

The Millennial Kingdom of God
--Reward of the Saints—



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Introduction

It's important to understand a difference in terminology between Kingdom of God and Millennial Kingdom of God. God is King, supreme ruler of the Kingdom of God, which at present rules over the entire universe, with the exception of earth. At one point in the distant past, even earth was under the authority of the Kingdom of God, probably administered by angels. Then Lucifer rebelled against God and drew one third of the angels into his rebellion (Revelation 12:1-3). Satan (and the demons) were thrown back to earth (Luke 10:18). God allowed Satan (Genesis 3) to become—by default—the unseen ruler of the earth (Matthew 4). As Jesus said in Luke 19, he is the “nobleman who went to a far country (heaven) to receive a kingdom and return.” Jesus is returning to assume rulership as King of the earth (Zechariah 14:9) and depose Satan as unseen ruler of the earth (Revelation 20:1-3). ***The Millennial Kingdom of God*** is the part of the Kingdom of God that will rule over human beings living on earth for the 1,000 years, spoken of in Revelation 20:4-6. It is this part of the active Kingdom of God which will rule on earth that we will be studying about. I have chosen to call this part of the Kingdom of God the Millennial Kingdom of God. That is what this book is all about. The Kingdom of God on earth, as Revelation 21 shows, will go on forever, even after the 1,000 years of Jesus' reign over physical humans is over with. At the end of Jesus' Millennial rule over humans, everyone remaining alive will be immortal spirit beings, the immortal sons and daughters of God.

Our reward, the reward of the saints is part and parcel with this soon-coming Kingdom of God which will be restored to earth when Jesus returns. Jesus said he is bringing our rewards with him. This is an in-depth study about those rewards and the Millennial Kingdom of God. As such, this study is written for the believer in Jesus Christ (Yeshua haMashiach for our Messianic believers). Even so, some non-believers may find this an interesting read (even though it's a bit long).

Another point, Eternal Life, Salvation, is a free gift, paid for by the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ. This study will reveal that our rewards are entirely different from the free gift of salvation, eternal life. One is a free gift which cannot be bought. The other must be earned. Those aren't my words, as you will read, they are the words of Jesus Christ. What we will earn as rewards is the subject of this book, going into as many facets as I possibly could extract from what the Bible reveals.

the author

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Chapter One

Why Does Jesus Need to Return?—Answer: Take an Honest Look at the Age We Live In—

Our Society: The plight of the average world citizen is deteriorating fast, especially in the 3rd world countries, as civil wars, population growth, natural and man-made food shortages leading to starvation and famines threaten his very existence. These conditions are moving around the continent of Africa with regularity now—much as William and Paul Paddock predicted they would in their book ***“Famine 1975!”*** But because a date was placed in the title and dates were mentioned in their work, their predictions were soon ignored, merely because 1975 came and went without their dire but well-researched scenario’s having come true. But now these well-researched scenario’s are starting to occur here and there, just as they said they would, some 48 years after the date on the title of their book (it’s being 2022 right now). (Do you want to get really scared? Get a copy out of your local library and read it.) Such movies as “The Day After Tomorrow” predict an ice-age triggered by global warming, which is due to global fossil fuel pollution of the atmosphere. (Another well researched scenario.) Listing some of the ways man can now kill himself off of the planet gets kind of scary, but we have too soon forgotten a lot about these weapons of mass destruction. We just don’t want to know about them, so we ignore this knowledge, hoping these evil things will never be used. (There has never been a weapon developed that hasn’t ultimately been used.)

But you might protest, “Yes, but society in the western educated nations has advanced so much. Technology combined with modern medicine have increased man’s average lifespan from the 60s to the 70s and now man’s average lifespan is reaching into the 80s. Let’s just look at this one aspect of what modern society has done. True, about the average lifespan of man. Now let’s look a little closer into our “enlightened” societies. Abortions are commonplace. Multiple millions of unborn babies will never have their “chance” to live to be 80. Those precious little boys and girls who are fortunate enough to be allowed to be born and live can no longer freely go out to play in their own yards and neighborhoods without a very watchful adult standing guard. Why? Because far too many of these precious little children are being abducted, tortured, raped, and then killed by a growing number of sexual predators. Pornographic websites are too

numerous to list or police against “child-porn” sites which hide amid multiple millions of normal adult porn sites—and this child-pornography freely available on the web keeps the ranks of these sexual predators constantly growing. Don’t believe me? Here’s some gory evidence, and this is only a very small tip of the “iceberg”, the few that get caught.

From **FOX NEWS**

“Coeur D’Alene, Idaho—An eight-year-old girl said a convicted child molester bound her family before kidnapping her and her brother;...he molested them both repeatedly...The abducted children’s mother, older brother and mother’s boyfriend were beaten to death.” Later the 9-year-old brother’s remains were positively identified through DNA testing. “Amber Alert for Nevada Girl, 8. FERNLEY, Nev. —Authorities have activated an Amber Alert for a missing 8-year-old Nevada girl. Authorities believe **Lydia Bethany-Rose Rupp** was abducted Friday night from her home in Fernley. She’s described as 4-feet 9-inches tall, 85 pounds with brown hair and brown eyes. Authorities have identified the suspect as **Fernando Agüero**, a convicted sex offender who was last seen driving a silver or blue Kia Rio with no license plates...Anyone with information was asked to call Lyon County Sheriff’s office...” **BTK Serial Killer Sentencing Hearing Underway, WICHITA, Kan.**—Confessed BTK serial killer Dennis Rader chose his first victims because he was attracted to an 11-year-old girl in the family, and he told authorities about a chilling conversation he had with her before she died, agents testified Wednesday...” BTK stands for Bind, Torture, Kill. All these articles were from months of July/August, 2005.

The institution of marriage between one man and one woman is being ruthlessly torn from its sacred and time-honored moorings by very politically active groups who hold to alternative sexual lifestyles. J.D. Unwin, a renown sociologist wrote a landmark work which studied 80 different empires and what led to their downfall. Each and every major empire/society studied lasted only one generation after conventional marriage and chastity before marriage was displaced by an attitude of “sexual freedom” and widely practiced homosexuality. Our modern “enlightened” society is on a downward spiral into the abyss. [To learn more about J.D. Unwin, look him up online. He was a liberal sociologist who was friends with Sigmund Freud, so these observations taken from his works are not from some right-wing evangelical source, he’s totally unbiased, as such, in his research.]

Oh, I almost forgot, two other related things that have contributed to the downward spiral of our society as we know it. For one, the divorce rate--one out of every two marriages end in divorce. That certainly makes for a stable home-

environment to raise kids in. Most men and women go into marriage not understanding the first thing about how relationships work. (If you're interested in learning more about happy marital relationships and how they work, log onto <http://www.howmarriageworks.com>. [Most couples, especially men, are clueless in understanding how relationships work between a man and a woman! Learn how.]) Two other contributing factors in the breakdown of the family structure are drugs and alcohol. The illegal use of drugs is rampant in our western societies. Many children that are now teens have grown up with two "crack-addict" parents, and are used to getting beat up by one or the other of the parents as they come down off their "high." Some of those innocent kids are also what is known as "crack babies", spending their nine-months inside mothers who were active "crack-addicts." Alcoholism and illegal drug use together are destroying more families and robbing more children of a proper family upbringing than any other factors today. Some of these children, now teens, have turned out OK, a powerful credit to themselves and the human spirit within them—but no credit whatsoever goes to their parents. Mankind is desperately trying to save this sick society (which isn't wrong for Christians and their organizations to "stand in the gap", and try to be the preserving "salt of the earth" as Jesus taught)—while others, both individuals and groups, sick, demented elements within our societies—are trying their very best to pull society down into the abyss of oblivion where the ancient Roman and Greek Empires, along with 78 others, lie in eternal ruins.

The society of man is clearly a mixture of genuinely good and rabidly evil, no doubt about it. It is the age-old paradox that goes back to Genesis 2:9, "...In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil." Now by what you can see all around you, which tree do you suppose Adam and Eve chose? Isn't the answer a little bit obvious? Isn't the society you're living in a mixture of good and evil? And the evil is getting more and more evil all the time.

The components that make up man's society are:

- 1. education**
- 2. science & technology**
- 3. commerce & industry**
- 4. government**

5. world religions [which I won't get into]

1. Education: Today's world is what its leaders have made it. Today's leaders are, very clearly, a direct product of modern education. Education from Plato and ancient Greece onward has always had pagan underpinnings, unseen by most, but there. Now in a Satan inspired move toward "political correctness" the Bible and the Judeo-Christian moral system it teaches is being wiped clean from our "modern educational system." Mustn't offend certain groups, so let's remove any and all Judeo-Christian moral codes from our educational system. So our educational system is more pagan than ever. Science is taught without any morality for its proper use attached to it. The arts are taught in the same manner. History is taught in a warped politically correct manner, which often disregards the true facts and lessons of history. If it were being properly taught, man wouldn't be so quick to make the same mistakes over and over and over again. And each time a lesson isn't learned, a mistake is made—and as technological advances are made, the "mistakes" grow costlier and deadlier in lives lost. Napoleon conquered a continent minus England. WWI was even worse. In WWII Hitler and Tojo conquered almost half the world before they were stopped—one with two atomic bombs. Has history been taught properly, or are we about to go for round three in this World-at-War series? Much of modern education takes its students far from the realities of this world we live in, creating a "tuned-out" generation that does not have the proper understanding to create or intelligently vote in leaders that are capable of dealing with these "realities". And when, almost as if by accident, a good leader (be he a president or prime minister) is elected, he is maligned and defamed by a very ignorant majority of that country's citizens and the media. We find ourselves living in an increasingly fearful world of political chaos, terrorism and civil war—a world divided against itself. And on the national level in our "enlightened" western nations broken homes and divorce are "normal" while happy marriages and stable families are now the rare exception. Our educational system with it's "political correctness" has helped spawn this chaotic world we live in—where good is called evil and evil is called good. 1 Corinthians 3:19, "For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight."

2. Science & Technology: Modern science and the technology it brings along with it have given us high speed transportation undreamed of before, all within the past 100 years. Radio, television, automobiles, aircraft, spacecraft. And finally, computers, getting smaller and smaller, and more and more powerful as they do so. And these computers have in turn helped scientists and engineers unlock vast new stores of scientific knowledge leading to massive new discoveries in all fields of learning and endeavor. The human genome has been mapped, totally! Dogs and sheep have been cloned! Medical science has

increased man's lifespan from the 50s to 60s to 70s and now it's approaching the 80's! But has science stopped world poverty, civil wars, famines and disease epidemics? No, these evil things are increasing in our world, not decreasing. They almost seem to be increasing along with the increase in scientific knowledge mankind is unlocking. A realistic look at the fruits of modern science and what it has given us shows it's basically being used for evil as well as good—and the evil is beginning to outweigh the good. Take computers and the Internet for example. When I was growing up (in the 1950s) pornography was limited to a few magazines, and when I wanted to see them, I had to go to Frizzle's Barber shop and reach behind the normal magazines for a tattered copy of Playboy or Hustler magazine. Sexual predators that abducted, raped and then killed young children were unheard of in the late 1950s. Now there are so many "porn sites" on the Web that regulation is impossible. Kid-porn sites are out there and growing "new crops" of sexual predators on an ever increasing basis. Computers, cars, jet aircraft, rockets, spacecraft, ships, submarines—it's what they're used for that makes any of these either good or evil. But they tend to magnify man's intended using ability far beyond what it used to be without these new things being given to us by science & technology. Science and technology have only helped magnify the power man can exert on himself and his environment and his society, whether for good or evil. Jet engines power airliners. They also power deadly cruise-missiles which can fly 1200 miles armed with a nuclear warhead, and they can be launched from a standard 21-inch torpedo tube of an old WWII rust-bucket submarine. As we found out on September 11, 2001, even innocent airliners were turned into deadly weapons. Russia and the United States now have what I term as continent-fryer submarines, the Typhoon and Ohio class Fleet Ballistic Missile submarines. Any one of these could unleash nuclear devastation (with 200 independently targeted nuclear warheads that can be launched from 20 missiles on each of these "boats", on a continent of their choosing). The Chinese have just recently built the first of this class boat, and successfully tested its three stage solid fuel submerge-launch missiles that go on this "boat." Soon they will be building more of these, along with modern nuclear and conventional fast-attack submarines. And we thought the "cold war" was over. It's started up again, but we in the U.S. refuse to take a good look at the data and current events on what's going on [see <https://unityinchrist.com/topical%20studies/America-ModernRomans5.htm>].

Science and technology recently brought amusement devices to new and undreamed of levels compared with the past. Computer-generated virtual reality and role-playing games are sweeping the world. As you can imagine some of these are pornographic. But what are these games doing? They're taking a generation of youth and young adults a step farther from understanding and dealing with the realities of life that face them in this world (not that I blame them, seeing where this world's headed right now). They don't really understand what's going on in this world because the little bit of "politically correct and

sanitized” news that they may on occasion watch, coupled to the “politically correct” little bit of history they’ve been taught cannot help them properly interpret the news they’re watching, even if they wanted to. They don’t know what they’re watching when they turn on the news or read newspapers or newsmagazines. No, the fruits of modern science and technology, as a whole, are not good in the hands of a misguided human race that has no moral foundation left. Science and technology has conferred on mankind the ability to erase all life from off this planet, not once but many times over, in at least three ways:

1. Nuclear war
2. Biological and chemical warfare
3. Global pollution (perhaps leading to and coupled to global warming [see <https://unityinchrist.com/warming/warming1.htm>]. Bible prophecy does say mankind will be responsible for killing off most of the fish in the ocean before Jesus returns. And climate change is bringing about the conditions God prophesied in Leviticus 26:19 “I will make your heaven as iron, and your earth as brass.”

3. Commerce & Industry (the twin children of science and technology): Commerce and Industry, always the children of science & technology, have given us radio, television, the telephone, computers, digital camera, and now cell-phones, which combined with digital camera and computer technology combine all of these into one hand-held device. Cell phones can now send instant photo’s of what their camera lens “see”, now in motion pictures, live. They can send and receive emails (and probably scan websites), and play games on, as well as be used as a normal portable telephone. Also on the list are laptop computers, personal computers, modern cars, jet aircraft, bullet trains, supersonic aircraft (mostly military), missiles, cruise-missiles, nuclear weapons, fleet ballistic missile submarines, any number of which could shower an unsuspecting continent with nuclear warheads with supersonic speed. All virtual reality games saw their first development and application in the military for military use. Then as far as weapons are concerned, there’s the neutron bomb, so unthinkable that it’s not mentioned anymore. It makes nuclear war thinkable and win-able. Why? How does it work? It is a conventional bomb encased in a very radioactive substance that gives off a huge amount of neutron radiation. But this material has a very short half-life. Two weeks after this weapon goes off in a city, killing all living things, but not hurting structures at all, an enemy army can march right over ground zero with no ill effects. There is no huge fireball, no danger of creating “nuclear winter” from a huge atomic or hydrogen bomb explosion which puts millions of tons of ash into the upper atmosphere per bomb. This device doesn’t do that. Just kills all living things (except perhaps the indomitable cockroach). We always look at the nice things

commerce and industry develop (and as I've shown, even these have a downside). But we have stopped looking at the real negative things they have developed (with the aid of science and technology). By the way, France and Communist China would not sign the neutron bomb treaty. Everyone else did (not to say we or the Russians don't have them).

What Drives Commerce & Industry?

Now let's look inside what drives commerce and industry. Greed, plain and simple. Almost all of commerce and industry from middle management (of almost all companies, some worse, some better) to executive level base their methods on competition (often unfair or "dirty") and plain old greed, often seen in over-marketing of a product, deceptive advertising, giving less while charging more. Looking at upper and middle management reveals selfish motives, which show total disregard for the employees under them. Sharp and cut-throat practices are often the rule in dealing with their employees, masked by the smiling, lying faces of their "Human Resources" departments, which are more astute at tap-dancing around the truth than Fred Astaire and Gene Kelly were on the dance-floor. It is really a "watchdog" department whose sole reason for being is to "protect" the company and upper management rather than to try to honestly develop their "human resources" so that they could better themselves and the company they work for at the same time. So many valuable employees and their potential skills levels have not been developed to where they ought to be, merely due to the misuse of this department, because of the unbridled greed at the top. Having under-paid and overworked employees is becoming a common practice of industry. The executives and higher level managers are getting wealthy while the average worker is getting poorer, unable to keep up with inflation. Friendly employers are becoming the exception rather than the rule, just like the "happy, divorce-free family" in our "enlightened" western democratic nations. I've worked in five different industries in my lifetime, and over the past 15 years I've noticed this overwhelming shift to the leaner-meaner, ruthless style of management that looks like it has modeled itself on the Nazi Party. Don't believe me? Look around you. (Maybe you're one of the fortunate few who haven't experienced this yet.)

Don't Think God Doesn't See

Just in case you think this is merely the ranting of some disgruntled employee, let's read what God prophesied through Amos. This was written about the practices going on in ancient Israel before they were taken captive and deported by the Assyrian Empire. Amos was a contemporary of Isaiah and actually lived in the 10 northern tribes of Israel—the House of Israel—while Isaiah lived south of him in the kingdom of Judah. God saw what was going on in Israel and had Amos write this. So don't think God doesn't see what's going on in your company. He does. **Amos 8:1-6, "This is what the Sovereign Lord showed me: a basket of**

ripe fruit. “What do you see, Amos?” he asked. ‘A basket of ripe fruit,’ I answered. Then the Lord said to me, ‘The time is ripe for my people Israel; I will spare them no longer. ‘In that day,’ declares the Sovereign Lord, ‘the songs in the temple will turn to wailing [or: the temple singers will wail]. Many, many bodies—flung everywhere! Silence!’ Hear this, you who trample the needy and do away with the poor of the land, saying, ‘When will the New Moon be over that we may sell grain, and the Sabbath be ended that we may market wheat?’—skimping the measure, boosting the price and cheating with dishonest scales, buying the poor with silver and the needy for a pair of sandals, selling even the sweepings with the wheat...” So you employers who think someone isn’t watching or doesn’t see what you’re doing, rest assured, God does. And just as God repaid Israel for her sins, which he lists here, rest assured he will do so yet again, to whomsoever is deserving and does business like this. That’s what God thinks of “modern” management. Scary, isn’t it?

‘Let’s ‘Pump up the Volume’

To quote some apropos lines from the Christian Slater movie Pump up the Volume:

“Everybody knows that the dice are loaded, everybody rolls with their fingers crossed, Everybody knows the war is over, everybody knows the good guys lost, Everybody knows the fight was fixed, the poor stay poor, the rich get rich. That’s how it goes, everybody knows; Everybody knows that the boat is leaking, everybody knows the captain lied, Everybody got this broken feeling’...Everybody knows you’ve been faithful, give or take a night or two...”

Everywhere I look it seems someone’s getting’ butt-surfed by the system; my parents are always talking’ about the system, and about the 60’s and how “cool” it was. Well look at where the 60’s got them—Huh? ‘Come on people now, smile on your brother, everybody get together, try to love one another right now.’ As far as I can see, those guys are played-out, society is mutating so rapidly that anyone over the age of 20 really has no idea...Drugs are out, sex is out, politics are out, everything’s on hold. We definitely need something new. I just keep waiting for some new voice to come out of somewhere and say “Hey! What is wrong with this picture!? Just take a look around!”

Yes, let’s take a look around. We live in a society that suppresses the truth, sometimes with lies, sometimes just by not telling us—on both sides of the political tracks, conservative and liberal. Lies and hypocrisy are the rule of the day, no matter what “truth” you consider. In politics truth is colored and shaded by the political “source” or party you chose to listen to—right, left, green, you name it. But the actual truth always lies somewhere in-between, and the truth is always larger, and more intricate than any one “version.” Big industry and

transportation, and yes, even home-heating run on cheap fossil fuel. The industrial revolution that has brought the western nations and US so much wealth and leisure has been bought using cheap fossil fuel, at the expense of our environment, and this has brought the planet as a whole to the very brink of irreversible global warming. The very worst parts of the Bible are about to be brought upon the world as a result of our over-indulgence in cheap energy and the industries that run on it.

Financial lies and hypocrisy in large companies and corporations financially suppress their workers, considering them to be mere liabilities instead of assets, as they ship their manufacturing base to poor foreign 3rd world countries. Enron was just the tip of the iceberg. The public works projects that build and maintain our highways, bridges and tunnels spend three to four times the amount it would take for a private company to do the same work. And when they do contract for private companies to do the work, graft and corruption and inferior work are always in the equation. Take Boston's Big Dig, billions of dollars worth of unsafe highways-in-tunnels, with unsafe construction leading to the death of a driver, crushed by a falling 3-ton cement ceiling slab.

And let's not forget the medical and pharmaceutical industries. Suppression of any and all natural cures and drugs (often through the legal system) so quality natural alternatives find it hard or impossible to make it onto the market, and with monopolies, prices rise continually—but health insurance limits the care you can receive while netting billions of dollars in profits. (If there were any reason for 100% socialized medicine, this is a good one.)

Let's not leave out the banks, mortgage companies and insurance companies. Banks and mortgage companies are raking in billions of dollars in interest rates which used to be illegal "loan-sharking rates", making this money off their loans, mortgages and credit cards, holding the populace financially hostage to the "easy credit" system they've created.

And what about speaking the truth? In almost any area of "truth" it is being shackled by "political correctness", which is merely one groups' way of shutting up another group (i.e. liberal vs. conservative, or liberal vs. those who believe in God, be they Christian or Jewish). Jesus spoke the truth. Jesus, Yeshua wasn't politically correct—he rocked the religious-governmental system of his day. So welcome to the Home of the Brave and Land of the Free, where large corporate companies in the U.S. work their workers like slaves at the end of every quarter, followed by a lay-off—just to boost profits by the dual method of forced increased productivity and cost cutting. Doesn't sound real? Maybe these ruthless corporate practices haven't reached you yet. One such company I worked for, a major player in technology manufacturing, went through three such "quarters" in a row, and now has instituted a "lean and mean" program aimed at further consolidation of the workforce. We just read what the Lord inspired Amos to

write, boldly condemning ancient Israel for similar practices. But what about those of us who find ourselves in New Testament times at the “end of the age”? Jesus’ brother James had some pretty stunning words to write about the time we find ourselves in. Let’s read it for ourselves. **James 5:1-5, “Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming upon you. Your wealth has rotted and moths have eaten your clothes. Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days. Look! The wages you failed to pay the workmen who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty. You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter [Margin: or “in a day of feasting.”] You have condemned and murdered innocent men, who were not opposing you.”** Verses 7-8 show this applies to us in the end times. **“Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord’s coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord’s coming is near...”** In verses 7-8 he’s talking to believers who find themselves in these circumstances just described in verses 1-5, just before the 2nd coming of Jesus, Yeshua. Another corporate practice, totally against age-discrimination laws, is the lay-off of elderly employees five or six years before their retirement age. They often find themselves “selected” for lay-off. The real reason, to hold down medical insurance premiums, as their expenses tend to be a bit higher than younger workers. The ‘60s song with the lyrics “Take care of business Mr. Business Man” applies now more than it did when I was a teen in the ‘60s. Jesus’ brother James said it all, now didn’t he. Corporate America was never pristine and pure, that’s for sure. But now it’s downright cruel and evil. When I can look at the very company I work in and see it precisely fitting what James said in James chapter 5, verses 1-5, I cannot come to any other conclusion. But the trouble is, nobody is saying anything about this evil in our society, where the rich are getting filthy rich, and everybody else is slipping across the poverty line into oblivion. We are becoming a two-class society, rich and poor. Technological advances, racing ahead at breakneck speed now, are also hurting those trying to advance or get educated. Workers trying to keep up with technology can no longer do so, technical textbooks often becoming outdated a few years after they’re printed. What kind of future can we offer our children within such a screwed up system? Many companies are multi-national now. When the cost of labor becomes too expensive in the U.S. they merely shift their manufacturing base to a 3rd world country. (Don’t think this is true? U.S. business practices being adopted by Japanese businesses are causing higher suicide rates among Japanese working males. This describes the practices my company has been putting in place for over three years now, so I know this article is true.) As manufacturing of durable goods flee overseas, job security goes out the window. Our powerful nation finds its workforce increasingly turning to the service oriented jobs. The bottom line, we’re becoming an economic 3rd world

nation ourselves. This constitutes a serious erosion of our manufacturing base. Also many products which come under the heading of “national security” are currently or will be soon manufactured in 3rd world countries who’s loyalty to our national security and defense is suspect at best (Communist China, just to name one). Our nation has always been a nation which has championed the cause of the poor and oppressed. Soon we will not only not be able to help others, but we will ourselves become the oppressed and poor. National collective sin, corporate greed, lust, decay of family and core sexual values are the root cause of our coming national demise. Corporate America is helping to kill our nation economically, eroding the financial base of U.S. workers and the things they manufacture—just as the sexual sins of our people are eroding the health and structure of our families. Can we survive? Bible prophecy shows a powerful dictatorial power is to come out of Europe, and that this power will try to rule the world for a short time [see https://unityinchrist.com/prophecies/2ndcoming_4.htm]. The eastern powers, perhaps Russia (and maybe China) will oppose this power. But nothing is mentioned about our survival. Evidently this dictatorship in Europe will succeed where Hitler failed. Then after three and a half years of this, Jesus Christ will come to put down this evil power. But evidently America as a nation doesn’t survive. We’ll read about Jesus’ return in the next chapter. But understand Corporate America’s hand in all of this. They’re economically killing the very people that made them and America strong.

So in the final analysis, what has Commerce & Industry bestowed on the “free world” through the miracle of its Industrial Revolution? NASA’s top climatologist has told us, based on his calculations (and his calculations have been time-tested over 25 years and found to be very accurate), **we have less than 10 years to turn around our dumping of massive amounts of CO2 into the atmosphere, or else planet Earth will go into irreversible global warming. (Currently, 3.5 billion tons of CO2 are being added to our atmosphere every year that are not able to be “scrubbed” back out by the earth’s natural CO2 scrubber systems, as shown in the September 2004 National Geographic Magazine.)** The modern industrial revolution, based entirely on cheap coal, oil, gasoline and natural gas has bestowed upon us the gift of bringing on the ultimate environmental destruction of the planet—bringing on the scary scenario of Matthew 24:7 and Amos 4:6-8. There is no way, even if the U.S., England and Europe stopped all fossil fuel emissions could we turn the rise in CO2 around. Why? Because China, India and all the other 3rd world countries, wanting a piece of the affluence pie are racing to industrialize, and give all their citizens the cars, vehicles, and creature comforts which cheap fuel consumption bring. To read more on this subject log onto <http://www.unityinchrist.com/warming/warming1.htm>. To quote the teenage DJ of that clandestine radio in the popular movie Pump Up The Volume “I don’t find it exactly cheerful to be living in the middle of a totally exhausted decade where there’s nothing to look forward to and no one to look up to [belch]...

that was deep.” He couldn’t have better described our decade, the decade our children are being raised in, when he said that over his clandestine radio. Isn’t it time for us Christians to Pump Up The Volume about where we’re headed, and offer society an invitation from Jesus to be the leaders in a better world, coming soon to planet Earth? (Secret: an effective way for us Christians to Pump Up The Volume is found in Chapter 8 of this book.)

4. Governments: The modern world we live in has produced three more-or-less new forms of government, two of which have their roots in ancient Greece and Rome.

A. The French and U.S. republics. A republic is not a pure democracy, but representatives are elected which make the laws and rule for the majority that put them in office. The economic structure is pure capitalist. Most services such as healthcare and other functions are paid for by the individual.

B. British and Swedish limited monarchy, similar to the republican form of government in that they also have usually two elected houses that legislate or create laws, and a Prime Minister similar to our President. These two are socialist governments in that the government taxes the public from 60 up to 95 percent of their income and public services and healthcare are all free. Capitalism does function in these countries, but in a modified way.

C. Communism. The first two forms were democratic, guaranteeing the freedom of its subjects or citizens. This one is dictatorial. There are about four or five Communist dictatorships in the world. Communist China, Vietnam, North Korea, Cambodia and Myanmar (formerly Burma). Citizens in Communist countries have little or no rights or freedoms, and absolutely no say in how they’re governed, sometimes ruthlessly. Communist countries economically are socialist, but their economies are controlled from the top down by the government.

The weakness of the western democracies is something the founding fathers of the United States pondered over long and hard before choosing. And they knew what the basic overall weakness of the republican form of government they ultimately designed and chose. It is the identical weakness the early Roman and Greek empires had. As the population morally degenerated over time (often over hundreds of years), they continuously elected people who would pass or legislate laws which further allowed for their degenerate lifestyles, until finally Rome (and Greece before it) collapsed from within.

What Brought These New Forms of Government Into the World We Know Today?

The Meaning of Modern History: I grew up during the 1950s and 1960s. I and my playmate were constantly pre-occupied with building bomb-shelters to protect us and our families (and all the spare girls in the neighborhood—we were boys) from the big nuclear bomb we all thought the Soviet Russians were going to drop on Boston. We'd dig a four-foot by four-foot square, and dig this dangerous pit down to a depth of five to six feet. We never got deeper than that, and it's amazing we never buried ourselves. The sides never collapsed with us in them. We grew up in the era of "the Bomb", when we all sincerely believed the world was going to end in a giant nuclear confrontation between Soviet Russia and America. We all knew that if one of those Soviet 50 kiloton baby's hit Boston, everything within Route 128 was toast, fried beyond all recognition. And we were only 9 years old at the time. Later I joined the US Submarine Service, and became a part of that huge naval cat-and-mouse game all our submarines took part in. The whole world was aligned with either the United States, or Soviet Russia, with very few genuinely neutral nations. Within a short walking distance of my neighborhood, on top of Belmont Hill, was a US Army anti-aircraft battery, 9 years after World War II ended. Soviet Russia was trying to export it's form of government, often, we were told, forcefully and through subversive methods. We never gave a thought as to why these two great powers with their two divergent forms of government had locked military horns and were vying for world domination. We just knew that it was so, never giving a thought as to why. I vividly remember Nikita Khrushchev taking his shoe off in the U.N. building and banging it on his desk, and saying "We will bury you!". (I came closer to getting buried in my own half-dug bomb-shelter!) I grew up to all this, but never understood what had brought the world to be this way. Then recently I found an amazing short history book, written by a war correspondent during WWII. The book was full of insight and not just straight reporting. What follows is what I learned from this insightful book.

Was Communism wrong? What brought it on?

Communism is like a national version of a labor union that comes in and offers the workers of a big fat-cat company more equality in wages and opportunity. When a nation has a few fat-cats, a small and wealthy upper class, while the majority live in abject poverty, communism although a very poor substitute for a fair democracy within a free-market society, offers educational equality, and thus a degree of equality of financial opportunity and advancement, based on performance to some degree. A peasant in Czarist Russia had no opportunity for education and advancement, while the Soviet Communist system offered a fair degree of equality in education and thus advancement. A peasant could become a skilled worker, or work his way up to general in the army, based

on performance. But the communist system, like all human systems, was prone to corruption at the top. Communism, just like labor unions, stifle true advancement. Just as a labor union can destroy a company's ability to make a profit, so communism can cripple a nation's productivity. Although both communism and labor unions level the playing field for the individual under them, they destroy personal incentive. But when a company ceases to offer true advancement in skills and wages, the labor union becomes the least of the two evils, and so it is with nations as well. So now let's look at the national picture. Take China at the beginning of World War II, under the able leadership of Chiang Kai-shek. Only problem was his political party that ran the country was a dictatorship. 99 percent of all Chinese were dirt poor, poverty stricken, had no medical services available to them, and worked under back-braking labor conditions. "When Chiang Kai-shek visited India he threw a bombshell in the shape of a farewell statement which was utterly unexpected by the British officials. The Generalissimo urged the British to give the Indian people "real political power" as speedily as possible, so that they might "thus realize that their participation in the war is not merely an aid to the anti-aggression nations for the securing of victory but also a turning-point in their struggle for India's freedom." [*They Shall Not Sleep*, p. 207] Chiang Kai-Shek realized what India needed, but failed to speedily implement the same recommendation in China. "All of the Asiatic peoples, approximating no less than one third of humanity, are asking themselves what the Anglo-American spokesmen mean when they talk of freedom and democracy." [ibid. p.206] Four years after WWII, Communism swept the whole huge nation of China under Mao Zedong, over one fifth of the world's population. Is it any wonder? Communism under the Bolsheviks swept Czarist Russia in 1917 for the same reasons. The British colonial system collapsed in Burma and India, much as it did around the world, just after WWII, due to the excessive mining of national resources from these countries, without any subsequent betterment of the citizens within those countries. And Vietnam, same thing. Let's take a look at what Leland Stowe wrote in "***They Shall Not Sleep,***" pp. 137-138, par. 1-2, and 1 resp. "***During more than one hundred years enormous fortunes were reaped in Burma by the British. Burma has produced and still produces fabulous wealth in oil, teakwood, tin, silver, rubber, and rice. It is extremely difficult to find traces of this great native Burma wealth in the lot and the lives of more than 14,000,000 Burmese natives. You do not find well-built and attractive schools in Burma's towns and villages. You do not find many hospitals or clinics. You do not find anything much that is halfway modern except what has been built for the use of white men, with the exception of a few missionary schools, mostly financed by American church groups. The vast natural wealth of Burma, like a large part of the natural wealth of Mexico and the Central and South American countries, has been drawn out of the country for the enrichment of a small band of foreign capitalists who have no other interest in the land and the people who are the source of their fortunes....In Soviet Russia, covering one sixth***

of the earth's surface, the gold and silver and tin mines, coal and minerals and oilfields, the forests and railroads and factories of production, all belong to the state. This new kind of state may develop and exploit these great basic riches well or badly. Nevertheless the people hold the title of ownership. No small group of individuals may stake out and own any of these things. The people's title of ownership may be partly on paper as yet. But the people of the Soviet Union have got an idea. The idea is not on paper. It is in a much more fertile spot. It is in their heads. The world of the Russians didn't used to be like this at all. The world of the Chinese and of India too, quivers in unprecedented ferment. In each of these great crowded lands the ferment has produced an idea--nationalism." "India was merely a duplicate of Burma on a much greater scale." [ibid. p 175] "I was talking one day with an American army colonel who had visited Indian coal mines. 'Did you know those mines are paying about forty per cent dividends to the British shareholders?' he asked. 'Well, I saw Indian women down there--some of them pregnant women--carrying baskets of coal on their heads all day. Do you know what they get paid? Four annas a day--just about four American cents a day! Do you think those people are going to be much worried about the Japs taking over India? Well, that's what we're up against.' Sometimes I met Indians who spoke bitterly of the "master folk." They were not talking about Hitler and his Herrenvolk. They were referring to those near at hand who treated almost all dark-skinned people as "bearers" and who owed their position and wealth to the exploitation of India's riches and her people." [ibid. p.177, par. 2-3] Leland Stowe wrote this in 1944. That nationalism "in each of these great crowded lands" took whatever form that would offer their people freedom from what they had been experiencing before, even if it turned out to be a communist dictatorship. America, like the British, had an unsavory flavor of capitalism, which most of these people were all too familiar with. Burma, now called Myanmar, is now a communist state. Any wonder? China, as mentioned before, went communist in four short years after the end of WWII. The French tried to march in and re-install their colonial system of economic exploitation in South East Asia right after WWII. Ho Chi Min was U.S. Marine trained to fight the Japanese during WWII. He begged President Eisenhower to intervene. Ike said he and the U.S. had to stay neutral, so Ho Chi Min asked Russia for help, and brought Communism to first North Vietnam, and then South Vietnam. Laos and Cambodia are Communist as well. Time for us to put things into the proper perspective of real, un-slanted, unbiased history.

