

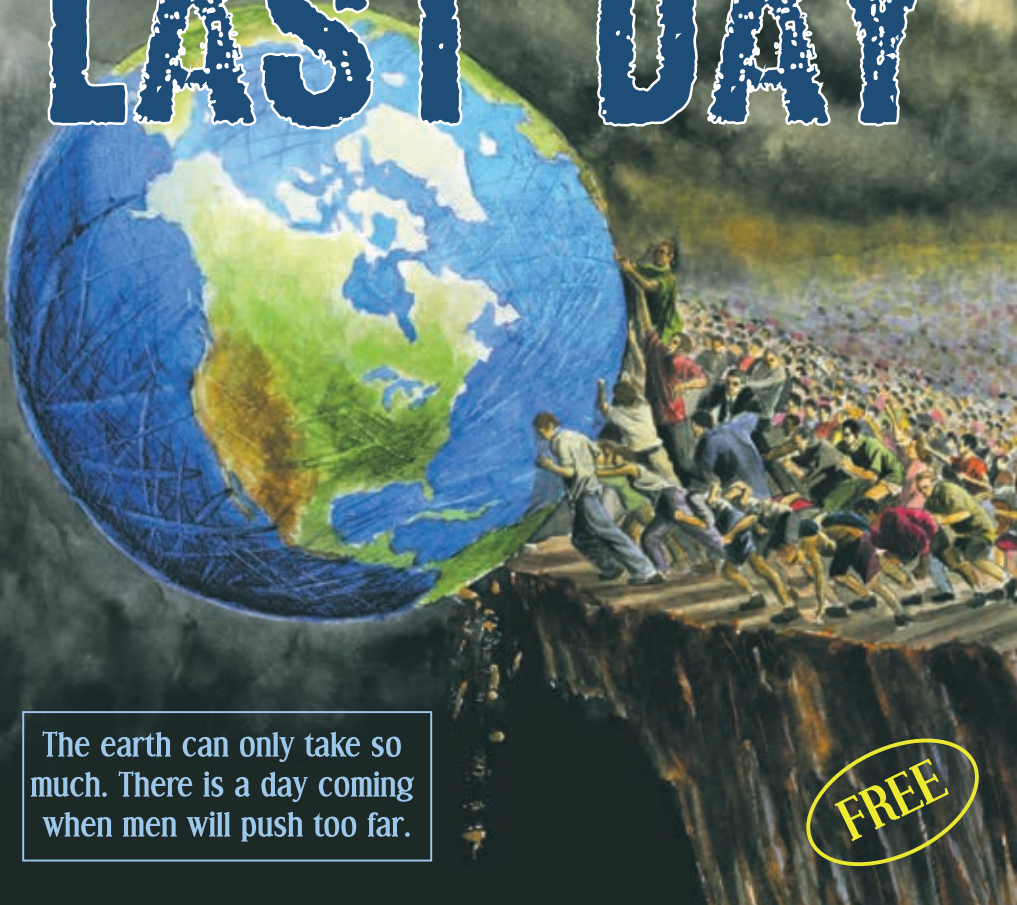
*"So He also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through His own blood. Therefore let us go to Him outside the camp and bear the reproach He endured. For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come." – Hebrews 13:12-1*



# The Voice

from Outside the Camp  
of Organized Religion

# THE LAST DAY



The earth can only take so much. There is a day coming when men will push too far.

**FREE**

## A Voice from Outside the Camp of Organized Religion<sup>1</sup>



This voice is one of hope and vision, inspired by the words of the powerful Hebrew prophets of old. Ancient Israel depended upon these prophets to predict events of the near and distant future — both in their nation and in the nations surrounding them. History has proven that their predictions have come true at their appointed times.

But some of their most startling prophecies centered on what will happen in the last days of this age, right up until the LAST DAY, when the Messiah will usher in the new age — his rule on earth. God has sworn that he will not do anything without first revealing it to his prophets.<sup>2</sup> Their prophecies will reveal what is going to happen to all mankind before the end comes. Unlike Nostradamus, whose predictions have often disappointed many, these Hebrew prophets have a track record that will not disappoint you.

Many predictions made by ancient prophets like Isaiah, Daniel, Jeremiah, Malachi, and even John the Baptist have been sealed until the time of the end. In other words, their true meaning cannot be grasped until it is spiritually revealed in the last days. For this reason, these prophecies have been misunderstood, misapplied, and manipulated for centuries. But now the end is on the horizon and things are becoming more clear.

We hope that what you read on the following pages will open up the eyes of your heart to understand the times we are living in, so that you may begin to comprehend the events that must take place in the coming decades. We hope you will begin to understand the TRUTH of these prophecies, a truth that cuts through the confusion of the times we live in. We hope you will see the great significance in all that is happening. If you heed this voice, the fog will clear and the entrance will emerge to a barely-worn ancient pathway. Then you will be able to follow your heart and even become a part of this voice. With the guiding light of the King of Kings everything will begin to make sense. Then the end will not come upon you by sudden surprise — like a thief in the night — as many fear. But with great expectation you can greet the coming of the last day! ✨

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<sup>1</sup> Hebrews 13:12-14 — “Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people through His own blood, suffered outside the gate. Hence, let us go out to Him outside the camp, bearing His reproach. For here we do not have a lasting city, but we are seeking the city which is to come.”

<sup>2</sup> Amos 3:7 — “Surely the Lord God does nothing unless He reveals His secret counsel to His servants the prophets.”



## Do you HOPE?

***that Jesus will be returning any day now?*** If you put your hope in such predictions we do not want you to be disappointed. You do this because you are not happy with the way things are, and you want a way out. That is good. But the way out is not what is commonly called the *Rapture*. Yahshua, the Messiah,<sup>1</sup> doesn't want the world to end right now. But he does want you

to help him bring about the end. He has a way to bring about the end, and he can't do it without the missing factor – a bride prepared for him, without spot or blemish – and he wants you to be a part of her.



## Do you FEAR?

***that the world is spiraling out of control?*** You fear because you know deep in your heart that you are not prepared for such a catastrophe. You have not been deceived into thinking that you are fine and ready to face the Judgment. Whether you believe in God or not, you are somehow aware of your conscience enough

to know that you are in trouble. But if that fear can do its job in your heart, it will lead you to the point where you are willing to do whatever it takes to find peace with your Maker. This is the good news that we of the Twelve Tribes want to tell you. We have all come to this point in our lives. We all saw that we could not make it on our own, nor did we want to just go along with the flow. We wanted out! We wanted to be free to live from our hearts, and raise our children free from the corruption of this world. Instead of escaping to the wilderness, we live in an environment that is set apart from the world while remaining in its midst. In our communities we strive to remain undefiled by the evils of this world. At the same time, we are near to those who are floundering in the muck of this society. If you have fear, there is a place where you can find peace.



## Do you WORRY?

***that the increase in natural disasters signals the end?*** It is clear that trouble is just over the horizon. Both science and the Bible warn that difficult times lie ahead. Environmentalists have warned of such troubles for years. The only place to be in such days of great trouble is with the people who live under the

protective covering of the Almighty. Not that we are exempt from hardship, but we stand together with him, and persevere through whatever may come. We regard all hardship as discipline, which will eventually cause us to be conformed into the likeness of our Master. Instead of worrying, we eagerly await the day that we will be a spotless bride, prepared for our future as the wife of the Lamb.



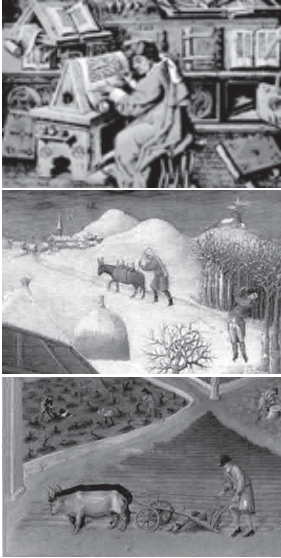
## Are you FRANTICALLY SEARCHING?

***for a voice of authority to tell you what to do with all the end-times predictions?*** Our addresses are just inside the back cover. We assure you that you are always welcome to visit us. We can only give you what we have been given. Our hope is in God and his promises. We would love to share this hope with you, which will free you from fear and worry, and put an end to your frantic search. ✨

<sup>1</sup> *Yahshua* is the Hebrew name of the Savior. See page 57 for more about this!

