armstrong primarily used radio to deliver his message of physical salvation to physical descendants of the northern kingdom of Israel. A person could, during the

1960s, drive across the United States, hearing his voice all night long. A person could, during the 1970s, find a *Plain Truth* magazine in most doctor offices and hospital waiting rooms. The *Plain Truth* was advertised in *Readers' Digest*, as well as in a host of other publications. In the United States, it was hard to escape hearing either Herbert Armstrong's voice, or seeing the magazine he founded. Yet his message fell on far more deaf ears than receptive ones. More magazines were thrown away unread than were ever read. Still the organization that supported his ministry continued to crank out broadcasts and booklets in its effort to take a message of physical deliverance to a largely non-responsive audience. The organization was accused of teaching a gospel of works. Certainly, the organization taught that salvation was a process, which is a major theological error. Salvation is a gift, given when a disciple receives the Holy Spirit. Disciples are called to do an out-of-season work; they are not called for salvation. They are called to proclaim a gospel. In the 1st-Century, this gospel was a message about the mighty works of Christ Jesus (1 Pet 2:9). And this is still a valid gospel that must be delivered to all peoples. But the endtime good news that must be proclaimed to the world is a message about enduring to the conclusion of the age. And this message is focused at the lost sheep of Israel who have the Holy Spirit and who are no longer hostile to God (Rom 8:7).

Radio and television broadcasts are literally just that, the wide spread sowing over a geographical area of an ephemeral message as if the messages were cast seed landing on both good soil and asphalt highways. Most of this seed will never develop. But the broadcasts go forth in hope that some crop might someday be produced. Time is purchased based upon geographical area of coverage and the physical size of the station's audience. Effectiveness becomes a numbers game—and there seems little about radio and television that isn't physical. A physical message delivered over a physical region to a physical audience at an extremely high physical price: broadcasting a religious program is expensive, especially when the message is not familiar or not a popular one.

The Internet has emerged as a targeted medium by which messages are held in abeyance until they are called forth from a search engine. The audience has an interest in the subject material in order to cause the search engine to call forth the archived files and sites. There is little wasted sowing of seed. Money isn't broadly cast into many trashcans. The area of coverage is global. The message, while still ephemeral, has the permanency of print. It isn't broadcast for a few minutes then gone as if it had never occurred. Rather, it lingers on servers' hard drives, ever ready to be called forth whenever a person is ready to receive the message. And the cost to deliver the message is minimal.

The objection to the Internet as a means of spreading the gospel is that the medium hasn't yielded much fruit for the ministries focusing on computers. But the focus of these ministries has been to use the Net as another advertising tool that directs new contacts to the ministries' print or tape disciple-development strategies. This was how Herbert Armstrong used radio, and how his derivative splinters use all ephemeral messaging. Once a person has initiated contact with the splinter, the person is directed to a geographical hub where a congregation of like-minded individuals are taught through the folly of preaching by a headquarters educated and directed minister. The person becomes, literally, a light hidden under a basket as the person severs ties with family and community in a cult-like manner.

Jesus told the Twelve to freely give what they had freely received—the Internet has emerged as a medium that celebrates giving away information. The more a disciple has to give, the more easily the disciple can be found on the Net. The disciple is rewarded for putting up information. *Spiders* find and archive that information so when a query is initiated, the search engine can direct the person to an appropriate file or site.

The spiritual *Church in Philadelphia* delivers to the lost sheep of Israel Jesus' words about patient endurance. That is its primary task. That is not all the church does, but the church will be kept from the hour of trial coming upon the world because it has done this one task well enough that Christ will make the synagogue of Satan acknowledge that Christ has loved this little-strength work from its conception.

Eventually, all of humanity will become Israel. All of humanity will need to hear that everyone who endures to the end shall be saved—they will be saved if they endure in faith, spurning the Cross and its tattoo. And when the market is ready to hear this message about patient endurance, the medium of computers and robot search engines will deliver it in a mating of uncommon efficiency. To Christ will go all the glory, which is as it should be.

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