Rule of thumb

Historic rule of thumb: Whenever a large segment of people in the world, no matter what country they're a part of, suffers from lack of educational and economic opportunity for their own betterment and advancement, that nation or group of people is ripe for another system to take over which offers them better

opportunities than they presently have, even if that system is totalitarian, and not so perfect. Often you see this same problem within large companies. They pay their workers barely enough to keep them under control and make them feel like they're pretty well off by song & dance propaganda, dished out at company meetings and social events. Their employee profit-sharing is also an illusion compared to executive and upper-level management profit-sharing programs within the same company. Upper level management make obscene profits. Lose your job and stay unemployed for too long, you lose your house, your car, whatever has been bought on long-term credit, which is the only way you can afford what they pay for with cash. They lose their jobs, they lose nothing. Nations are really no different from companies. They contain a mixed society of workers who are working to support themselves and their families. Socialism will sweep a country for the very same reasons as a communist system will, but stops short of dictatorship. Financially the playing field has been leveled by cradle-to-grave medical and insurance services that the ordinary citizen would have to pay for out-of-pocket in a free-market democracy that is not socialist. Socialism can take over a country by degrees, often gradually, and a nation can stop anywhere in the process. Officials are democratically elected. So the sweep of communist systems and governments that were spreading around the globe right after WWII has to be viewed in the light of the abject poverty and lack of economic opportunity for the citizens of those countries to achieve any other way. The people in so many of these countries didn't want to revert to the status quo which had been holding them back for so many years. So they called in the "labor union" of governmental systems, to level the playing field for them. My father worked for a decent company, at least it was decent to it's employees for a long time. Nearing his retirement, he admitted to me (and he was a manager that hated labor unions), "Pete, United Carr is starting to deserve to have a labor union to come in." Companies, nations, it's no different. Look at Ethiopia. Under Haile Selasi the citizens lived in abject poverty, filth and squalor. That elderly leader, who could trace his lineage back to king Solomon of Israel, was killed in an uprising that brought a communist government to power in Ethiopia. Any wonder? I grew up in the 50's and 60's, and I finally realized why the world I grew up in was the way it was. The British empire had collapsed, and England itself had become a socialist government, as most of Europe had as well. China fell to communism in 1949, and the United States found itself locked in a "cold war" with Soviet Russia, which was "marketing" its form of government to those nations which had become sick and tired of being exploited by mercantile fat-cats of the free-market democratic countries of the west. Most people never bother to stop and analyze the times they grew up in. I always wondered about the period of time through World War II, up to 1989. Then I read a fine historic book written by a war reporter, Leland Stowe, written during World War II. His book asked the same questions, as he witnessed the rise and fall of empires and social systems that had become rotten on the vine, ready to fall. Many of his predictions came true, five, ten years after his book was published in 1944.

Let's analyze this

Let's analyze this a bit. The ultimate cause of wars is a genuine lack of love and outgoing concern by those who **have** toward those who **have not**. Wars and the rise of socialist or communist governments brought on by war are caused by the amassing of wealth amongst a very few, with very little outgoing concern or sharing in an intelligent manner that would help raise the base-line of well-being for all those below. So far, mankind has not devised a form of government that does that, one that guarantees equality of opportunity and financial well-being for all. This magical "utopian" form of government has eluded mankind, simply because basic human nature runs contrary to those altruistic motives. Mankind for six thousand years of recorded history has not found such a government that for any appreciable period of time has given it's citizens this opportunity. In the end, in the final analysis, it is the rich in each system of government that get richer, while the poor get poorer. Even in our "fair democracy" under the "free enterprise" system, we can see economic stratification becoming more and more pronounced, with the middle class becoming an upper-level poor class, which could bring on strong pressures from this expanding "poor class" to vote a socialist ticket, or for the political party that will help usher in socialism. Looking at our new "global economy", we see it does not foster educational and economic growth opportunities for the have-not nations either. As a matter of fact, our new "global economy" is not really new at all. This "new global economy" fosters a very similar mercantile system which the British used, and one which the United States had in South America, one which "mines" wealth without helping the "miners." [see <https://unityinchrist.com/topical%20studies/America-ModernRomans4.htm>] Now let's look at the poor Arab citizens (poor, even in oil-rich countries), held under dictatorial powers for centuries, and economic exploitation under the British colonial system during the past century. They're being sold a bill of goods, the average Muslim, that fundamental Islam will level the playing field. Will it? Or is it another totalitarian response to these age-old problems? Nations and ideologies clash in wars and global wars, yes, world wars, when enough of these unmet needs of humanity build up. How do the "poor and oppressed" vote in "labor union" type governments? It's been said "A bullet is more effective than a vote." We have already witnessed how Communist type governments got swept into power. But don't forget, the men and women that fill their armies are those who are the "poor and oppressed", it is they who have no choice but to vote with bullets. Lenin's soldiers, Mao's soldiers, Ho Chi Min's soldiers, Myanmar's soldiers, Ethiopia's soldiers, all destitute, all poor without hope under the system of governments they lived under.

Can we go on like this?

Build-up of armaments and the spread of them to promote the various governmental systems that offer relief have brought the world to a level of

possessing an arsenal of global-killer proportions. So now we find that the world has reached a period of time where war itself has become dangerously unthinkable, considering the nuclear fire-power that can be unleashed. All this is due to the lack of a proper governmental system that can meet the needs of all mankind, a government of love and outgoing concern, of justice and mercy. Will we ever see such a government under mankind? It's doubtful. We're more than likely to see another round in the series of World Wars we've gone through during the 20th century. Jesus said in Matthew 24 that if he did not return to put an end to the next World War, no flesh would be saved alive. But the Bible promises that he will return, just in time. As Old Testament prophecies indicate, a mere 10 percent of the present world population will be left alive when he returns, which has been the assessment of military men for years for the next World War. Will Jesus set up the government that mankind has been desperately seeking over the past 6,000 years? The Bible says he will. Want to learn more about this amazing coming government, and the time of peace and universal prosperity it will usher in? Keep on reading. In the following chapters the whole Millennial Kingdom of God will be explained.

Recommended reading: ***“They Shall Not Sleep”***, by Leland Stowe, available on <http://www.amazon.com> as a used book, published and printed 1944.

[Oh, by the way, if it weren't for the incredible sacrifice of the Soviet Union in soldiers and civilians, during the first two years of WWII, from 1941 to 1942, we Americans may well be speaking German today. The Soviet Union absorbed and blunted 200 crack German divisions and brought them to a total standstill within those two bloody years, with almost no outside help whatsoever. They lost an estimated 5 million soldiers and 10 million civilians within the first two years of battle. The battle and victory at Stalingrad was the crowning glory of this effort, with the encirclement and subsequent surrender of General Paulus's 6th German Army (600,000 soldiers) at Stalingrad. The recent movie *“Enemy At the Gates”* is a pretty accurate portrayal of Stalingrad during this period of time. *Was the “Cold War” an unnecessary waste of time, men and materials?* Why did the Soviets firmly believe they needed a “buffer zone” between themselves and Western Europe? Who was the Premier in power right after Stalin during the period of the 1950's? Answer: Nikita Khrushchev. He was in Stalingrad during that key battle, and is portrayed in that movie mentioned above. I remember Nikita taking his shoe off and banging it on his desk in the U.N., saying “We will bury you!” He was quite a character. But most of all, he wanted security and peace for the Soviet people who had suffered so badly in World War II, blunting the German offensive while our forces were still in their diapers and not ready to defend ourselves or the world, for that matter. Again, see <https://unityinchrist.com/topical%20studies/America-ModernRomans1.htm>]

***What Mankind Needs Is a One-World
Government: But in the hands of man a one-
world government is not to be desired, nor is it
possible***

The following excerpt is taken from Albert Einstein's **A MESSAGE TO INTELLECTUALS**, from the message to the Peace Conference of Intellectuals at Wroclaw, never delivered, but released to the press on August 29, 1948:

“We meet today, as intellectuals and scholars of many nationalities, with a deep and historic responsibility placed upon us. We have every reason to be grateful to our French and Polish colleagues whose initiative has assembled us here for a momentous objective: to use the influence of wise men in promoting peace and security throughout the world. This is the age-old problem with which Plato, as one of the first, struggled so hard: to apply reason and prudence to the solution of man's problems instead of yielding to atavist and passions.

By painful experience we have learned that rational thinking does not suffice to solve the problems of our social life. ***Penetrating research and keen scientific work have often had tragic implications for mankind, producing, on the one hand, inventions which liberated man from exhausting physical labor, making his life easier and richer; but on the other hand, introducing a grave restlessness into his life, making him a slave to his technological environment, and---most catastrophic---creating the means for his own mass destruction. This, indeed, is a tragedy of overwhelming poignancy!*** [emphasis mine throughout]

However poignant that tragedy is, it is perhaps even more tragic that, while mankind has produced many scholars so extremely successful in the field of science and technology, we have been for a long time so inefficient in finding adequate solutions to the many political conflicts and economic tensions which beset us. No doubt, the antagonism of economic interests within and among nations is largely responsible to a great extent for the dangerous and threatening condition in the world today. Man has not succeeded in developing political and economic forms of organization which would guarantee the peaceful coexistence of the nations of the world. He has not succeeded in building the kind of system which would eliminate the possibility of war and banish forever murderous instruments of mass destruction.

We scientists whose tragic destination has been to help in making the methods of annihilation more gruesome and more effective, must consider it our solemn and transcendent duty to do all in our power in preventing those weapons from being

used for the brutal purpose for which they were invented. What task could possibly be more important for us? What social aim could be closer to our hearts? That is why this Congress has such a vital mission. We are here to take counsel with each other. ***We must build spiritual and scientific bridges linking the nations of the world. We must overcome the horrible obstacles of national frontiers.***

In the smaller entities of community life, man has made some progress toward breaking down anti-social sovereignties. This is true, for example, of life within cities and, to a certain degree, even of the society within individual states. In such communities tradition and education have had a moderating influence and have brought about tolerable relations among peoples living within these confines. But in relations among separate states complete anarchy still prevails. I do not believe that we have made any genuine advance in this area during the last few thousand years. All too frequently conflicts among nations are still being decided by brutal power, by war. The unlimited desire for ever greater power seeks to become active and aggressive wherever and whenever the physical possibility offers itself.

Throughout the ages, this state of anarchy in international affairs has inflicted indescribable suffering and destruction upon mankind; again and again it has deprived the development of men, their souls and their well-being. At times it has almost annihilated whole areas.

However, the desire of nations to be constantly prepared for warfare has, in addition, still other repercussions upon the lives of men. The power of every state over its citizens has grown steadily during that last few hundred years, no less in countries where the power of the state has been exercised wisely, than in those where it has been used for brutal tyranny. The function of the state to maintain peaceful and ordered relations among and between its citizens has become increasingly complicated and extensive largely because of the concentration and centralization of the modern industrial apparatus. In order to protect its citizens from attacks from without a modern state requires a formidable, expanding military establishment. In addition, the state considers it necessary to educate its citizens for the possibilities of war, an "education" not only corrupting to the soul and spirit of the young, but also adversely affecting the mentality of adults. No country can avoid this corruption. It pervades the citizenry even in countries which do not harbor outspoken aggressive tendencies. ***The state has thus become a modern idol whose suggestive power few men are able to escape.***

Education for war, however, is a delusion. The technological developments of the last few years have created a completely new military situation. [two years before this was written, two atomic bombs were dropped, one over Hiroshima, the other over Nagasaki. Einstein was the very man who

wrote President Roosevelt recommending immediate start of the Manhattan Project because the Germans were working on nuclear weapons research. This man, this brilliant physicist knows more about nuclear power and weapons than we could accumulate in a lifetime. He worked out the theory of relativity in his own head, and he was almost totally correct in most of it. Let him continue.] ***Horrible weapons have been invented, capable of destroying in a few seconds huge masses of human beings and tremendous areas of territory. Since science has not yet found protection from these weapons, the modern state is no longer in a position to prepare adequately for the safety of its citizens.***

How, then, shall we be saved? ***Mankind can only gain protection against the danger of unimaginable destruction and wanton annihilation if a supranational organization has alone the authority to produce or possess these weapons. It is unthinkable, however, that nations under existing conditions would hand over such authority to a supranational organization unless the organization would have the legal right and duty to solve all the conflicts which in the past have led to war. The functions of individual states would be to concentrate more or less upon internal affairs; in their relation with other states they would deal only with issues and problems which are in no way conducive to endangering international security.*** [Albert Einstein has just described what mankind needs, along with the impossibility of mankind bringing this supranational government about for himself. He has just described the need for the 2nd coming of Jesus Christ to set up this supranational government, the Government of God, upon the earth over mankind. Albert continues:]

Unfortunately, there are no indications that governments yet realize that the situation in which mankind finds itself makes the adoption of revolutionary measures a compelling necessity. Our situation is not comparable to anything in the past. It is impossible, therefore, to apply methods and measures which at an earlier age might have been sufficient. We must revolutionize our thinking, revolutionize our actions, and must have the courage to revolutionize relations among the nations of the world. Clichés of yesterday will no longer do today, and will, no doubt, be hopelessly out of date tomorrow. To bring this home to men all over the world is the most important and most fateful social function intellectuals have ever had to shoulder. Will they have enough courage to overcome their own national ties to the extent that is necessary to induce the peoples of the world to change their deep-rooted national traditions in a most radical fashion?

A tremendous effort is indispensable. ***If it fails now, the supranational organization will be built, but then it will have to be built upon the ruins of a large part of the now existing world. Let us hope that the abolition of the existing international anarchy will not need to be bought by a self-inflicted world catastrophe the dimensions of which none of use can***

possibly imagine. The time is terribly short. We must act now if we are to act at all.

Have we acted, since Professor Einstein wrote this in 1948? Or have major world powers become more unstable, and the weapons more unimaginable in power and destructiveness? Should World War III start, Einstein's predictions will come true. Jesus Christ will have to come back, or else mankind will annihilate himself. And Bible prophecy shows Jesus does return, just in the nick of time, and he will install his supranational government on top of the rubble of the modern society we have just taken a cold, hard look at.

5. There is an unseen cause of the world's troubles: God says human nature is basically evil. **Jeremiah 17:9, "The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?" KJV: "The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked: who can know it?" Romans 8:7, "the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so." KJV: "Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be."** The word "carnal" just means, normal unconverted mind, a mind in whom the Spirit of God does not dwell. 1 Corinthians 2:11-12 explains a Bible truth even some Christians are not totally aware of. There are basically two levels of understanding the human mind is capable of. Man, without the indwelling Holy Spirit of God merely has human intelligence which is given to him or her via the "spirit of man" which God places in every human being (probably at conception). Paul makes mention of this truth in **1st Corinthians 2:11a**, which says, **"For who among men knows the thoughts of man except the man's spirit within him."** The thoughts of a man are exponentially higher than a dolphin's or ape's, who have the same basic brain in physical make-up and hardwiring. But a dolphin, or ape cannot understand such things as geometry, algebra, trigonometry, astronomy, physics, mathematics, the arts, literature, nor can they use all this knowledge to create new things out of matter. Man alone is a creature that creates new things with the physical matter of the earth. A cow, dog, pig, ape, or dolphin cannot do this. But the same level of ignorance between a carnal, unconverted mind, a mind with only "spirit of man" in it—exists between this carnal mind and a mind indwelt by the Holy Spirit of God. Paul makes this comparison in **verses 11-12 of 1st Corinthians 2. Verses 11-12, "For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us."** i.e. the human mind with only the human spirit in it is basically clueless to the spiritual knowledge of God found in the Bible. Such a person can read the Bible all day long and not make heads or tails of it, no matter how hard they try. But there's

something else about this human spirit within every human's mind that makes it different, and explains why this world is the way it is. In Genesis 2:19 Adam was not hostile to God (even though he only possessed this human spirit). But in Genesis 3 and 4, a hostility took over in the race of man, right after Genesis 3 where Satan got to mankind through Adam and Eve. Babies are not born with the evil type human nature described in Jeremiah 17:9, but they acquire it over time. Satan's unseen influence is broadcast into the air on this planet much like radio and television signals are propagated in the airwaves. **2 Corinthians 11:3, states, "But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ."** How does Satan get "into" the human spirit—the "spirit in man"? **Ephesians 2:1-2 says, "As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient."** KJV almost says it a little more clearly revealing how Satan works. Let's read it again in the KJV. **Ephesians 2:1-2, "And you, who were dead in trespasses and sins; wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now worketh in the children of disobedience."** How clear, Satan broadcasts in the air, right straight into the spirit in man. Is there any example where a man was communicated to via his human spirit, had a thought placed into his mind via his human spirit? Yes, king Cyrus. God broadcast a message into Cyrus' mind, a non-believing Gentile king whom God wanted to communicate a message to. Satan broadcasts in attitudes of wrath and hatred and these attitudes bear a certain fruit, listed in **Galatians 5:19-21, "The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like..."** That is the fruit Satan's invisible broadcast bears in mankind, always pulling man and his world downward. The Holy Spirit leads the human mind to bear a different type of fruit: **"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."** But most of the world—all of the world outside the body of Christ—is bearing the other kind of fruit. Just as man can acquire the divine nature (2 Peter 1:4), mankind as a whole has acquired Satan's nature. Utopia **cannot** exist until human nature is changed. The arrival of Jesus Christ, Yeshua haMeshiach, on earth will not, of and by itself change human nature. It will take one other major event after the 2nd coming of Jesus.

Chapter 2

Before the Millennial Kingdom of God can be established, two things must occur

1. The 2nd Coming of Jesus Christ: Why will Jesus have to return, you may ask (assuming you really didn't believe much of the last chapter)? I mean, we're doing such a good job of taking care of ourselves on this planet, why would Jesus need to come back, right? Prophecy does indicate that mankind will get mixed up in a World War so deadly that Jesus will have to return just to stop mankind from killing himself (and all life) off the planet entirely. Good enough reason? But he's coming back for another reason as well. He's bringing his reward with him, the true reward of the saints. Now if you think the gift of eternal life is our reward, you are somewhat misinformed in your understanding of Scripture. We are given salvation, eternal life as a free gift, along with unmerited pardon for our sins. But our reward is something entirely different. Jesus was trying to explain this concept to his listeners and disciples at the house of Zacchaeus. Let's see what Jesus had to say.

Jesus Is Coming With Our Rewards

While Jesus was at the house of Zacchaeus he told all the people gathered a parable. By the way verse 11 is worded this is not talking (nor is the parable) about how God establishes his kingdom of light in our hearts and minds by filling us with the Holy Spirit. This is talking about the establishment of the Millennial Kingdom of God physically and supernaturally on this earth at Jesus' 2nd coming. Let's read **Luke 19:11-27**. **"While they were listening to this, he went on to tell them a parable, because Jerusalem was near and the people thought the kingdom of God was going to appear at once. He said: 'A man of noble birth went to a distant country to have himself appointed king and then return. So he called ten of his servants and gave them ten minas [a minas was about three month's wages]. 'Put this money to work,' he said, 'until I come back.' But his subjects hated him and sent a delegation after him to say, 'We don't want this man to be our king.' He was made king, however, and returned home. Then he sent for the servants to whom he had given the money, in order to find out what they had gained with it. The first one came and said, 'Sir, your mina has earned ten more.' 'Well done, my good servant!' his master replied. 'Because you have been trustworthy in a very small matter, take charge of ten cities.' The second came and said, 'Sir, your mina has earned five more.' His master answered, 'You take charge over five cities.' Then another servant came and said, 'Sir, here is your mina; I have kept it laid away in a piece of cloth. I was afraid of you, because you are a hard man. You take out what you did not put in and reap what you did not sow.' His master replied, 'I will judge you by your own**

words, you wicked servant! You knew, did you, that I am a hard man, taking out what I did not put in, and reaping what I did not sow? Why then didn't you put my money on deposit, so that when I came back, I could have collected it with interest?' Then he said to those standing by, 'Take his mina away from him and give it to the one who has ten minas.' 'Sir,' they said, 'he already has ten!' He replied, 'I tell you that to everyone who has, more will be given, but as for the one who has nothing, even what he has will be taken away. But those enemies of mine who did not want me to be king over them—bring them here and kill them in front of me.'" So the average believer in Jesus, Yeshua, will be given rule over whole cities at Jesus' return! Our reward which Jesus is bringing with him is also spelled out in **Revelation 2:26** where Jesus said, **"To him who overcomes and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations—'He will rule them with an iron scepter; he will dash them to pieces like pottery'—just as I have received authority from my Father."** Being given authority over cities and nations is a reward, *not* a gift. Jesus earned the authority he now has, even though it was his to take anyway as part of the God-head. Obeying God isn't a work's trip, to be sure. Most of the power to overcome comes from God through his Holy Spirit he places within us. But what we do with that opportunity to grow and serve others, proclaiming the gospel both verbally and in print, and being a light by helping those less fortunate than ourselves will determine our reward. Whatever we do in that area in this lifetime of ours will determine our reward when Jesus returns. Don't bury that mina in the ground or wrap it up in a napkin! This isn't the only place Jesus brought out this point. Let's read **Matthew 16:27**, which says, **"For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done."** The context of Matthew 16:24-27 is being totally committed in our service to Jesus Christ—an active giving of ourselves in service to the Lord, wherever he leads us. Sometimes all we can give is money, say to short-term missions when such a huge disaster as hurricane Katrina broke the levees in New Orleans, where we can actually volunteer a week, two, maybe more in actual service to those in need, right on location, as some churches are doing. This is being a light to the world, and it is noticed by the world. To obtain some ideas towards unified giving, log onto <http://www.unityinchrist.com/missionstatement.htm>.

In Acts 1:9-11, Jesus rose to heaven, going to that far country in the parable. His enemies that didn't want him king soon died in the first Jewish war with Rome in 70AD, when Jerusalem and the temple were burned by a white-hot raging fire. The whole neighborhood of the high priest was devastated with intense fire which blackened stone (this section of ancient Jerusalem has been excavated by archeologists). **Acts 1:9-11**, **"After he had said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. 'Men of Galilee,' they said, 'why do you stand here**

looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.” Now we await that “nobleman’s” return with his reward which he brings with him. Isn’t that exciting! Jesus gave us a parable promising us a tangible reward for our efforts, on top of his free gift of salvation-- eternal life! As we read on, we’ll see that this reward isn’t some willy-nilly, pie in the sky promise, but something that’s real, something that’s coming back with Jesus! Now let’s learn more about Jesus’ return to earth, what it will be like and how it will occur.

‘Blowing Of The Seventh Trumpet, Time Of 1st Resurrection to Immortality—And The Wedding Feast Of The Lamb’

Matthew 24:27-31, “For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will the coming of the Son of Man. Wherever there is a carcass, there the vultures gather. Immediately after the stress of those days ‘the sun will be darkened, the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky and the heavenly bodies will be shaken [cf. Isaiah 13:10; Isa. 34:4].” Now why will the sun be darkened? The returning Jesus, Yeshua will be glowing with such intensity that the stars, sun and moon’s light will be blanked out. Just as the intensity of starlight is overpowered by the intensity of the sun at sunrise, so the glowing fiery appearance of Jesus will overpower the stars, sun and moon at his coming. They will still be shining, you just won’t be able to see them, just like you can’t see the stars when the sun rises in the morning. Let’s continue, **verses 30-31, “At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory. And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, and from one end of heaven to the other.”** This, as verse 31 says, is happening “with a loud trumpet call”. This is the 7th Trumpet of Revelation 11:15-19. Let’s read that. **Revelation 11:15-19, “The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: ‘The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ [Christ = anointed, in context here, that’s us folks!], and he will reign forever.’ And the twenty-four elders, who were seated on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshipped God, saying, ‘We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign. The nations were angry; and your wrath has come. The time has come for judging the dead, and for rewarding your servants the prophets and your saints and those who reverence your name, both small and great—and for destroying those who destroy the earth.’ Then God’s temple in heaven was opened, and within his temple was seen the ark of his covenant. And there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake and a great hailstorm.”** i.e. there are seven trumpet blasts, and at the end of the 7th

trumpet blast are seven plagues poured out on man (these 7 last plagues may be poured out over a period of four months). The last plague is when another much larger earthquake occurs. It is the same event triggered by Jesus stepping onto the top of the Mount of Olives described in Zechariah 14, which causes the mountain to split in two and each side to move either north or south. So what else occurs at the 7th trumpet blast? Revelation 11:15-19 gave us a hint—"The time has come for judging the dead,..."—in Revelation 20:5, it says the rest of the dead, the unsaved dead, are not to be resurrected until the 1,000 years are over, so this must be the righteous dead. Let's read further—"**...and for rewarding your servants the prophets and your saints and those who reverence your name, both small and great...**" This resurrection is for those people just described there, i.e. the righteous dead, the prophets and saints who have died in Christ, no matter when in history that was. As the brilliant Jesus is returning, Matthew 24:30-31, it says in **verse 31**, "**he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds,...**" What has just occurred here? Turn to **1st Corinthians 15:49-54**, "**And just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so shall we bear the likeness of the man from heaven. I declare to you, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep [the sleep of death is what Paul means here, soul-sleep], but we will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye,**"--*When??*--"**at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.**" So the 1st resurrection to immortality takes place at the 7th trumpet blast of Revelation 11:15-19. In **1st Thessalonians 4:13-17** Paul gives a parallel description to the one he just gave us in **1st Corinthians 15**. It also time references this to the 7th trumpet blast, so the timing of this resurrection is identical to that of **1st Corinthians 15**. Some beg to differ, but it's hard to argue with the wording. You be the judge. But in this one, Paul goes a little further in describing what happens immediately after this resurrection. Let's read it for ourselves. **1st Thessalonians 4:13-17**, "**Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep [there it is again, soul-sleep, i.e. the dead] in him. According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep [died]. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel [when?] with the trumpet call of God [i.e. the 7th trumpet blast of Revelation 11!], and the dead in Christ will rise first. [They were dead, they come to life, right here in this resurrection, at the 7th Trumpet blast.] **After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.** [Get the context, the Lord is returning. The just resurrected and/or changed immortal saints are rising up in this huge resurrection, rising to meet the returning Jesus Christ. The time setting is**

unmistakably the 7th trumpet blast of Revelation at the return of Jesus Christ—in both 1st Corinthians 15 and 1st Thessalonians 4:13-17 this “trumpet blast” is given unmistakably as a reference point. It continues, **“And so we will be with the Lord forever.”** *Where is the Lord headed on his return?* I don’t know why people get so confused about this. The answer is plain. Revelation 19:4-6 is almost identical to Revelation 11:15-18, and is apparently the same time setting. Jesus is returning, and Revelation 19:11-21 describes this event. But first in Revelation 19:7-8 describes the bride of Christ (the immortal saints as a whole are referred to in Revelation as “the bride of Christ”). They, those that make up this symbolic “bride”, are identified by what they are wearing. Let’s read and see what identifies this “bride”. **Revelation 19:7-8, “Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear. (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.)”** Righteousness is always symbolized by bright white clothing. This “Wedding Feast” may occur over a 4-month period in the New Jerusalem as the 7 Last Plagues are being poured out on earth [see <https://unityinchrist.com/revelation/Pentecost-Revetion1.htm>]. Keep this in mind. Now let’s read Revelation 19:11-21, and take particular note of who’s riding with Jesus, and how they’re dressed. They’ve obviously returning with Jesus, and mounted up on the same kind of animal Jesus is riding back to earth on. The description is rather exciting, realizing who is riding back with Jesus, Yeshua.

The Rider on the White Horse, Our Return To Earth With Jesus Christ

Revelation 19:11-21, “I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. His eyes are like blazing fires, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in white linen, white and clean.”— know who those in white linen are? That’s us, folks!--the immortal resurrected saints! **“Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. ‘He will rule them with an iron scepter.’ He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written:**

KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

And I saw an angel standing in the sun, who cried in a loud voice to all the birds flying in midair, 'Come, gather together for the great supper of God, so that you may eat the flesh of kings, generals, and mighty men, of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, small and great.'

Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war against the rider on the horse and his army. But the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who had performed the miraculous signs on his behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshipped his image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur. The rest of them were killed with the sword that came out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh."

We Touch Down On The Mount Of Olives With Jesus, And Then The Battle Begins

So Jesus, Yeshua is on a white horse, as we all are, riding back to earth to engage in this battle. (I don't know if a lot of you Christians and Messianic believers in Yeshua like horses, but we each get one. It's going to be exciting, to say the least!) Now where on earth could this battle-ground be? Zechariah 14 gives the location and a vivid description of the ensuing battle, along with other key events that all seem to take place simultaneously. Let's read it, **Zechariah 14:1-15, "A day of the Lord [KJV: "Behold, the day of the Lord cometh] is coming when your plunder will be divided among you. I will gather all nations to Jerusalem to fight against it; the city will be captured, the houses ransacked, and the women raped. Half of the city will go into exile, but the rest of the people will not be taken from the city.**

Then the Lord will go out and fight against those nations, as he fights in the day of battle. [Remember where Jesus is, and we are, coming back to earth on supernatural white horses, as the army of God. This shows where Jesus appears next, or sets foot.] **On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south. You will flee** [instructions for the remaining residents of Jerusalem] **by my mountain valley, for it will extend to Azel. You will flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the Lord my God will come, and all the holy ones with him [KJV: "and all the saints with thee."].**

On that day there will be no light, no cold or frost. It will be a unique day, without daytime or nighttime—a day known to the Lord. When evening comes there will be light.

On that day living water will flow out from Jerusalem, half to the eastern sea [i.e. the Dead Sea] and half to the western sea [margin: that is, the Mediterranean Sea], in summer and in winter. [cf. Ezekiel 47:1-12]

The Lord will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one Lord, and his name the only name.

The whole land, from Geba to Rimmon, south of Jerusalem, will become like the Arabah. [KJV: “All the land will be turned as a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem: and it shall be lifted up, and inhabited in her place...] But Jerusalem will be raised up and remain in place, from the Benjamin Gate to the site of the First Gate, to the Corner Gate, and from the Tower of Hananel to the royal winepresses. It will be inhabited; never again will it be destroyed. Jerusalem will be secure.

This is the plague with which the Lord will strike all the nations that fought against Jerusalem: Their flesh will rot while they are still standing on their feet, their eyes will rot in their sockets, and their tongues will rot in their mouths. [It is said that no one can look on the brilliant face of God and live. Jesus' face (and ours too) will be glowing with such white-hot intensity, that the effect will be to melt those who are in sight of him (unless they are protected somehow, like the Jews will be).] **On that day men will be stricken by the Lord with great panic. Each man will seize the hand of another, and they will attack each other. Judah too will fight** [on the side of the Lord, as described in Zechariah 12:1-7] **at Jerusalem. The wealth of all the surrounding nations will be collected—great quantities of gold and silver and clothing. A similar plague will strike the horses and mules, the camels and donkeys, and all the animals in those camps.” Zechariah 12:2-7, “I am going to make Jerusalem a cup that sends all the surrounding peoples reeling. Judah will be besieged as well as Jerusalem. On that day, when all the nations of the earth are gathered against her, I will make Jerusalem an immovable rock for all the nations. All who try to move it will injure themselves. On that day I will strike every horse with panic and its rider with madness,’ declares the Lord. ‘I will keep a watchful eye over the house of Judah, but I will blind all the horses of the nations. Then the leaders of Judah will say in their hearts, ‘The people of Jerusalem are strong, because the Lord Almighty is their God.’**

‘On that day I will make the leaders of Judah like a firepot in a woodpile, like a flaming torch among sheaves. They will consume right and left all the surrounding peoples, but Jerusalem will remain intact in her place.

The Lord will save the dwellings of Judah first, so that the honor of the house of David and of Jerusalem's inhabitants may not be greater than that of Judah."

In Our Glorified State, What Will We Look Like?