# The Sign of the End.

**One unmistakable sign that the end is in sight is a unified people demonstrating the kind of life that will fill the New Age of Peace.**



Historians say that at the end of the first millennium, people huddled in the churches waiting anxiously for the sounding of trumpets and the return of Christ. A monk named Radulfus Glaber wrote that the decades surrounding the year 1000 AD were full of earthquakes, volcanoes, comets, famines, and the worst outbreak of cults that the world of his time had seen. The official teaching of the day was that the Millennium of Christ's Kingdom had already arrived spiritually, because Christians were in control of their society. And hardly anyone questioned the idea, except for some of the poor people, and a few misfits.

## *A biblical timeline of human history...*

God considers each person  
He is going to create.

He anticipates man's fall and  
plans how to redeem him.

God creates the heavens  
and the earth (Genesis 1:1)



God plans to make a great  
sacrifice to buy man back.

Many billions of years ago



You won't find any doomsday prophets among us. We're not going to be calling down certain terrifying judgments on those who merit it. We are eager to tell you about something else. We want to tell you about a new and exciting thing – a new beginning.

When ancient prophets foretold the trouble that would come upon the earth, they also spoke about the coming of something new. Scientists have confirmed that many of their frightening pro-

So we don't know whether the churches were packed with trembling crowds on New Year's Eve, or with only the usual devotees. But we know one thing for sure: Christ didn't come, and the age didn't end. The same kind of thing has happened so many times that peo-

ple are used to it by now. Every so often, when things get really bad, or when a new century comes along, or even when someone gets really worked up about prophecies in the Bible, the story repeats itself. The faithful gather together to anxiously wait for Jesus. But he doesn't come.



Some people wonder why. After all, his disciples asked him a point-blank question, "What sign will announce your coming and the end of this age?"<sup>1</sup> And it seemed as if he gave a point-blank answer. Maybe you've read some of the things he mentioned: false prophets, Messiahs, fake miracles, wars, famines, earthquakes, persecution, many deserting his cause, betraying even their

<sup>1</sup> Matthew 24:3-13

(Continued on next page.)

**The archangel Lucifer's rebellion**

Lucifer becomes Satan, the evil spiritual ruler of this world



# The Sign of the Beginning

phetic visions are coming to pass. But for some reason no one is talking about the rest of their prophetic vision happening. Why is that? Will it ever happen? Has anyone seen what they foretold? Can anyone talk about it?

Did you read the article "The Sign of the End" above? Then you understand that Messiah talked about what the clear sign of the end would be. In compelling words, he prophesied that the sign would

be a people *demonstrating*, through the witness of the way they live, the convincing evidence that his mission here to save all men was real.

You can see that the sign of the beginning is also the sign of the end! No such demonstration has been seen on this planet since the first century. But, like the miracle of conception deep inside a mother, something genuine has begun, though it is still unseen.

(Continued on next page.)

own family members. Most of these things have happened repeatedly, but he never came back, and the world didn't end.

Why? Well, for one thing, he said that when those things happened it wouldn't be the end yet. Those signs would be like a pregnant woman's first contractions. The hard labor pains would still be a long way off. But he didn't just leave his followers with a vague answer. He actually went on to tell them when the end would come.

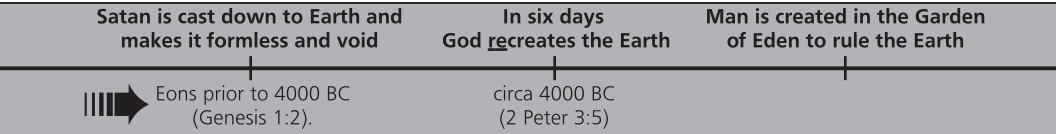
Yet his answer is usually overlooked, even though it's listed right along with all the other prophecies. You've probably never even heard about it. The writers of the end-time books don't mention it, because they don't understand it, or maybe because it's not sensational enough to sell books. Here's what he said:

"This Good News of the Kingdom shall be proclaimed throughout the whole world to set the evidence before all the Gentiles; and then the end will come."<sup>2</sup>

So it has to be *this* Good News, a *specific* message — not just any old "gospel," but *the Good News of the Kingdom*. And it has to be proclaimed in every nation. And it can't just be a bunch of words; it has to actually produce some evidence. And then, finally, the end will come.

That message obviously hasn't been proclaimed everywhere yet, since the end hasn't come. And since the Messiah always meant exactly what he said, he's not going to show up until his message gets preached and obeyed<sup>3</sup> so that all the people who don't know God

<sup>2</sup> Matthew 24:14 <sup>3</sup> Matthew 28:19-20



Many people do not like what they see in religions today, and are leaving the churches and looking for something real to be part of. Outside the camp of organized religion many strange groups are stirring up the dust. Some people call them *cults*. These groups are confusing the issue by making everything that is different from the mainstream look scary. But from the midst of that dust a tiny new plant has sprung forth. It is small, hardly visible, and has nothing to brag about, but it is here, it is genuine, and it is *beginning*. We want to tell you about it.

If you happen to be the kind of person who cares about real things such as love, truth, purity, and virtue, you'll be interested in hearing about this little plant. In the midst of a world gone haywire, this little plant will bring about the restoration of all goodness that is being lost. It should be on the top of the world's endangered species list.

Talk like this causes some people to be suspicious out of fear and maybe jealousy, doubting the motives. They analyze and scrutinize every move under a microscope, and argue about the ethics of it all. But they never end up doing anything

have an opportunity to take a look at the evidence.

The story is told that when our Master Yahshua rose from the dead none of his disciples would believe he was alive until they had seen him with their own eyes.

Do you know how he responded to their unbelief? He showed himself to them and gave them many convincing proofs of his resurrection.<sup>4</sup> He didn't curse them for not believing. Instead, he gave them *visible* evidence of his triumph over death. And he isn't going to treat the rest of the world any differently. He's not going to require them to believe unless he can show them something.

The way it works is simple: Yahshua's message is made up

mainly of commands.<sup>5</sup> That is why the Bible speaks of *obeying* the Good News.<sup>6</sup> His commands teach his disciples how to love each other the way he loved them. Only when his disciples love as he loved will the world "get the connection." Only then will the world *know* that he was sent from heaven to take their place in death. Only then will they know that God loved them just as much as he loved his own son.<sup>7</sup>

You see, obeying his commands results in a radical life, one that differs starkly from the self-preserving existence of the world.<sup>8</sup> The evil spirit who rules the world holds all its people under his power by the fear of death, but obeying Messiah frees a person from that power. Such a life of obedience actually

<sup>4</sup> John 20:25-31; Acts 1:3 <sup>5</sup> John 3:36; 7:17; 8:51; Acts 5:32; Romans 1:5; 10:16; 15:18; 16:26; Hebrews 5:9 <sup>6</sup> Matthew 7:24-27; 2 Thessalonians 1:8; 1 Peter 4:17 <sup>7</sup> John 3:16; 13:34-35; 17:22-23 <sup>8</sup> Luke 9:24

**Man falls by disobeying God and is cast out of the Garden**

**Eve gives birth to Cain, and then Abel**

**Cain murders his brother Abel, out of envy**

God writes Genesis 3:16-19 in man's conscience to guide him



themselves to make a radical change in this messed-up world.

So here we are. We want to do something about it. And we are trying. It is an ancient path we are striving to follow, getting back to the way things were in the very beginning, and it is not easy. We want to live like the first believers in the first-century church. We want to do something authentic to demonstrate a different way of life. Though we don't fit the old molds of Pagan, Christian, or Jew, we believe in the age-old roots of a faith that was originally very good. We cling to that holy root because it is

from our Creator, and it looks nothing like the religious institutions of today.

So what would be the sign of that new beginning? It could only be *love*. Yes, the witness is love. The evidence of genuineness of all the words we speak is love. Where there is love, there is unity. There, people do not let anything divide them. Where there is no division, there is peace, and where there is peace, you can find God.

Our tribes are building a sustainable life together in communities. The ability to live together in peace comes from unity, and unity comes

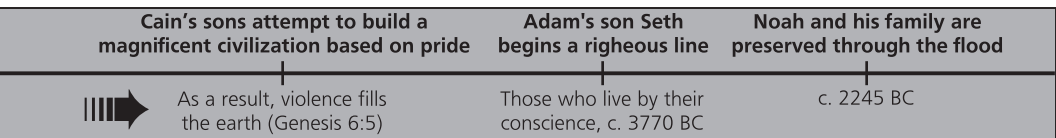
brings a person into another kingdom – placing him under the authority of heaven.<sup>9</sup> When the world sees the disciples of Yahshua the Messiah dwelling together in unity, denying themselves for the good of their brothers, it proves something. It shows that there is a power at work on the earth greater than man’s natural ability. People can naturally be tolerant of others, or even help those less fortunate than themselves, but they can’t entirely forsake their own interests to live for others. The spirits of the unseen realm won’t let them.

The power to love as our Master Yahshua loved is the power of the age to come – the power of an unshakable kingdom that will bring this present age to an end.<sup>10</sup> This kingdom will fill the earth in the

next age, but that age can’t start yet. It can’t start until that power is demonstrated in *this* age so that people can choose what power they want to be under – the power of love<sup>11</sup> or the power of death. That is what our Master is waiting for. He is the invincible King who rules the unshakable kingdom.

By the power of love, he took the sin of all mankind on himself and suffered the agony of death that we all deserved. By the power of love, he shook off the shackles of death and rose victorious. By that same power he is coming to take over the earth. When he finally comes, no one will be able to withstand his power,<sup>12</sup> no matter how hard they try. They also won’t have any excuse for refusing to face the evidence.<sup>13</sup> ❀

<sup>9</sup> 1 John 5:19; Colossians 1:13    <sup>10</sup> Hebrews 12:26-29; Daniel 2:44    Hebrews 10:13  
<sup>11</sup> 1 John 4:18    <sup>12</sup> Luke 14:31-32    <sup>13</sup> 2 Thessalonians 2:11-12



from love, and love comes from God. Sometimes it’s hard to tell what *love* really is. It’s not just a feeling you have for friends or family. If you understand that real love brings unity, and you can see that unity in the peace it produces, then you can see the witness. It’s the peaceful evidence of a life of love.

Do you want to help us build this new beginning? The word for *son* and *builder* is the same in ancient Hebrew, because only sons can build. To help us build, you must become a son of the One who is LOVE... *“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to*

*become sons of God”* (John 1:12). Can you embrace that?

If you become a son, you will also be a builder whose heart will be flooded with the love of God, and it will overflow to those around. This will be a new beginning for you, enabling you to be part of a global beginning, in order that a kingdom of love could be established. This is the Good News of the Kingdom.

So before the sign of the end can come, the sign of the beginning must come – a kingdom of love! This is the witness of a whole new culture, and this is good news – THE BEGINNING HAS BEGUN! ❀



# IN THE SHADOWS

## SITTING

John the Baptist was born at a time of silence. There had been no prophetic voice in Israel for 400 years, not since the days of the prophet Malachi. Breaking that silence on the day of his son's circumcision, John's father prophesied about this special child and what his mission would be. He said he would be a forerunner of the Messiah. What he would do is recorded in Luke 1:76-79:

*And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him, to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven to shine on those sitting in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace.*

Never in history had the people of Israel been so desperate for the prophetic light to bring them the knowledge of salvation. The long period of silence had brought deep darkness and confusion. They longed to know what salvation was, and what they needed to do to get it. It is the same today. The knowledge

of salvation still needs to be made known, and the forgiveness of sins still needs to come through the tender mercy of God. Therefore, in every way, this prophecy in Luke 1:77-79 is a message for us who live in these last days.

God's people have been scattered for a long time all over the landscape of organized religion, without the prophetic light to gather them into a unified nation. But now the knowledge of salvation is being revealed through the forgiveness of sins. The heart of our God is merciful, causing the day of salvation to dawn upon us from on high. When that day dawns and the light rises it will shine upon all those who are sitting in darkness and the shadow of death. For those who respond and come out of their darkness, this light will guide their feet into the way of peace.

Peace comes from the forgiveness of our sins, and as a result, those who experience it no longer strive for what the nations eagerly seek after<sup>1</sup> — position, status, security, recognition, and success. A forgiven person is no longer a part of the world's problems. He is no longer separated, no longer alienated, no longer striving after selfish pursuits. A forgiven person hates his

<sup>1</sup> Matthew 6:31-32

**Civil government is established**

The death penalty for murder is instituted, c. 2244 BC

**At the Tower of Babel, God confuses their languages**

separating people into their ethnic groups, c 2143 BC

**God calls Abraham to leave his country and his people**

to become the father of the nation of Israel, c. 1880 BC



life in this world and loves the place where he can serve his God with his brothers. Where he lives in the hearts of his disciples is where his servants are content to be.<sup>2</sup> Living this way is the fruit of having peace with God. It is what seeking first the kingdom of God and his righteousness is all about. Leaving the darkness behind, a forgiven person comes into a unified people. For him nothing else matters.

No one knows what salvation is unless his sins are forgiven, and this comes about through the tender mercies of our God. Salvation transforms a person who is trying to be somebody, or to make it in the world, into a person who loves his Savior<sup>3</sup> because he was saved from the darkness of his former life. This happens to *everyone* who has the knowledge of salvation. A saved person is content to do the Father's will,<sup>4</sup> and in fact has no reason to do anything else, and does not want to do anything else. Such a person is devoted to the life depicted in Acts 2:42-47. This is eternal life. The early disciples in Jerusalem had it, and the oldest written record of it in Acts 2 and 4 spells it out as plain as day. Those who had that life couldn't help speaking about it. When an angel told the apostles to speak "the whole message of this life," they obeyed unashamedly.<sup>5</sup> Their exuberant obedience proved that God gives his Holy Spirit to those who obey Messiah, and to no one else.<sup>6</sup>

What we are talking about here is the fulfillment of the prophecy in Isaiah 49:6. Isaiah saw ahead to the day when twelve tribes would be raised up and the preserved ones of Israel would be restored as a nation producing the fruit of the kingdom.<sup>7</sup> Isaiah said that this twelve-tribed nation, a people in unity, would be a light to all the other nations, and that from this light they would bring God's salvation to the ends of the earth.

In his day, John the Baptist was the light who brought his people Israel the knowledge of salvation. They rejected him, and then they rejected the Messiah he proclaimed. Therefore, the knowledge of salvation must still come forth in these last days in order to fulfill the words of Isaiah. Not even the early church could do it. By the time the book of Revelation was written the combined light of their candlesticks was going out. One by one the churches had left their first love.<sup>8</sup>

The desperately needed light can only come when forgiven people who know God's tender mercies proclaim the message of forgiveness.<sup>9</sup> Knowing forgiveness is the knowledge of salvation. A person's sins must be paid for so that he can be released from bondage to those sins. Anyone who is caught up in this world, entangled in its snares, unable to free himself from its hold, needs to hear how to be free from sin's death grip in a real and lasting way. Here's how:

<sup>2</sup> John 12:25-26    <sup>3</sup> John 14:15,21-24    <sup>4</sup> Ephesians 2:8-10    <sup>5</sup> Acts 5:30    <sup>6</sup> Acts 5:32    <sup>7</sup> Matthew 21:43    <sup>8</sup> Revelation 2:4-5    <sup>9</sup> Hebrews 9:22

**God makes a covenant with Abraham to give him the Land**

Genesis 15, c. 1843 BC

**Abraham begets Isaac, who begets Jacob, later named *Israel***

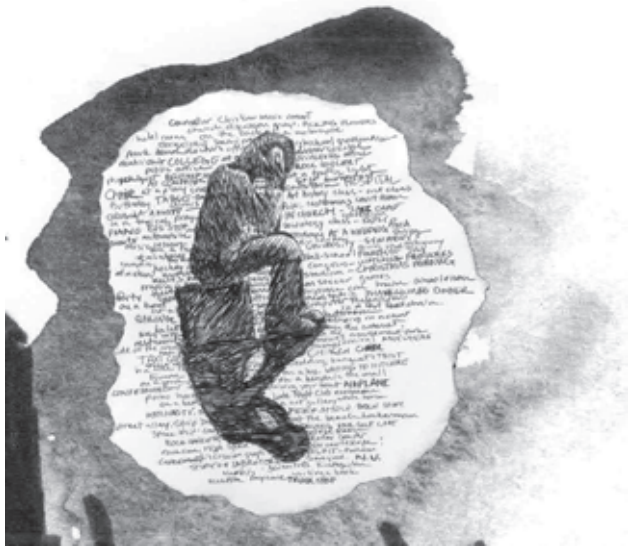
c 1850 to 1700 BC

**Israel's exodus from slavery in Egypt**

c. 1448 BC



In his tender mercy, our Father sent his son, Yahshua<sup>10</sup> the Messiah, into the world because he loved all of its people with all his heart. Yahshua lived in absolute obedience to his Father and became a sacrifice for the sins of all mankind so that their guilt could be removed and put upon him. He bore the awesome penalty of death, the ransom for all the sins of man, canceling the judgment and condemnation those sins deserved. Apart from the shedding of the blood of Yahshua the Messiah there is no forgiveness of sins.