What will we be like in this resurrection of the righteous dead? In 1st John 3:2, the apostle John (before he saw Jesus in vision on the Isle of Patmos) said that he didn't know what we would be like (in the resurrection), but that we would know him, because we would be like he is. **1st John 3:2, "Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be [like] has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is."** John in writing this had not yet seen Jesus in his glorified state. What is Jesus like in his glorified state? What did John see when he looked at Jesus in Revelation 1? **Revelation 1:13-16, "...and among the lampstands was someone 'like the son of man,' dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. His feet were like bronze glowing in the furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. In his right hand he held seven stars, and out of his mouth came a sharp double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance."** In **Daniel 12:1-3**, Daniel said this about how we would look, **"At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. [this is obviously the tribulation being spoken of here.] But at that time your people—everyone whose name is found written in the book—will be delivered. Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt..."** [Revelation 20:4-5-6 separates this into two separate resurrections, separated by 1,000 years. Often the Old Testament prophecies give the details of events but not the proper chronological order. Daniel is one of those prophetic books, along with Revelation that does given the proper chronological order of most prophetic events it mentions, but here two events have been lumped into one. We must let Revelation modify this verse here. Now verse 3, which describes us in the first resurrection to immortality, and gives a glimpse of what we'll be like. Ready for this?] **"...Those who are wise [margin: who impart wisdom] will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever."**

At this point, Jesus, Yeshua will be King of the earth. **Zechariah 14:9, "The Lord will be king over the whole earth..."** **Isaiah 16:5, "In love a throne will be established; in faithfulness a man will sit on it—one from the house [tent] of David—one who in judging seeks justice and speeds the cause of righteousness."** **Isaiah 24:23, "The moon will be abashed, the sun ashamed;**

for the Lord Almighty will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, and before its elders, gloriously.”

2. The Second Event Which Must Occur Before the Millennial Kingdom of God Can Be Established—The Putting Away of Satan (and his demons):

Remember the description of the unseen influence Satan and his demons have had on this evil age of man we live in (since Adam to now)? Satan’s evil broadcast of his attitudes cannot cease until he is removed. When Jesus sets out to save those in the world who have survived World War III, he isn’t about to be hampered by Satan or his demons. Like I think I mentioned before, if Jesus wanted to save the whole world now, he could do it. He is all-powerful. There is a huge lesson-plan God is in the middle of accomplishing here, and things are being done in the order that God wants them done in. We as Christians have been way to narrow-minded in our Christian world-views here on this subject. Revelation gives the proper chronological order of events during the tribulation, leading up to and including the 2nd coming, and then leading into the time of the Millennial Kingdom of God. In Revelation 19 the 2nd coming was described. In Revelation 20, verse 4, the Millennial Kingdom of God has just started. But just before that, in Revelation 20:1-3, just after the 2nd coming described in Revelation 19, is the description of an event the whole world has been longing for, the creation has been groaning for. Let’s read it for ourselves. **Revelation 20:1-3, “And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time.”** Some might ask, why would God, Jesus let Satan (and his demons) be set free for a short time after the 1,000 year reign of Jesus and us in the Millennial Kingdom of God? This has puzzled many Christians for millennia. Paul gives us a hint in **1st Corinthian 3:7-15, “So neither he who plants or he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. For we are God’s fellow workers [and so also will we be as co-rulers with Jesus in the Millennial Kingdom of God]; you are God’s field, God’s building. By the grace of God has given me, I [Paul] laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man’s work. If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will**

be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.” It must be remembered, our work with Jesus in and during the Millennial Kingdom of God will have a final test or exam period as well. Revelation 20:7-10 shows this brief span of time when Satan (and his demons) are released. After that, they are bound up forever, removed from influencing the earth forever (and probably the heavens as well). Not much is said about this, but it will happen. But everyone who has ever been born or will be born, for some reason, must experience the influence of Satan. It’s just part of God’s lesson-plan for mankind. We’ll obviously learn more about this from Jesus when he returns. Where does it indicate the demons are removed as well? Turn to **Zechariah 13:2**, **“And it will come to pass in that day [context is “day of the Lord” all the way from Zechariah 12-14] saith the Lord of hosts, that I will cut off the names of the idols out of the land, and they shall no more be remembered: and also I will cause the prophets [by context, false prophets] and the unclean spirit to pass out of the land.”** After this event has occurred, then the peace and tranquility that Jesus, Yeshua is bringing to the world through the Millennial Kingdom of God can really truly begin, and not a moment before. Latent attitudes of hatred, wrath, and all the attitudes of spiritual garbage mentioned in Galatians 5:19-21 will still be lingering in the spirits of the remaining humans for awhile, but these residual attitudes will diminish with time and under the influence of God’s Holy Spirit, who will be freely offered to all from here on out. [Who, what is Satan? see <https://unityinchrist.com/Satan/satan.htm>]

Chapter 3

The Millennial Kingdom of God—Changed Conditions!

No illiteracy, no famine or starvation, no war, civil wars, wars of any kind, poverty rapidly diminishing, crime rapidly declining, human kindness, happiness, peace and prosperity growing in leaps and bounds—the abundant life for all who are willing to work for it. World overpopulation solved, enough land for everyone

to farm. Fish in the ocean so plentiful the fishermen's nets are constantly in danger of breaking. Sound like the impossible dream? For man, without God it has been impossible since recorded history began.

What Causes Deserts?

What causes deserts? Have you ever wondered about that? Some say man has caused them, and in a few instances that may be true. The Sahara was much smaller than it is today. Roman deforestation of North Africa caused this desert to massively expand beyond what it had once been until it now covers a lot of North Africa. Let's learn a little bit about geography, two types in particular, mountain ranges and deserts. "Mountains have important effects upon climate, population, economic life, and state of civilization of the regions in which they occur. By intercepting prevailing winds they cause precipitation; regions on the windward side of a great [mountain] range thus have plentiful rainfall, while those on its lee side are arid [i.e. creating the world's major desert regions]...The greatest mountain masses are the North and South American cordillera in which the Andes, Rockies, Sierra Nevada and Coast ranges of the U.S., Canada and Alaska are included, and the Eurasiatic mountain belt, in which lie the Pyrenees, Atlas mountains, Alps, Balkans, Caucasus, Hindu Cush, Himalayas and other ranges [like the Tien Shan mountain system of Central Asia adjoining the large Gobi Desert]" (p. 1334, *The Columbia Encyclopedia*, 2nd Edition). "Desert...It is estimated that deserts form about one fifth of the land surface of the world [i.e. 20 percent]. The largest desert regions of the world lie between 20 degrees and 30 degrees north and south of the equator, either where mountains [mountain ranges] intercept the paths of the trade winds or where atmospheric high-pressure areas cause descending air currents and lack of precipitation...second only to the Sahara is the desert region of central and west Australia, lying in a high-pressure belt and in the path of the trade winds (which lose much of their moisture on the windward slopes of the east-coast mountains). [Can you imagine 60-to-70% of Australia that is now desert becoming filled with lakes, rivers, streams and bubbling brooks of fresh water!?] South America has deserts on the coast and interior of Chile and east of the Andes in Argentina and Patagonia. In North America deserts are found from north Mexico northward through the southwest and western United States, about an 8th of our U.S. landmass [culprit, Sierra Madre and Rocky Mountains]" (ibid. p. 531).

The World's Deserts Turned To Lush Farmland

If only 10 percent of the world's landmass is now arable and you add another 20% to that figure, that makes 30% of the world's landmass that is now arable. Add to that the land that once was mountain ranges and that is potentially 40% of the world's landmass that's now arable, 4 times what was once

available for farming! How will this occur? We need to go back to the 2nd coming of Jesus, Yeshua, at the time of the 7th Last Plague. Let's look at some passages that relate to this. **Revelation 16:17-21a**, **"The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and out of the temple came a loud voice from the throne, saying, 'It is done!' Then there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder and a severe earthquake, no earthquake like it has ever occurred since man has been on the earth, so tremendous was the quake. The great city split into three parts, and the cities of the nations collapsed. God remembered Babylon the Great [cf. Revelation 17:3-5] and gave her the cup filled with the wine of the fury of his wrath. [vs. 20] Every island fled away and the mountains could not be found. From the sky huge hailstones of about a hundred pounds each fell upon men."** Revelation 16:17-21a, it says "the mountains could not be found." Now turn to **Zechariah 14:4-5**, **"On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south. You will flee by my mountain valley, for it will extend to Azel. You will flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah..."** When Yeshua, Jesus descends with the resurrected immortal saints and dismounts his white supernatural steed and steps onto the Mount of Olives—he will trigger an earthquake of such magnitude that most if not all the rain-blocking mountain ranges will drop flat as pancakes, creating arable farmland out of the world's desert regions, and yes, out of the area once occupied by these mountain ranges themselves. Can you imagine, all the mountains in Korea now arable farmland? And all the other desert regions disappear as well! **Isaiah 40:4-5**, **"Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places plain. [When?] And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all mankind will see it. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken."** I.e. this will occur at a time when the "glory of the Lord is revealed." **Isaiah 35:1-2, 6-7**, **"The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy...the glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the Lord, the splendor of our God...Then the lame will leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs. In the haunts where jackals once lay, grass and reeds and papyrus will grow."** Those are water plants—in what once was deserts!

One time I was sent to San Jose to work on an engineering project. I was flying across the northern half of the country from Boston to San Jose. We were flying across the Rockies. Before we came to them all the ground below (viewed from 31,000 feet) was brown and arid. As we were flying over the Rockies I noticed that one area on the eastern side (that was brown and arid) was lush and green. A

river which started near the top of one of the mountains just happened to flow east. A town could be seen in the valley below, amid this rich, lush green landscape, surrounded with dry arid desert. Then on the western side of the Rockies, all was lush and green. All the life-giving rain was being kept on the western side of the Rockies, which effectively forced all the moisture to drop on that side, leaving nothing for all the land on the eastern side of them. I witnessed this phenomenon personally, seeing what mountain ranges do to block life-giving rain. The image is still vivid in my memory.

[to see how high mountain ranges affect rainfall levels on a continental scale, watch this short informative science video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wwJABxjcvUc>]

New River System for Israel—A River That Will Heal the Seas and Oceans

Every great nation or empire had or has at least one great river, maybe two, sometimes more—Egypt, the Nile, Babylon, the Tigris and Euphrates, the U.S., the Mississippi, China, the Yangsee, India, the Ganges. The land of Israel never had a significant life-giving river (the Jordan river empties its contents into the “Dead” Sea, where it evaporates). When Jesus touches down on top of the Mount of Olives things change. Not only does this mountain crack in two, but the headwaters of two major rivers gush forth immediately—one flowing to the west into the Mediterranean Sea, the other flows to the east emptying into the Dead Sea turning it into a fish-thriving inland sea, which then overflows and empties downward into the Gulf of Aqaba and the Red Sea (the effects, as you will read, will be felt in the Indian Ocean, and then the Pacific). Let’s read what the Bible has to say about this new river system Jesus creates for Israel at his 2nd coming. **Zechariah 14:8, “On that day living waters will flow out of Jerusalem, half to the eastern sea [margin: that is, the Dead Sea] and the other half to the western sea [that is, the Mediterranean Sea], in summer and in winter [i.e. year round].”**

Ezekiel 47:1-12 goes into more detail about this special dual river system. **Ezekiel 47:1-12, “The man brought me back to the entrance of the temple, and I saw water coming out from under the threshold of the temple toward the east (for the temple faced east). The water was coming down from under the south side of the temple, south of the altar. He then brought me out through the north gate and led me around the outside to the outer gate facing east, and the water was flowing from the south side: As the man went eastward with a measuring line in his hand, he measured off a thousand cubits (that is, about 1,500 feet or 450 meters) and then led me through water that was ankle-deep. He measured off another thousand [another 1500 feet] and lead me through water that was up to the waist. He measured off another thousand, but now it was a river that I could not cross [3,000 cubits or 4,500 feet, or 780 feet short of a mile from the temple**

where this river originates], because the water had risen and was deep enough to swim in—a river that no one could cross. He asked me, ‘Son of man, do you see this?’

Then he led me back to the bank of the river. When I arrived there, I saw a great number of trees on each side of the river. He said to me, ‘This water flows toward the eastern region [Dead Sea region] and goes down into the Arabah, where it enters the sea...’ i.e. the Red Sea, and then into the Indian Ocean. i.e. it flows into the Jordan River Valley, and then into the Dead Sea. It will more than likely fill up the Dead Sea and whole Jordan River Valley all the way up past Lake Galilee to what was once Lake Hula ten miles north of Galilee, creating a vast inland sea on the back side of the present land of Israel and the “West Bank”. This inland sea will then overflow it’s banks flowing south through the Arabah or Negev Desert to the Gulf of Aqaba and Red Sea. **“...When it empties into the sea [margin: Dead Sea] water there becomes fresh. Swarms of living creatures will live wherever the river flows. There will be large numbers of fish, because this water flows there and makes the salt water fresh; so where the river flows everything will live.”** The KJV doesn’t say “makes the waters fresh.” KJV, **verse 9, “...and it shall come to pass, that every thing that liveth, which moveth, withersoever the rivers [Hebrew: two rivers] shall come, shall live: and there shall be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters shall come thither: for they shall be healed; and every thing shall live wither the river cometh.”** You have to be careful with the NIV. The King James Version is more accurate, the NIV seems to take license sometimes. Salt water won’t necessarily become fresh, but everywhere these waters go, whatever they touch is healed of all pollution, and the fish thrive and multiply. So whatever these special waters mix with are healed in the process. Also in verse 9 in the KJV where it says “rivers”, it notes in the margin the Hebrew for rivers is “two rivers”, so this prophecy matches that of Zechariah 14:8. Let’s continue on with **verses 10-12, “Fishermen will stand along the shore; from Engedi to En Eglaim [no one is sure where En Eglaim is anymore] there will be places for spreading of nets. The fish will be of many kinds—like the fish of the Great Sea [Mediterranean]. But the swamps and marshes will not become fresh [KJV: “will not be healed; they will be given to salt.”]; they will be left to salt. Fruit trees of all kinds will grow on both banks of the river. Their leaves will not wither, nor will their fruit fail. Every month they will bear, [KJV: “it shall bring forth new fruit [margin: principal] according to his months”,** i.e. it appears it’s a different kind of fruit each month!] **“nor will their fruit fail. Every month they will bear, because of the water from the sanctuary flows to them. Their fruit will serve for food and their leaves for healing [KJV: medicine].”**

Isaiah 60:5b, “The abundance of the sea shall be converted unto thee, the forces of the Gentiles shall come unto thee.” NIV **“the wealth on the seas will be brought to you, to you the riches of the nations will come.”**

World Famine Stopped, Replaced With Overflowing Abundance

I know this may not mean that much to all of us in the wealthy western democracies, but for those living in the 3rd world countries which make up over 7/10ths of the world's population, who often go to bed hungry (living on two meals a day at best), this event will be awesome. Also, Revelation 6:5-6 shows that worldwide famine will strike during the time-period of the tribulation. Why? Read William and Paul Paddock's book "Famine 1975!" They predicted these events would start sporadically at first, and now that's what's starting to occur in Africa. Now let's see how this will all change for the better during the Millennial Kingdom of God. We have seen why this will occur already, the rain-blocking mountain ranges have been dropped, made into level ground. Now let's see the effects of this major geographic "event."

Amos 9:11-13, "In that day I will restore David's fallen tent. I will repair its broken places, restore its ruins, and build it as it used to be, so that [margin] the remnant of men and all the nations that bear my name may seek the Lord' declares the Lord, who will do these things. 'The days are coming,' declares the Lord, 'When the reaper will be overtaken by the plowman and the planter by the one treading grapes. New wine will drip from the mountains and flow from the hills.'" Isaiah 2:4, "He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore." Jesus will convert all armaments industry into farm implements industries. **Micah 4:3-4, "He will judge between many peoples and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide [so they won't need to go to war anymore—result?—read on]. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore. Every man will sit under his own vine and under his own fig tree, and no one will make them afraid, for the Lord Almighty has spoken."**

Isaiah 30:19-24, "O people of Zion, who live in Jerusalem, you will weep no more. How gracious he will be when you cry for help! As soon as he hears, he will answer you. Although the Lord gives you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, your teachers will be hidden no more; with your own eyes you will see them. Whether you turn to right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, 'This is the way; walk in it.' Then you will defile your idols overlaid with silver and your images covered with gold; you will throw them away like a menstrual cloth and say to them, 'Away with you!' He will also send you rain for the seed you sow in the ground, and the food that comes from the land will be rich and plentiful. In that day your cattle will graze in broad meadows. The oxen and donkeys that work

the soil will eat fodder and mash, spread out with a fork and shovel.” Not only will the land be reaping so plentifully that **“the plowman will overtake the reaper”**—bumper to bumper crops year-round—but here is a direct reference to us, now immortal—yes, when we chose, invisible, making sure people stay on the right path, the path of life. How exciting this part of our reward will be. And although most of these prophecies are about Israel, the Lord is no respecter of persons, what he does for one, he does for all. He will be King of the earth. Most of the believers that have lived and died during the whole “Church Age” are Gentile, and they will be sent out as immortal kings to help rule over all the Gentile nations, helping, leading and assisting them into peace, and plentiful prosperity. There is no race discrimination here, equality in law, equality in blessings for all.

Spiritual Blindness Lifted

Isaiah 32:1-5 talks of this time, **“See a king will reign in righteousness and rulers will rule with justice. Each man will be like a shelter from the storm, like streams of water in the desert and the shadow of a great rock in a thirsty land. Then the eyes of those who see will no longer be closed, and the ears of those who hear will listen. The mind of the rash will know and understand, and the stammering tongue will be fluent and clear. No longer will the fool be called noble nor the scoundrel be highly respected.”** In verse 14 we find the conditions of the tribulation just about to end, then something exciting happens to the whole world, that happened in Acts 2:1-4. Let’s read about it. **Isaiah 32:14-20, “The fortress will be abandoned, the noisy city deserted; citadel and watchtower will become a wasteland forever, the delight of donkeys, a pasture for flocks, till the Spirit is poured upon us from on high, and the desert becomes a fertile field, and the fertile field seems like a forest. Justice will dwell in the desert and righteousness will live in the fertile field. The fruit of righteousness will be quietness and confidence forever. My people will live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure homes, in undisturbed places of rest. Though hail flattens the forest and the city is leveled completely [and this must be looking back to the unrighteous cities of the past “age of man”], how blessed you will be, sowing your seed by every stream, and letting your cattle and donkeys range free.”**

Even the nature of wild animals will be changed: Isaiah 11:6-9, “The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling [the lion will feed with the yearling] together; and a little child will lead them. The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. The infant will play near the hole of the cobra, and the young child put his hand into the viper’s nest. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my

holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.”

Good Health For All, All Sickneses and Diseases Healed

A large part of Jesus’ ministry on earth during his physical lifetime was a healing ministry. **Matthew 8:14-17, “When Jesus came into Peter’s house, he saw Peter’s mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever. He touched her hand and the fever left her, and she got up and began to wait on him. When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: ‘He took up our infirmities and carried our diseases.’”** Jesus’ ministry on earth consisted of a huge amount of healing of the sick, restoring sight to the blind, healing the lame, and healing lepers. (A lot of this is detailed in the expository study on Mark on this site.) He was doing in advance, what will also be done on a far larger scale during, and especially at the beginning of the Millennial Kingdom of God. It is estimated that Jesus could have healed upwards of 500,000 people as his reputation spread throughout Israel like wildfire (which caused the sick to come to him in droves). A careful study of the gospels will prove this out. **Mark 2:8-12, “Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, ‘Why are you thinking these things? Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up, take your mat and walk?’ But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins....’ he said to the paralytic, ‘I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.’ He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, ‘We have never seen anyone like this!’”**

Isaiah 33:21-22,24, “There the Lord will be our Mighty One. It [Jerusalem] will be like a place of broad rivers and streams. No galley with oars will ride them, no mighty ship will sail them [obviously the two rivers coming out of Jerusalem]. For the Lord is our judge, the Lord is our lawgiver, the Lord is our king; it is he who will save us...No one living in Zion will say, ‘I am ill’; and the sins of those who dwell there will be forgiven.” Jeremiah 30:17, “But I will restore you to health and heal your wounds,’ declares the Lord...” Isaiah 35:5-6, “Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy.” 1st Peter 2:24, “He bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.” Jesus as future King of the earth, was merely doing what he will yet do in the future when he returns to earth. We can also reflect this merciful aspect of Jesus’ ministry by being a light to the world in how we reach out and help the needy, destitute and afflicted. We can do so individually and by supporting legitimate international Christian care-giver

organizations (Mission Aviation Fellowship is one such organization with worldwide outreach capabilities.) Matthew 25:31-40 brings out how believers in Jesus would be living this kind of lifestyle.

Chapter 4

The Millennial Kingdom of God—Its Leaders— From Righteous Abel to Us

Zechariah 14:9, “The Lord will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one Lord, and his name the only name.” Jesus, Yeshua is here on earth. Zechariah 14:9 says he’s the King of the *whole* earth. Satan, the unseen but very real ruler-deceiver of this world has been removed, locked away in the Abyss as Revelation 20:1-3 says. Next event is found in **Revelation 20:4-5, “I saw thrones on which were seated those who have been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshipped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years. (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection.”** Part of this is looking back to the 1st resurrection which has just taken place, just prior to this event of locking Satan and the demons away. Remember Jesus’ parable about the “mina’s” or talents—to one was given authority to rule over ten cities, to another five cities? That’s us, believers in Jesus, Yeshua, who have been changed or resurrected to immortality at the 7th trumpet blast! (cf. Revelation 11:15-19; 1 Corinthians 15:49-54.) ***These are our thrones! Revelation 2:26*** says, **“To him who overcomes and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations—‘he will rule them with an iron scepter; he will dash them to pieces like pottery’—just as I [Jesus] have received authority from my Father.”** Revelation 5:9-10, **“With your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth.”** (NIV) ... **“You have made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on earth.”** (KJV)

God Is Creating A Leadership Cast

God was planning this government from the very beginning. Haven't you ever wondered, sometimes in amazement, why Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph and Moses, Joshua (and all the righteous Judges, David and the holy prophets) were tried and tested by God so much in their lifetimes? During this "age of man" which stretches from the time of Adam up until Jesus returns (the 2nd coming), God has been quietly training and grooming his top-flight leaders for government positions in the Millennial Kingdom of God. Jesus, through his divine insight (Isaiah 11:1-5) will obviously choose the most qualified and righteous, the best suited for each and every position within the Millennial Kingdom of God. Oh, by the way, this Kingdom of God will go way beyond the time of the 1,000 years mentioned in Revelation 20:4. The Kingdom of God has existed at God's throne in the 3rd heaven forever and forever, stretching back forever (don't try to think about how long forever is, you will burn-out your brain). But God's Kingdom from the 2nd coming onward will have a huge number of kings and priests within it, immortal beings who had once been human beings. ***A concept Christians have not yet grasped (not many of them yet), is that Jesus -- from Adam until his 2nd coming -- has been training a leadership cast, or group of beings, a group which will hold far more authority than any of those who follow us into salvation and immortality during the time-span of the Millennial Kingdom of God.*** The Kingdom of God will rule over men and women during the time-span of the Millennial Kingdom of God, but as the apostle Paul said in **1 Corinthians 15:49-54**, "**Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God.**" When we're born-again, filled with the Holy Spirit, the kingdom does exist within us by and through the Holy Spirit of God who dwells in us. But our mortal bodies yet have not inherited the kingdom of God, we have not inherited leadership roles or positions within it, and we are not yet in that sense full citizens, and we are not immortal yet. We are, as Paul brought out elsewhere, like little children who have an inheritance waiting for them when they grow up, but as yet haven't inherited yet. Neither do we ***inherit*** until the 1st resurrection. Just how people will become immortal during the 1,000 year period Jesus has not revealed yet. But rest assured, as many prophecies in Isaiah point out, salvation will be offered to everyone alive at that time. We will read some of those prophecies in this study. But get one thing clear. All the righteous saints, from Abel right up to the time of Jesus' return, are going to be active members of a leadership cast, group within the Kingdom of God which will be ruling over man on earth. We Christians during the Church Age will have had to overcome our own human nature which has been infiltrated with Satan's nature, this evil world, and Satan (and his demons). Thus our rewards will be far greater. Jesus prophesied in Isaiah 40:10-11 that he is returning and bringing his reward with him. As we will read in Luke 19:11-26, Jesus gave the parable of the "mina's". The reward for developing the "talents" the Lord gives each of us is to be a ruler over cities, the number of which is determined by how well we develop what has been given us. Salvation is a free gift, but our spiritual development, the sanctification process, and the good works we do during our Christian lives, earn us rewards within the coming Kingdom and government of God. This isn't a

works trip. But God does hold out a super reward for our spiritual performance. And as the parable indicates, develop and grow we must, or else we stand a chance of losing it all (and being put at the back of the bus, in the 2nd resurrection). Those aren't my words, so all you grace and no works people, don't get upset with me. (And this has nothing to do with the grace we really receive, that hasn't changed. This is about rewards for actions.) Those are the words of Jesus in the parable. In verse 15 when it says "he returned home", that's the 2nd coming. What did he do? Verses 15-19 shows he rewarded each servant according to what?—how he multiplied what was given to him. The reward—rulership over cities—greater authority for greater achievement. Let's read the parable again. **Luke 19:11-27, "While they were listening to this, he went on to tell them a parable, because he was near Jerusalem and the people thought that the kingdom of God was going to appear at once."** See, back then even they believed in a literal kingdom of God which was prophesied to appear and change the world. They had all been brought up reading Isaiah 35 and the other prophecies which are quite literal. And all those prophecies which had been fulfilled had been literally fulfilled. Jesus isn't disagreeing with them that a literal kingdom of God would appear. He was just going to enlighten them on some details, and that it wouldn't be happening immediately. The apostles still continued to believe the kingdom would be brought to the earth during their normal lifetimes. They had obviously not really heeded Jesus' teaching in this parable, that it would be awhile. It's been almost 2,000 years now. But it will occur. **"He said: 'A man of noble birth went to a distant country to have himself appointed king and then to return. So he called ten of his servants and gave them ten minas [margin: about three months wages]. 'Put this money to work,' he said, 'until I come back.' But his subjects hated him and sent a delegation after him to say, 'We don't want this man to be our king.' He was made king, however, and returned home. Then he sent for the servants to whom he had given the money, in order to find out what they had gained with it. 'The first one came and said, 'Sir, your mina has earned ten more.' 'Well done, my good servant!' his master replied. 'Because you have been trustworthy in a very small matter, take charge of ten cities.' 'The second came and said, 'Sir, your mina has earned five more.' His master answered, 'You take charge of five cities.' Then another servant came and said, 'Sir, here is your mina; I have kept it laid away in a piece of cloth. I was afraid of you, because you are a hard man. You take out what you did not put in and reap what you did not sow.' His master replied, 'I will judge you by your own words, you wicked servant! You knew, did you, that I am a hard man, taking out what I did not put in, and reaping what I did not sow? Why then didn't you put my money on deposit, so that when I came back, I could have collected it with interest?' Then he said to those standing by, 'Take his mina away from him and give it to the one who has ten minas.' 'Sir,' they said, 'he already has ten!' He replied, 'I tell you that to everyone who has, more will be given, but as for the one who has nothing [i.e. nothing to show for what was given to him], even what he has will be taken**

away. But those enemies of mine who did not want me to be king over them—bring them here and kill them in front of me.” What an encouraging message for those believers who are developing the spiritual minas that have been given to them. Does the Bible give us any hint as to the governmental structure of the coming kingdom? There are fourteen positions that have been clearly spelled out in Scripture.

Two Kings, One Over The Whole World, One Over Israel

Zechariah 14:9, “The Lord will be king over the whole earth...” Jesus Christ, Yeshua haMashiach will be King of the earth. **Jeremiah 30:8-9, “In that day,’ declares the Lord Almighty, ‘I will break the yoke off their necks and will tear off their bonds; no longer will foreigners enslave them. Instead they will serve the Lord their God and David their king, whom I will raise up for them.”** i.e. David will be in the 1st resurrection to immortality, and as the Lord prophecied here, David will be placed as king over the 12 tribes of Israel, as is brought out in Ezekiel 37. **Ezekiel 37:15-28** is a prophecy about the 12 tribes of Israel—both houses, the house of Judah and the House of Israel--being regathered, and reunited at the 2nd coming of the Messiah. Verses 24-25 are about king David at this time. **“My servant David will be king over them (verses 15-23, all of Israel), and they will all have one shepherd. They will follow my laws and be careful to keep my decrees. They will live in the land I gave to my servant Jacob, the land where your fathers lived. They and their children and their children’s children will live there forever, and David my servant will be their prince forever.”** Verse 27, **“My dwelling place will be with them; I will be their God, and they will be my people. Then the nations will know that I the Lord make Israel holy, when my sanctuary is among them forever.”** Hosea 3:4-5, **“For the Israelites will live many days without a king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred stones, without ephod or teraphim. Afterward the Israelites will return and seek the Lord their God and David their king. They will come trembling to the Lord and to his blessings in the last days.”** So, any questions about who will be King of the world, or who will be king over Israel? OK, that’s two leaders out of the fourteen listed.

The 12 Apostles, Each To Be A King Over One Of The Tribes Of Israel

Now let’s see who will be king over each tribe of Israel. Let Jesus tell us. In **Matthew 19:28** Jesus says, **“Jesus said to them, ‘I tell you the truth, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me [i.e. the 12 apostles are being directly addressed here, so this refers to them and them alone] will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”** **Luke 22:29-30, “And I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me, so that you may eat and drink at my**

table in my kingdom and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”

What About The Other Future World Leaders?

So we have Jesus, King of kings, Lord of lords, King of the earth, and David king over the 12 tribes of Israel, and the 12 apostles, each a king over one of the 12 tribes of Israel. What about the rest of the government structure? That’s where speculation takes over. We don’t know it will happen this way, but let’s speculate a little bit, in an intelligent manner, and maybe fill in some blanks. Hebrews 11 mentions many notable overcomers who we know will be in the kingdom of God (also called the kingdom of heaven, even though it will end up on earth). Abraham was promised the whole land of Israel as an inheritance, and ultimately the whole world under the Lord. He will probably be directly under Jesus. Why? Do you know of anyone who had their faith developed like Abraham? Isaac and Jacob will probably be directly under Abraham, forming a three-some team. In the transfiguration Moses and Elijah appeared, glowing as did Jesus. We know from Daniel 12:1-3 and Revelation 1:13-16 that those in the resurrection, and Jesus, glow like the sun. So Jesus, Moses and Elijah probably represent three major parts in the Millennial government of God. In verse 9 of Matthew 17 Jesus specifically called this a “vision”. A “vision” is like a look or peek into the future. Many of Isaiah’s prophecies were “visions” given to him by the Lord so he could faithfully write them down. So the transfiguration was a “vision” of what is to come, and how Jesus, Moses and Elijah will appear, and how we will appear in the resurrection to immortality that Paul spoke of. In **Mark 9:3-4** says, **“His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus.”** In **Matthew 17:2** it says, **“There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as light...”** Then in **verse 9** Jesus says, **“Tell the vision to no man, until the Son of man be risen again from the dead.”** Jesus called this a vision. Peter, knowing the Feast of Tabernacles represented the coming kingdom in symbolism, ran up and asked if he should build three tabernacles, he was so excited (and going off half-cocked as he usually did). So this indicates this was a vision of the way Moses, Jesus and Elijah would look in the coming Kingdom of God when Jesus returns. They just saw Jesus as John did in the vision that became the book of Revelation, and this image of Jesus can be found in Revelation 1:13-16. Moses was trained under the greatest Gentile government of the times, and also ruled as the head of God’s civil government over the children of Israel for forty years in the Sinai Desert. ***Moses will probably be the head of the worlds civil governments under the Abraham-Isaac-Jacob team, which is under Jesus, Yeshua.*** What about Elijah? What was his claim to fame? Elijah restored God’s true religion in Israel when it was ruled by a godless king and even more godless evil queen. Ancient Israel was a theocracy where church and state were united under two people, Moses and Aaron, who both were

under God. **World church administration will probably be under Elijah's authority. State governments will be under Moses. While king David will be over the re-united nation of Israel. Who under Moses will be over all the Gentile nations? Daniel was one of the greatest prophets, as well as a trained ruler-administrator over the world's first Gentile world empire, the Babylonian empire. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego will probably be under and assist Daniel.** These three really had their trial-by-fire, proving their loyalty to the God of Israel (read Daniel 3 sometime for the full account).

Administration Of Agriculture, Science & Technology

Joseph, son of Jacob or Israel, saved the whole known world from starvation by wise administration of "the breadbasket of the ancient world," Egypt. He may be placed over world agriculture, science and technology. Egypt wasn't only the breadbasket of the world, but was the leader in science and technology of the times. **Joseph had to combine all the knowledge of Egypt's agriculture, science and technology in this project God gave him through Pharaoh.**

Urban Renewal & Building

Job--some believe he was either Cheops or the builder of the Pyramid of Cheops. He may be over world urban renewal and building projects, along with Zerubbabel, who built the 2nd temple.

Hebrews 11, A List Of Future Administrators

Read through Hebrews 11, the list grows. Ezra and Nehemiah, Ruth, Mordecai, and then Jonathan, Saul's son probably ruling with and under king David. The list goes on and on and on. Then again, born-again, Holy Spirit filled and led believers in Jesus during the Church age (2,000 years worth!) will all be a part of this government. No one gets left out (except perhaps the "servant" who doesn't develop his "mina"—scary thought). Now how I've put this together may not be exactly the way it will be set up by Jesus. You may have other people you think belong in certain positions, and you may be right. We can only be sure about the 14 leaders the Bible mentions, and their positions. That's a sure thing. And it's also a sure thing the we all, all the overcomers and developer's of their "mina's" will be a kingdom of kings and priests in the coming Millennial Kingdom of God (Revelation 2:26; 5:9-10). God had something to say about the birth of this kingdom through his holy prophet Isaiah. Let's read it. **Isaiah 66:8, "Who has ever heard of such a thing? Who has ever seen such things? Can a country be born in a day or a nation be brought forth in a moment? Yet no sooner is Zion in labor than she gives birth to her children."** That's us folks! Yes, Israel will be reborn, as a whole 12-tribed nation in quick order at Yeshua's return. **But we'll be born as a nation of kings and priests, reigning with Jesus over the whole world, as immortal beings, glowing like the very sun—"in a moment,**

in the twinkling of an eye” (1st Corinthians 15:49-54). That’s the reward of the saints, a reward Jesus is bringing back with him to earth. **Isaiah 40:10-11, “See, the Sovereign Lord comes with power, and his arm rules for him. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him. He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.”**

Chapter 5

Jerusalem and the Temple—Capital City of the World, Headquarters Church of the World

1. The Jerusalem of the Millennium: A New Home and a New Job for the Saints, the Resurrected Immortal Christians, Ruling with Jesus Christ: Let us paint a Scriptural picture of the Jerusalem that will be built just after the 2nd coming of Jesus Christ. Revelation 3:11-12, “Behold I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown. Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall no more go out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.”

At the 2nd coming of Jesus Christ, Jesus will cause a massive earthquake. Let’s look at the magnitude of that earthquake, so we can properly understand what work it will perform in and around Jerusalem. **Revelation 16:17-21, “And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done. And there were voices, and thunders, and lightning’s; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great. And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came into remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath. And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.”**

The Mount of Olives is not in Jerusalem proper, it is in East Jerusalem, across the Kidron Valley from Jerusalem, facing the Temple Mount and what is now the Dome of the Rock. This would have been just northeast of the Old City of Jerusalem in Christ's day. Let us see what happens to the Mount of Olives at Jesus Christ's 2nd coming. **Zechariah 14:1-4, "Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken [militarily], and the houses rifled and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city. Then shall the Lord go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. And his feet shall stand in that day upon the Mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west [i.e. cleavage line running east and west], and there shall be a very great valley; and half the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south."**

Jerusalem To Sit On A 40-Mile Long Plain On Top Of A Mountain Chain

Next let us analyze the effect this massive earthquake has on Jerusalem and its' surrounding countryside. Advance to verses 9-10 of Zechariah 14. It says that Jerusalem is turned into a plain from Geba to Rimmon. Where is Geba? Answer: Geba is six miles north of Jerusalem. Geba is modern Al Geba. Next question. Where is Rimmon? Answer: Rimmon is about thirty-five miles south of Jerusalem! Let's add the Scriptures together. The great earthquake divides the Mount of Olives in half, with half of the mountain removing to the north, half to the south...creating a vast level plain, verse 10, from Geba to Rimmon. Let's get the picture. Jerusalem is sitting on top of a mountain chain that stretches north for about forty miles and south forty miles. This new Jerusalem of the Millennium will be set up on a vast forty-mile-long plain created by this massive earthquake. This plain will stretch from six miles north of present day Jerusalem (Al Geba) to about thirty-five miles south of present-day Jerusalem (Rimmon). It will be about ten miles wide. **Zechariah 14:9-10, "And the Lord will be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one Lord, and his name one. All the land shall be turned as a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem: and it shall be lifted up, and inhabited in her place, from Benjamin's gate unto the place of the First gate, unto the Corner gate, and from the Tower of Hananeel unto the king's winepresses."** [Living Bible: "All the land from Geba (northern border of Judah) to Rimmon (the southern border) will become one vast plain..." King James Version: "...And it shall be lifted up, and inhabited in her place..."] So the foundation for the future city of Jerusalem will be on a forty-mile-long by ten-mile-wide plain which sits on top of a mountain range. As Jerusalem is rebuilt, it will take up the entire area of this plain. What kind of city can we expect to see rebuilt?

Jerusalem Will Glow At Night

Most of the streets and roads in Jerusalem are crooked, many of them dating back thousands of years to the time of Abraham and Melchizedek. **Isaiah 40:4-5 states, “Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.”** The statement “and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed” could very well be referring to people being able to see Jesus Christ in some of his brilliance, at a safe distance of course. The following Scriptures prove this may be so. **Isaiah 2:2-4, “And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.”** The resurrected immortal saints will be glowing, lighting up Jerusalem by night. **Isaiah 4:4-6, “When the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and shall have purged the blood of Jerusalem from the midst thereof by the spirit of judgment, and by the spirit of burning. And the Lord will create upon every dwelling place of mount Zion, and upon her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day, and the shining of a flaming fire by night: for upon all the glory shall be a defense [defense: “a covering”].”** **Zechariah 14:7-8, “But it shall be one day which shall be known to the Lord, not day, nor night: but it shall come to pass, that at evening time it shall be light. And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea [eastern, or Dead Sea], and half of them toward the hinter sea [i.e. the Mediterranean Sea]: in summer and in winter shall it be.”** Why will it be light at evening time and all through the night? Because we will be glowing! [cf. Daniel 12:1-3.] Jerusalem from a distance will be seen as a massive glowing light in the evening and all through the night. Picture it, a city built upon a forty-mile-long plain which has been supernaturally smoothed out on top of a mountain chain, glowing in the dark, and covered by a smoking cloud in the daytime, much as the tabernacle was in Moses day.

Israel’s New River System Will Flow Out Of Jerusalem

What about these “living waters” that verse 8 of Zechariah 14 describes? The living waters (verse 8) will become two great rivers, one flowing east into the Dead Sea, transforming it into a great inland sea from south of Petra and the Negev to

just north of what used to be Lake Hula, north of Lake Galilee. All the land in the Jordan River valley that is below sea level will be flooded and turned into part of this inland sea as this massive new influx of fresh pure water adds its volume to that of the Jordan River [which is over a million gallons a day itself]. The other river flowing out from under the Temple of God will flow west into the Mediterranean Sea, healing those waters. Let's read about it. **Ezekiel 47:1-12, "Afterward he brought me again unto the door of the house; and, behold, waters issued out from under the threshold of the house eastward: for the forefront of the house stood toward the east, and the waters came down from under from the right side of the house, at the south side of the altar. Then he brought me out of the way of the gate northward, and led me about the way without unto the utter gate by the way that looketh eastward; and behold, there ran out waters on the right side. And then the man that had the line in his hand went forth eastward, he measured a thousand cubits [about 1500 feet], and he brought me through the waters; the waters were to the ankles [KJV spelling for "ankles"]. Again he measured a thousand, and brought me through the waters; the waters were to the knees. Again he measured a thousand, and brought me through; and the waters were to the loins. Afterward he measured a thousand; and it was a river that I could not pass over: for the waters were risen, waters to swim in, a river that could not be passed over. And he said unto me, Son of man, hast thou seen this? Then he brought me, and caused me to return to the brink of the river. Now when I had returned, behold, at the bank of the river were very many trees on the one side and on the other. Then he said unto me, These waters issue out toward the east country, and go down into the desert, and go into the sea [the Dead Sea, and then ultimately the Red Sea]: which being brought forth into the sea, the waters shall be healed. And it shall come to pass, that every thing that liveth, which moveth, withersoever the rivers [margin, Hebrew: "two rivers"] shall come, shall live; and there shall be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters shall come thither: for they shall be healed; and every thing shall live whither the river cometh. And it shall come to pass, that the fishers shall stand upon it from Engedi, even unto Eneglaim; they shall be a place to spread forth nets; their fish shall be according to their kinds, as the fish of the great sea [the Mediterranean Sea], exceeding many. But the miry places thereof and the marishes thereof shall not be healed; they shall be given to salt. And by the river upon the bank thereof, on this side and that side, shall grow trees for meat, whose leaf shall not fade, neither shall the fruit thereof be consumed [probably means, 'used up']: it shall bring forth new [principal] fruit according to his months, because their waters they issued out of the sanctuary: and the fruit thereof shall be for meat [consumption, eating], and the leaf for medicine." Isaiah 35:1-2, "The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon they**

shall see the glory of the Lord, and the excellency of our God.” Isaiah 33:20, “Look upon Zion, the city of our solemnities: thine eyes shall see Jerusalem a quiet habitation, a tabernacle that shall not be taken down; not one of the stakes thereof shall ever be removed, neither shall any of the cords thereof be broken.” Zechariah 14:14, “And Judah also shall fight at Jerusalem and the wealth of all the heathen round about shall be gathered together, gold, silver, and apparel, in great abundance.”

The Wealth of the Nations Flows into Jerusalem

Isaiah 60:9-14, 17-22, “Surely the isles shall wait for me, and the ships of Tarshish first, to bring thy sons from afar, their silver and gold with them, unto the name of the Lord thy God, and to the Holy One of Israel, because he hath glorified thee. And the sons of strangers shall build up thy walls, and their kings shall minister unto thee: for in my wrath I smote thee, but in my favour have I had mercy on thee. Therefore thy gates shall be open continually; they shall not be shut day or night that men may bring unto thee the wealth of the Gentiles, and that their kings may be brought. For the nation and kingdom that will not serve thee shall perish; yea, those nations shall be utterly wasted. The glory of Lebanon shall come unto thee, the fir tree, the pine tree, and the box together, to beautify the place of my sanctuary; and I will make the place of my feet glorious. The sons also of them that afflicted thee shall come bending unto thee; and they shall call thee, The city of the Lord, Zion of the Holy One of Israel...For brass will I bring gold, and for iron I will bring silver, and for wood brass, and for stones, iron: I will also make thy officers peace, and thine exactors righteousness. Violence shall no more be heard in thy land, wasting nor destruction within thy borders; but thou shalt call thy walls Salvation, and thy gates Praise. The sun shall be no more thy light by day; neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee: but the Lord shall be unto thee an everlasting light, and thy God thy glory. The sun shall no more go down; neither shall the moon withdraw itself: for the Lord shall be thine everlasting light, and the days of thy mourning shall be ended. Thy people also shall be all righteous: they shall inherit the land for ever, the branch of my planting, the work of my hands, that I may be glorified. A little one shall become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation: I the Lord will hasten it in his time.” That was a prophecy about Jerusalem after the 2nd coming of Jesus Christ, Yeshua haMeshiach. It gives an indication of why it will glow at night. Immortal beings tend to do that, as the Bible indicates.

We, Along With Jesus, Will Be Glowing

Psalm 24:3-6, “Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. He shall

receive the blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation. This is a generation of them that seek him, that seek thy face, O God of Jacob.” Here’s a description for you out of Isaiah. **Isaiah 33:14-15, 17, “The sinners in Zion are afraid; fearfulness hath surprised the hypocrites. Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? Who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings? He that walketh righteously, and speaketh uprightly; he that despiseth the gain of oppressions, that shaketh his hands from holding of bribes, that stoppeth his ears from hearing of blood, and shutteth his eyes from seeing evil...Thine eyes shall see the king in his beauty: they shall behold the land that is very far off.”** Everlasting burnings? Devouring fire? Looks like another reference to the glorified Jesus Christ, and perhaps the glorified saints as well. Look at what God prophecied through Daniel about us, as glorified, resurrected immortal beings. **Daniel 12:1-3, “And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. And they that be wise [margin: teachers] shall shine as the brightness of the firmament [heavens]; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.”** Revelation 1:13-18, “**And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the pap’s with a golden girdle. His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; and his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. And he had in his hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp two-edged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth. And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: I am he that liveth, and was dead; and behold, I am alive evermore...”** That’s Jesus Christ, and probably how he and we will look at the time of his 2nd coming.

A Wonderful Message For All Of Us Who Proclaim The Gospel

Isaiah 52:7-12, “How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation [that’s us folks, whether we evangelize directly or support major evangelistic organizations with portions of our tithes and our offerings—that’s us!]; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth ! Thy watchmen shall lift up the voice; with the voice together shall they sing: for they shall see eye to eye, when the Lord shall bring again Zion. Break forth into joy, sing together, ye waste places of Jerusalem. The Lord hath made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God. Depart ye, depart ye, go ye out from hence, touch no unclean thing; go ye out of the midst of her; be ye clean, [ye] that bear the vessels of the Lord. For ye shall not go out with

haste, nor go by flight: for the Lord will go before you; and the God of Israel will be your reward.”

This will be OUR new home! No wonder Abraham kept this picture, this goal ahead of him, in his mind’s eye, instead of being mindful of what he might have been able to have then and there. **Hebrews 11:8-10, “By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country: FOR HE LOOKED FOR A CITY WHICH HATH FOUNDATIONS WHOSE BUILDER AND MAKER IS GOD.”**

Ezekiel chapters 40-48 gives a description of the Temple measurements, gates, tables, chambers, chambers for the priests etc.—borders of the land, portions of the tribes. Also read Exodus chapters 25-30 for a description of the original tabernacle and its furnishings. These things are a shadow picture of our new place of employment as we reign with Jesus Christ over the whole world—bringing Salvation to the entire world!

Another function of the Headquarters Church in Jerusalem (and Temple) will be to direct the congregations worldwide. Churches will be made up of born-again individuals, those indwelt by the Holy Spirit, just as Christians and Messianic believers are today. There will be one Church, one Religion, one Faith in the world, but many congregations. **Ezekiel 36:25-27, “I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.”** Ezekiel 36, as we will read later, is all about the regathering and return of the 12 tribes of Israel into the promised land at the time of the 2nd coming of Jesus (especially when taken in context with Ezekiel 37:15-28). **Micah 4:1-3, “In the last days the mountain of the Lord’s temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and peoples will stream to it. Many nations will come and say, ‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths.’ The law will go out from Zion, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He will judge between many peoples and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.”** Teaching God’s Word and bringing the world to salvation will be directed from Jerusalem. Most Christian pastors erroneously believe this age--the Church age--is the only day of salvation, based on a mistranslation of 2nd Corinthians 6:2. It should read “a” day of salvation, not “the” day of salvation. If Jesus, God the Son, had been trying to “save” the world -- it would have been

saved -- period--end of discussion. Further reading: Ezekiel 40-44:1-4 (NIV is easier reading), the Bible's description of the Temple during the Millennial Kingdom of God.

Chapter 6

'Israel, A Peculiar People--A Light To The Gentiles'

Right from the beginning of God's plan for the nation of Israel, he planned for them to be totally different from all other nations--a total polar opposite of all earthly kingdoms and nations. Henry A. Wallace, FDR's Vice President dreamed of "A Century For The Common Man." When we take a closer look at the government structure of the nation of Israel, as laid out from Exodus through Deuteronomy, we will see a nation that was totally opposite in political structure than all its Middle Eastern neighbouring kingdoms and empires. We'll look at four structures that made up any empire or kingdom, and then we'll look at the Israelite counterpart of them. These structures are: 1) the leader or king, 2) the military structure, 3) the economic structure, and 4) the social structure.

The leader or king: The empires surrounding Israel had powerful kings over them, they ruled with absolute power, they were total dictators, and were extremely wealthy, and usually had large harems. They were also very militaristic. God in his Torah Law put strong restraints on the powers an Israelite king could wield. Israelite kings, if they followed God's plan for them spelled out in his Law, looked nothing like the kings of the surrounding nations and empires. God spelled out the requirements for an Israelite king in **Deuteronomy 17:14-17**, which states, "**When you come to the land which the LORD your God is giving you, and possess it and dwell in it, and say, 'I will set a king over me like all the nations that are around me,' you shall surely set a king over your whom the LORD your God chooses; one from among your brethren you shall set as king over you; you may not set a foreigner over you, who is not your brother. But he shall not multiply horses for himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt to multiply horses, for the LORD has said to you, 'You shall not return that way again.' Neither shall he multiply wives for himself, lest his heart turn away; nor shall he greatly multiply silver and gold for himself.**" (NKJV) 1) It is to be 'a king God chooses, chosen from among the ordinary citizenship, not a foreigner. Verse 16, "The king must not multiply horses for himself." God is putting limits on the king's ability to militarize Israel. Israel was not to be militaristic or a major military power like the empires surrounding it. Verse 17, "Neither shall he multiply wives to himself, lest his heart turn away." The kings of the surrounding empires had large harems, and they often married daughters of neighbouring or rival kingdoms to

form military alliances. Also foreign wives, as happened with both Solomon and king Ahab, brought false religion and idolatry into Israel. Verse 17b, “nor shall he greatly multiply silver and gold for himself.” By becoming wealthy, a king is no longer at the social status of an ordinary citizen, and he would soon forget where he came from. It’s as if God, well in advance of the British Empire, instituted his own Magna Carta for the king of Israel. Limiting a king’s wealth limited the king’s power and status among his subjects. **Deuteronomy 17:15, 20**, states, “**you shall surely set a king over you whom the LORD your God chooses; one from among your brethren you shall set as king over you; you may not set a foreigner over you, who is not your brother...that his heart may not be lifted above his brethren,**” (NKJV) He was not to be “above the law.” **Verses 18-19 of Deuteronomy 17** states that the king was instructed to make a copy of God’s Law, and to read it every day of his life, “**Also it shall be, when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write for himself a copy of this law in a book, from the one before the priests, the Levites. And it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God and be careful to observe all the words of this law and these statutes,**” (NKJV) And we saw in verse 16 that the king was forbidden to amass large numbers of horses. This wasn’t the ordinary horse, but war horses. For the surrounding empires, war horses and chariots were the ‘modern strategic weaponry’ of the day, the APCs and tanks of today. That gets into our next category.

The military structure of the surrounding empires, and then that of Israel:

For the ancient Middle Eastern empires military might, superpower status was the name of the game. Egypt, under Thutmose III and then his son Amenhotep II had a chariot force second to none, 600 gold chariots and 20,000 ‘normal’ war chariots. The Mitanni, their rival to the north, also wielded a large chariot force, as did ancient Assyria and Babylon after it. The Persian Empire wielded both huge numbers of foot soldiers, chariots, and boasted a navy, as did the Greek and Roman Empires after it. They were the “superpowers” of the ancient world. They all maintained “a standing army” well equipped with foot soldiers, cavalry and chariots, and most also maintained a navy of warships, like the Persian and Greek and Roman biremes and triremes. What about Israel? When we look at the laws concerning militarism and maintaining a military, we will see that **God hates militarism**. When we look at what God spelled out for Israel, we’ll see they were forbidden to maintain a standing army, no permanent military. When they captured war horses, they weren’t allowed to keep them, but were instructed to hobble them, disabling them from being effective war horses. They were also instructed to burn captured enemy chariots. They were forbidden to own chariots of their own. Deuteronomy’s description of how they were to conscript an army is hilarious by any normal military standard, both then and now, and would have driven any normal recruiter mad. Just imagine a recruiter having to work off of this set of laws, **Deuteronomy 20:2-9**, “**So it shall be, when you are on the verge of battle, that the priest shall approach and speak to the people. And he shall say to them, ‘Hear, O Israel: Today you are on the**

verge of battle with your enemies. Do not let your heart faint, do not be afraid, and do not tremble or be terrified because of them; for the LORD your God is he who goes with you, to fight against your enemies, to save you.' Then the officers shall speak to the people, saying: 'What man is there who has built a new house and has not dedicated it? Let him go and return to his house, lest he die in the battle and another man dedicate it. Also what man is there who has planted a vineyard and has not eaten of it? Let him go and return to his house, lest he die in the battle and another man eat of it. And what man is there who is betrothed to a woman and has not married her? Let him go and return to his house, lest he die in the battle and another man marry her.' The officers shall speak further to the people, and say, 'What man is there who is fearful and fainthearted? Let him go and return to his house, lest the heart of his brethren faint like his heart.' And so it shall be, when the officers have finished speaking to the people, that they shall make captains of the armies to lead the people." (NKJV) Israel's military was to be a group of volunteers who were given every opportunity to opt out of service. The people chosen to be officers were to be chosen on the spot, men of no prior training, which implies there was to be no standing army in Israel under its king. What gave them the military edge over all the other 'modern' military superpowers around them? **Verse 4, "for the LORD your God is he who goes with you, to fight against your enemies, to save you."** Do you remember in Exodus 14 how God destroyed Amenhotep II's massive chariot force, estimated to be 20,000 normal war chariots and 600 special gold chariots, all destroyed in the Red Sea? Israel didn't even have to lift a sword in that one. **Psalm 33:16-17** states, **"No king is saved by the multitude of an army; a mighty man is not delivered by great strength. A horse is a vain hope for safety; neither shall it deliver any by its great strength."** (NKJV) God was basically telling his people Israel to shun militarism. Chariots and war horses were basically banned from the Israelite army. Also militarism proved to be a real drain on a nation's economy. It cost a lot of money to maintain a 'modern military,' a standing army, the cost of which was passed onto the backs of the ordinary citizens as taxes--a heavy burden. In the carnal world of hostile empires militarism equaled survival. But with God's nation, Israel, God was stronger than any rival military force (cf. Exodus 14). But the tax burden, that gets us into the next government structure, it's economy.

The economic structure, the world verses Israel: The ancient empires were economically structured on a hierarchy of wealth where a few wealthy landowners amassed all the wealth, while all others, the peasant class, languished in poverty, virtual slaves and serfs. The wealth of an empire has always been based on the solid foundation of its farms and its ability to produce food. The Nile River, periodically flooding, made Egyptian farmland one of the most productive in the world, even into Roman times, being the wheat-basket of Rome. The Tigris and Euphrates, with Babylon between them, gave the Babylonian Empire some of the richest farmland in the region. **Land, farmland,**

equals the ability for people to make wealth. A superpower cannot exist without its farms. Even today, in our 'recent history' various forms of a wealthy class has always owned the output of farms, and large swaths of land for food growth. In Latin America for the past 200 years the Latifundios thrived and a lot still do. They are the equivalent of a massive Southern plantation, with serfs, poor tenant farmers instead of slaves, who farm the land. The Mexican Revolution was a revolt against this, with the famous but short-lived reforms of Emelio Zapata in southern Mexico and Pancho Villa in northern Mexico. Let's take a look at the reforms they tried to install, and the importance of land reform, and then take a look at the land reform God instituted for his nation Israel. You will see for yourself, they were quite similar. Mankind has been struggling to achieve what God is going to give them in his coming Kingdom of God which Jesus at his 2nd coming will install on earth for all nations. So here's a short piece about Emiliano Zapata and Pancho Villa and their attempt at land reform. Then compare that to ancient Israel.

Emiliano Zapata: Great Mexican Reformer

Some Basic Mexican History

*“Just a century after the Artigas land code [1815], Emiliano Zapata introduced far-reaching agrarian reform in his zone of revolutionary jurisdiction in southern Mexico...In this republic of outcasts, workers' wages had not risen by a centavo since the historic rising of the priest Miguel Hidalgo in 1810. In 1910, 800-odd latifundistas, many of them foreigners, owned almost all the national territory. They were urban princelings who lived in the capital or in Europe and very occasionally visited their estates---where they slept shielded by high, buttressed walls of dark stone. On the other side of the walls, the peons huddled in adobe hovels. Of a population of 15 million, 12 million depended on rural wages, almost all of which were paid at the hacienda company stores in astronomically priced beans, flour, and liquor. Prison, barracks, and vestry shared the task of combating the natural defects of the Indians who, as a member of one illustrious family put it, were born “weak, drunk, and thieving.” With the worker tied by inherited debts or by legal contract, slavery was the actual labor system on Yucatan henequen plantations, on the tobacco plantations of the Valle Nacional, on Chiapas and Tabasco timberland and fruit orchards, and on the rubber, coffee, sugarcane, tobacco and fruit plantations of Veracruz, Oaxaca, and Morelos. **In a fine report on his visit, John Kenneth Turner wrote that “the United States has virtually reduced [President] Diaz to a political dependency, and by so doing has virtually transformed Mexico into a slave colony of the United***

States.” U.S. capital made juicy profits directly or indirectly from its association with the dictatorship. **“The Americanization of Mexico of which Wall Street boasts,”** wrote Turner, **“is being accomplished and accompanied with a vengeance.”** (that being written by Turner in 1909-1910.)

Zapata’s Model Of Social Justice: Small Farms Reign, Putting “CAPS” on Capitalism

“The agrarian reform proposed to “destroy at the roots forever the unjust monopoly of land, in order to realize a social state which guarantees fully the natural right which every man has to an extension of land necessary for his own subsistence and that of his family.” Again, seeking the true Biblical solution of Numbers 26:51-56! **“Lands taken from communities and individuals since the deamortization law of 1856 were restored; maximum limits were laid down for holding sizes, according to climate and fertility; and the lands of enemies of the revolution were declared national property.** This last political decision had, as in the Artigas agrarian reform, a clear economic meaning: the latifundistas were the enemy. **Technical schools, tool factories, and a rural credit bank were established: sugarmills and distilleries were nationalized and became public services. A system of local democracy put the reins of political power and of economic maintenance in the people’s hands. Zapatista schools sprouted and spread, popular juntas were organized for defense and promotion of revolutionary principles, and an authentic democracy took shape and gained strength. The municipalities were nuclear units of government and the people elected their leaders, courts, and police. Military leaders had to submit to the wishes of organized civilian communities. Bureaucrats and generals no longer imposed methods of production and of living. The revolution tied itself to tradition and functioned “in conformity with the customs and usage of each pueblo...that is, if a certain pueblo wants the communal system, so it will be executed, if another pueblo wants the division of land in order to admit small property , so it will be done.”**

“In the spring of 1915 all the fields of Morelos were under cultivation, mostly with corn and food crops. Meanwhile food was short and hunger loomed in Mexico City. Carranza, who had won the presidency, also ordered land reform, but his henchmen speedily cornered all its benefits. In 1916 Morelos’s capital Cuernavaca and the Zapatista district were threatened with powerful forces. Crops now coming to fruition, minerals, hides, and machines were attractive booty for the advancing officers, who set fires as they came, and proclaimed “a work of

reconstruction and progress.” ... “A stratagem and a betrayal ended Zapata’s life in 1919. A thousand men lying in ambush fired into his body. He died at the same age as Che Guevara.” (“Open Veins of Latin America” p. 123, par. 2, p. 124, par. 3, all emphasis mine, for the full article see <https://unityinchrist.com/Poverty/mexico.html>)

Why Poverty and Starvation In Latin America?

In “**Open Veins of Latin America**” Eduardo Galeano shows his readers how over the last 500 years first the Native American Indians, and then the poverty stricken populace of Central and South America, first by enslavement, and then by the enslaving plantation system has brought about great poverty, sickness, starvation and death for the vast majority of inhabitants, both Native Americans and the Spanish or Portuguese general populace. Proper land-reform, fair distribution of farmland to the general populace would end all of this. But the wealthy, both local and from abroad, first Spanish and Portuguese, and then from the United States, supporting the owners of sugar and coffee plantations, prevent this. From the creation and ownership of coffee and sugar plantations, to copper and iron mines and the mining of all the rest of Latin America’s precious resources, this exploitation from sources abroad has, as Galeano so expertly documents in detail, brought about this cycle of poverty, starvation and death which has devastated the masses of Central and South America. To quote, “*The demand for sugar produced the plantation, an enterprise motivated by its proprietor’s desire for profit and placed at the service of the international market Europe was organizing. Internally, however---since it was to a considerable extent self-sufficient---the plantation was feudal in many important aspects, and its labor force consisted mainly of slaves. Thus three distinct historical periods---mercantilism, feudalism, slavery---were combined in a single socioeconomic unit. **But in the constellation of power developed by the plantation system, the international market soon took the center of the stage. Subordinated to foreign needs and often financed from abroad, the colonial plantation evolved directly into the present-day latifundio, one of the bottlenecks that choke economic development and condemn the masses to poverty and a marginal existence in Latin America today.** The latifundio as we know it has been sufficiently mechanized to multiply the labor surplus, and thus enjoys an ample reserve of cheap hands. It no longer depends on the importation of African slaves or on the ‘encomienda’ of Indians; it merely needs to pay ridiculously low or in-kind wages, or to obtain for nothing in return for the laborer’s use of a minute piece of land. It feeds upon the proliferation of minifundios---pocket-sized farms---resulting from its own expansion, and upon the constant internal migration of a legion of workers who, driven by hunger, move*

around to the rhythm of successive harvests.” (*Open Veins of Latin America*, by Eduardo Galeano, p. 60, par. 2-3)

Late 1960s In Brazil, The Empty Promise Of Land Reform

“The Northeasterner’s slave labor is now constructing the great trans-Amazonia highway that will cut Brazil in two, penetrating up to the Bolivian border. The “march to the west,” as the plan is called, also involves the agricultural colonization project to extend “the frontiers of civilization”; each peasant will get ten hectares of land if he survives the tropical forests. The Northeast [of Brazil] contains 6 million landless peasants while 15,000 people own half of all the land. Agrarian reform is not carried out in the already occupied areas, where the latifundistas’ property rights remain sacred, but in the jungle [where this ten hectare land-reform is being offered]. Thus a road for the latifundio’s expansion into new territory is being opened up by its victims, the flagelado, or “tormented ones,” of the Northeast. [This is a reference to the construction by these destitute workers of the Trans-Amazonia Highway.] Without capital or implements, what is the use of ten hectares one to two thousand miles from consumer centers? One must conclude that the government’s real aims are quite different: to provide labor for the U.S. latifundistas who have bought or appropriated half the lands north of the Rio Negro, and also for U.S. Steel, which received Amazonia’s rich iron and manganese deposits from General Garrastazu Medici.” (*Open Veins of Latin America*, p. 91, par. 1, emphasis mine) So much for genuine land-reform.

Early 1970s, Salvador Allende Attempts To Bring Real Land-Reform To Chile---What Happened?

In the early 1970s, right after the publishing of Galeano’s *Open Veins of Latin America*, Salvador Allende attempted to bring equitable land-reform into Chile. What happened? If you’re into historically accurate movies, order off amazon.com the movie **“Missing”** starring Jack Lemmon and Sissy Spacek. Also read this quote from Salvador Allende’s widow, Isabel Allende: “*If I had been able to read between the lines, I could have concluded that Salvador Allende’s government was doomed from the beginning. It was the time of the Cold War, and the United States would not allow a leftist experiment to succeed in what Henry Kissinger called “its backyard.” The Cuban Revolution was enough; no other socialist project would be tolerated, even if it was the result of democratic*

election. On September 11, 1973, a military coup ended a century of democratic tradition in Chile and started the long reign of General Augusto Pinochet. Similar coups followed in other countries, and soon half the continent's population was living in terror. This was a strategy designed in Washington and imposed upon the Latin American people by the economic and political forces of the right. In every instance the military acted as mercenaries to the privileged groups in power. Repression was organized on a large scale; torture, concentration camps, censorship, imprisonment without trial, and summary executions became common practices. Thousands of people "disappeared," masses of exiles and refugees left their countries running for their lives...In this context, **"Open Veins of Latin America"** was published. This book made Eduardo Galeano famous overnight, although he was already a well-known political journalist in Uruguay." (Forward to *Open Veins of Latin America*, written by Isabel Allende, pp. ix-x, par. 2, and par. 1, resp.) If you didn't catch it, the United States helped initiate and aid a military coup d'état on September 11, 1973. We **9/11-nd** the nation of Chile and much of South America. Many more innocents died in their 9/11 than did in ours, as it swept through Chile, and then on into much of the rest of South and Central America. Nonetheless, I can almost hear God saying about our 9/11, 'There America, back at ya! How do you like them apples?'

What The Kingdom Of God On Earth Will Guarantee

"Brian [a Cape Cod fisherman] loves the New World promise of fishing, its classlessness and virgin space, the breadth of opportunity it offered to him as a young man with debt and a family and a sense of place, and the purity of its relationship between skill and reward. The forefather to whom this love answers best is Thomas Jefferson, whose vision of an American yeoman husbandry finds its best expression today in the lives of men like Brian—men who make a living, if not on their own small farms, then on their own small ships, and who therefore cannot be forced into the wage-labor relationship Jefferson viewed as exploitative; whose ability to produce food helps to guarantee their independence, supporting society is itself independent, resilient, and not hostage to internal or external commercial interests; who participate directly in political processes of local self-rule; and who conduct community life, finally, defined by relatives and neighbors, associations and clubs, congregations and guilds, rather than anonymous buyers and sellers. In his day, Jefferson feared the nascent stirrings of powerful centralized government dominated by big capital. He feared the urgings of those who saw large commercial farming enterprises, such as plantations [like the Latifundios that swept South America], as more economically efficient than and therefore preferable to small family farms. He feared a society in which laborers and wage-earners would effectively resign from the processes of government, concerning themselves only with their own self-interest in an economy in which they had no choice, he wrote, but to "eat...one another."

Two Farming Towns, Two Radically Different Social Structures, One Healthy, One Unhealthy

In 1946, an anthropologist named Walter Goldschmidt, working at the behest of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, put Jefferson's suspicions of the costs of centralized capital and the alienating effects of wage labor to a sort of test. Goldschmidt examined two towns in California's Central Valley that were similar in the size and nature of their agricultural economies but quite different in the character of the farms that surrounded each town. Dinuba was girdled by small, independent farms worked chiefly by the families who owned them, while Arvin's lands were given over to fewer and much larger farms worked largely by seasonal workers. The total volumes of agricultural production in the two towns were very similar, but Goldschmidt was struck by profound differences in the towns' social fabric. He found, for example, that Dinuba had more institutions than Arvin for democratic decision-making and broader participation in such decision-making by its people; that the small farms in Dinuba supported about 20 percent more people at a higher standard of living; that most citizens of Dinuba were independent entrepreneurs, while two thirds of the population of Arvin were wage laborers; that Dinuba had better community facilities—more schools, parks, newspapers, churches, and civic organizations; that Dinuba had twice as many business establishments, which did 61 percent more retail business, particularly in household goods and building equipment; that such public facilities and services as paved streets, sidewalks, garbage disposal and sewage disposal were more available in Dinuba, whereas in some areas they were entirely lacking in Arvin. These were not facts, actually, that the U.S. Department of Agriculture wished to hear. It cancelled Goldschmidt's research, invoked a clause in his contract forbidding him to discuss his findings, and refused to publish his report[!]. The anthropologist finally published the report himself years later, and in 1972 he was called to testify before a Senate committee investigating land monopolies. ***"In the quarter century since the publication of that study," Goldschmidt said, "corporate farming has spread to other parts of the country, particularly to the American agricultural heartland, which has always been the scene of family-sized commercial farms. This development has, like so many other events of the period, been assumed to be natural, inevitable, and progressive, and little attention has been paid to the costs that have been incurred. I do not mean the costs in money, or in subventions [subsidies] inequitably distributed to large farmers. I mean the costs in the traditions of our society and its rural institutions."*** Ultimately Goldschmidt, like Jefferson, went unheeded. The family farm is now as quaint a notion as Jefferson's yeoman husbandry. Its passing has not slowed the march of the American economy. The decline as well of the sort of small-town manufacturing in which Carl Johnston's father worked has been balanced in the gross domestic product by the growth of a monetized service sector. But the journalists Clifford Cobb, Ted Halstead, and Jonathan Rowe question the accuracy of the gross domestic product as an

economic measuring stick, and suggest that this growth comes at the expense of American families and small towns, where services were once performed for reasons other than money. This is a shift, I believe, that has been felt nowhere more profoundly than on Cape Cod since World War II. Cobb and his colleagues speak in terms that stretch in the 1990s from sea to shining sea but resonate with particular sense of loss through the gridlocked summer streets of Chatham and Hyannis: [Goldschmidt continues] ***“Parenting becomes child-care, visits on the porch become psychiatry and VCRs, the watchful eyes of neighbors become alarm systems and police officers, the kitchen table becomes McDonald’s—up and down the line, the things people used to do for and with one another turn into things they have to buy. Day-care adds more than \$4 billion to the GDP; VCRs and kindred entertainment gear add almost \$60 billion. Politicians generally see this decay through well-worn ideological lens: conservatives root for the market, liberals for the government. But in fact these two “sectors” are, in this respect at least, merely different sides of the same coin: both government and the private market grow by cannibalizing the family and community realms that ultimately nurture and sustain us.”*** [“AGAINST THE TIDE, The Fate Of The New England Fisherman” by Richard Adams Carey, © 1999, pp. 233-335, emphasis mine.] Thomas Jefferson’s dream of yeoman farmers on small farms was designed to put a giant Cap on Capitalism that would prevent the inordinate accumulation of wealth in the hands of a few, in this case, a few large agribusiness, or out at sea, huge factory ships run by fishing conglomerates at the expense of the small fishermen, and the health of fish stocks themselves. Jefferson, whether he realized it or not (he may have), was trying to design a system, or at least put into the Constitution (I don’t think he succeeded), the very principles found in the Old Testament Law of God which divided up the Promised Land into inheritances given to every citizen, guaranteeing small farms which could not be bought or sold, they could only be leased, the land returning to the original owners every fifty years. As far as placing caps on capitalism in the fishing industry, it is my firm believe fishing boats should be limited in size to boats no larger than the Andrea Gail, and that bottom trawling which damages the bottom environment should be banned, allowing only net trawling above the bottom, and long-lining fishing. Sorry, got salt-water in my veins. Along the line of putting Caps on Capitalism, thus guaranteeing every individual the ability to accumulate a degree of wealth, some major industries should be state-owned, like railroads and public transportation, mining and smelting of metals, paying their workers well, but selling their products at cost. That’s my guess, will see how Jesus sets these things up when he returns and sets up the government of God on earth.