Therefore, anyone who believes in Yahshua can be set free from the entanglement of his sins and escape the dreaded penalty of death. In exchange for his sinful life, he receives the gift of eternal life. Men who do not love the darkness can come to the light that our Master Yahshua is. He is now seated at the right hand of his Father in heaven, but he is raising up a people who are becoming that same light — his body, his bride, his people who will be the light to the nations.

The Dawn is coming. Soon those who sit in darkness will see the light coming from a people who live together<sup>11</sup> and communicate the ten-

der mercies of God. Their message will give light and revelation to many who sit at their desks in universities and in their pews at church and in the porno shops and peep shows, and in their stadiums, and in their Congressional seats, and in all the workplaces of the world. They will be delivered from a life of striving for meaning to a life where they can lift their souls up to the rule of love. This life of love is the witness of the Kingdom, the evidence of the reign of Yahshua, the Messiah.<sup>12</sup>

His people will no longer sit in the seat of the scornful,<sup>13</sup> but will delight themselves in him. For those who take delight in him, *“He will cause them to ride on the heights of the earth. He will feed them with the heritage of Jacob, their father, for the mouth of Yahweh has spoken.”*<sup>14</sup> ✿

<sup>10</sup> Yahshua is the Hebrew name of the Savior. See page 57. <sup>11</sup> Acts 2:44-45; 4:32-35 <sup>12</sup> Matthew 24:14 <sup>13</sup> Psalm 1:1 <sup>14</sup> Isaiah 58:14

**Israel called to be a kingdom of priests**

Exodus 19:5-6, c. 1445 BC

**Israel worships a golden calf, losing their priesthood**

Only the tribe of Levi proves itself worthy of the priesthood

**David reigns as king over Israel**

c. 1000 BC – Messiah will come from his lineage



# EARTH



## REELING ON THE EDGE

*As men ignore the ever-present witness of Creation, the cataclysmic events of Isaiah 24 will unfold.*

Ten tribes separate  
from Judah and Benjamin

c. 933 BC

Fall of the northern  
kingdom

Ten tribes taken into captivity  
in Assyria, c. 721 BC

Isaiah prophesies of  
Messiah's sacrifice

and the restoration of the  
twelve tribes, c. 701-686 BC

Jeremiah prophesies  
of the New Covenant

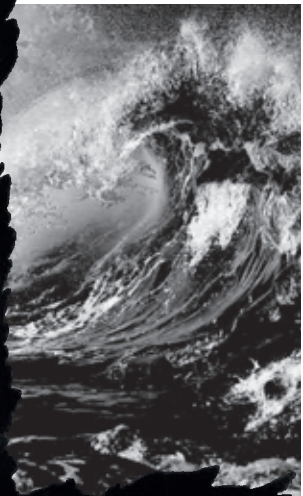
c. 600 BC



Long ago, the prophets of Israel foretold that in these terrible days, men would call evil good and good evil. Men and women act as though God does not exist. They push beyond the age-old boundaries of the human conscience, heedless of the consequences.

God is not indifferent to what is happening on the earth. The sin of mankind is pushing the earth to the brink of destruction — the judgment which God has already announced by his prophets, as recorded in the Bible.

It will be like the days long ago when God warned Noah that a flood was coming on the earth. Noah was told 120 years before it happened. Noah obeyed the voice he heard in his conscience because he knew it to be true. The earth was full of evil, murder, and violence, and it deserved to be destroyed. Men's thoughts were wicked continually.<sup>1</sup> Noah's and his family's great efforts in building the ark saved the lives of eight people from the greatest catastrophe in the history of the human race. Just a



remnant survived, only a seed of the vast population that had perished, but enough to begin again.

The story strikes a resonant chord in the hearts of men, women, and children still, thousands of years and millions of retellings

later. For one shining moment the earth was clean and fresh again, as we know it was always meant to be, and will be again.

But first the earth will become as wicked as in the days before the flood.<sup>2</sup> The prophet Isaiah warned of what would happen when men broke the everlasting covenant<sup>3</sup> of conscience. It was God's tender mercy to write in everyone's conscience the limits they must stay within<sup>4</sup> in order to avoid eternal judgment.

<sup>1</sup> Genesis 6:5

<sup>2</sup> Matthew 24:37-40    <sup>3</sup> See the companion article, "The Everlasting Covenant" on our web site: [www.twelvetribe.org](http://www.twelvetribe.org)    <sup>4</sup> Genesis 3:16-19



### Nebuchadnezzar captures Jerusalem

and take the survivors to Babylon, c. 586 BC



### Babylonian Empire

### Daniel interprets Nebuchadnezzar's dream

The statue represents four world empires



They are simple: A woman is to desire her husband and let him rule over her. She is to bear their children in pain. A man is to toil and sweat to provide for his family, not live off the labor of others. He is to rule over his wife. Sexual relationships are to be limited to the covenant of marriage. Together, these things provide the maximum opportunity to raise and care opportunity to raise children who will be happy and secure.

When traditional morality is scorned to the extent that good is called evil, and those who do good are not allowed to live in peace, then the covenant will be broken beyond remedy. The hour of judgment will come. Do you see that this is what the earth is coming to?



### Global Warming

The last time God's judgment was the flood; this time it will be the fire. Anyone who knows even a little of the potential of global warming knows what could come upon the earth. Global warming only takes into account what man is doing to the atmosphere, but what if the sun itself were to burn hotter? This is the meaning of the dreadful prophecy in the Book of Revelation:

*And the fourth angel poured*

*out his bowl upon the sun; and it was given to it to scorch men with fire, and men were scorched with fierce heat; and they blasphemed the name of God who has power over these plagues; and they did not repent, so as to give him glory. (Revelation 16:8-9)*

This will be the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy, spoken some 2,700 years ago. Isaiah saw ahead of time

the wickedness that would overtake the world, and he understood why the earth would be polluted:

*The earth is also polluted by its inhabitants, for they transgressed laws, violated statutes, broke the everlasting covenant. Therefore a curse devours the earth, and those who live in it are*

*held guilty. Therefore, the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and very few men are left. (Isaiah 24:5-6)*

The moral ruin of these days will be worse than the physical ruin, and the outer burning a foretaste of something more terrible. No one will escape who despises the voice of God in his conscience. The pressure on everyone to compromise in the last days will be tremendous. Who will stand?

Daniel foresees the Stone Kingdom that will destroy the Statue



The Persian Empire conquers Babylon

c. 538 BC



See "The Unshakable Kingdom" on page 52.

## The Holy Prophets

Many things are recorded in the mysterious writings of the holy prophets of ancient Israel. Amos spoke thousands of years ago:

*Surely the Lord God does nothing unless he reveals his secret counsel to his servants the prophets. (Amos 3:7)*

Speaking for God, prophet Isaiah said at about the same time that just as the rain causes the plants to spring up, providing food for man and beast,

*So shall my word be which goes forth from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it. (Isaiah 55:10-11)*

Without a doubt, many prophecies of the coming age will come to pass, not through the efforts of men to unite a divided religious system and take over the political affairs of the world,<sup>5</sup> but through the direct intervention of God.

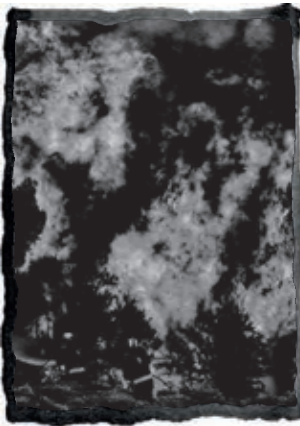
Yahshua,<sup>6</sup> the greatest prophet of all, described the days just prior to the end of this age with the grim

word *tribulation*. Some of these events are happening even now:

*And you will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars; see that you are not frightened, for these things must take place, but that is not yet the end. For nation will rise up against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes. (Matthew 24:6-8)*

He went on to say that these things are merely the beginning of the birth pangs. Only those with faith will see these events as leading to a better world; everyone else will be profoundly fearful. Men will *faint* from fear.