*Don’t Oppress The Foreigner (immigrants anyone?):
Palestinian Problem Solved*

“Also thou shalt not oppress a stranger: for ye know the heart of a stranger, seeing ye were strangers in the land of Egypt.” (Exodus 23:9) This is a foreigner, it’s a prohibition of race prejudice. The Bible forbids it all the way through, and God gives a remarkable reason in this place, he shows different reasons, different angles in different places, **“thou shalt not oppress a stranger:”** a foreigner, **“for ye know the heart of a stranger, seeing ye were strangers in the land of Egypt.”** You should never oppress someone, seeing you were the oppressed in the land of Egypt, God’s exhortation to the children of Israel. And more than that, you know, God has said to Abraham **‘I will bless them that bless thee, curse them that curse thee,’** all of the nations of the world shall be blessed through you, part of the blessing of Abraham is to go to the nations of the world. If Israel was going to be prejudice and Israel was going to have an attitude towards foreigners, the blessing of Abraham could never continue and go wherever it was to go. So, here the challenge, that they were never to do that. By the way, we make application certainly to our own lives. We’re in the Kingdom, we got in, we were foreigners to the Covenants and Promises of God. [Comment: God promises foreigners that Israel’s borders will be open to them, both in **Leviticus 19:33-34**, **“And if a stranger [foreigner] dwells with you in your land, you shall not mistreat him. The stranger who dwells among you shall be to you as one born among you, and you shall love him as yourself; for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.” (NKJV)** Now that’s Old Testament, now for a prophecy for the future, covering the start of the Millennial Kingdom of God, right after Yeshua’s 2nd coming, in **Ezekiel 47:21-23**, which starts out describing the division of the Promised Land at the beginning of the Millennial Kingdom of God, and states, **“Thus you shall divide this land among yourselves according to the tribes of Israel. It shall be that you will divide it by lot as an inheritance for yourselves, and for the strangers who dwell among you and who bear children among you. They shall be to you as native-born among the children of Israel; they shall have an inheritance with you among the tribes of Israel. And it shall be that in whatever tribe the stranger dwells, there you shall give him his inheritance,’ says the Lord GOD.” (NKJV)** You can’t get much clearer than that. see also <https://www.factsaboutisrael.uk/future-borders-of-israel-in-prophecy/> *Palestinian Problem Solved, God’s Way!*]

In the Soviet Union Josef Stalin created the collective farm system enmass across Soviet territory, and the hidden reason was so he could siphon off tons of grain and sell it abroad to help pay for and maintain the Soviet military, helping give the Soviet Union superpower status, built on the backs of its peasant collective farm workers, who never achieved a decent level of income. Even in the former British Empire all across its colonies, also coupled to its colonialism, wealthy

landowners were enabled to become even wealthier on the backs of the poor in those nations. Even in the United States, massive agribusinesses are thriving and are gobbling up small farms, driving them out of business. In every instance it is land and land ownership that produces wealth. Now for Israel. While we don't see that God abolishes Capitalism, he puts some serious "CAPS" on Capitalism. Why? To break the cycle of poverty amongst the poor and to enable the common man to achieve a fair amount of wealth. We will look now at some of the Old Testament laws which would enable "the Common Man" to achieve a fair degree of wealth.

Even Distribution Of Land Amongst The Ordinary Citizens, Ancient Land-Reform, Promise For The Future

Few realize, a wise King (Yahweh) in ancient history took an enslaved race, freed them from slavery, and brought them into an area of rich farmland, and by fair allotment, divided up that land equitably to every family and head of household. He even gave allotments to women whose husbands had died. This land then remained in each family, deeded to them by inheritance in perpetuity. A family's land could only be leased for a 50-year lease period, and then had to be returned back to the family, free of charge. This prevented the over-accumulation of lands by the rich, at the expense of the poor, the result of which we have seen in Central and South America, as thoroughly documented by Eduardo Galeano. This system of ancient land-reform took place in the Middle East back in the 1400s BC, and can be found documented in **Numbers 26:51-56**, **"These were the numbered of the children of Israel, six hundred thousand and a thousand seven hundred and thirty. And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Unto these the land shall be divided for an inheritance according to the number of names. To many thou shalt give the more inheritance [i.e. if your family was large, you got more land in your allotment], and to few thou shalt give the less inheritance: [i.e. if your family was smaller, you got less land, this was fair distribution according to need, what some would consider a communist or socialist principle. Well all this means, is that the great socialist and communist thinkers took a valuable principle out of the Bible, God's Word, modifying it as it suited them] to every one shall his inheritance be given according to those that were numbered of him. Notwithstanding the land shall be divided by lot: according to the names of the tribes of their fathers they shall inherit. According to the lot shall the possession thereof be divided between many and few."** (KJV) What God, Yahweh, the pre-Incarnate Christ did for the 12 tribes of Israel, granting them an incredible freedom from slavery and then granting them land-reform by fair allotment, he as the soon-returning Jesus Christ will yet again grant fair land-reform by allotment to the

poor and destitute in the world, and yes, for those locked into poverty in Central and South America, who need it the most (according to Eduardo Galeano---don't believe me, read his book). (for the full article, log onto: <https://www.unityinchrist.com/Why%2520Poverty%2520and%2520Starvation%2520In%2520Latin%2520America%201.html>) Now in Joshua chapters 13 through 19 the land of Israel was evenly distributed, according to size of family. This leveled the economic playing field, giving all citizens the same opportunity to create individual wealth via farming, raising cattle and sheep (and yes, chickens and probably turkeys).

Protection Of Land Ownership

We've already read about the evils of the wealthy using their wealth to accrue more land, creating vast agribusinesses, plantations and Latifundios. These laws would guarantee the land of a citizen, all citizens, would remain in their families. Say a person had to sell off their family property due to debt caused by drought or some other circumstances. They had the right to buy it back at any time, should they gain the means to do so. If they couldn't "redeem" their property, every 50 years, on the year of Jubilee, the land automatically reverted back to its original owners. This put a huge check on the wealthy amassing large tracts of land at the expense of poor, down on their luck people. **Leviticus 25:23-28, "The land shall not be sold permanently, for the land is mine; for you are strangers and sojourners with me. And in all the land of your possession you shall grant redemption of the land. If one of your brethren becomes poor, and has sold some of his possession, and if his redeeming relative comes to redeem it, then he may redeem what his brother sold. Or if the man has no one to redeem it, but he himself becomes able to redeem it, then let him count the years since its sale, and restore the remainder to the man to whom he sold it, that he may return to his possession. But if he is not able to have it restored to himself, then what was sold shall remain in the hand of him who bought it until the Year Jubilee; and in the Jubilee it shall be released, and he shall return to his possession."**(NKJV) If a person, due to debt, was forced to sell himself or herself into bond servitude, the law demanded their release at the end of six years--no permanent involuntary bondslaves, **Exodus 21:2, "If you buy a Hebrew servant, he shall serve six years; and in the seventh he shall go out free and pay nothing."**

The Charging Of Interest For Loans Banned

In the surrounding empires interest rates for loans could average between 20% and 30% and sometimes be as high as 80%. In Israel, due to God's concern for the poor, the charging of interest was banned, outright. This would help break the cycle of poverty the poor so often get caught in. **Leviticus 25:35-38, "And if thy brother be waxen poor, and fallen in decay with thee; then thou shalt relieve him: yea, though he be a stranger [foreigner, immigrant], or a sojourner; that he may live with thee. Take thou no usury [interest] of him, or increase: but fear thy God; that thy brother may live with thee. Thou shalt not give him thy money upon usury, nor lend him thy victuals for increase. I am the LORD your God, which brought you forth out of the land of Egypt, to give you the land of Canaan, and to be your God."** (KJV) Also, every seven years, the year of the Land Sabbath, all debts were canceled. **Deuteronomy 15:1-11, "At the end of every seven years you shall grant a release of debts. And this is the form of the release: every creditor who has lent anything to his neighbour shall release it; he shall not require it of his neighbour or his brother, because it is called the LORD's release. Of a foreigner you may require it; but you shall give up your claim to what is owed by your brother, except when there may be no poor among you; for the LORD will greatly bless you in the land which the LORD your God is giving you to possess as an inheritance--only if you carefully obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe with care all these commandments which I command you today. For the LORD your God will bless you just as he promised you; you shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow; you shall reign over many nations, but they shall not reign over you. If there is among you a poor man of your brethren, within any of the gates in your land which the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart nor shut your hand from your poor brother, but you shall open your hand wide to him and willingly lend him sufficient for his need, whatever he needs. Beware lest there be a wicked thought in your heart, saying, 'The seventh year, the year of release, is at hand,' and your eye be evil against your poor brother and you give him nothing, and he cry out to the LORD against you, and it become sin among you. You shall surely give to him, and your heart should not be grieved when you give to him, because for this thing the LORD your God will bless you in all your works and in all to which you put your hand. For the poor will never cease from the land; therefore I command you, saying, 'You shall open your hand wide to your brother, to your poor and your needy, in your land.'"** (NKJV) Coupled to the redemption of land sold every 50 years (Leviticus 25:8-28), these laws would lead to an even distribution of wealth. Of course, as brought out in Proverbs, laziness would lead to poverty, a person had to work to produce wealth. As Preston Sprinkle said in his book EXILES, **"Social justice. Concern for the poor. Economic checks on the rich. Redistribution of wealth. Forgiveness of debt. These aren't liberal**

or Marxist or “woke” ideals. They’re straight out of the Bible.” (p.40, par.2)

The Priesthood

In the surrounding empires, like Egypt and Babylon, the priests of their pagan religions not only had access to the tithes and offerings of the people, but unlike ordinary citizens, they could own land, vast swaths of it. Next to the king or pharaoh they formed a wealthy class of their own. It was diametrically the opposite for God’s priesthood, which was made up of the tribe of Levi, and within it the sons of Aaron were the priests. All Levites, plus the Levitical priests descended from Aaron couldn’t own land. They had to live on the tithes and offerings of the people, the other 12 tribes of Israel. And if they grew lax in doing their job of teaching God’s laws, so the people stopped caring about them, their own income would dry up. The Levites and priests were thus at the bottom of Israel’s economic strata (to see God’s tithing system, log onto <https://www.unityinchrist.com/gifts4.htm>).

The Judges

Instead of judges coming from some royal class, friends of the ruling king, God said Judges had to be selected from the people by the people. **Deuteronomy 16:18-20, “You shall appoint judges and officers in all your gates, which the LORD your God gives you, according to your tribes, and they shall judge the people with just judgment. You shall not pervert justice: you shall not show partiality, nor take a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and twists the words of the righteous. You shall follow what is altogether just, that you may live and inherit the land which the LORD your God is giving you.” (NKJV)** “In all your gates,” meant choosing judges out of the local cities and towns within each tribe of Israel. No royalty, no upper class, but righteous, upstanding citizens chosen as judges.

The Prophets

The prophets were mostly selected by God from the ordinary people, Amos was a farmer, although God could chose the son of a priest at times. But God did the choosing, since it was God who did the talking to the prophet, telling him what to say or write. As seen throughout the Old Testament, God's prophets were a check against corruption in the monarchy and in the Levitical priesthood, and of Israel in general. The real King of Israel, Yahweh, talked to and often corrected his people through his chosen prophets. It wasn't an easy life for a prophet, and their lives were often in danger, going up against a king. Like the Press in the U.S. being called "the 4th Estate," a check on government corruption. Prophets were a kind of 4th Estate in God's government structure over Israel, a 4th Estate out of the other three, king, priests & judges.

The whole upside-down nation of Israel, a nation of The Common Man, the dream of Henry A. Wallace, Emiliano Zapata and Pancho Villa, was intended by God to be "A kingdom of priests and a holy nation" (Exodus 19:6) and "A light to the nations" (Isaiah 49:6). And it will yet be that, for the whole world, after the 2nd coming of Jesus Christ (see <https://www.unityinchrist.com/kingdomofgod/MillennialKingdomofGod.pdf>).

The Constitution of Old Testament Israel And In The Coming Millennial Kingdom of God Moses' and God's Introduction To The Law of God

Deuteronomy 4:8-14, 32-40, "And what nation is there so great, that hath statutes and judgments so righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day? 9 Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them to thy sons, and thy sons' sons; 10 specially the day that thou stoodest before the LORD thy God in Horeb, when the LORD said unto me, Gather me the people together, and I will make them hear my words, that they may learn to fear me all the days that they shall live upon the earth, and that they may teach their children. 11 And ye came near and stood under the mountain; and the mountain burned with fire unto the midst of heaven, with darkness, clouds, and thick darkness. 12 And the LORD spake unto you out of the midst of the fire: ye heard the voice of the words, but saw no similitude; only ye heard a voice. 13 And he declared unto you his covenant, which he commanded you to perform, even ten commandments; and he wrote them upon two tables of stone. 14 And the LORD commanded me at that time to

teach you statutes and judgments, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go over to possess it... 32 For ask now of the days that are past, which were before thee, since the day that God created man upon the earth, and ask from the one side of heaven unto the other, whether there hath been any such thing as this great thing is, or hath been heard like it? 33 Did ever people hear the voice of God speaking out of the midst of the fire, as thou hast heard, and live? 34 Or hath God assayed to go and take him a nation from the midst of another nation, by temptations, by signs, and by wonders, and by war, and by a mighty hand, and by a stretched out arm, and by great terrors, according to all that the LORD your God did for you in Egypt before your eyes? 35 Unto thee it was shewed, that thou mightest know that the LORD he is God; there is none else beside him. 36 Out of heaven he made thee to hear his voice, that he might instruct thee: and upon earth he shewed thee his great fire; and thou heardest his words out of the midst of the fire. 37 And because he loved thy fathers, therefore he chose their seed after them, and brought thee out in his sight with his mighty power out of Egypt; 38 to drive out nations from before thee greater and mightier than thou art, to bring thee in, to give thee their land for an inheritance, as it is this day. 39 Know therefore this day, and consider it in thine heart, that the LORD he is God in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath: there is none else. 40 Thou shalt keep therefore his statutes, and his commandments, which I command thee this day, that it may go well with thee, and with thy children after thee, and that thou mayest prolong thy days upon the earth, which the LORD thy God giveth thee, for ever.”

The Ten Commandments

I. “I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.” (Exodus 20:2) i.e. ‘This is who I am, the God who freed you from slavery, took you out of Egyptian bondage.’ God identifies himself to his people.

II. “Thou shalt have no other gods before me.” (verse 3) Prohibition of having or worshipping any other gods. **“Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; and shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.” (verses 4-6)** Prohibition of making, having and worshipping of idols of any kind, which is idolatry.

III. “Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.”

IV. “Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work: but the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: *in it* thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that *is* within thy gates: for *in* six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them *is*, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.” (verses 8-11)

The Sabbath is God’s day of rest which he created for mankind, as recorded in Genesis 2:1-3.

V. “Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.” (verse 12)

This law commands respect of children toward their parents, gives the children responsibility for the care later on of elderly parents. This law strengthens bonds within family, and gives a promise of long life to the children for keeping this law.

VI. “Thou shalt not kill.” (verse 13) The Hebrew for the King James word “kill” used here is murder. Killing in self-defense or as a soldier in times of war is not murder.

VII. “Thou shalt not commit adultery.” (verse 14) This is generally viewed as forming an emotional, romantic and sexual union with another woman or man who is not your spouse. This is the second commandment of the ten that reinforces the bonds of marriage and health of the family structure in society. It is a major preventor of divorce and subsequent broken families which plague our society and the youth caught in the midst of broken homes. Adultery in a sense is a form of social murder against the family and the children within it.

VIII. “Thou shalt not steal.” (verse 15) This is a very simple commandment as stated with tremendous implications. It is the major commandment protecting all property rights. In a sense, it is a guarantee of private property for all citizens and aliens within the land, because stealing amounts to the taking of something owned by someone else, which implies the rights of private property.

IX. “Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.” (verse 16) The breaking of this commandment brings all kinds of evil upon people who do it, those they do it to, both with individuals and whole nations.

The obedience of this commandment is one of the major glues that hold society together, honesty.

X. “Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour’s house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour’s wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbor’s.” (verse 17) This commandment can be called the foundation for many of the other ten commandments. Coveting leads to stealing, adultery, lying, and yes murder, both for individuals and whole nations. The apostle Paul also said that coveting is idolatry (Colossians 3:5), so this commandment links right back to the 2nd and 3rd commandments.

The Judgments and Statutes

Judgments are laws that show how any one of the Ten Commandments are to be applied in various circumstances. Remember, ancient Israel, and yes, the coming Millennial Kingdom of God are going to be agrarian societies, as you will see in many of the following judgments found in the Torah Law of God, the Constitution of Ancient Israel. When God gave the Judgments and Statutes, he did it like a shotgun blast of buckshot, and not in order. I will attempt to give each of them as they apply to one of the Ten Commandments, going in the order of the Ten Commandments. This simplification, without leaving anything out, should make them more understandable. One important thing, and Jews reading this may take exception to this. In Hebrews chapter 10 it shows that the sacrifice of Yeshua haMeschiach, Jesus Christ, took the place of all the Old Testament sacrificial laws given in the Torah. So in this survey of the Constitution of Old Testament Israel, I will not be listing the sacrificial laws, except where a certain sacrifice helps explain a Holy Day (the Holy Days being Statutes and not ceremonial laws).

The 1st Commandment

I. “I am the LORD thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.” (Exodus 20:2) i.e. ‘This is who I am, the God who freed you from slavery, took you out of Egyptian bondage.’ God identifies himself to his people. The whole first 14 chapters of Exodus explain who God is, the God of slaves, the God who frees slaves. For a review of that, see <https://unityinchrist.com/lamb/exodus1.html>, <https://unityinchrist.com/lamb/exodus2.html>,

<https://unityinchrist.com/lamb/exodus3.html>,
<https://unityinchrist.com/lamb/exodus4.html>.

and

Genesis 1:1-31 reveals that God is also creator of heaven and earth. (If you need proof that God created the Universe and all life on earth, see <https://unityinchrist.com/Does/Genesis%201%201-31.html>) This principle that God is a God that frees slaves carries right over into the New Testament Christian and Messianic Jewish congregations and churches, as Jesus, being very God (and as it turns out, the God of the Old Testament) is the one who frees all believers from the bondage of sin. Understanding of who Jesus, Yeshua is, ties right into the 1st Commandment, where God is identifying himself to those he has called out of bondage, whether that be bondage in Egypt back in the 1400s BC or now as a new-believer in Jesus. For a complete study on who Jesus, Yeshua is, see <https://unityinchrist.com/prophecies/1stcoming.htm>.

An important one here, since judges and kings are direct representatives of God or were supposed to be in ancient Israel, this one applies under the judges and rulers and the respect to be shown them. **Exodus 22:28, “Thou shalt not revile the gods [judges], nor curse the ruler of thy people.”**

Judgments Applying To the 2nd & 3rd Commandments

II. “Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; and shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.” (verses 3-6)

Prohibition of having or worshipping any other gods, or images and statues of false gods.

Exodus 22:20, “He that sacrificeth unto any god, save unto the LORD only, he shall be utterly destroyed.” Prohibition of making, having and worshipping of idols of any kind, which is idolatry.

Exodus 22:18, “Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live.” This commandment has to be taken in light of the fact that the God of Israel was the ruling King of Israel, and witchcraft, which was essentially Satan worship, was treason against

the King of Israel. As you know, in all of English history, or the history of any European monarchy, treason against the king carried a death penalty. This next one applies the same way. You have to take these laws as laws of treason against the Holy Monarch of Israel, the King of kings and Lord of lords. We don't live under a monarchy right now, so we find these things hard to understand. But consider how these false religions, and worship of false gods destroyed society as well. **Exodus 23:13, "And in all things be circumspect: and make no mention of the name of other gods, neither let it be heard out of thy mouth."** This is maybe the only judgment applying to the 2nd and 3rd Commandments. God doesn't even want you mentioning the names of other gods. In the study of God's Word though, for important historical reasons, God mentions the names of other gods, false gods, and the evils that come about by worshipping them. Baal worship caused the death of numerous infant children in a horrible religious practice of sacrificing their infant children, burning them to death. Baal worship had a lot of illicit sexual practices, fertility rites, which led to a lot of unwanted babies, so they solved the problem by sacrificing them in the fire. As God was inspiring his prophets and priests to record the Bible, he included Israelite history that described these forms of false worship of false gods, in context with the harm it was doing to Israelite society. See <https://unityinchrist.com/kings/1.html> and you might find this interesting as well, scroll to "American temple of Baal Discovered." God was about to take the children of Israel into the Promised Land, the land of Canaan, where a lot of these harmful false religious practices were occurring. He wanted them to have nothing to do with their pagan practices, which destroyed life. As the study of Old Testament Israel shows, they soon forgot and adopted the practices of these pagan nations they were supposed to expel from the land of Canaan.

Exodus 23:23-26, "For mine Angel shall go before thee, and bring thee in unto the Amorites, and the Hittites, and the Perizzites, and the Canaanites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites: and I will cut them off. Thou shalt not bow down to their gods, nor serve them, nor do after their works: but thou shalt utterly overthrow them, and quite break down their images. And ye shall serve the LORD your God, and he shall bless thy bread, and thy water; and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee. There shall nothing cast their young, nor be barren, in they land: the number of thy days I will fulfill." There are some nice promises for obedience given here by God, good health, length of days, nobody dying young, no famines or droughts, bountiful crops and plentiful water and rainfall. There's a lot in these few verses. **Leviticus 19:4, "Turn ye not unto idols, nor make to yourselves molten gods: I am the LORD your God."**

III. "Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain." Leviticus

19:12, “And ye shall not swear by my name falsely, neither shalt thou profane the name of the LORD thy God: I *am* the LORD.”

*Judgments and Statutes Applying To The 4th
Commandment*

IV. “Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work: but the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: *in it* thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: for *in six days* the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.” (verses 8-11)

The Sabbath is God’s day of rest which he created for mankind, as recorded in Genesis 2:1-3. The Israelites had no clue as to any spiritual meaning or intent God had for the Sabbath and Holy Days, as the Law and it’s keeping did not offer spiritual salvation, i.e. eternal life. The only such offer to them came much later, in the prophecies of Ezekiel where the Israelites and Jews were given a prophecy of being brought back to physical life in a great general resurrection (see Ezekiel 37:1-14). But for Christians, the apostle Paul brought out an important principle about the Sabbath and Holy Days in **Colossians 2:16-17**. Some Christians use this verse to prove the keeping of the Sabbath and Holy Days is not necessary, but careful study of God’s Word show this is not so. But those verses do show the Sabbath and Holy Days of God are great shadows, shadow-pictures of things to come, prophetic events to come. Paul says “**Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: which are a shadow of things to come...**” We’ll get into this more thoroughly in a little while.

This next set of verses show the correlation between the 4th Commandment and the Holy Days of God, which will also be listed in full in Leviticus 23:1-44. You can see that the 7th day Sabbath is mentioned right along and included with the Holy Days, right in this first initial giving of the Law. This legally connects the Sabbath command to the Holy Day statute commandments given elsewhere in the Torah.

Exodus 23:12, 14-18, “Six days thou shalt do thy work, and on the seventh day thou shalt rest: that thine ox and thine ass may rest, and the son of thy handmaid, and the stranger [alien within your land], may be refreshed... Three times [seasons] thou shalt keep a feast unto me in the year. Thou shalt keep the feast of unleavened bread: (thou shalt eat unleavened bread seven days, as I commanded thee, in the time appointed of the month Abib: for in it thou camest out from Egypt: and none shall appear before me empty:) And the feast of harvest, the firstfruits of thy labours, which thou hast sown in the field:” [this is the Feast of Shavuot, or as Christians know it, the Feast of Pentecost] **“and the feast of ingathering, which is in the end of the year, when thou hast gathered in thy labours out of the field.”** [this would be the Feast of Tabernacles, but also as we’ll see, included two other fall Holy Days that come right before it, the Feast of Trumpets and Day of Atonement] **“Three times [seasons] in the year all thy males shall appear before the Lord GOD. Thou shalt not offer the blood of my sacrifice with leavened bread; neither shall the fat of my sacrifice remain until the morning.”** That last sentence is referring directly to the Passover feast, and Passover sacrifice of the lamb.

Exodus 35:1-3, “And Moses gathered all the congregation of the children of Israel together, and said unto them, These are the words which the LORD hath commanded, that ye should do them. Six days shall work be done, but on the seventh day there shall be to you an holy day, a sabbath of rest to the LORD: whosoever doeth work therein shall be put to death. Ye shall kindle no fire throughout your habitations upon the sabbath day.” We see throughout the Constitutional Torah Laws of God penalties for disobedience, and blessings for obedience. This was part of the Constitutional Old Covenant Law of God designed for the governing of a nation (and during the Millennial Kingdom of God, for governing the world). The Church, Body of Christ, under the New Covenant, does not have any penalties for disobedience. The most a pastor can do to someone who is blatantly disobeying God’s laws is expel that person from attending church, for the good of the other members. But the apostle Paul (whom many scholars believe was the author of the book of Hebrews) showed that rejecting God and his Holy Spirit was bringing on a spiritual death penalty, for the Sabbath was and is a shadow of Salvation itself, and its subsequent offer of eternal life in the resurrection. This short piece explains it.

The Physical Sabbath is a Shadow of a Powerful Spiritual Reality

There is one “shadow” we in the Sabbath-keeping Churches of God tend to ignore, most of us at least. And that is the Sabbath. The physical Sabbath, just like the Holy Days, is a shadow of a powerful spiritual reality. Why do we ignore it, or at least some of us do? It is because the Sunday-observers use it as an

excuse for not having to keep the physical Sabbath. What is this shadow the physical Sabbath represents? Turn to and let's read **Hebrews 4:1-11**, "**Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them [i.e. those in the Wilderness of Sinai], not being mixed with faith in them that heard it. For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest on the seventh day from all his works. [So the subject here is the Sabbath, folks] And in this place again, If they shall enter my rest. Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief: again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts. For if Jesus had given them rest [as Yahweh, God of the Old Testament], then would not he afterward have spoken of another day. There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God."**---That is not the accurate Greek. The accurate Greek for that verse is given in the margin, and it reads---"**There remaineth therefore a keeping of a sabbath to the people of God.**" Isn't it nice, how the King James translators put the accurate rendering in the marginal rendering? Why? Because it was not a popular teaching in 1611 England, when Sabbath-keeping believers were hunted down and persecuted severely. Lets finish up with **verses 10-11**, "**For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his. Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.**" If the Sabbath is a shadow of a powerful spiritual reality within us, and it is described here as entering into God's rest, what is that rest? We rest in the Lord when God's Holy Spirit enters into us, to an extent. But it says we cease from our own works. That's a key hint. Our own works are works of the flesh (Galatians 5:19-21). God's rest is found in the fruits of his Holy Spirit, **Galatians 5:22-23**, "**But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance [self control]: against such there is no law.**" A lot of these fruits of the Spirit are also described in the 7 traits of Agape, Paul spelled out in **1st Corinthians 13:4-7**, "**Charity [Greek, Agape] suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, doth not behave itself unseemly [i.e. isn't rude], seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in truth; beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things...**" How is it possible to have God's agape love? It is developed within us by the combination of having God's indwelling Holy Spirit, coupled to our life's experiences. In John 14 it says Jesus and the Father dwell within us by the indwelling Holy Spirit. **John 14:15-17, 21,23**, "**If ye love me, keep my commandments. [Matthew 5:17-19 anyone?] And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another**

Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; *even* the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you...He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him...Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.” So to enter into the Sabbath rest spiritually is a lot more involved than just observing the physical Sabbath, that’s kindergarten stuff folks. This dwelling in God’s Sabbath rest spiritually is a 24/7 deal, not just on the Sabbath. It can be seen here that rejecting Jesus Christ and his offer for salvation carries a spiritual death penalty, which was shadowed in the Old Testament Torah Laws which carried a physical death penalty for breaking the Sabbath, working on the Sabbath (which we just read in Exodus 35:1-3). Practicing the works of mankind, spelled out by the apostle Paul in Galatians 5:19-21, once you are called and have accepted Jesus into your life, rejecting Jesus’ offer for salvation, as Paul spelled out in Hebrews 10, carries a spiritual death penalty of its own, for the breaking of the spiritual Sabbath, which is Salvation itself. **Hebrews 10:24-31, “And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: 25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. 26 For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, 27 but a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. 28 He that despised Moses’ law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: 29 Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? 30 For we know him that hath said, Vengeance *belongeth* unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. 31 *It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*” So we see that the Sabbath day is a spiritual shadow of Salvation and receiving of the Holy Spirit.**

The Land Sabbath & Year of Jubilee

Exodus 23:10-11, “And six years thou shalt sow thy land, and shalt gather in the fruits thereof: but the seventh *year* thou shalt let it rest and lie still; that the poor of thy people may eat: and what they leave the beasts of the field shall eat. In like manner shalt thou deal with thy vineyard, *and* with thy oliveyard.” The land sabbath was, as we have learned in modern agriculture, a way of letting the land rest, just as we do with crop rotation, allowing the soil to restore itself. You know when you have a garden, weeds sprout up all the time. Well an Englishman living in India wrote volumes on the subject about how weeds work to restore minerals and elements that have been

mined out of it by steady planting of crops. Weeds have long tap roots, and pull up nutrients from deeper down in the soil. When the weed dies, those nutrients are deposited on the top of the soil where crops which tend to have shallower roots, can feed on them. At the next spring following the end of the land sabbath, all those weeds are plowed into the ground, where those restored nutrients are now able to fertilize and nourish the next six years of crops. The volunteer harvest that grows of itself that year of rest provides plenty of food, as it says, for the poor. But the Jews also understood that this volunteer harvest, could be picked when needed to feed yourself and your family, and your farm animals. But you should also have enough saved from bountiful harvests to also help tide you over for that year of rest. We will see elsewhere in Exodus the releasing of all debts every seventh year kept the economy sound and made it easier for the poor to make it financially. **Leviticus 25:1-7, "And the LORD spake unto Moses in mount Sinai, saying, 2 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye come into the land which I give you, then shall the land keep a sabbath unto the LORD. 3 Six years thou shalt sow thy field, and six years thou shalt prune thy vineyard, and gather in the fruit thereof; 4 but in the seventh year shall be a sabbath of rest unto the land, a sabbath for the LORD : thou shalt neither sow thy field, nor prune thy vineyard. 5 That which groweth of its own accord of thy harvest thou shalt not reap, neither gather the grapes of thy vine undressed: for it is a year of rest unto the land. 6 And the sabbath of the land shall be meat for you: for thee, and for thy servant, and for thy maid, and for thy hired servant, and for thy stranger that sojourneth with thee, 7 and for thy cattle, and for the beast that are in thy land, shall all the increase thereof be meat."** (verses 1-7) The Book of Deuteronomy expands a little on this land sabbath law, adding a financial set of laws to this land sabbath. **Deuteronomy 15:1-11, "At the end of every seven years thou shalt make a release. 2 And this is the manner of the release: Every creditor that lendeth ought unto his neighbour shall release it; he shall not exact it of his neighbour, or of his brother; because it is called the LORD's release. 3 Of a foreigner thou mayest exact it again; but that which is thine with thy neighbour thine hand shall release; 4 save when there shall be no poor among you; for the LORD shall greatly bless thee in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance to possess it:... 6 For the LORD thy God blesseth thee, as he promised thee: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, but thou shalt not borrow; and thou shalt reign over many nations, but they shall not reign over thee. 7 If there be among you a poor man of one of thy brethren within any of thy gates in thy land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not harden thine heart, nor shut thine hand from thy poor brother: 8 but thou shalt open thine hand wide unto him, and shalt surely lend him sufficient for his need, in that which he wanteth. 9 Beware that there be not a thought in thy wicked heart, saying, The seventh year, the year of release, is at hand; and thine eye be evil against thy poor brother, and thou givest him nought; and he cry unto the LORD against thee, and it be sin unto thee. 10 For the poor shall never cease**

out of the land: therefore I command thee, saying, Thou shalt open thine hand wide unto thy brother, to thy poor, and to thy needy, in thy land.” I believe what it’s saying when it says “the sabbath of the land shall be meat for you...shall all the increase thereof be meat ” it means that you could take in as needed, any volunteer crops, what was growing on its own, for food, probably on a daily basis, you, your servants, and the alien, foreigner living in the land. This financial part of the 7th year of release would prevent financial depressions in the land, would guarantee what Wall Street calls a Bull Market, and wealth-building on a national level as verse 6 points out. **Leviticus 25:8-38, “And thou shalt number seven sabbaths of years unto thee, seven times seven years; and the space of the seven sabbaths of years shall be unto thee forty nine years. 9 Then shalt thou cause the trumpet of the jubile to sound on the tenth *day* of the seventh month, in the day of atonement shall ye make the trumpet sound throughout all your land. 10 And ye shall hallow the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout *all* the land unto all the inhabitants thereof; and ye shall return every man unto his possession, and ye shall return every man unto his family. 11 A jubile shall that fiftieth year be unto you: ye shall not sow, neither reap that which groweth of itself in it, nor gather *the grapes* in it of thy vine undressed. 12 For it *is* the jubile; it shall be holy unto you: ye shall eat the increase thereof out of the field. 13 In the year of this jubile ye shall return every man unto his possession. 14 And if thou sell ought unto thy neighbour, or buyest *ought* of thy neighbour’s hand, ye shall not oppress one another: 15 according to the number of years after the jubile thou shalt buy of thy neighbour, *and* according unto the number of years of the fruits he shall sell unto thee: 16 according to the multitude of years thou shalt increase the price thereof, and according to the fewness of years thou shalt diminish the price of it: for *according* to the number of *the years* of the fruits doth he sell unto thee. 17 Ye shall not therefore oppress one another; but thou shalt fear thy God: for I *am* the LORD thy God. 18 Wherefore ye shall do my statutes, and keep my judgments, and do them; and ye shall dwell in the land in safety. 19 And the land shall yield her fruit, and ye shall eat your fill, and dwell therein in safety. 20 And if ye shall say, What shall we eat the seventh year? behold, we shall not sow, nor gather in our increase: 21 Then I will command my blessing upon you in the sixth year, and it shall bring forth fruit for three years. 22 And ye shall sow the eighth year, and eat *yet* of old fruit until the ninth year; until her fruits come in ye shall at *of* the old *store*. 23 The land shall not be sold for ever: for the land *is* mine; for ye *are* strangers and sojourners with me. 24 And in all the land of your possession ye shall grant a redemption for the land. 25 If thy brother be waxen poor, and hath sold away *some* of his possession, and if any of his kin come to redeem it, then shall he redeem that which his brother sold. 26 And if the man have none to redeem it, and himself be able to redeem it; 27 then let him count the years of the sale thereof, and restore the overplus unto the man to whom he sold it; that he may return unto his possession. 28 But if he be not able to redeem *it* to him, then that which is**

sold shall remain in the hand of him that hath bought it until the year of jubile: and in the jubile it shall go out, and he shall return unto his possession. 29 And if a man sell a dwelling house in a walled city, then he may redeem it within a whole year after it is sold; *within* a full year may he redeem it. 30 And if it be not redeemed within the space of a full year, then the house that *is* in the walled city shall be established for ever to him that bought it throughout his generations: it shall not go out in the jubile. 32 Notwithstanding the cities of the Levites, *and* the houses of the cities of their possession, may the Levites redeem at any time. 33 And if a man purchase of the Levites, then the house that was sold, and the city of his possession, shall go out in *the year of jubile*: for the houses of the cities of the Levites *are* their possession among the children of Israel. 34 But the field of the suburbs of their cities may not be sold; for it *is* their perpetual possession.” (verses 1-34) Leviticus 25:35-38, “And if thy brother be waxen poor, and fallen in decay with thee; then thou shalt relieve him: *yea, though he be* a stranger, or a sojourner; that he may live with thee. 36 Take thou no usury of him, or increase: but fear thy God; that thy brother may live with thee. 37 Thou shalt not give him thy money upon usury, nor lend him thy victuals for increase. 38 *I am* the LORD your God, which brought you forth out of the land of Egypt, to give you the land of Canaan, *and to be your God.*” For further laws concerning bondservants, foreign and Israelite, see verses 39-55 of Leviticus 25. Bondservants for stealing or debt they can’t pay, refer to the section covering the 8th Commandment, about stealing.

The Holy Day Statutes Listed In Leviticus 23

Notice, the 7th day Sabbath is the first Holy Day mentioned in this chapter of statutes listing the Holy Days, linking the Sabbath command to the Holy Day commands, so they are one and the same in importance. Most Christians who study the Word of God miss that point.

Leviticus 23:1-44, “And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 2 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, *Concerning* the feasts of the LORD, which ye shall proclaim *to be* holy convocations, *even these are* my feasts. 3 Six days shall work be done: but the seventh day *is* the sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings. 4 These *are* the feasts of the LORD, *even* holy convocations [convocations: “commanded assemblies”], which ye shall proclaim in their seasons.”

Spring Holy Days

Passover & The Feast of Unleavened Bread

5 In the fourteenth *day* of the first month at even *is* the LORD’s Passover. 6 And on the fifteenth day of the same month *is* the feast of unleavened bread unto the LORD: seven days ye must eat unleavened bread. 7 In the first day ye shall have an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein. 8 But

ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD seven days: in the seventh day is an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work *therein*.

In The Middle of the Feast of Unleavened Bread--The Wave Sheaf Offering

9 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 10 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye be come into the land which I give unto you, and shall reap the harvest thereof, then ye shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest unto the priest: 11 And he shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted for you: on the morrow after the sabbath the priest shall wave it. (Observed on the first ordinary Sabbath falling within the days of unleavened bread. This wave-sheaf offering of a shock of new grain waved by the priests represented the acceptance of the risen Christ by God the Father. It would be literally waved at sundown, at the end of that weekly Sabbath, the exact moment Jesus Christ would be rising from the dead out of the tomb.) **12 And ye shall offer that day when ye wave the sheaf an he lamb without blemish of the first year for a burnt offering unto the LORD. 13 And the meat [grain] offering thereof *shall be* two tenth deals of fine flour mingled with oil, an offering made by fire unto the LORD *for* a sweet savour: and the drink offering thereof *shall be* of wine, the fourth *part* of an hin. 14 And ye shall eat neither bread, nor parched corn, nor green ears, until the selfsame day that ye have brought an offering unto your God: *it shall be* a statutes for ever throughout your generations in all your dwellings.**

Counting Shavuot, Pentecost

15 And ye shall count unto you from the morrow after the sabbath, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven sabbaths shall be complete: 16 even unto the morrow after the seventh sabbath shall ye number fifty days; and ye shall offer a new meat [grain] offering unto the LORD. 17 Ye shall bring out of your habitations two wave loaves of two tenth deals: they shall be of fine flour; they shall be baked with leaven; *they are* the firstfruits unto the LORD. 18 And ye shall offer with the bread seven lambs without blemish of the first year, and one young bullock, and two rams: they shall be *for* burnt offering unto the LORD, with their meat offering, *even* an offering made by fire, of sweet savour unto the LORD. 19 Then ye shall sacrifice one kid of the goats for a sin offering, and two lambs of the first year for a sacrifice of peace offerings. 20 And the priest shall wave them with the bread of the firstfruits [the two loaves baked with leaven] *for* a wave offering before the LORD, with the two lambs: they shall be holy to the LORD for the priest. 21 And ye shall proclaim on the selfsame day, *that* it may be an holy convocation unto you: ye shall do no servile work *therein*: *it shall be* a statute for ever in all your dwellings throughout your

generations.” Thus we see again, that the Holy Day commandments are called statutes, they are the statute part of the Law.

Next, between the Spring and Fall Holy Days we find a short set of laws for the poor, welfare laws

“22 And when ye reap the harvest of your land, thou shalt not make clean riddance of the corners of thy field when thou reapest, neither shalt thou gather any gleanings of thy harvest: thou shalt leave them unto the poor, and to the stranger [“stranger” aliens from a foreign land, what we might even term “illegal aliens”]: I am the LORD your God.”

The Fall Holy Days

The Feast of Trumpets

“23 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 24 Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, In the seventh month, in the first *day* of the month, shall ye have a sabbath, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, an holy convocation. 25 Ye shall do no servile work *therein*: but ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD.

Day of Atonement

26 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 27 Also on the tenth *day* of this seventh month *there shall be* a day of atonement: it shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall afflict your souls, [fast, go without food or water] and offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD. 28 And ye shall do no work in that same day: for it *is* a day of atonement, to make an atonement for you before the LORD your God. 29 For whatsoever soul *it be* that shall not be afflicted in that same day, he shall be cut off from among his people. 30 And whatsoever soul *it be* that doeth any work in that same day, the same soul will I destroy from among his people. 31 Ye shall do no manner of work: *it shall be* unto you a sabbath of rest, and ye shall afflict your souls: in the ninth *day* of the month at even, from even unto even, shall ye celebrate your sabbath.” As special set of sacrifices were carried out by the high priest on this day, covered in Leviticus 16:1-34 (see <https://unityinchrist.com/messianicmovement/Holydayshadows2.htm> for a full explanation of this and the Fall Holy Days, what they picture).

The Feast of Tabernacles

“33 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 34 Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the feast of tabernacles for seven days unto the LORD. 35 On the first day shall be an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein. 36 Seven days ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD: on the eighth day shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD: it is a solemn assembly; and ye shall do no servile work therein. 37 These are the feasts of the LORD, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, to offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD, a burnt offering, and a meat [grain] offering, a sacrifice, and drink offerings, every thing upon his day: 38 beside the sabbaths of the LORD, and beside your gifts, and beside all your vows, and beside all your freewill offerings, which ye give unto the LORD. 39 Also in the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when ye have gathered in the fruit of the land, ye shall keep a feast unto the LORD seven days: on the first day shall be a sabbath, and on the eighth day shall be a sabbath. 40 And ye shall take you on the first day the boughs of goodly trees, branches of palm trees, and the boughs of thick trees, and willows of the brook; and ye shall rejoice before the LORD your God seven days. 41 And ye shall keep it a feast unto the LORD seven days in the year. It shall be a statute for ever in your generations: ye shall celebrate it in the seventh month. 42 Ye shall dwell in booths [tents] seven days; all that are Israelites born shall dwell in booths: 43 that your generations may know that I made the children of Israel to dwell in booths, when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God. 44 And Moses declared unto the children of Israel the feasts of the LORD.” For Christians Today, God’s Holy Day Shadows, what do they represent? To see what the Holy Days listed in Leviticus 23 are shadow-pictures of, see <https://unityinchrist.com/messianicmovement/Holydayshadows.htm>

New Testament Church Has No Need of the Sacrificial Law

You will notice that sacrifices are commanded as part of the Holy Days. You remember I said that the sacrificial death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ abrogated and took the place of the animal sacrifices and the whole sacrificial part of the Law. And the need for the sacrificial lamb on Passover was replaced with the taking of unleavened bread and wine. That is why I am not going out of my way to list or describe the animal sacrifices. This is thoroughly discussed and proven in Hebrews chapter 10. To read about these proofs, see <https://unityinchrist.com/hebrews/Hebrews%2010%201-39.html>

Judgments Applying To The 5th Commandment

V. “Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.” (verse 12) This law commands respect of children toward their parents, gives the children responsibility for the care later on of elderly parents. This law strengthens bonds within family, and gives a promise of long life to the children for keeping this law.

Exodus 21:15, “And he that smiteth his father, or his mother, shall be surely put to death.” Exodus 21:17, “And he that curseth his father, or his mother, shall surely be put to death.” Again, these two judgments were reenforcing the authority and sanctify of marriage and the family within a marriage. Remember, this is written as a Constitutional law written for a theocratic nation, with God as their King. It is not a law of the Church, the Body of Christ has absolutely no authority given to it by God to carry out the penalties contained within the Old Testament Torah Law of God. For us within the various Christian churches, it is merely the principle we must gain from reading it, that God places very strong emphasis on children showing proper respect for their parents. If a child (and this would be one old enough to live on his or her own) shows that kind of disrespect, they can merely be shown the door, so they can learn what life is like on the outside. Should this law have ever been enforced in the Old Testament times, it would say a lot for the failure of the parents to teach their children proper respect of their elders. This sword cuts both ways. The Jews during Roman times were noted for the very respectful, moral and happy families they had, as opposed to the very immoral Roman society. The Jews in Judea and around the Roman Empire were adhering to the laws contained in the Torah within their families, and set a model example to the immoral Romans of the times of what a happy, respectful family was like. Early Christians set the same example, as a light to the immoral Romans. **Leviticus 19:3, “Ye shall fear every man his mother, and his father, and keep my sabbaths: I am the LORD.”**

Judgments Applying To The 6th Commandment

VI. “Thou shalt not kill.” (verse 13) The Hebrew for the King James word “kill” used here is murder. Killing in self-defense or as a soldier in times of war is not murder.

Exodus 21:12-14, “He that smiteth a man, so that he die, shall be surely put to death. And if the man lie not in wait, but God deliver *him* into his hand; then I will appoint thee a place whither he shall flee. But if a man come presumptuously upon his neighbour, to slay him with guile; thou shalt take him from mine altar, that he may die.” Exodus 21:16, “And he that stealeth a man, and selleth him, or if he be found in his hand, he shall surely be put to death.” A very important thing to realize about God’s code of justice for hardened criminals that committed murder or kidnapping. There was no need to create a prison system for hardened criminals that kidnapped or committed murder, they were executed. As we will come to see, the Constitutional Laws of the Torah did not allow for the creation of a prison system or a code of justice that would incarcerate millions, and then creating a caste-system of 2nd class citizens who had their essential rights stripped from them. Hardened criminals ceased to exist, and as we will come to see, a much more equitable solution for stealing and thieves was given by God in this Constitutional set of laws. **Exodus 21:13, “And if a man lie not in wait, but God deliver *him* into his hand; then I will appoint thee a place whither he shall flee.”** This was the law for manslaughter, unintentional killing of someone. As we will see elsewhere in the Torah, cities of refuge were set up in Israel, three on the western side of the Jordan, and three on the eastern side of the Jordan, where someone who had committed manslaughter, an accidental death, could flee to, and he or she had to remain there in that city until the death of the high priest. **Exodus 21:28-32, “If an ox gore a man or a woman, that they die: then the ox shall be surely stoned, and his flesh shall not be eaten; but the owner of the ox *shall be quit*. But if the ox were wont to push with his horn in time past, and it hath been testified to his owner, and he hath not kept him in, but that he hath killed a man or a woman; the ox shall be stoned, and is owner also shall be put to death. If there be laid on him a sum of money, then he shall give for the ransom of his life whatsoever is laid upon him. Whether he have gored a son, or have gored a daughter, according to this judgment shall it be done unto him. If the ox shall push a manservant or a maidservant [indentured servant, serving 6 years for debt or stealing beyond what he can afford to pay back]; he shall give unto their master thirty shekels of silver, and the ox shall be stoned.”**

Property Loss

Exodus 21:33-36, “And if a man shall open a pit, or if a man shall dig a pit, and not cover it, and an ox or an ass fall therein; the owner of the pit shall make *it good*, and give money unto the owner of them; and the dead *beast* shall be his. And if one man’s ox hurt another’s, that he die; then they shall sell the live ox, and divide the money of it; and the dead ox also they shall divide. Or if it be known that the ox hath used to push in time past, and his owner hath not kept him in; he shall surely pay ox for ox; and the dead shall be his own.”

Personal Injury

Exodus 21:18-27, “And if a man strive together, and one smite another with a stone, or with *his* fist, and he die not, but keepeth *his* bed: if he rise again, and walk abroad upon his staff, then shall he that smote *him* be quit: only he shall pay for the loss of his time, and shall cause *him* to be thoroughly healed.” (18-19) cause an injury to someone else, and they don’t die, you pay for their time out of work and medical expenses. No way-out lawsuits, just plain justice, which in today’s world is real merciful. Now this next set gets into bondservants. A person became a bondservant either because of a debt he or she couldn’t pay off, or for stealing, where what was stolen couldn’t be paid for by the thief, so the thief went into bond-servitude to pay the debt or for the theft. A bondservant couldn’t be forced to serve more than six years, had to be set free on the 7th year. So this next set of laws covers the situation where a master of the bondservant causes an injury to the bondservant. **Exodus 21:20-21, 26-27, “And if a man smite his servant, or his maid, with a rod, and he die under his hand; he shall surely be punished [i.e. penalty for murder]. Notwithstanding, if he continue a day or two, he shall not be punished: for he is his money...And if a man smite the eye of his servant, or the eye of his maid, that it perish; he shall let him go free for his eye’s sake. And if he smite out his manservant’s tooth, or his maidservant’s tooth; he shall let him go free for his tooth’s sake.”** Bondservants were worth a lot of \$\$\$. This guaranteed careful treatment of them by masters. **Verses 22-25, “If men strive and hurt a woman with child, so that her fruit depart from her, and yet no mischief follow: he shall be surely punished, according as the woman’s husband will lay upon him; and he shall pay as the judges determine. And if any mischief follow, then thou shalt give life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burning for burning, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.”** These laws for personal injury set up effective boundaries for violence and personal injury, kept a lid on it in a normal civilization. The power for obedience was not contained in the Old Testament Law itself. These laws are similar to but not the same as the laws within the Church, which take things down to the thought level of obedience, which obedience is enabled by the very indwelling Holy Spirit of God. These laws are the outside governing laws within a society to keep violence and crime in check and under control. The very ability to love God’s laws and keep them, as Paul brings out in Romans 8, is put within individuals by the indwelling love and power of God’s Holy Spirit (cf. Romans 8:1-16). **Exodus 23:2a, “Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil;”** Mobs are dangerous, I’ve been in a middle of a group of people in a public square at night in Boston when I was a teen, and witnessed the attitude of the group turn suddenly angry, they call it mob-mentality. It’s dangerous. Police understand it, and that mobs have to be broken up immediately to prevent further out of control violence. I hugged the wall of a building as Boston Mounted Police broke up what had very suddenly turned into an angry mob. There’s a powerful warning within this tiny verse.

Laws of Welfare & Social Justice

Exodus 23:4, “If thou meet thine enemy’s ox or his ass going astray, thou shalt surely bring it back to him again. If thou see the ass of him that hateth thee lying under his burden, and wouldst forbear to help him, thou shalt surely help with him.” Exodus 22:21, “Thou shalt neither vex a stranger, nor oppress him: for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt.” Exodus 23:9, “Also thou shalt not oppress a stranger: for ye know the heart of a stranger, seeing ye were strangers in the land of Egypt.” This is talking about foreign aliens living within the borders of Israel. In America today the Republican Party and those who are Republicans have taken a harsh view of illegal aliens and those seeking to cross our southern borders, after 60 years of CIA/BlackOps malfeasance within their own countries have caused conditions of atrocity and poverty creating that massive flow of refugees toward our border. You don’t think God doesn’t notice and see this massive offense toward helpless humanity (for proof see <https://unityinchrist.com/topical%20studies/America-ModernRomans4.htm>). In the Millennial Kingdom of God, Israel will have open borders, anyone seeking to become a citizen of the 12-tribed nation of Israel will be able to cross the border and be granted instant citizenship. ***God is inclusive to all races, not exclusive.*** He is only exclusive in demanding your worship of him and him only, which is a part of the first three or maybe four of the Ten Commandments. ***God is not a racist, he deplores racism.*** Next, some powerful laws for widows and fatherless children, **Exodus 22:22-24, “Ye shall not afflict any widow, or fatherless child. If thou afflict them in any wise, and they cry at all unto me, I will surely hear their cry; and my wrath shall wax hot, and I will kill you with the sword; and your wives shall be widows, and your children fatherless.”** Next, banking laws, mercy, **verses 25-27, “If thou lend money to *any of my people that is poor by thee, thou shalt not be to him as an usurer, neither shalt thou lay upon him usury. If thou at all take thy neighbour’s raiment to pledge, thou shalt deliver it unto him by that the sun goeth down: for that is his covering only, it is his raiment for his skin: wherein shall he sleep? and it shall come to pass, when he crieth unto me, that I will hear; for I am gracious.”*** God will hear at your expense if you do this, what’s implied in this verse. **Leviticus 19:9-10, “And when ye reap the harvest of your land, thou shalt not wholly reap the corners of thy field, neither shalt thou gather the gleanings of thy harvest. And thou shalt not glean thy vineyard, neither shalt thou gather *every* grape of thy vineyard; thou shalt leave them for the poor and stranger: I am the LORD your God.”** verse 14, **“Thou shalt not curse the deaf, nor put a stumblingblock before the blind, but shalt fear thy God: I am the LORD.”** According to Jesus, half the Law of God hangs on this one commandment: **Leviticus 19:17-18, “Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart: thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbour, and not suffer sin upon him [i.e. warn him if he’s going in the wrong**

direction concerning God's laws]. **Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the LORD.**" Jesus when asked which were the two greatest commandments quoted this one, ***'Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.'***

Well interesting, considering how the U.S. treats refugees and illegal aliens crossing our border, those in desperate need, look what Yahweh, the pre-incarnate Christ commands in the very next chapter of Leviticus, he basically turns this command, judgment and aims it at those very aliens, foreigners who are attempting to cross our borders. **Leviticus 19:33-34, "And if a stranger sojourn with thee in your land, ye shall not vex him. But the stranger that dwelleth with you shall be unto you as one born among you, and thou shalt love him as thyself; for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God."** So, in a sense, the pre-incarnate Jesus Christ is saying we have to love those "strangers," less fortunate aliens attempting to cross our borders, and love them as we love our very own selves. I didn't say it, Jesus did, as Yahweh. In another place in God's Word, a prophecy, Jesus prophecies through the prophet that these people will be offered citizenship in Israel if they so desire, automatic citizenship.



Leviticus 25:35-38, "And if thy brother be waxen poor, and fallen in decay with thee; then thou shalt relieve him: yea, though he be a stranger, or a sojourner; that he may live with thee. 36 Take thou no usury of him, or increase: but fear thy God; that thy brother may live with thee. 37 Thou shalt not give him thy money upon usury, nor lend him thy victuals for increase. 38 I am the LORD your God, which brought you forth out of the land of Egypt, to give you the land of Canaan, and to be your God."

Judgments Applying To The 7th Commandment

VII. “Thou shalt not commit adultery.” (verse 14)

This is generally viewed as forming an emotional, romantic and sexual union with another woman or man who is not your spouse. This is the second commandment of the ten that reinforces the bonds of marriage and health of the family structure in society. It is a major preventor of divorce and subsequent broken families which plague our society and the youth caught in the midst of broken homes. Adultery in a sense is a form of social murder against the family and the children within it.

Marriage Laws

Exodus 21:7-11, “And if a man sell his daughter to be a maidservant [by context of these verses, “a wife”], she shall not go out as the menservants do. If she please not her master [husband], who hath betrothed her to himself, then shall he let her be redeemed: to sell her unto a strange nation he shall have no power, seeing he hath dealt deceitfully with her. And if he hath betrothed her unto his son, he shall deal with her after the manner of daughters. If he take him another *wife*; her food, her raiment, and her duty of marriage, shall he not diminish. And if he do not these three unto her, then shall she go out free without money.” From definitions found online, Wikipedia, etc., we get: “A **dowry** is a transfer of parental property, gifts, property or money upon the marriage of a daughter (bride). While bride price or bride service is a payment by the groom, or his family, to the bride, or her family, **dowry** is the wealth transferred from the bride, or her family, to the groom, or his family...**Bride price, bridewealth,**^[1] or **bride token**, is money, property, or other form of wealth paid by a groom or his family to the woman or the family of the woman he will be married to or is just about to marry. Bride price can be compared to dowry, which is paid to the groom, or used by the bride to help establish the new household, and dower, which is property settled on the bride herself by the groom at the time of marriage. Some cultures may practice both dowry and bride price simultaneously. Many cultures practiced bride pricing prior to existing records...**Jewish tradition:** The Hebrew Bible mentions the practice of paying a bride price to the father of a virgin, an unmarried young woman. **Exodus 22:16-17 states “Suppose a young woman has never had sex and isn’t engaged. If a man talks her into having sex, he must pay the bride price and marry her. But if her father refuses to let her marry the man, the bride price must still be paid.”** Deuteronomy 22:28-29 similarly states, “**If a man find a young woman that is a virgin, who is not betrothed, and lay hold on her, and lie with her, and they be found; Then the man that lay with her shall give unto the young woman’s father fifty shekels of silver, and she shall be his wife; because he has violated her, he may not put her away all his days.**” “In the Jewish tradition, the rabbis in ancient times insisted on the

marriage couple's entering into a marriage contract, called a *ketubah*. The *ketubah* provided for an amount to be paid by the husband in the event of a divorce (*get*) or by his estate in the event of his death. This amount was a replacement of the biblical dower or bride price, which was payable at the time of the marriage by the groom. This innovation came about because the bride price created a major social problem: many young prospective husbands could not raise the amount at the time when they would normally be expected to marry. So, to enable these young men to marry, the rabbis, in effect, delayed the time that the amount would be payable, when they would be more likely to have the sum. It may also be noted that both the dower and the *ketubah* amounts served the same purpose: the protection for the wife should her supporting spouse disappear from the scene (either by death or divorce). The only difference between the two systems was the timing of the payment...In fact, the rabbis were so insistent on the bride having the "benefit of the *ketubah*" that some even described a marriage without one as being merely concubinage, because the bride would lack the benefit of the financial settlement in case of divorce or death of the husband, and without the dower or *ketubah* amount the woman and her children could become a burden on the community. However, the husband could refuse to pay the *ketubah* amount if a divorce was on account of adultery of the wife...In traditional Jewish weddings, to this day, the groom gives the bride an object of value, such as a wedding ring.^[5] The ring must have a certain minimal value, and it is considered to be a way to fulfill the halachic legal requirement of the husband making a payment to or for the bride." We can see that what the Law of God provided was protection for the bride, both legal and financial, which was very advanced legislation in the day and age when Moses penned these laws given to him directly from God. We see how the Jews modified the law as originally given, which it is obvious to see, removed some of the financial protection given to the bride upon marriage. In my opinion, it is not wise to mess with God's laws, especially here, for they are for the protection of the bride and any children that would come from the marriage. Young men, in this agrarian society of ancient Israel, were mostly farmers, and as **Proverbs** brings out a strong principle of accruing a bit of wealth and stability before marrying and starting a family. It basically states "**plant the field, and then build the house.**" Part of this "planting of the field" is accruing enough wealth to be able to pay the dowry price, which was like a life-insurance policy for the wife and children she would have, life-insurance policy for the family, should the husband die, divorce or desert his wife and children. Since the Old Testament Law of God is the literal Constitution for the Government of God on earth for that period of time, it will yet be for the coming Millennial Kingdom of God at the Messiah's 2nd coming, what the Jews term *The World To Come*. The King James Version states it this way for **Exodus 22:16-17**, "**And if a man entice a maid that is not betrothed, and lie with her, he shall surely endow her to be his wife.**" i.e. marry her, paying the dowry price "**If her father utterly refuse to give her unto him, he shall pay the money according to the dowry of virgins.**" which dowry of virgins I would

assume would be an established set price. And considering, I would assume it would be a good sum of money.

Sexual Purity Laws

Exodus 22:19, “Whosoever lieth with a beast shall surely be put to death.”

Again, these were laws of the Constitution for the ancient nation of Israel. The New Testament Church has no legislated penalties for disobedience to these laws, other than expulsion from the church he or she attends for continuing in a lifestyle of disobedience without repentance. There is a difference between the Law of God as applied to a nation and as applied within the Church, the greater Body of Christ. These laws helped preserve a healthy society, and that was it. The Torah Laws of God, as we shall see, offered physical blessings for obedience, both individually and nationally and curses for disobedience, on a national level, with individual penalties which were to be applied to individuals. The Torah Law of God had no offer of eternal life for obedience to it.

Leviticus chapters 18 and 20 gives many of God’s laws for sexual purity. As will become evident, breaking these laws hurts society as a whole, as well as the individuals effected by their transgression. Back then in Old Testament times God was using his laws to protect society as a whole, as well as individuals. Within the Church, the Body of Christ, God is nurturing spiritual children, who are using God’s Holy Spirit to win these battles of the mind against sin, and with a lifetime of such overcoming, be ushered into eternal life. There is a huge difference in rewards and gifts given by God in the New Covenant as opposed to what’s given in the Old Covenant. Let’s view Leviticus 18 in this perspective. God in the New Testament times is not trying to gay-bash outside society in the world, these laws apply now inside the walls of the overall Church and the various Christian churches within it, not outside of it. Paul never tried to get the Roman Empire to legislate against homosexuality or abortion, he merely preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the outside world, those outside the walls of the various churches of God he founded across the Roman Empire. The physical protection of society in the world is the reason these laws will be enforced in the Millennial Kingdom of God as “laws of the land.” Let’s understand something:

Rome’s (and our) Decadent Morals

J.D. Unwin in his out of print 1934 book “Sex and Culture” wrote about what had significantly contributed to the rise and fall of 80 empires in world history. As he examined these empires he was looking for a common denominator. He

found that common denominator, it was the sexual energy, the sex-drive which is a powerful force within both men and women. He found that when an empire was young, just starting out, that sexual energy was aimed, channeled into monogamous relationships, aimed towards marriage between one man and one woman in order to build a strong loving family. This provided the foundation for the forming and establishment of strong towns and cities within that empire, strong communities, accompanied by strong agricultural growth, which is the foundation for a strong economy found within every strong empire. A strong desire was also created to protect those strong, loving families, the fruits of all their labours, which fostered the patriotic spirit from which a strong military force would be formed to protect, again, the collective fruits of all their labours contained in 'hearth & home.' As the society within each of those empires studied by Unwin allowed their "sexual energy" to be directed **away from** that family-oriented monogamous relationship into all kinds of other directions, he found that empire didn't last long, in historic terms of time. Unwin's work was not a religiously biased treatise against what Christians call immorality, but was a purely secular study of cause & affect in the realm of human sexuality. (Unwin was good friends with Sigmund Freud.) In the Roman Empire the bonds of strong, loving families were starting to be broken apart by the time of Christ and the apostle Paul in the mid-first century AD. Paul writing his Epistle to the Romans in the mid-first century AD clearly described the decadent morals of which that empire had acquired, and was falling headlong into. It got much worse, if that can be imagined, as time went on. The period of Emperor Caligula in 37-41AD was far worse (if you order the movie named "Caligula", an older film, you can see this for yourself. It is either an "R" or "X" rated film, but it backs this up). What the apostle Paul described is a direct reflection of the moral depravity which was extant within the Roman Empire at the time he wrote his Epistle to the Romans. Let's take a look at it, strictly from the historic point of view, placing it in context with the bottom line of J.D. Unwin's book. **Romans 1:21-32, "Because that, when they knew God, they glorified *him* not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things."** i.e. going into pagan religions as opposed to the worship of the true God. **"Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. For this cause God gave them up to vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: and likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men, working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet. And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a**

reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.” Now reading that, you can see why Nero beheaded the apostle Paul. He didn't mince words. But Paul just described what destroys an empire, or nation, or any society of man. Paul was pointing that out to the brethren within the local church of God in Rome for their spiritual edification, not to the outside Romans. I'm not pointing the finger at anyone, just pointing out strong social laws, which when broken by any empire, nation or society for a long enough period of time, brings destruction onto that empire, nation or society. It's simple cause & affect. The early Roman Empire and the Roman Republic from which it came was a very moral society which highly esteemed marriage and family. But as time went on and the centuries passed, attitudes toward sexuality changed. Rodney Stark, a sociologist, writes about this in his "The Rise of Christianity." Keep in mind Stark was writing about the later Roman Empire, not when it started out. Leviticus 18:1-30 and 20:10-12 define God's sexual purity laws, you can read them for yourself.

Judgments Applying To The 8th Commandment

VIII. “Thou shalt not steal.” (verse 15) This is a very simple commandment as stated with tremendous implications. It is the major commandment protecting all property rights. In a sense, it is a guarantee of private property for all citizens and aliens within the land, because stealing amounts to the taking of something owned by someone else, which implies the rights of private property.

Exodus 21:1-6, “Now these *are* the judgments which thou shalt set before them. 2 If thou buy an Hebrew servant, six years he shall serve: and in the seventh he shall go out free for nothing [i.e. he won't have to buy his freedom —this is a bondservant, slave]. 3 If he come in by himself, he shall go out by himself: if he were married, then his wife shall go out with him. 4 If his master have given him a wife, and she have born him sons or daughters; the wife and her children shall be her master's, and he shall go out by himself [obviously when her seven years are up, she and her sons or daughters go out

free as well, implied in the writing of this judgment]. **5 And if the servant shall plainly say, I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free: 6 then his master shall bring him unto the judges; he shall bring him to the door, or unto the door post; and his master shall bore his ear through with an aul; and he shall serve him for ever.**” The Book of Deuteronomy adds more to this command. **Deuteronomy 15:12-18, “And if thy brother, an Hebrew man, or an Hebrew woman, be sold unto thee, and serve six years; then in the seventh year thou shalt let him go free from thee. 13 And when thou sendest him out free from thee, thou shalt not let him go away empty: 14 thou shalt furnish him liberally out of thy flock, and out of thy floor, and out of thy winepress: of that wherewith the LORD thy God hath blessed thee thou shalt give unto him. 15 And thou shalt remember that thou wast a bondman in the land of Egypt, and the LORD thy God redeemed thee: therefore I command thee this thing to day. 16 And it shall be, if he say unto thee, I will not go away from thee; because he loveth thee and thine house, because he is well with thee; 17 then thou shalt take an aul, and thrust it through his ear unto the door, and he shall be thy servant for ever. And also unto thy maidservant thou shalt do likewise. 18 It shall not seem hard unto thee, when thou sendest him away from thee; for he hath been worth a double hired servant to thee, in serving thee six years: and the LORD thy God shall bless thee in all that thou doest.”** Now here is the law of Hebrew bondservants, or slaves. As we will see, a Hebrew could end up being a slave or bondservant, as it was called, for two reasons, for getting into so much debt that he couldn’t pay it off in a reasonable period of time (he or she could also sell themselves into this kind of bond-servitude willingly to pay off debt that was higher than they could handle). The other reason for bond-servitude, slavery, was for theft. As we will see, if a thief could not pay off the penalty, the fine, for his theft, then he went into bond-servitude for six years, and at the beginning of the seventh year he was set free. As we saw, hardened criminals who murdered or kidnapped were put to death, so there was no prison system required for them. So the only other reason for the existence of a prison system would have been for stealing, theft. Here we will find God created a justice system that did not require the creation of a prison system, with all the huge potential for abuse. Society benefited as well, because the bondservant, slave, was free labour for the one he stole from, and free labour for a farmer was an incredible boon to the farmer and the farming community as a whole. There was no costly prison system to be maintained. There was tremendous mercy in this system of justice as well. For example, a white-crime criminal responsible for the stealing of millions or billions of dollars, robbing people of their hard-earned investments should be thrown in jail and the key thrown away, but the penalty is the same for them, six years, max, and they’re out free. Now that’s mercy. As for the abuse of a modern prison system (and Roman prisons were tremendously abusive back then as well), we have only to look at what has occurred within the United States since the 1980s to present under guise of “*The War On Drugs*,” which amounted to being a new set of “Jim Crow” laws to the Blacks in America.