The terrible state of the world in those days will cause most people to accept any leader and pay any price to have a semblance of peace and stability. In order to participate in the world system, they will go so far as to take a mark upon their forehead or hand. Any who don't conform will be hated, as have all non-conformists. But this time they will be denied the right to buy or sell, and may face the death penalty.<sup>7</sup>



<sup>5</sup> Revelation 17:3-5 <sup>6</sup> *Yahshua* is the Hebrew name of the Savior. See "The Name Above All Names" on page 58. <sup>7</sup> Revelation 13:15-17



Cyrus allows the Jews  
to rebuild Jerusalem

c. 536 BC



## The Dawning of the New Age

So there is a new age coming, but it will not come in quietly. Instead, it will be heralded by the most astonishing event the world has ever seen: the sun will go down at noon and rise again six hours later! Amos prophesied long ago:

*"And it will come about in that day," declares the Lord, "that I shall make the sun go down at noon and make the earth dark in broad daylight." (Amos 8:9)*

This will not be a freak occurrence; it will happen repeatedly — just one of the calamities that will overtake the world as judgment for its evil ways; yet it will be a shield behind which God's chosen ones will flee:

*For then there will be a great tribulation such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever shall. And unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect, those days shall be cut short. (Matthew 24:21-22)*

Yahshua remembered the prophecy of Amos, and knew what it meant. He saw that the *length* of the days would be cut short, rather than the *number* of the days, for that, too, is sealed in prophecy. He

knew the sun would go down at noon, and the earth would spin twice as fast. This would have profound effects on the world, fulfilling his unalterable words:

*And there will be signs in the sun and moon and stars, and upon the earth dismay among nations, in perplexity at the roaring of the seas and the waves, men fainting from fear and the expectation of the things which are coming upon the world; for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. (Luke 21:25-26)*



Radio and satellite communications will be disrupted as the earth's magnetic field increases. The life cycles of all living creatures will be radically affected by the abnormal rising and setting of the sun. God will

use the forces of nature to execute His judgment upon mankind:

*Do not be deceived; God is not mocked; whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. (Galatians 6:7-8)*

A humanity that sows corruption will reap corruption. The earth surviving at all will be a miracle. The waves will roar and the seas will crash. The sudden change in the rotation of the earth will have a catastrophic effect on the climate.<sup>8</sup> The

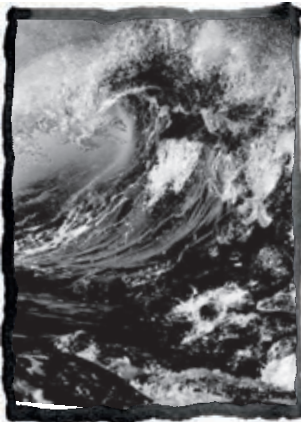
<sup>8</sup> B. G. Hunt, "The effects of past variations of the Earth's rotation rate on climate," *Nature*, Vol. 281, pages 188-191, Sept. 20, 1979



added warmth of the sun will greatly increase the intensity of the ocean storms, as will the melting water from the polar ice caps. Right now scientists are keeping watch on volcanic activity in one of Antarctica's mountain ranges, buried under an unimaginable volume of ice. If the heat of that volcanic activity were to release that mass of ice, causing it to slide into the ocean, the level of the oceans would suddenly rise about twenty feet worldwide!

That event in itself would cause tsunamis to devastate the coastlines, and in combination with the earth spinning twice as fast, their intensity would be staggering. Add to that catastrophic earthquakes and volcanic eruptions triggered by the tremendous rotational stress as the earth deforms, flattening at the poles and bulging at the equator. So great will be the upheaval that this grave prophecy will be fulfilled:

*And there were flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder; and there was a great earthquake, such as there had not been since man came to be*



*upon the earth, so great an earthquake was it, and so mighty ... And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. (Revelation 16:18,20)*

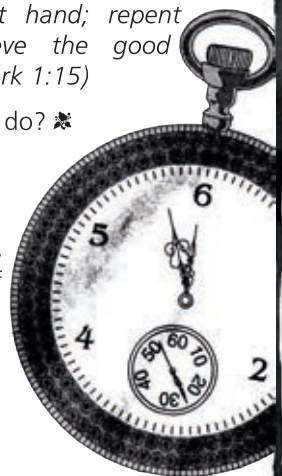
All of these things will come upon those who reject the rule of God. Some will reject him by rejecting the voice of their conscience which condemned them when they did wrong; others will reject him by rejecting the mercy he offers in Yahshua, the Messiah. He, the coming king, is now a long way off, but

when he returns it will be too late to make peace with him.<sup>9</sup> At his return, he will destroy those evildoers who have escaped the burning sun, the raging sea, and the tumultuous earth. Today, however, these words are still being proclaimed:

*The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of*

*God is at hand; repent and believe the good news. (Mark 1:15)*

What will you do? ✱



<sup>9</sup> Luke 14:31-33 looks ahead to the awesome encounter of Revelation 19:11-16.

# Earthquakes

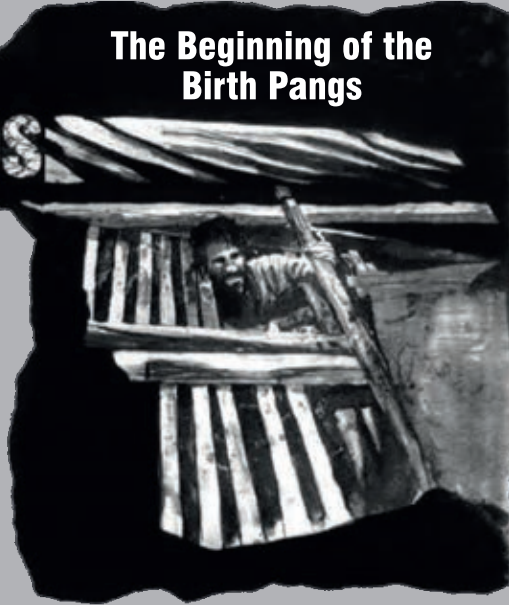
## The Beginning of the Birth Pangs

One of the clearest signs that is recorded in the Bible of Messiah's coming, and of the end of the age will be an increase in earthquakes (Matthew 24:3-8). They are a sign, a warning of what is to come. The Messiah, Yahshua, told His disciples that earthquakes were like birth pangs signaling the end of the age. When a woman begins to have birth pangs, the baby is on its way. So, when you see earthquakes in increasing numbers, you know that the end of the age is near. Signs like these are intended to give people a right fear of God.

A few years ago, the magnitude of earthquakes in the Middle East brought a whole nation to its knees. Thousands knelt in submission to Allah and cried out for understanding as to why such devastation had come upon them. In public squares vast numbers fell on their faces in prayer to God.

One man in particular was shaken up and forced to face what really matters in life. He was sleeping with his wife and small daughter in the bedroom of their comfortable apartment house. When the quake hit, their apartment collapsed before they could even get out of bed. The man's wife and daughter were crushed in the debris and died quickly. He, however, remained buried in the rubble for days.

Miraculously, after much moving and digging and meticulously raising sections of buildings and mounds of concrete, rescuers found



Alexander the Great  
defeats the Persian army

c. 330 BC



Alexander's empire holds  
together for twelve years

Empire divided among  
four generals c. 323 BC



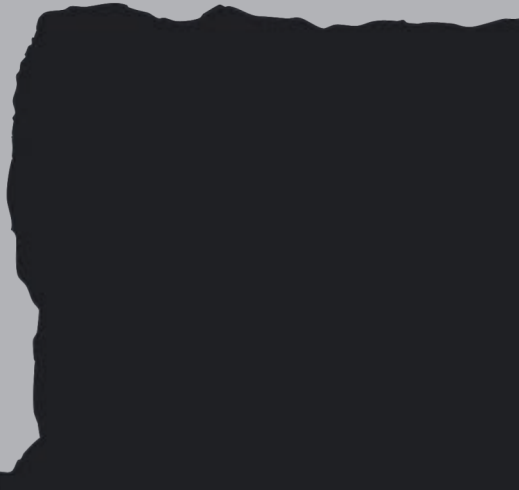
the man. He was very weak, but alive! Devastated by the loss of his wife and small daughter, he told interviewers about the torment his soul had undergone as he waited to die. For him it was like being buried alive, confined to the darkness of death with no way to get out. The agony of his conscience forced him to remember with gnawing detail all the chapters of his life. Forgotten incidents and deeply buried memories surfaced for him to face again.