So in ancient Israel, God wanted to avoid all those abuses we see in the prison systems of both ancient and modern society. Here are the judgments about theft, written into the Old Testament Constitutional laws for ancient Israel, and I would safely say, for the future coming government of God during the Millennial Kingdom of God. **Exodus 22:1-15, “If a man shall steal an ox, or a sheep, and kill it, or sell it; he shall restore five oxen for an ox, and four sheep for a sheep.** [it cost more in financial penalty to be a successful thief, the higher the value of the theft, the higher the penalty fine was.] **2 If a thief be found breaking up, and be smitten that he die, there shall no blood be shed for him. 3 If the sun be risen upon him, there shall be blood shed for him;** [i.e. if a thief is breaking into your home at night and you kill him, it’s considered self-defense, it’s not considered murder. But if the sun has risen, killing someone breaking in is considered murder, you’re held libel for that.] **he [the thief] should make full restitution** [according to the penalty, i.e. five oxen for an ox, four sheep for a sheep, etc.]; **if he have nothing, then he shall be sold for his theft.** [i.e. sold as a bondservant, slave, usually to the one he stole from, serving the six years for his theft.] **4 If the theft be certainly found in his hand alive, [dumb thief] whether it be ox, or ass, or sheep; he shall pay double. 5 If a man cause a field or vineyard to be eaten, and shall put in his beast, and shall feed in another man’s field; of the best of his own vineyard, shall he make restitution. 6 If fire break out, and catch in thorns, so that the stacks of corn, or the standing corn [corn = King James word for “grain”], or the field, be consumed therewith; he that kindled the fire shall surely make restitution. 7 If a man shall deliver unto his neighbour money or stuff to keep, and it be stolen out of the man’s house; if the thief be found, let him pay double. 8 If the thief be not found, then the master of the house shall be brought unto the judges, to see whether he have put his hand unto his neighbour’s goods. 9 For all manner of trespass, whether it be for ox, for ass, for sheep, for raiment, or for any manner of lost thing, which another challengeth to be his, the cause of both parties shall come before the judges: and whom the judges shall condemn, he shall pay double unto his neighbour. 10 If a man deliver unto his neighbour an ass, or an ox, or a sheep, or any beast, to keep; and it die, or be hurt, or driven away, no man seeing it. 11 Then shall an oath of the LORD be between them both, that he hath not put his hand unto his neighbour’s goods; and the owner of it shall accept thereof, and he shall not make it good. 12 And if it be stolen from him, he shall make restitution unto the owner thereof. 13 If he be torn in pieces, then let him bring it for witness, and he shall not make good that which was torn. 14 And if a man borrow ought of his neighbour, and it be hurt, or die, the owner thereof being not with it, he shall surely make it good. 15 But if the owner thereof be with it, he shall not make it good: if it be an hired thing, it came for his hire.” (verses 1-15)** That’s it for the laws about theft and stealing. Pretty simple, compared to our complex set of laws found in our nation. No prison systems of mass incarceration, no need. And in the Millennial Kingdom of God there will be no drug problem, as with good health and God’s divine healing there

will be no pharma industry and no manufacturing of illegal drunks. With the agrarian farming economy going wild, being blessed by God, there will be no poor farmers being forced to resort to growing poppies or coca plants for the illicit manufacture of heroin or cocaine. There just won't be any profit motive whatsoever, so no drug problem, no need for drug laws. Sounds utopian, but that is just exactly what Jesus is coming back to set up, a utopian form of government, in a world which will become utopian, what the Jews term *The World To Come*, descriptions of which can be found throughout the Old Testament prophets (such as Isaiah 11:1-16 and 14:1-3, the Old Testament is filled with prophecies about this coming Kingdom of Jesus Christ.

IX. “Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.” (verse 16) The breaking of this commandment brings all kinds of evil upon people who do it, those they do it too, both with individuals and whole nations. The obedience of this commandment is one of the major glues that hold society together. **Exodus 23:1-2, “Thou shalt not raise a false report: put not thine hand with the wicked to be an unrighteous witness. 2 Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil: neither shalt that speak in a cause to decline after many to wrest judgment.”** verses 6-7, **“Thou shalt not wrest the judgment of the poor in his cause. Keep far from a false matter; and the innocent and righteous slay thou not: for I will not justify the wicked.”**

X. “Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour’s house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour’s wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbor’s.” (verse 17) This commandment can be called the foundation for many of the other ten commandments. Coveting leads to stealing, adultery, lying, and yes murder, both for individuals and whole nations. The apostle Paul also said that coveting is idolatry (Colossians 3:5), so this commandment links right back to the 2nd and 3rd commandments. Coveting leads to the breaking of five of the last six of the Ten Commandments. Can we see a

recent historic example of what breaking the four of the last six of the Ten Commandments brought onto the world? Yes, when a leader of a nation coveted after another nation's land (#10), lied to his people (#9) that it would be ok to steal (#8) another nation's land, and committed murder by declaring war and attacking the other nation (#6). Adolph Hitler did this against the Russian people (see <https://unityinchrist.com/topical%20studies/America-ModernRomans1.htm>). The lies Hitler told the German people, stirring them up to commit war had serious consequences for the entire world, as did Tojo's lies did for the people of the Pacific and South East Asia, and the United States. But I use Hitler as a prime example of coveting, lying, stealing and committing murder, as the basic cause & effect for World War II. It's a good example, and easy to see how the breaking of these commandments led to World War II, on both sides of the world. We see that coveting also leads to adultery, the coveting of another man's wife or another woman's husband. So coveting is a powerful sin that leads to the breaking of at least five of the Ten Commandments. The apostle Paul also said coveting is idolatry, so coveting leads to the breaking of the 2nd and 3rd commandment as well. If you desire something as an individual, work hard, save your money and buy it. Don't desire to steal it from your neighbour by theft or lying.

Ancient Israel's Tithing Laws, Tax Code--A study of tithing, God's Biblical standard of giving

Malachi 3:8-11. "Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' 'In tithes and offerings. You are cursed with a curse, for you have robbed Me, even this whole nation. Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and prove Me now in this,' says the Lord of hosts, 'If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such a blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, so that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field,' says the Lord of hosts; 'And all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a delightful land,' says the Lord of hosts."

The Israelites commanded to tithe to the Levites:

Numbers 18:21,24. "Behold, I have given the children of Levi all the tithes in Israel as an inheritance in return for the work which they perform, the work of the tabernacle of meeting...For the tithes of the children of Israel, which they offer up as a heave offering to the Lord, I have given to the Levites as an inheritance; therefore I have said to them, 'Among the children of Israel they shall have no inheritance.'" The Levites themselves were commanded to tithe to the house of Aaron (from

which the Levitical priests were reckoned and came from). For a complete description of God's tax system, as applied to Israel, and now the church, but will be re-activated during the Millennial Kingdom of God, see <https://unityinchrist.com/gifts.htm>

The Spiritual Law of God--Not Quite A Mirror Image Of God's Old Testament Law--God's Law Within The Church

The Purpose Of The Law Of God For New Testament Christians--A Mirror To Show Where The Dirt, Sin Is

The New Testament Law of God, just like the Old Testament Law of God, is like a mirror, it shows where the "dirt," sin is. It has no power to clean the dirt off, it's just a mirror. The power to clean the spiritual "dirt" off must come from God through his indwelling Holy Spirit. Jesus' brother James makes this perfectly clear about the Law being referred to as a mirror in his Epistle, **James 1:22-25**, **"But be ye doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the Word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: for he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth *therein*, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed."** In this analogy of James, Jesus' brother, what is the "dirt" implied to be on the man beholding his face in a mirror? Why it is sin. What does the Bible define sin as? The apostle John in his first Epistle defined sin as: **"Whoso committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law." (1st John 3:4)**

Grace supplies the indwelling Holy Spirit which enables us to live on a far higher plane than the law demanded

This website uses an analogy about a famous WWII B-17 bomber for it's mission. I have since learned a lot about B-17's, I even have a flight training film showing how they fly, and how they don't. Also within the past 10 years, in the early spring, many (40 to 50) turkey vultures have been congregating in the tall pine trees behind my back yard for the first six to eight weeks of spring, before they fly off to scatter all over New England for the summer months (they winter in

Virginia and places south of that wonderful state). I have watched them for hours soaring effortlessly in the sky above, gaining altitude with hardly a flap of their wings. I was searching for a good spiritual analogy I could use to apply to the verses in Galatians 5.

With Jesus dwelling in us, through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit [cf. John chapters 14 & 16] we are flying high above the actual requirements of the Law of God. A good example is found by comparing Matthew 5:20-44 with the listing of the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20:1-17. Just look those two passages up and read them. What this shows is that the Holy Spirit leads us toward this level of perfection, which is far, far above the old covenant 10 Commandment Law of God code. Some people read Matthew 5 and try to use it as a code. **“Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day *that* I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the Lord: But this *shall be* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.”** (Jeremiah 31:31-33) Hebrews 8:6-13, **“But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises. For if that first *covenant* had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second. For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day which I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord. For this *is* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws in their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: and they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest. For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more. In that he saith, A new *covenant*, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth waxeth old *is ready* to vanish away.”** (Hebrews 8:6-13)

Now here’s where my new analogy kicks in folks. Hang on, we’re going airborne! What happens in reality is, if you seek to be justified by your own efforts to observe God’s law, you have fallen from grace, fallen down, lost altitude, and come down to the earthly level where the Law dwells. (Don’t forget, when Paul was addressing the Galatians, when he says “law”, he means the Old Testament Mosaic Law that was being administered out of Jerusalem. Let’s keep the

historic context in view.) Grace dwells up in the sky, spiritually, where the high altitude flying airliners, B-17s and eagles (and my vultures) fly. The Law, like a railroad's rail lines, is planted firmly on the ground, terra firma. So how does God make someone he's saved, a sinner, good? He gives him a new nature. Is he to keep the law? No. Why not? [Hope I didn't lose half my audience there. Hang on folks, hear me out.] Because he has been called (the new-believer) to live on a far higher plane (no pun intended) than the Law. Go back to Matthew 5 to see what Jesus and Paul are talking about. The old covenant Law of God said **"Thou shalt not murder"** [the Hebrew says "murder", not kill]. The actual law that God writes into our hearts and minds says that we won't even hate an individual. **Matthew 5:21-22, "Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire."** Raca, Strongs #4469, Chaldean: *rhaka*, : "O empty one, worthless. Dennis Leary used a phrase in a movie to one of his accomplices in crime "You worthless waste of life...". That's pretty close to what Raca means. Jesus is beckoning us through the Holy Spirit to fly above this spiritual level, high above the Old Testament written code. What is the opposite of hate? Love, and in this case, Agape love which comes through the Holy Spirit. ***The spiritual 'law of Christ' as it's called, described partially in Matthew 5:20-44 is far above the old covenant written code of the Ten Commandments.*** Why aren't we under law, as Paul says throughout Galatians and Romans? Many theologians don't seem to be able to put the answer in simple understandable terms. ***Why, again aren't we under law? Because we as believers, empowered by the Holy Spirit, are supposed to fly high above the written requirements of the law, either one.*** Some people read Mathew 5 and try use it as a code of law to try to observe all on their own. It is a code of law, but let's remember the mirror analogy I gave in Galatians 4, and put it into a slightly different analogy. ***Mirrors show dirt, they don't clean it. Altimeters show altitude, and God's intention is that we fly as high as possible over the law, but altimeters don't give you lift. So the altimeter, the law, shows us where we are. God's Law in this sense is our altimeter.*** If you look into the 10 Commandment code of laws, and see you're actively breaking one of those, well, guy, you're on the real 'hard-deck' as pilots call the ground, running with those flightless turkeys (the Jews under the old covenant 10 Commandments, and yes, with those mixed up Judaizers). God's 'law of Christ' in my analogy is about 10,000 feet up. It's the arbitrary hard-deck Jesus has set for us to stay above. If you see you're messing up in one of those laws (read all of Matthew 5 through verse 44), don't try to overcome it yourself, you can't. Eagles and vultures don't achieve altitude by flapping their wings, they do it by aiming into the wind and soaring aloft, using the wind going over their wings for lift. If an eagle or vulture flaps its wings too much, like a turkey it stays down with the turkeys. God supplies the wind. If you're using the B-17 bomber analogy, same

thing, you need to maintain level flight, and increase throttle so air, wind flows over your wings faster, and you start soaring upward, while flying level. God's Holy Spirit is the wind, in either analogy. **John 3:8, "The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is everyone born of the Spirit."** We're flying on the power of the wind. Physically, God makes wind by the power of the sun, warming the earth, creating up and downdrafts and lateral wind. But God uses his Holy Spirit to lead, teach and clean us up, to a level far above the law. Let's look at another one. The Old Testament 7th Commandment said **"Thou shalt not commit adultery."** The Old Testament Israelite could walk around lusting at every good looking gal he saw (and women vice versa at every good looking guy she saw), and neither one would be breaking the Old Testament 10 Commandment code of law. But if either one actually slept with another (or each other without being married to each other), they have broken the law. What God desires to write on our hearts and in our minds is what's called 'the law of Christ'. Now let's see what the 'law of Christ' says about adultery (or sleeping around). **Matthew 5:27-28, "Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart."** That's the hard-deck we're not supposed to fly below. He goes on to point us to higher altitude spiritual flying. Let's read **Matthew 5:38-42, "Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also. And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain. Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away."** Look also at **Matthew 5:43-47, "Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbor, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; that ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to shine on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans [tax collectors] the same? And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so?"**

What Gives Us Spiritual 'Lift?'

Grace, God's Holy Spirit, inspires and helps us to soar with the eagles rather than flying just above those flightless turkeys. The law of Christ is our new 'hard-deck' we're supposed to fly above. I love watching my 'eagles', those turkey vultures, soar. I am a sailor, been sailing small sailboats since I was a teenager. I just realized, watching the vultures soar, how they not only gain impressive

altitude, but move forward against the wind. They use the wind just like a sailor uses the sails on a sailboat, but in three dimensions, not two. Just as there is no outboard motor on my sailboat, the vultures and eagles use almost no energy of their own to move great distances, and soar to great altitudes, all on wind-power. B-17s or B52s use engine power, but in the analogy, the fuel, again, is God's Holy Spirit. They use their huge wings to produce lift, by increasing the speed of air moving over their wings. We do that by asking God to fill us with his Holy Spirit, and by begging him to heal us of sin. Consider the 10 Commandment Law of God the peg at the bottom of the altimeter. When the needle rests on this peg, you're on the ground, breaking one or more of the big 10. You're running (not flying) with the turkeys. The law of Christ is the safety level we're supposed to fly above. We as believers will all stumble in our flights or walks with Christ. Both mirrors of God's law are useful and serve a purpose. Say you're a guy, and lusting after a girl, but haven't done anything to follow through with that lust. You're not on the ground (yet), but you're still flying below the desired altitude Christ has set for us as believers. You're losing altitude, not gaining it. Do you physically pull back on the yoke to try to gain altitude (by your own physical efforts)? Sorry, that won't work with a B17 or B52. You have to use God's power, keep flying level and increase speed by increasing throttle. That increases wind speed over your wing surfaces and you start gaining altitude. We maintain trim, God provides the energy and inspiration. Flying like walking, isn't easy, and we will make a lot of mistakes, and each must learn for himself or herself. But instruments are meant to be used. Flying by the 'seat of your pants' doesn't work with large aircraft or flying blind (through clouds or at night, or through nasty weather). God's laws and his entire word are like the altimeter, and also the turn-and-bank indicator. Sometimes a pilot, not looking at his instruments can end up flying upside down, thinking he's right-side up. That's called vertigo. It happens. But the instruments do not supply the power to run your engines. Remember, God's laws are our altimeter and show where we are, in respect to the ground and our altitude above it. Often, when pilots first started flying the mail in the 1920s and 1930s, and had to fly over mountain ranges in bad weather and not sure of where they were, those who decided to go down for a look to see where they were, almost always crashed into mountains, those who decided to go up and gain altitude lived to tell of their adventures. In the spiritual race, altitude is your friend. The altimeter tells you where you are in relation to altitude, it doesn't give you altitude. Back to my eagles (vultures). When they flap their wings too much, like turkeys, they stay down with the turkeys. If they fly as designed, flap just enough to find an air-current, wind, and head into it, they start to soar to amazing altitudes, without flapping their wings at all. They just set their trim, head into it, and lift, up they go. They go forward into the wind the way a sailor tacks back and forth, but again, without flapping a wing. Remember, we're flying, not running along the ground using our own physical power or energy. The energy is God's, he provides it. **“For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith” (Galatians 5:5).** Will we will reach the high altitude where the righteousness of Christ by faith dwells? No, not in our

lifetimes. You might say Jesus is up where the space-shuttle flies and above that. Humans are just not designed to ever reach that altitude, having to fight spiritual gravity, and spiritual warfare and all. Our ceiling at best is between 50,000 and 100,000 feet. In the first resurrection to immortality, we are promised that we will get up to where Christ flies. This verse is talking about the achievement of real righteousness, that of Christ, or near to it. What about our throttles (bombers have four)? **“For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love” (Galatians 5:6).** Our spiritual throttle which supplies the gasoline to our spiritual engines is “faith which worketh by love”. This is the way to live the Christian life, by “faith which worketh by love”. Our own love? No, silly, God’s love through the Holy Spirit. Again, we throttle up by asking God to do it for us, giving us more “faith that worketh by love.”

Three methods of trying to live the Christian life

“For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another” (Galatians 5:13). There are three methods of trying to live the Christian life. One keeps the eagles flapping their wings just above the flightless turkeys (domestic variety, Jews under the Mosaic Law without Christ). They can fly, but they find themselves wearing out easily, the spiritual life is a real chore. **That’s legalism.** The other method isn’t flying at all, except to fly yourself into a mountain or the ground. **That is the life of license.** You say, ‘*Oh, Paul says we’re not under the law, the OT law, or any law,*’ and so you dive into license, breaking many if not all of them: free sex, drunken revellings, partying, you name it. No, silly bird, we’re not under the law, because we’re over it, way over it by the power of God enabling us to fly over it, not crash under it like you just did. You’re running around with the turkeys now, on the ground. Remember, just because you’re spiritually flying now, and the rules and regulations of the ground don’t apply to you anymore doesn’t mean you can aim for the ground and not crash. You start breaking the commandments, and keep it up, you’re not living the Christian life, you’re running with the flightless turkeys, on the ground. I sincerely hope using some of the laws of aerodynamics to symbolize the laws of God has helped. **The altimeter is a spiritual gauge, showing how high you are. God has given you the gasoline, the fuel to fly, just as he gives the wind as fuel for the eagles and vultures.** Neither we nor they have to produce the energy for flight, it’s given to us and them. But if you willingly break the spiritual laws of flight, you’re going down, brother, you’re going to end up on the hard-deck. God’s law of Christ might be said, as I said before, to mark the 10,000 foot level of flight on your altimeter, above those poor eagles or ignorant B-17 pilots flying around just above those flightless turkeys. If you practice license to the degree that you’re breaking the Old Testament 10 Commandment Law of God, you’ll hit the hard-deck, put a tomb-stone up, you’re no longer living a Christian life, you’re a C.I.N.O., Christian-in-name-only. This would indicate you are not a believer,

born-again at all, like I said, put a tombstone up, you're dead, you didn't enter into the sheepfold through the Door, Christ, you came in another way, should have never gotten into the cockpit. Go back to the Door of the sheepfold, and ask Jesus to come into your life. The aerodynamics of a B-17 make it possible to gain incredible lift by flying straight and normal, on an even horizontal level flight, just by increasing their airspeed through throttle- up of rpm's on their engines. Trying to "aim" a B-17 upwards and applying throttle actually decreases lift. God supplying his agape love through his Holy Spirit is the only way to run and rev up our spiritual engines. Paul and Jesus both said **"Love fulfills the law, love for God and love for mankind."** That is the third method of flying, living the life of a Christian. Setting the trim for level flight and revving up the rpm's on those beautiful Wright Cyclones with God's fuel, supplied by the Holy Spirit. Don't forget, God the Father through Jesus' sacrifice and because of it has adopted us as sons. We've already seen that in Galatians 4:7. Our motives should not be to serve God like a slave or servant, out of dread to break a commandment, but because we are sons and daughters of God, and we love God (with his own love), he's now our Abba, Daddy. Again, **grace doesn't set us free to sin, it sets us free from sin.** The whole basis of obedience is a love relationship with God. The law, either law, Old Testament Mosaic, or New Testament 'law of Christ', could not and cannot bring us to that place. It produces a negative goodness. It's based on "I don't do this, and I don't do that." But what do I do? Here's an example. Paul in one of his Epistles re-iterates the 8th Commandment, but brought it to it's spiritual---law of Christ---level, intent, high above the 8th Commandment. He added the positive factor, added altitude to it, bringing it 10,000 feet above the literal 8th Commandment. He stated, **"He that stole, steal no more, but get a job and give to the poor."** God's love, agape' love, through his Holy Spirit brings us, lifts us above even the law of Christ in Matthew 5. We as believers, with God's empowerment of love through the Holy Spirit ought to set our arbitrary 'hard-deck' at 10,000 feet and strive from there to never go below it, but to achieve greater altitude through Christ, who lives in us. **"For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even this; Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another"** (verses 14-15). Love provides the lift, love fulfills the law.

How can you know you're walking in the Spirit?

How can you know whether you're walking in the Spirit or the flesh? Paul spelled it out easily for us. All we have to do is look at our spiritual altimeters. **"But if you be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law"** (Galatians 5:18). No, we're not under the law, we're over it! God brings us to a higher plane, altitude than the law. I wish preachers would point that out. Not being under the law doesn't do away with the law.

The works of the flesh

Paul goes on to list the works of the flesh in Galatians 5 verses 19-21, and these passages spell out the ground-level hard-deck, just like the 10 Commandment law of God does. This list is like the peg on the altimeter that the needle rests on when the aircraft is on the runway, on the ground. When we're called of God, given his Spirit, we take off, never meant to land until we meet Christ in the air and come back down to the Mount of Olives with him. Paul has crafted another spiritual mirror just like the law of God, but he groups sin into four categories. If you see these things in your life, just like looking at God's law written elsewhere (Old Testament), you ain't flying, you're firmly planted on the ground, maybe nose first, or planted under the ground, spiritually dead. **"Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God"** (Galatians 5:19-21).

Notice Paul concludes this list of the works of the flesh by writing **"and such like,"** which means there are many others he could have written. God's law in the Old Testament lists some pretty specific ones. He states flatly **"they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God" (verse 21).** The words **"which do"** indicates continuous action. Jesus gave the example of the Prodigal Son who got down into the pig pen. But he didn't stay there. Only the pigs stay there. If a son or daughter of God gets there, he will be very unhappy until he or she gets out. If you continue to live in sin---below the hard-deck, that's dangerous. It means you are not a child of God, not born-again through the indwelling Holy Spirit. You're a flightless turkey, or worse yet, a pig. And pigs don't fly (even though there's an expensive bread named "When Pigs Fly"). We become eagles, 'screaming eagles' when we're born-again. My favorite verse is **Isaiah 40:29-31, "He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk and not faint."**

Top of the altimeter

Now what's at the top of our altimeter? Don't forget the altimeter shows both positive and negative. **"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."** (Galatians 5:22-23) There's the answer as to why there's no law at the top of our flight ceiling, right in Scripture. We're way above the law.

I think I've demonstrated how we're "above the law", it's not like we can parade around, breaking all the laws we can. The Bible doesn't teach that. Jesus talked to the disciples in John 15 about the importance of staying tapped into the vine. He told them that he was that vine. It doesn't mean staying tapped into any particular church, although we all ought to be a member of a congregation, for our own growth and betterment, and protection. But Jesus is "the vine" that supplies the precious sap from the Holy Spirit. Remember Jesus said he had to go to heaven, or else we would not receive the Holy Spirit? There's something there we don't fully understand yet, but Jesus is that vital connection to the Holy Spirit. He said **'I am the door, whoever enters by me shall have eternal life.'**

Or, to put it another way, Jesus supplies the fuel we need to fly, the power to run our spiritual engines. Back to the fruit analogy, Jesus is the vine, and the Father owns the vineyard. The Father wants spiritual fruit from us. When you're soaring, flying at our maximum ceiling altitude, seeing these fruits, it says at the end of **verse 23, "...against such there is no law."** i.e. we're flying so far above the Law of God (either version, Old or New) it's almost not visible below us. The Ten Commandments were given to "control" the flesh. But the Christian life is to produce the fruit of the Spirit. **Matthew 13:23, "But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."** Jesus wants to live his life through us. You are never asked to live the Christian life---***you are asked to let Jesus live it through you.***

Our walk

"And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts" (verse 24). In the movie *"12 O'Clock High"* (based on a true story) General Frank Savage says to his squadron of B-17 pilots and crewmen, "Consider yourselves already dead, and it won't be so hard." **"If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit" (verse 25).** This "walk" is a different Greek word for "walk" than the last one mentioned in Galatians 5, which meant to "walk up and down". This word "walk" is the Greek word *stoichomen*, which means "to proceed or step in order." It means to learn to walk, physically, by trial and error. It's a learning process. Or in our spiritual analogy, learning to fly an aircraft during flight training is a trial and error process. You don't learn it all at once. Pilots, good ones that survive, know that they are continually learning until they retire. Some of the best pilots I've ever heard about are experienced airline pilots just about to retire. They're cool under fire, and don't make mistakes. But it took a lifetime of learning to get there. Salvation is not a quick, you're saved, that's it deal, it's a lifetime experience of learning to walk with the Lord. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph, they all walked with the Lord over the period of their lifetimes. And when you read about them, their walk wasn't perfect until near the end of

their lives. One major piece of advice, one of the major rules of flying modern aircraft, especially 4 engine ones: **Always trust your instruments.** The altimeter doesn't lie.

To read an excellent article which makes the various covenants of God clear and easy to understand, log onto:
<https://unityinchrist.com/newcovenant/TheNEWCOVENANT.htm>

To read a balanced study on Law & Grace, see:
<https://unityinchrist.com/whatisgrace/whatisgraceintro.htm>

Economic System In The Millennial Kingdom of God

Since Jesus's message was fundamentally the kingdom of God, how can we compare the economic system of socialism and capitalism with what Jesus will establish when He comes? ***Well the simplest definition of capitalism says that everything belongs to individuals or corporations, right? The simplest definition of socialism is that it is the responsibility of the state to control everything and attempt to create equality. The foundation of Christian economics is found in a Psalm written by Israel's King David, where it says, "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world and all who live in it." When Jesus sets up God's kingdom on the earth, He claims ownership of everything, including us, including humanity. That's the difference. And He will teach humanity stewardship of what God gives to every person. Here's Jesus's economic message, work hard, enjoy the life the way God has designed for it to be enjoyed, take care of the widows and poor, but seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added to you.***

To view the video by Gary Petty on this subject, log onto:

<https://www.ucg.org/beyond-today/beyond-today-television-program/was-jesus-a-socialist-or-a-capitalist>

Chapter 7

All Israel To Be Re-Gathered Back to the Land of Israel

(all 12 tribes)

I am not going to get into any kind of theories or doctrinal interpretations that try to explain who the Lost Ten Tribes of Israel are. The Jews themselves have debated for millennia of time about who they could be nationally, knowing that Abraham's offspring were promised to become kings and nations, plural. The mere fact that the Jews debate this issue, and that it has been debated for thousands of years by them attests to the fact that they're out there somewhere. Historically this is borne out Biblically, when at first the ten tribes of Israel rebelled against Solomon's son and became what was known as "the House of Israel", consisting of ten tribes of Israel. They lived in the region of Samaria just north of the territory of Judah. The tribes of Judah, Levi and part of the tribe of Benjamin remained with Solomon's son and became known as "the House of Judah". This history can all be found in Kings and Chronicles. In 721BC the Assyrian Empire was allowed by God to conquer and also totally deport the ten northern tribes of Israel, the House of Israel. They were taken to the shores of the Caspian Sea, and other pagan peoples were moved into the land of Samaria in their place. This is why the Jews of Christ's day hated the Samaritans just north of them, they weren't true Israelites, but came from the Caspian region and were pagans who mixed some of Judaism with their pagan beliefs. Who are the Lost Ten Tribes of Israel today? Not going to speculate. Let's just say, it's for the Lord to know and us to find out at his return. This paper will not get into any of those theories, no matter how plausible some may sound. But it will be noticed by the very Scriptures quoted that even the Bible indicates that Israel is more than just the Jews, and that a few of the tribes of Israel have been in opposition to the Jews (both historically and prophetically). We know also, just for the sake of background, that the Beast power (some believe to come out of Europe, perhaps in some form of United States of Europe) will conquer half the known world, probably the western democracies (esp. England, Canada and America). Whoever Israel is composed of—historically lost (but not to God)—along with the Jewish nation of Israel (the Israelis) both will more than likely be taken into captivity and slavery, as many prophecies indicate. The prophecies we will go through show Israel, some of it's various tribes named by name, being taken out of captivity and restored to the land of Israel. This study will merely consist of going through those prophecies, one by one, showing the restoration of all of Israel just after the 2nd coming of Jesus Christ. If you look up Genesis 49 you will see the 12 tribes of Israel listed as each son is blessed by Jacob, showing what kind of nation he would become "in the last days", as the King James says. In Genesis 48, just before this event, Jacob adopts Ephraim and Manasseh, Joseph's two sons, as his own, each to become a tribe of Israel by direct inheritance. It is this same tribe of "Ephraim" which is mentioned as being jealous of Judah, or the Jews in Isaiah 11.

Isaiah 11

Isaiah 11:10-16, “In that day [we’ve all seen what day “that day” is from reading the previous verses in Isaiah 11 in this study] the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his place of rest will be glorious. In that day the Lord will reach out his hand a second time to reclaim the remnant that is left of his people from Assyria, from Lower Egypt, from Upper Egypt, from Cush, from Elam, from Babylonia, from Hamath and from the islands of the sea. He will raise a banner for the nations and gather the exiles of Israel; he will assemble the scattered people of Judah from the four quarters of the earth. Ephraim’s jealousy will vanish, and Judah’s enemies will be cut off; Ephraim will not be jealous of Judah, nor Judah hostile toward Ephraim. They will swoop down on the slopes of Philistia to the west; together they will plunder the people to the east. They will lay hands on Edom and Moab, and the Ammonites will be subject to them. [this is all occurring just after the 2nd coming of Yeshua or Jesus.] The Lord will dry up the gulf of the Egyptian sea; with a scorching wind he will sweep his hand over the Euphrates River. He will break it up into seven streams so that men can cross over in sandals. There will be a highway for the remnant of his people that is left from Assyria, as there was for Israel when they came up from Egypt.” [Assyria is modern-day Germany.]

Ezekiel 36

Ezekiel 36:1-38, “Son of man, prophesy to the mountains of Israel and say, ‘O mountains of Israel [mountains being personified in the first part of this prophecy], hear the word of the Lord. This is what the Sovereign Lord says: The enemy said of you, ‘Aha! The ancient heights have become our possession.’ [Context: We know through Daniel that the beast power takes over Jerusalem, the temple, and the land of Israel during the tribulation, so God is answering the attitude of the enemy occupiers here.] Therefore prophesy and say, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Because they ravaged and hounded you from every side so that you became the possession of the rest of the nations and the object of people’s malicious talk and slander [aren’t the Israeli’s slandered even now by most other nations, who, due to false media reporting, are in sympathy to the Palestinians?], therefore, O mountains of Israel, hear the word of the Sovereign Lord: This is what the Sovereign Lord says to the mountains and hills, to the ravines and valleys, to the desolate ruins and the deserted towns that have been plundered and ridiculed by the rest of the nations around you—this is what the Sovereign Lord says: In my burning zeal I have spoken against the rest of the nations, and against all of Edom, for with glee and with malice in their hearts they made my land their own possession so that they might plunder its pastureland. Therefore prophesy concerning the land of Israel and say to the mountains and hills, to the ravines and valleys: ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: I speak in my jealous wrath because you have suffered the scorn of the nations. Therefore this is what the Sovereign Lord says: I swear with uplifted hand that the nations around you will also suffer scorn.

“Even The Whole House Of Israel”

But you, O mountains of Israel, will produce branches and fruit for my people Israel, for they will soon come home. I am concerned for you and will look on you with favor; you will be plowed and sown, and I will multiply the number of people upon you, even the whole house of Israel. The towns will be inhabited and the ruins rebuilt. I will increase the number of men and animals upon you, and they will be fruitful and become numerous. I will settle people on you as in the past and will make you prosper more than before. Then you will know that I am the Lord. I will cause people, my people Israel, to walk upon you. They will possess you, and you will be their inheritance; you will never again deprive them of their children.

This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Because people say to you, ‘You devour men and deprive your nation of its children,’ therefore you will no longer devour men or make your nation childless, declares the Sovereign Lord.’