One ever-present torment was the bed he had loved so much. He had striven to get the money to buy it, and was very proud of its fine materials and expensive craftsmanship. It was a mark of his achievements that he could afford such a heavy, magnificent bed. He cried as he told the story of how that very bed had crushed his wife. As never before, he realized how meaningless material success was, and how pursuing it had deceived him into thinking it would satisfy him.

When the relationships with his family that he had taken for granted were gone, he was forced to examine what really mattered

to him. Weeping, he told interviewers he wanted to never be the same again. He wanted to be careful that his words and actions wouldn't hurt others.

This man was a Muslim. He had learned a great lesson from this awesome warning. This lesson is for all who, like this man, either inadvertently or deliberately abandon their conscience to seek after the things of this world. The world is haywire, reeling on the edge of destruction because of selfishness and the denial of God and his commandments. Earthquakes are a warning that a day is coming — the Judgment Day — when all men will have to give an account to the Righteous Judge. ❄



**Rome begins to conquer the divided Greek Empire**

c. 215 BC



**Rome's magnificent rule brings peace and prosperity**

permeating the fabric of western civilization





## The Great Mystery

A photo essay showing what will happen in the last days of this age.  
*(begin reading here and continue until page 44.)*



# CAN YOU HEAR CREATION SPEAKING?

**A**s men scream for freedom of speech to support their causes, great or small, there is one voice that is being silenced and no one seems to care. It is the clear, yet ever so gentle voice of creation... "The heavens tell of the glory of God. The creation displays his marvelous craftsmanship. Day after day they continue to speak; night after night they make him known. They speak without a sound or a word; their voice is silent in the skies..." (continued on next page)

In the last days, mysterious forces will be at work in society. None of the wicked will understand, but only those who are wise. (Daniel 12:10)



yet their message has gone out to all the earth, and their words to all the world.”<sup>1</sup> Since the beginning of human existence, every individual on Earth has had the ability to look at nature and observe its wonders — migrating birds flying south for the winter, leaves changing color on a cool autumn day, or the vibrant display cast into the sky as the sun sets over the mountains. These wonders observe as witnesses of a good and loving Creator.<sup>2</sup> They proclaim loudly (in their own silent way) the very existence of their Creator, and what he is like. Nature is so beautiful, because the One who made it is that way.



The determined fight of a salmon making its way back to the place of its birth is one witness. It awakens awe in everyone who hears of its struggle. The salmon is a small creature, yet it knows instinctively how to return home to spawn, though it is hundreds of miles out to sea. The brooding hen is another. Man can barely fathom what is in that bird that causes it to care so tenderly for its young.<sup>3</sup>

When we are sensitive to the beauty around us, such as the way dandelions spread their seed, and

take note of these small or great wonders, we too can testify that we have heard the speech of nature.

The horrible injustice of the days we live in is that many of these unique qualities in nature are being altered by man, and in some cases are vanishing altogether. The effects of selfishness and greed are evident in our environment — rivers and streams are polluted, animals go extinct, forests are cut down, and even the air we breathe is polluted. In our desire to amass wealth and avoid suffering, we are destroying the Earth and its inhabitants. The condition of the Earth is a striking reflection of the condition of the human heart.

The ecological crisis we find ourselves in today should come as no surprise. Some people saw it coming long ago — even thousands of years ago. The prophet Isaiah spoke about what would happen in the last days of this age. He said that when men and women stop acknowledging God and the voice of their consciences, then the Earth itself would be defiled. The witness of creation, which speaks of the goodness of God, would be silenced, and those who dwell on the Earth would be

<sup>1</sup> Psalm 19:1-4 <sup>2</sup> Romans 1:20 <sup>3</sup> See box on page 24.



Perilous times will come. Moral and social restraints that have held society together for centuries will be cast aside.

(2 Timothy 3:1-5)





Calendar adjustments make a 445-day year, 46 BC

Their appearance is like a brilliant star, 7 BC

May 29, 7 BC



held accountable.<sup>4</sup> Certainly, this prophecy is being fulfilled. What judgment, do you suppose, awaits those who take part in the destruction of the Earth?<sup>5</sup> What will happen when the Earth loses its freedom of speech and grows silent?

The magnificent civilization that is under construction comes at great cost to the Earth. Although people say the Earth is their mother, their actions prove they don't care what happens to her. They do not heed her voice, nor the voice of their conscience. How will Mother Earth respond to the way they have treated her. Will she remain silent forever?

The prophets of old spoke of a time when the Earth would break forth under the pain of her death throes and scream for justice. The guilt of humanity will be broadcast to the universe. These prophets said terrible times would come before the Last Day. Creation will cry out, not as before, but this time in horrible cries of desperation.

Like a woman in pain, ready to give birth, the Earth will moan as she brings forth her final statements before the end. The entire universe will watch as planet Earth writhes in agony, pleading with her inhabitants to turn back and honor their Creator. The once-soft voice of the mother will turn into a violent rage. What will she say?

The elements that have for so long been a blessing will suddenly turn to curses. The oceans, rivers, and springs will turn to blood, and all life in them will die. Once-pleasant fragrances will be replaced by the stench of death. The sun's heat will intensify and the Earth's surface will be scorched with fire. The inhabitants will be burned and few will be left. Will anyone hear what she is trying to say?<sup>6</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Isaiah 24:4-6   <sup>5</sup> Revelation 11:18   <sup>6</sup> Revelation 14:7

Values will be turned upside down. Men will defend what is evil and condemn what is good. Like those who lived in Sodom and Gomorrah, men will enjoy careless ease, abundant food, and will treat the poor with contempt. They practice as an acceptable lifestyle that which is appalling to God and to the good people who are left on the earth.

(Isaiah 5:20-24; Ezekiel 16:48-50)





to shepherds outside Bethlehem, c. 7 BC

Magi travel to Israel October 3, 7 BC

Late November, 7 BC

over Bethlehem December 4, 7 BC

Then her foundations will split open with great force, destroying entire nations. Huge hailstones will fall from the sky, destroying buildings and crushing men. The sun will turn black and the moon red, like the blood of a man. The Earth will reel and stagger like a drunk. She will sway like a hut in the wind because the rebellion on her surface is too much to bear.<sup>7</sup> Why didn't men listen to her voice through the salmon, the hen, the dandelions, and the evening sunset? Why didn't they heed the warnings when the lightning in a summer storm gave them a glimpse of the awesome power she could unleash?

All this will take place before the Last Day can come. Only a few will even heed this final voice of warning. Most will curse God and continue to suppress the truth in their consciences, not realizing that they are reaping what they have sown.<sup>8</sup>

The time for final judgment is just over the horizon, but there is still time to turn and hear the gentle voice that tugs on your heart. Have you silenced that voice in your conscience? Do you go past the boundaries of conscience, hurting others and yourself? Have you taken advantage of others, disregarding how they feel, only to gain momentary pleasure for yourself? What you do with your life and how you treat other people directly affects the world around you. This is why the Earth is in the state it is in today. Do you see the connection?

We have entered a new millennium. What do you think lies in store for us? Greater prosperity? Continued degeneration? Everyone has something to say because we have the freedom to speak. But shhhh... listen carefully, for there is another voice. Consider her warnings before it's too late! ❄️

<sup>7</sup> Isaiah 24:20   <sup>8</sup> Obadiah 15

## Determined Salmon & Brooding Hens

At the University of Wisconsin, scientists genetically altered brooding turkey hens to increase their productivity. Brooding hens lay fewer eggs than non-brooding hens. Researchers were eager to curtail the "brooding instinct" because "broodiness disrupts production and costs producers money." By blocking the gene that produces the prolactin hormone, biologists were able to limit their brooding instinct. The new breed of genetically engineered hens produce more eggs.

Other researchers are experimenting with the creation of sterile salmon who will not have the suicidal urge to spawn, but rather remain in the open

sea to be commercially harvested. During the long journey back to their birthing place, salmon stop eating and lose body weight. Scientists hope to break the reproduction cycle by shocking eggs to produce a doubling of the chromosomes, resulting in the production of sterile fish. Scientists say that by breaking the spawning cycle of Chinook salmon, they can produce salmon whose body weight exceeds 70 pounds compared to less than 18 pounds for a fish returning to spawn. ❄️

[From "The Biotech Century — A Second Opinion: The Marriage of the Genetic Sciences and the Technologies Reshaping our World," Jeremy Rifkin.]



Herod dies a miserable death

March, 4 BC

Turn of the Eras

BC – 0 – AD

The year that never existed

The year 0 was overlooked in their calculations

Anno Domini One "Year of Our Lord"

occurs 8 years after the Messiah's birth



# 3 Days & 3 Nights



*For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the whale, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. (Matthew 12:40)*

Religious form and tradition trick us into accepting things that do not make sense sometimes. Certain very clear religious compromises were made to change the authentic foundation<sup>1</sup> and primitive pattern of the first Messianic community in order to make it fit into the mold of the organized religion you see today. It did not happen all at once, but by the fourth century what remained bore no resemblance to the glory of its beginnings in Jerusalem.<sup>2</sup> What remained was a religion peppered with half-truths most Christians accept just because that's the way it's always been.

One odd change may look insignificant, but it exposes a much deeper motive. This is the adoption of "Good Friday" as the day of the crucifixion in spite of the fact that the Savior clearly had to have died on a Wednesday. So what difference does it make whether it is Wednesday or Friday? What made them want to change it? Let's look at how history reveals this odd cover-up.

Because an ugly anti-Semitism was surfacing in the Empire, Christian leaders of the fourth century tried to

disassociate themselves from their Jewish roots. What formerly had been considered a Jewish sect began to present itself as a separate religion, free of the traditions of its founding fathers, including its wealth of festivals. They wanted to make their new religion more appealing, and "take the world for Christ."

The most important festival the early church had celebrated each year was Passover. The world considered this a Jewish holiday. Despite its vital significance to the message of the Messiah Yahshua (whom they began to call by a Greek name, *Iesous*), the Christian leaders made changes in their calendar in order to remove Passover altogether.

They chose to merge their celebration of the death and resurrection of Christ into the festival of the fashionable religion of the day. Joining with the secular leaders of the government, they made a new holiday called *Easter* (named after the fertility goddess, *Ishtar*).<sup>3</sup> In order to do this, they had to squeeze the crucifixion, death, and resurrection of Christ into the Friday-through-Sunday holiday of Ishtar. Two

<sup>1</sup> 1 Corinthians 3:11; Ephesians 2:20; Matthew 16:17-18    <sup>2</sup> John 17:22

<sup>3</sup> *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 1957, vol. 7, p. 859, article on Easter.

Yahshua eats his last meal with his disciples

"Good Wednesday" The Messiah crucified

Yahshua is buried

Yahshua rises Saturday at twilight



On a Tuesday night in 30 AD

Passover lambs being sacrificed in the Temple

Sundown Wednesday Passover Begins

The priests gather the first barley sheaf

full days were cut off their own celebration by the leaders, with no apology or explanation.

But this dark plot is exposed when you look at the calendar with a little common sense. The Bible makes it very clear that the Messiah was to be killed at the time of Passover.

Yahshua himself said that he would be in death for "three days and three nights."<sup>4</sup> It was no coincidence that his death perfectly coincided with the time of the killing of the Passover lambs. It validated his claim to be the sacrificial lamb that would save men from death (the "death angel" of the Passover). From the time of his death, three days and three nights had to pass before he would rise from the dead, and that is exactly what happened.

The church of the fourth century altered the order of events, losing the deep significance of Passover altogether.<sup>5</sup> Thus, they were able to cut themselves off totally from the holy root of their faith,<sup>6</sup> substituting the pagan spring festival for the Passover. Finally they could stand on their own as Christians, no longer under the shadow of their Hebrew ancestors,<sup>7</sup> showing that they no longer belonged to Messiah and could not claim to be the seed of Abraham.

Messiah was put into the tomb after His crucifixion on a Wednesday, just before dark, just as the

Passover lambs were being sacrificed in the temple. He rose from the dead 72 hours later — three days and three nights — at sundown, when the first day of the Hebrew week began.

There is no such thing as *Good Friday*.<sup>8</sup> Scholars even within Christianity<sup>9</sup> agree that the events of that extraordinary week follow this timeline. By examining other historic writings from before 300 AD, these changes are confirmed.

Something vital was lost when the Christian leaders attempted to mask their Jewish origins by dissociating themselves from the festivals of Israel, and by compromising a foundational aspect of the message of the Messiah. It points to the darkness that had already overtaken them, once the lampstand of his presence had been blown out by their disobedience.<sup>10</sup>

So-called "Good Friday" is just another indication of a religion gone haywire to the point that one third of the world's population claim to be on the "narrow way," which only a few can find...<sup>11</sup> History tells the sad story, for those who care enough to investigate. ✱

Wednesday Night

Thursday

Thursday Night

Friday

Friday Night

Saturday

<sup>4</sup> Matthew 12:40 <sup>5</sup> Luke 1:77; Hebrews 9:14,22; 10:17; Revelation 18:5 <sup>6</sup> Romans 11:17-18 <sup>7</sup> Galatians 3:29 <sup>8</sup> John 20:1-2; 19:38-42 <sup>9</sup> *Companion Bible, authorized KJV of 1611 with Structures*, Zondervan. <sup>10</sup> John 13:34-35; Revelation 2:4-5 <sup>11</sup> Matthew 7:13-14

**Yahshua appears to some women**

At dawn on Sunday

**Yahshua appears to his disciples**

over a period of 40 days

**Yahshua ascends from the Mount of Olives**

Angels announce that he will return the same way

**Shavuot (Pentecost)  
The Holy Spirit comes**

upon the apostles; 3000 Jews respond to the gospel



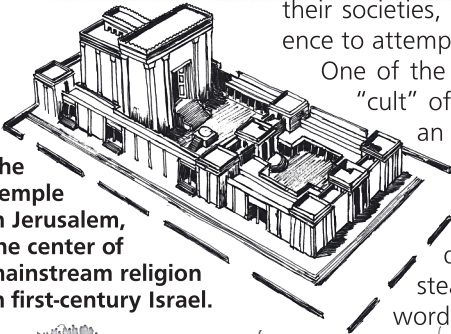
# Messianic Communities — Then And Now

**TWO THOUSAND YEARS AGO** there were many groups "outside the camp"<sup>1</sup> of the accepted religion of their day. There were also many that fit in quite comfortably, taking their acceptance and success as a sign of God's blessing. Relations between the two were often strained to the point of suspicion and violence. And just as back then, many of those in the camp of organized religion today are connected to the power structures of their societies, and are quite willing to use that influence to attempt to silence dissenting spiritual voices.<sup>2</sup>

One of the most successful crusaders against the "cult" of his day was Saul of Tarsus, who had an unforgettable encounter with the very Messiah he was persecuting.

Blinded by a brilliant light from heaven, he did not hear harsh condemnation for his evil deeds,<sup>3</sup> but instead his heart was pierced by the gentle words reminding him of the truth he knew in his conscience. Yahshua himself voice spoke to him from heaven, saying, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads."<sup>4</sup>

**The Temple in Jerusalem, the center of mainstream religion in first-century Israel.**



**The Pharisees – fundamentalists with the "right doctrine" who persecuted Yahshua and his followers.**

<sup>1</sup> Hebrews 13:13    <sup>2</sup> John 18:28-19:16  
<sup>3</sup> Saul had been violently persecuting this sect, dragging disciples out of their community houses and casting them into prisons. He had broken up families, even had members put to death. Still, God saw His heart, knowing that he acted ignorantly. He had never been able to silence the voice of his conscience that constantly reminded him of Gamaliel's wisdom.

**The Great Mystery continued**



Society is polarized between those who wish to cast off moral restraint and those who wish to impose it by law.