The Past Conduct Of Israel

Again the word of the Lord came to me: ‘Son of man, when the people of Israel were living in their own land, they defiled it by their conduct and their actions. [this could be referring to the ten tribes before the Assyrian captivity, or the Israelite tribes living in their present lands, and probably is referring to both. Remember, this is in context with the 2nd coming of Jesus Christ. It is also referring to the Jews who were occupying the land of Israel just before this modern-day captivity and occupation.] Their conduct was like a woman’s monthly uncleanness in my sight. So I poured out my wrath on them because they had shed blood in the land and because they had defiled it with their idols. I dispersed them among the nations, and they were scattered through the countries; I judged them according to their conduct and their actions. And wherever they went among the nations they profaned my holy name, for it was said of them, ‘These are the Lord’s people, and yet they had to leave his land.’ I had concern for my holy name, which the house of Israel profaned among the nations where they had gone.

“It’s Not For Your Sake I Am Doing These Things”

Therefore say to the House of Israel, [“the House of Israel” of Kings and Chronicles is the ten tribes of Israel, the northern kingdom. But I think this refers to all of Israel, both them and Judah, the Jews and the Israelis.] ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am going to do these things, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you have gone. I will show the

holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, the name you have profaned among them. Then the nations will know that I am the Lord, declares the Sovereign Lord, when I show myself holy through you before their eyes.

“I Will Gather You From The Countries--I Will Put My Spirit In You”

‘For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your land. I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.’ [This is truly awesome! God has just promised to put his Holy Spirit into the entire nation of Israel! They become born-again believers in Yeshua, Jesus. And what God does for Israel he also does for the Gentile nations. God is absolutely no respecter of persons. Jesus brother James strongly condemned any respecter of persons in his letter. *The Gentiles too will receive this blessing!*] **“You will live in the land I gave your forefathers; you will be my people, and I will be your God. I will save you from all your uncleanness. I will call for grain and make it plentiful and will not bring famine upon you. I will increase the fruit of the trees and the crops of the field, so that you will no longer suffer disgrace among the nations because of famine. Then you will remember your evil ways and wicked deeds, and you will loathe yourselves for your sins and detestable practices. I want you to know that I am not doing this for your sake, declares the Sovereign Lord. Be ashamed and disgraced for your conduct, O house of Israel!**

‘I Will Resettle Your Towns, The Ruins Will Be Rebuilt’

“This is what the Sovereign Lord says: On the day I cleanse you from all your sins, I will resettle your towns, and the ruins will be rebuilt. The desolate land will be cultivated instead of lying desolate in the sight of all who pass through it. They will say, ‘This land that was laid waste has become like the garden of Eden; the cities that were lying in ruins, desolate and destroyed, are now fortified and inhabited.’ Then the nations around you that remain will know that I the Lord have rebuilt what was destroyed and have replanted what was desolate. I the Lord have spoken, and I will do it.’

‘I Will Make Their People Numerous’

This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Once again I will yield to the plea of the house of Israel and do this for them: I will make their people as numerous as sheep, as numerous as the flocks for offerings at Jerusalem

during her appointed feasts. So will the ruined cities be filled with flocks of people. Then they will know that I am the Lord.” Ezekiel 37:15-28 continues this prophecy. [Ezekiel 37:1-14 has to be taken in context with the only other major resurrection in the Bible, not the resurrection to immortality. And we won't get into that. So verses 1-14 are not part of this 2nd coming of Christ regathering prophecy.]

Ezekiel 37:15-28, 'Israel & Judah No Longer To Be Two Nations'

Ezekiel 37:15-28, “The word of the Lord came to me: ‘Son of man, take a stick of wood and write on it, ‘Belonging to Judah and the Israelites associated with him.’ Then take another stick of wood, and write on it, ‘Ephraim’s stick, belonging to Joseph and all the house of Israel associated with him.’ Join them together into one stick so that they will become one in your hand. When your countrymen ask you, ‘Won’t you tell us what you mean by this?’ say to them, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: I am going to take the stick of Joseph—which is in Ephraim’s hand—and of the Israelite tribes associated with him [that would be Manasseh, Rueben, Simeon, Zebulon, Issachar, Dan, Gad, Asher, Naphtali, and Ephraim makes ten, the ten tribes of Israel that made up the northern kingdom of “the House of Israel” that was in the territory of Samaria before 721 BC. And at the time Ezekiel wrote this, Israel had already been deported over 100 years previously!] and join it to Judah’s stick, making them a single stick of wood, and they will become one in my hand.’ Hold before their eyes the sticks you have written on and say to them, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: I will take the Israelites out of the nations where they have gone. I will gather them back into their own land. I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel. There will be one king over all of them and they will never again be two nations or be divided into two kingdoms. They will no longer defile themselves with their idols and vile images or with any of their offenses, for I will save them from all their sinful backsliding, and I will cleanse them. They will be my people, and I will be their God. My servant David will be king over them, and they will all have one shepherd. They will follow my laws and be careful to keep my decrees. They will live in the land I gave to my servant Jacob, the land where your fathers lived. They and their children and their children’s children will live there forever, and David my servant will be their prince forever. I will make a covenant of peace with them; it will be an everlasting covenant. I will establish them and increase their numbers, and I will put my sanctuary among them forever. My dwelling place will be with them; I will be their God, and they will be my people. Then the nations will know that I the Lord make Israel holy, when my sanctuary is among them forever.” Here we see David, the resurrected, immortal David is given the job as king over the 12 tribes of Israel. They have been restored to the land. God through the prophets is consistent here, as we shall see in Jeremiah.

Jeremiah 30:1-24, 'I Will Bring My People Israel and Judah From Captivity'

Jeremiah 30:1-24, “This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: ‘This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: ‘Write in a book all the words I have spoken to you. The days are coming,’ declares the Lord, ‘when I will bring my people Israel and Judah back from captivity and restore them to the land I gave their forefathers to possess,’ says the Lord. These are the words the Lord spoke concerning Israel and Judah: ‘This is what the Lord says: ‘Cries of fear are heard—terror, not peace. Ask and see: Can a man bear children? Then why do I see every strong man with his hands on his stomach like a woman in labor, every face turned deathly pale? How awful that day will be! [the Day of the Lord] None will be like it. It will be a time of trouble for Jacob, but he will be saved out of it. [this is talking about the tribulation and Day of the Lord] ‘In that day,’ declares the Lord Almighty, ‘I will break the yoke off their necks and will tear off their bonds; no longer will foreigners enslave them. Instead, they will serve the Lord their God and David their king, whom I will raise up for them. [Here again, we see the prophecy about David being the king of Israel, while we know the Lord, Jesus is the King of the earth, cf. Zechariah 14:9.] ‘So do not fear, O Jacob my servant; do not be dismayed, O Israel,’ declares the Lord. ‘I will surely save you out of a distant place, your descendants from the land of their exile. Jacob will again have peace and security, and no one will make him afraid. I am with you and will save you,’ declares the Lord. Though I completely destroy all the nations among which I scatter you, I will not completely destroy you. I will discipline you but only with justice; I will not let you go entirely unpunished.’ This is what the Lord says: ‘Your wound is incurable, you injury beyond healing. There is no one to plead your cause, no remedy for your sore, no healing for you. All your allies have forgotten you; they care nothing for you. [this could apply to the allies of the Israelis and also the allies of those nations who are made up of the ten tribes of Israel as well. This is “end times, day of the Lord” time-setting, not the Babylonian captivity of Daniel’s and Jeremiah’s day] I have struck you as an enemy would and punished you as would the cruel, because your guilt is so great and your sins so many. Why do you cry over your wound, your pain that has no cure? Because of your guilt and many sins I have done these things to you. But all who devour you will be devoured; all your enemies will go into exile. Those who plunder you will be plundered; all who make spoil of you I will despoil. But I will restore you to health and heal your wounds,’ declares the Lord, ‘because you are called an outcast, Zion for whom no one cares.’ This is what the Lord says: ‘I will restore the fortunes of Jacob’s tents and have compassion on his dwellings [Jacob is another name for Israel, the ten tribes, esp. Ephraim & Manasseh]; the city will be rebuilt on her ruins, and the palace will stand in its proper place. From them will come songs of thanksgiving and the sound

of rejoicing. I will add to their numbers, and they will not be decreased; I will bring them honor, and they will be as in days of old, and their community will be established before me; I will punish all who oppress them. Their leader will be one of their own; their ruler will arise from among them. I will bring him near and he will come close to me, for who is he who will devote himself to be close to me?’ declares the Lord. ‘So you will be my people, and I will be your God.’ See, the storm of the Lord will burst out in wrath, a driving wind swirling down on the heads of the wicked. The fierce anger of the Lord will not turn back until he fully accomplishes the purposes of his heart. In days to come you will understand this.” Are we beginning to understand? I hope so.

Isaiah 14:1-7 and 27:12-13, ‘Your Captors Will Serve You’

At the time Isaiah penned this passage we’re about to read, Israel was being taken, all ten tribes of the northern kingdom, into captivity, being deported to the shores of the Caspian sea by the Assyrian Empire, never to return. So Isaiah was talking about “the House of Israel” which dwelt north of him, in the territory of Samaria. Isaiah lived to the south, in the land of “the House of Judah.” Also, the wording here is 2nd coming time-setting. **Isaiah 14:1-7, “The Lord will have compassion on Jacob; once again he will choose Israel and will settle them in their own land. Aliens will join them and unite with the house of Jacob. Nations will take them and bring them to their own place. And the house of Israel will possess the nations as menservants and maidservants in the Lord’s land. They will make captives of their captors and rule over their oppressors...”**--The Lord’s land is the land of Israel, where the Israelis live right now. Do the Israelis have menservants and maidservants of their enemies? Not really, their enemies, the Arabs and Palestinians are trying to kill them and drive them into the sea. No, this is most definitely looking into the future, and hasn’t happened in any time of the past, not even for the Jews who returned under Ezra and Nehemiah. In Ezra’s and Nehemiah’s time, the Jews were also persecuted by their enemies. So this prophecy is for the restored Israel of the future, all 12 tribes, whoever they might be (again, not gonna speculate on that one)—“**...On the day the Lord gives you relief from suffering and turmoil and cruel bondage, you will take up this taunt against the king of Babylon** [and this is talking of the future king of the Babylon, mother of harlots, spoken of in Revelation 17 and 18, and goes right into the description of Satan in verse 12, which we won’t get into.]: **‘How the oppressor has come to an end! How his fury has ended! The Lord has broken the rod of the wicked, the scepter of the rulers, which in anger struck down peoples with unceasing blows,**” this end-time evil empire and their leaders, with Assyria as part of it, will be very ruthless, worse than Hitler and Mussolini who preceded it. **“and in fury subdued nations with relentless aggression. All the lands are at rest and at peace; they break into singing.”** **Isaiah 27:12-13, “In that day the Lord will thresh from the flowing Euphrates to the Wadi of Egypt [Nile], and you, O**

Israelites, will be gathered up one by one. And in that day a great trumpet will sound [cf. 7th Trumpet of Revelation 11:15-19]. **Those who were perishing in Assyria and those who were in exiled in Egypt will come and worship the Lord on the holy mountain of Jerusalem.”**

Isaiah 41:8-16, ‘Though You Search For Your Enemies, You Will Not Find Them’

Isaiah 41:8-16, “But you, O Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, you descendants of Abraham my friend, I took you from the ends of the earth, from its farthest corners I called you. I said, ‘You are my servant’; I have chosen you and have not rejected you. So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. All who rage against you will surely be ashamed and disgraced; those who oppose you will be as nothing and perish. Though you search for your enemies, you will not find them. Those who wage war against you will be as nothing at all. For I am the Lord your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you. Do not be afraid, O worm Jacob, O little Israel, for I will myself help you,’ declares the Lord, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel. See, I will make you into a threshing sledge, new and sharp, with many teeth. You will thresh the mountains and crush them, and reduce the hills to chaff. You will winnow them, the wind will pick them up, and a gale blow them away. But you will rejoice in the Lord and glory in the Holy One of Israel.”

Isaiah 43:1-7, “When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned”

Isaiah 43:1-7, “But now, this is what the Lord says—he who created you, O Israel: ‘Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. For I am the Lord, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior; I give Egypt for your ransom, Cush [India & Pakistan] and Seba in your stead. Since you are precious and honored in my sight, and because I love you, I will give men in exchange for you, and people in exchange for your life. Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bring your children from the east and gather you from the west. I will say to the north, ‘Give them up!’ and to the south, ‘Do not hold them back.’ Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth—everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.”

Isaiah 51:11-16, 'The Ransomed Of The LORD Will Return'

Isaiah 51:11-16, "The ransomed of the Lord will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away. I, even I, am he who comforts you. Who are you that fear mortal men, the sons of men, who are but grass, that you forget the Lord your Maker, who stretched out the heavens and laid the foundations of the earth, that you live in constant terror every day because of the wrath of the oppressor, who is bent on destruction? For where is the wrath of the oppressor? The cowering prisoners will soon be set free; they will not die in their dungeon, nor will they lack bread. For I am the Lord your God, who churns up the sea so that its waves roar—the Lord Almighty is his name. I have put my words in your mouth and covered you with the shadow of my hand—I who set the heavens in place, who laid the foundations of the earth, and who say to Zion, 'You are my people.'"

Isaiah 60:1-5, 'The Wealth Of The Seas Will Be Brought To You'

Isaiah 60:1-5, "Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look about you: All assemble and come to you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the arm. Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy; the wealth of the seas will be brought to you, to you the riches of the nations will come."

Hosea 2:14-23, 'Bow And Sword And Battle I Will Abolish From The Land'

Context, God speaking to Israel: **Hosea 2:14-23, "Therefore I am now going to allure her; I will lead her into the desert and speak tenderly to her. There I will give her back her vineyards, and will make the Valley of Achor a door of hope. There she will sing as in the days of her youth, as in the day she came up out of Egypt. 'In that day,' declares the Lord, 'you will call me 'my husband'; you will no longer call me 'my master.' I will remove the names of the Baals from her lips; no longer will their names be invoked. In that day I will make a covenant with them with the beasts of the field and the birds of the air and the creatures that move along the ground [cf. Isaiah 11:6-9]. Bow and sword and battle I will abolish from the land, so that all may lie down in safety. I will betroth you to me forever; I will betroth you in [margin: with] righteousness and justice, in love and compassion. I will betroth you in**

faithfulness, and you will acknowledge the Lord. ‘In that day I will respond,’ declares the Lord—‘I will respond to the skies and they will respond to the earth; and the earth will respond to the grain, and the new wine and oil, and they will respond to Jezreel [Hebrew: God plants]. I will plant her for myself in the land; I will show my love to the one I called ‘Not my loved one.’ I will say to those called ‘Not my people,’ ‘You are my people.’; and they will say, ‘You are my God.’” Hosea 3:4-5, “For the Israelites will live many days without a king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred stones, without ephod or teraphim. Afterward the Israelites will return and seek the Lord their God and David their king. They will come trembling to the Lord and to his blessings”—*WHEN?*—“in the last days.”

Jeremiah 31:7-9, 11, 20, 27-34, ‘I Will Bring Them From The Land Of The North’

Jeremiah 31:7-9, 11, 20, 27-30, “This is what the Lord says: ‘Sing with joy for Jacob; shout for the foremost of the nations. Make your praises heard, and say, ‘O Lord, save your people, the remnant of Israel.’ See, I will bring them from the land of the north and gather them from the ends of the earth. Among them will be the blind and the lame, expectant mothers and women in labor; a great throng will return. They will come with weeping; they will pray as I bring them back. I will lead them beside streams of water on a level path where they will not stumble, because I am Israel’s father, and Ephraim is my firstborn son.” [In 1 Chronicles 5:1-2 it says “The sons of Rueben the firstborn of Israel (he was the firstborn, but when he defiled his father’s marriage bed, his rights as firstborn were given to the sons of Joseph son of Israel; so he could not be listed in the genealogical record in accordance with his birthright, and though Judah was the strongest of his brothers and a ruler came from him, the rights of the firstborn belonged to Joseph)...” Ephraim and Manasseh were the two sons of Joseph, who were adopted into Jacob’s family of 12 sons, and they became two tribes. It is this “Ephraim” being talked of in Jeremiah here]...(verse 11), “**For the Lord will ransom Jacob and redeem them from the hand of those stronger than they...(verse 20) “Is not Ephraim my dear son, the child in whom I delight? Though I often speak against him, I still remember him. Therefore my heart yearns for him; I have great compassion for him...**” (verses 27-30) “**“The days are coming,’ declares the Lord, ‘when I will plant the house of Israel and the house of Judah with the offspring of men and animals. Just as I watched over them to uproot and tear down, and to overthrow, destroy and bring to disaster, so I will watch over them to build and to plant,’ declares the Lord. In those days people will no longer say, ‘The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are on edge.’ Instead, everyone will die for his own sin; whoever eats sour grapes—his own teeth will be set on edge.**”

The Holy Spirit Is Made Available To All Israel & The Whole World

Now the next set of verses are real important. In Hebrews 8:6-13, Paul quoted these verses. But here, they show God, Jesus will write the new covenant—will write his laws on the hearts and in the minds of his people Israel—and by extension, everyone who is willing from all the surviving Gentile nations in the world. Now, the Holy Spirit will genuinely be made available to all. All races of people will have the opportunity for salvation, and for being indwelt by the Holy Spirit. Yes, they will be observing the Old Testament Laws of God, or code of laws, but the new covenant isn't one particular version of God's law over another, but is God, Jesus, writing the law of God on the hearts and in the minds of his people, whoever they are, whether from the House of Judah, or the House of Israel, or Gentile believers. Let's read **verses 31-34 of Jeremiah 31**, **“The time is coming,’ declares the Lord, ‘when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them,’ declares the Lord. ‘This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time,’ declares the Lord. ‘I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest...”**

Those were a smattering of the many Scriptures about the regathering of Israel.

The Significance Of The Messianic Jewish Revival

One other thing of real significance. One of these prophecies we have read here is about the Lord regathering all the surviving Jews from wherever they may be living in the world, right after the 2nd coming of Yeshua, Jesus. **God never does anything of importance without first laying a foundation.** Remember Jesus was a carpenter? We've just read prophecies where as Yahweh, the Lord, he set the heavens in place and laid out the foundation of the earth. Jerusalem sits in the midst of “the House of Judah”, within the future land of Israel. God's future Millennial temple will sit in Jerusalem. The surviving Jews and Levites (who are presently a part of the tribe of Judah, mixed in with the Jews) will be the physical ministers associated with the service of the temple and all the church congregations around the world (cf. be sure to re-read Isaiah 11:12; Isaiah 66:19-21). Think about this for awhile. Let it sink in. The Lord has already started laying a spiritual foundation for all those millions of Jews and Levites who will be regathered from the four corners of the world. Fifty years ago (dating from 1970

to 2020) the Messianic movement really started rolling, first when Martin Chernoff started a Jewish Bible study for believers in Yeshua (Jesus). Fifty years later there are Messianic Jewish congregations all around the world. There are presently four to five thousand believers in Yeshua in the Israeli nation itself! There could be anywhere from 500,000 to 1,000,000 Jewish Messianic believers around the world. These believers are becoming the spiritual foundation for that massive regathering. ***But even more important, these Jewish believers are being fashioned by Jesus as a very real spiritual foundation for the Millennial city of Jerusalem. Jesus—Yeshua to these wonderful Jewish believers—is presently laying a spiritual foundation for his Millennial city of Jerusalem and the future nation of Israel itself, as an expert builder—and the Messianic Jewish believers are the building stones! They will be in the resurrection to immortality with all of us Gentile believers in Jesus. They can probably look forward to serving directly under king David in one way or another!*** Want to learn more about this revival of the Jewish branch of the body of Christ? Log onto <http://www.unityinchrist.com/messianicmovement/twobranches.htm> and <http://www.unityinchrist.com/messianicmovement/messianicmovement.htm>.

Chapter 8

Do Our Rewards Hang in the Balance?

We read the parable Jesus gave about the ten minas in Luke 19:11-27. Notice that the one who did not do something with the mina he was given lost it all. Jesus didn't really say this man lost his salvation here in this parable. But this parable cross references to Matthew 25:14-30, where the same parable is given. Then almost in the same breath, Jesus gives the parable of the sheep and the goats, almost as if to emphasize ***what*** we are to do with the "mina" or "talent" we've been given. Let's read **Matthew 25:14-30**, "**Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability [a talent was worth more than a thousand dollars]. Then he went on his journey. The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. So also, the one with two talents gained two more. But the man**

who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.' His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. [cf. Luke 19:11-27, "ten cities"] Come and share your master's happiness!' The other man with the two talents also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two talents: see, I have gained two more.' His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. [cf. Luke 19, "five cities"] Come and share your master's happiness!' Then the man who had received the one talent came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.' His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvested where I have not sown and gathered where I have not scattered seed? Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest. Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents. For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

Now we know from Matthew 28:18-20 that our main assignment is to preach the gospel, both in word and verbally, however we can. But another important part of our preaching the gospel is being a light to the world, a light in which the gospel of salvation shines through our actions to a needy world, and those in need. **The talents we are given to develop consist of walking in the sanctification process and using our spiritual skills to perform the job assignment Jesus has given all of us to do—*proclaiming the gospel of salvation!*** As I have said in the evangelism section, the gospel walks forward on two legs, the written-verbal proclamation, and by our examples of light. Matthew 25:31-46 explains how we are to be lights of the gospel, and also shows the actions of those who "hide their mina in a napkin; their talent in the ground". (These two parables are side by side, given by Jesus one right after the other, so it would appear Jesus is indicating their themes are connected and related to each other.)

Let's read it. **Matthew 25:31-46, "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory."--*Where? Jerusalem! Heavenly glory means glowing like the sun!* "All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put**

the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.” [This is a parable, not all the timing elements are precise to the actual events, it’s telling the moral of the story. The “sheep” he’s referring to here, when he actually is seated on his throne, have already received their reward, and have been made immortal at the resurrection to immortality. This “sorting” has taken place at the time of the resurrection, and perhaps now that he’s on his throne, the “goats” are marshaled in for judgment. Question is, who are the “goats”?— **“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.’—that’s our reward, folks! Spelled out right there by Jesus! Now who does this reward go to, how does he describe the believers that will inherit the kingdom?—“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’** Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’ The King will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.’ Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’ They will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’ He will reply, **‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’** Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.” And don’t forget, some of the precious people we’re a “light” to, by our acts of compassion, are directly drawn to Jesus and become believers themselves, so they actually do become “his brethren”, as the King James has it. So our acts of kindness and compassion are to go to this sick and dying world as a beacon of light, the light of the gospel.

You have read some beautiful and fantastic prophecies about how we, as resurrected immortal saints, co-ruling with Jesus, will bring a very compassionate government of healing, mercy, well-being and justice to a desperate world of survivors—survivors who are barely clinging to life in the aftermath of World War III (cf. Rev. 2-3; 5:10). With these glorious visions of our soon-coming future now more thoroughly planted in our spiritual minds, what do material blessings count for against such a glorious future? Jesus advised all of us believers: **“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven where neither moth nor rust doth**

corrupt, and where thieves do not break through and steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also” (Matthew 6:19-20). Jesus gave all believers a job to do until he comes. It is found in **Matthew 28:18-20**, where he commanded **“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them** [i.e. those who respond favorably] **in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: teaching them to observe whatsoever I have commanded you...”** Jesus said in **Matthew 24:14**, **“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.”** The proclaiming of the gospel has two vital elements, the verbal-written proclaiming, and the living example proclaiming. Jesus was the living example of the gospel, and of how he and his future government would rule. He spent his life on earth healing what the four gospels indicate could have been upwards of half a million people, the blind, the lame, the infirm, the lepers. As we have already read, it was a major mark of his ministry on earth, and a sign of his and our future ministry with him as co-rulers.

So we as believers right now have an awesome dual responsibility set before us by the Lord. We have to:

1. Herald the Good News, the Gospel of Salvation through Jesus to the whole world (a salvation the coming Millennial Kingdom of God will thoroughly bring to all surviving inhabitants [see <https://unityinchrist.com/misc/WhatIsTheGospel%20.htm>]).

2. We have—as Christians and Messianic believers in Yeshua—to be constantly and increasingly demonstrating--***in an organized manner***--the compassion and healing which will be the hallmark of our future Millennial Kingdom of God leadership under Jesus Christ. We will be kings and priests in that future government of God on earth (Revelation 5:10; Rev. 2-3). As we have seen in many prophecies in Isaiah (Isaiah 35:1-10 for example), our leadership and government will be known for compassion and healing of the sick, lame, blind, infirm and poor.

Giving to the Lord by giving to the various works of the Lord which are fulfilling Matthew 28:18-20 and Matthew 24:14 is investing your wealth where “moth and rust doth not corrupt”, it is investing into the Kingdom of God, the Kingdom of Heaven, which is coming soon to this earth, when Jesus arrives. For example: Financially supporting **“the JESUS Film Project”** and **“Gospel for Asia”** fulfills much of the 1st half of this dual responsibility the Lord has given us. Financially supporting **Samaritan’s Purse**—an international Christian care-giving organization with global outreach capabilities—fulfills much of the 2nd half of this dual responsibility. I give these three major international organizations merely as examples. But I have found each one most

fulfills the stated goals Jesus laid out in front of us in a unified, quality, and international setting. A steady weekly-monthly habit of offering-giving to these three international evangelistic organizations demonstrates just what the future government of Jesus will be like to this entire world—a government of healing and compassion—a government that will freely teach all about salvation through Jesus. Our job, given to us by Jesus, is to demonstrate these two major facets of this soon-coming divine government we will be a part of.

National Disasters Are Increasing

In the past, the aftermath of hurricanes Katrina and Rita which brought devastation and near total destruction of the city of New Orleans, giving us a clear and vivid example of an entire city barely clinging to life, going four, five days without food or safe drinking water, in sweltering 100 degree heat and humidity—amid the stench and danger of raw sewage and decaying bodies. Gangs of well-armed looters, armed with pistols and semi-automatic weapons, roamed the streets disrupting emergency rescue teams and those trying to bring fresh food and water to the survivors. We need to be acting with far greater force in the area of supporting acts of compassion in situations like this as well as after the tsunami in S.E. Asia, and now, right in our own backyard, and now recently the medical pandemic and economic disasters caused by COVID-19, the corona virus. **We need to consider very seriously giving on a regular monthly-weekly schedule to the above named international evangelistic organizations—or to other legitimate Christian organizations that fulfill the same roles.** All three that I've mentioned are totally non-denominational and totally legitimate, above reproach. Now let's open our eyes to a spiritual reality that is beginning to manifest itself. What happened in the our southern gulf states of Mississippi and Louisiana & New Orleans can and should be taken as an opening warning sign—as observed by a radio talk-show host—that the Lord has started to withdraw his protecting hand from our wealthy Judeo-Christian, English speaking western nations. We all know that some radical type “preachers and evangelists” will be pointing this out very vocally. While they may be technically correct in coming to this conclusion, they will not be saying or telling us believers what we need to be doing about it—***drawing closer to God, heralding the gospel of salvation with ever-increasing volume and intensity, and showing the compassion of Jesus to this dying world as an active and living example of the new divine world government he is bringing with him at his return.*** Do you realize, when you accepted Jesus, and were baptized, you became an ambassador of Jesus and the government of God he's bringing back with him? We collectively are a team of ambassadors of Jesus and his soon-coming government. ***Could we lose it all by burying our talent, mina in the ground or a napkin?*** I honestly don't know. There are two schools of thought, one that says, “once saved, always saved.” The other says, “no, if you don't hold on to the end, you're lost” (based on Matthew 24:13, and the three parables we just read). When a doctrine is that

fuzzy, is it worth risking it all, thinking “We’ll I’m saved anyway, so my reward will be small.” With an attitude like that, you may not even have the Holy Spirit within you. Better rethink things and examine ourselves as Paul said in 2 Corinthians 13:5. Following are some ideas and how we might be able to muster collective support that would really get things moving in the areas I’ve been talking about.

We’re In The Last Days

We’re in the last days, September 11, 2001, Katrina’s devastation of New Orleans, and now the dual medical-economic disaster caused by COVID-19, are merely the opening salvo’s of what’s to come. Now, after the 24th of February 2022, when Vladimir Putin’s Russian Federation attacked the Ukraine with 190,000 troops, along with tanks, jet fighters, attack helicopters, missile firing cruisers and submarines, he’s given the member nations of the European Union **a very strong incentive to unite into some form of United States of Europe, a Euro-superpower in its own right.** The Bible predicted the rise of this Euro superpower over 2500 years ago (see https://unityinchrist.com/prophecies/2ndcoming_4.htm). Society is crumbling. Don’t be the one to bury your “talent” in the ground, or hide your “mina” in a napkin, and then find yourself facing your Lord trying to explain yourself. It won’t be pretty. The only thing Jesus asked us to do in return for his free gift of salvation is that we **“Go into all the world, and preach the gospel to everyone--and for those that believe and are baptized, we are instructed to teach and disciple them into the body of Christ” (paraphrase of Matthew 28:19-20 and Mark 16:15-16).** “But how in the world can I help do that?” you may be asking yourself. Some of us may have an opportunity to evangelize to a friend or acquaintance now and then, “but taking the gospel to the ends of the world, there’s no way I can do that”, you’re probably thinking. “I know Jesus paid a horrible price for my “free” salvation, but there’s no way I can take the gospel to the world.” Well, not alone, you can’t, that’s for sure. Can you spare \$5 a week, supporting three major international evangelistic organizations? (If I can, you can.) Here a very simple and unique plan for giving is proposed, one that if followed by a large percentage of Christians, would **revolutionize** the body of Christ in the field of evangelism and Christian care-giving (which is a vital part of evangelism too). Here’s how a lot of people, each providing a steady but small, almost insignificant amount of money on a weekly basis can move mountains in causing the gospel of salvation to be preached worldwide—both by word and living, caring example. I call it the **\$5.00 a week plan.**

Concentrating Our Giving-Power

A whole host of quality Christian evangelical and teaching ministries have sprung up around the world within the past forty years, and a lot of them are non-denominational or inter-denominational. They all serve to spread the gospel

and help nourish and disciple Christians around the world. But the question is, how do we concentrate our giving-power? Here's the answer, and it's simple. Below are listed three major non-denominational international evangelistic organizations that are totally above reproach. ***If every believer using this site for spiritual nourishment, stirred by the only major request Jesus asked in return for his "free gift" of salvation, were to give a mere \$5.00 a week on a rotational basis to each organization listed below (so each received \$5.00 a month), each organization would receive multiple thousands of dollars a month. On the fourth week try sending \$5.00 to Mission Aviation Fellowship.*** The key to the plan's success is to maintain the habit of sending in the offerings. This website has been sending in \$25 a week, on a rotational basis, to all four of these ministries. These amounts may seem insignificant but when the hundreds of users of this site all do the same thing—week by week, month by month—it adds up to thousands of dollars a month, and hundreds of thousands of dollars a year! The amounts may seem insignificant to you, but this is a major way we can be “united” in our giving to cause the gospel to make a **HUGE IMPACT** on this evil world. And when “this gospel of the kingdom” makes a **huge impact** on this evil world--it will hasten Jesus Christ's 2nd coming (cf. Matthew 24:14-15). Just within the past year (2005) hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans and most of coastal Louisiana, a killer tsunami hit the southeast Indian Ocean countries, killing millions of people, a killer 7.2 Richter-scale earthquake hit Pakistan, killing upwards of 45,000 people and displacing millions, just as winter is coming on them. And now in 2020 the corona virus, COVID-19 has killed upwards of 1 million people worldwide and shut down the world's economies, driving many who can ill afford it into deeper poverty. Samaritan's Purse must be getting hard-pressed to help all of these people in the name of Jesus with so many huge disasters occurring. But these international evangelistic organizations are basically starved for funds in the wake of recent events, and these events are only going to increase, as prophecy shows. We must be about our Father's business. Considering all this, are you up to \$5.00 a week? The three major international evangelistic organizations that are attempting to blanket the world with the gospel—in both word and deeds of Christian care—are listed below:

Week one \$5.00 donation

1. EVANGELISM: The JESUS Film Project, at: <http://www.jesusfilm.org>
. To learn more about this major international evangelistic tool, click on <http://www.unityinchrist.com/evangelism/whyjesus.htm> and http://www.unityinchrist.com/evangelism/excerpts_isawjesus.htm.
Many Christian churches are being planted around the world as a direct

result of their efforts coupled to the Lord's massive calling of people through the JESUS film. Their address is THE JESUS FILM PROJECT, PO BOX 628222, ORLANDO, FLORIDA 32862-8222.

Week two \$5.00 donation

2. CHRISTIAN VERSION OF C.A.R.E.: **Samaritan's Purse**. Online: <http://www.samaritanspurse.org>. To learn more about this incredible work of Christian caring and evangelism log onto their site, email them and ask if they could send you Franklin Graham's autobiography, which will thoroughly describe this work of God and how it got started. They will send it free of charge. To preview that book, log onto http://www.UNITYINCHRIST.COM/evangelism/samaritan_purse.htm

Week three \$5.00 donation

3. **Gospel For Asia**: Online: <http://www.gfa.org>. To read excerpts from K.P. Yohannan's book about Gospel For Asia, log onto <http://www.UNITYINCHRIST.COM/evangelism/worldmission.htm>. This book will be sent to you free of charge by contacting Gospel for Asia and asking for a copy.

Week four \$5.00 donation

4. **Mission Aviation Fellowship**, P.O. Box 47, Nampa, ID 83653
For a description of this group that assists and supplies evangelists in remote parts of the world, click on "What is Evangelism?" and then on "Mission Aviation Fellowship" or log onto <http://www.maf.org>. They are a small group that has a far-reaching effect on evangelism.

This is an abbreviated description of some of three major international non-denominational evangelistic organizations and one organization that lends support to all of them, **Mission Aviation Fellowship**.

THE WONDERFUL WORLD TOMORROW

What It Will Be Like



<https://www.hwalibrary.com/cgi-bin/get/hwa.cgi?action=getbklet&InfoID=1573739695>

inspiration for what I have written about the Millennial Kingdom of God came originally from this booklet linked above, published by the Worldwide Church of God, this version, in 1973.