Late spring, 30 AD

dragging disciples off to prison, c. 32 AD

Hears Yahshua call him to serve rather than persecute him



**Judas of Galilee led a revolt against Roman taxation, but was killed and his followers scattered.**

One of those goads was the warning from Gamaliel, his own teacher as a young man. He was a very wise man from "within the camp" of organized religion. Speaking of the "cult of Yahshua,"<sup>5</sup> Gamaliel advised:

*And so, in the present case, I say to you, stay away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or action should be of men, it will be overthrown; but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them; or else you may even be found fighting against God. (Acts 5:38-39)*

If religious leaders since had listened to this respected teacher, rivers of innocent blood could have been spared. Gamaliel said these words in a time when doomsday

<sup>5</sup> Acts 28:22 <sup>6</sup> Acts 5:37

cults, false messiahs, and religious fanatics roamed the country, just as today. Some, like the Zealots, were a menace to society, while others like the Essenes, held the traditional religious system in contempt because of their obvious worldliness.

The Zealots were determined to overthrow the government with as much violence as necessary, even at the cost of putting their whole society into chaos. They were the armed militias of that day, led by men like Judas of Galilee.<sup>6</sup> His rallying cry, that Roman taxes made the Israelites no better than slaves, was a powerful one. His rebellion was met by the overwhelming power of the state, leading to his death and the scattering of his followers.



**The Way — early believers who shared all their goods in common and followed the apostles' teachings.**



Molded together by the ecumenical movement, millions of Catholic, Protestant, and Orthodox Christians unite under the banner of the Pope in the guise of a "Brotherhood of Man" and "Fatherhood of God." Differences are overlooked; moral attributes few. As always, when Christianity enjoys a revival, she leans toward politics.



**Vibrant life of early church wanes**

Revelation 2 & 3  
c. 100 AD

**Constantine gathers Christianity**

under his wing as state religion, 312 AD

**John Chrysostom justifies persecution of Jews**

387 AD

**Augustine justifies persecution of dissenters**

411 - 430 AD



The Essenes lived in set-apart communities waiting for the Messiah and the end of the world. Famous for the Dead Sea Scrolls,<sup>7</sup> were they alive today they would have a far different reputation. Their apocalyptic writings portraying the armies of God slaying the wicked, their white garments, and their refusal to marry would label them a doomsday cult, for sure.

The Communities of the Messiah Yahshua, or *The Way*, as His followers liked to call themselves,<sup>8</sup> were the very group Gamaliel used to teach his important lesson. Motivated by envy due to the large following this supposed Messiah was gathering, the religious leaders delivered him up to be crucified.<sup>9</sup> Afterwards, his followers claimed that he rose from the dead. The “proof” they offered was their radically different lives. Because of their love for one another there were no poor among them. Everyone shared what they had in common.<sup>10</sup> Since the ancient prophecies were being fulfilled,<sup>11</sup> their uncompromising proclamation of forgiveness and salva-

tion became increasingly bold. This brought them face to face with the same jealousy<sup>12</sup> that their crucified leader had faced at the hands of the same religious leaders. The sect of Yahshua was bursting with new life. They could not kill it. This was the living proof of his resurrected life.

Gamaliel knew the actions the civil authorities had taken against armed uprisings.<sup>13</sup> He made a careful distinction between the two kinds of authority on the earth, civil and religious. His words were not directed at the civil authorities, telling them to ignore criminal behavior, because it might be from God. He was telling the religious leaders, rather, to let men believe and worship as they saw fit. If men violated laws, then it was up to the state to deal with them. If men violated religious teachings, it was up to God to deal with them.

For a brief time, the leaders of the established religion followed Gamaliel’s advice. As a good rabbi, Gamaliel was actually trying to protect them from opposing God by exhorting them not to trust in their

<sup>7</sup> Well-preserved portions of the Bible and other literature, which survived intact 2,000 years after they were made. <sup>8</sup>Acts 9:2, 19: 9, 19:23, 24:14, and 24:22

<sup>9</sup> Matthew 27:18 <sup>10</sup> Acts 4:32-37 <sup>11</sup> Deuteronomy 15:4-5 <sup>12</sup> Acts 5:17

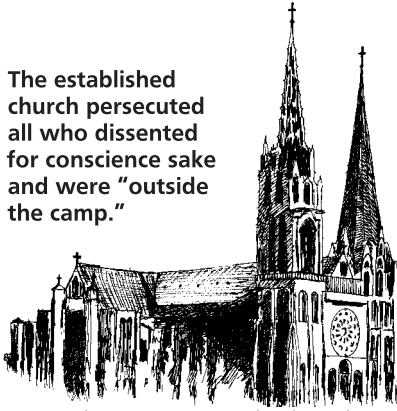
<sup>13</sup>Acts 5:36-37



Religious political leaders are elected to office, promising to make the world a better place. Cleaning up Hollywood, TV, music, magazines, and the Internet is first on their agenda. Increasingly, people are willing to sacrifice their rights and freedoms for comfort and a sense of security.



**The established church persecuted all who dissented for conscience sake and were "outside the camp."**



own judgment as to whether this or that group was from God. If God was not with a particular group, they would come to nothing.

Later in Saul's life, other Jews picked up where Saul had stopped. They lacked the wisdom of Gamaliel, and dragged him before the Roman ruler, Gallio, on charges that he "persuades men to worship God contrary to the law." But Gallio was a righteous judge who did not interfere with people's religious convictions. He did not even let Saul speak in his own defense. He knew that no civil wrong had been done to anyone simply by not believing the way the Jews did. He drove Saul's accusers away with the words:

*If it were a matter of wrong or of vicious crime, O Jews, it would be reasonable for me to put up with you; but if there are*

*questions about words and names and your own law, look after it yourselves; I am unwilling to be a judge of these matters.*<sup>14</sup>

Gallio understood the limits of his authority. Within those limits he could make the judgments he was qualified to make — the injustices men did to one another, but not their thoughts and beliefs. By the time the apostate Christian Church married the Roman Empire under Constantine, these separate spheres of authority for church and state had been utterly torn down. How different history would be had this distinction remained!

In early colonial America, these same tensions arose between those who remained faithful to the established religion of England (the Puritans) and those who desired to worship outside the camp of the established religion (the Separatists). Perhaps the most powerful dissenting voice of the Separatists was that of Roger Williams. He found no protection for his voice among the Puritans who exiled him into the wilderness. There he established a place where those seeking refuge from persecution for cause of conscience could live in peace. He called it *Providence*, and his experiment in the wilderness became what we now know as the State of Rhode Island.

<sup>14</sup> Acts 18:12-16



Although society is constrained outwardly by this mingling of church and state, and politicians proclaim peace and security, in reality inner turmoil is seething under the surface. (1 Thessalonians 5:3-7).



Roger Williams, over the course of his life, came to the conclusion that there was no longer a true church on the earth, a church faithful to the primitive pattern of the early church. He concluded that it would have to wait until God would again send apostles to restore what had been lost. He called himself "a waiter and a seeker" for the rest of his life.

His toleration of differing beliefs and practices was the hallmark of the Constitution of Rhode Island. This protection of religious dissent prevailed in the two-year debate that led to ratification of the United States Constitution and its treasured First Amendment, securing religious freedom in America.

Today, as in the time of Gamaliel, there are many dissenting religious voices. Just as back then, a growing number of people today are dissatisfied with the established religions. The churches are not meeting the needs of the people, or relieving their fears of increasing social, political, and economic instability. Their example is not providing the true light and healing balm to the crumbling civilization people see around them. Where, oh where, is the life of love and unity described in Acts 2:42-45 and 4:32-35?

In this climate, leaders of the established religions can feel threatened, just as did the Pharisees and

scribes of Yahshua's day. Their reaction is to attack and discredit the voices that are "outside the camp," providing the fuel for the modern-day cult hysteria. Sociologists call this "moral panic" and document



**David Koresh and 85 followers perished in Waco, Texas, when anti-cult activists influenced government.**

how isolated incidents are exaggerated and magnified so as to deliberately create the climate of fear of unconventional religions.

The wisdom of Gamaliel needs to be breathed afresh upon religious leaders today. Advancements in information technology and the effectiveness of the media provide ideal conditions for lies to be spread without restraint. The voice of a modern-day Gamaliel is hard to hear above the roar of religious and political correctness. Hundreds of new religious movements have come and gone, or



From the midst of this stormy sea arises the Man of Lawlessness, speaking words of wisdom and promising all that the world desires. (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4)





been integrated into mainstream religion, proving themselves not to be the prophetic witness of God's salvation in these last days.<sup>15</sup> Among them are the People's Temple, which perished in the jungles of Guyana, and the Branch Davidians who perished in the flames of Waco.

These two groups who claimed to follow the teachings of the Messiah, and the Unification Church, whose leader claims to be the Messiah, are the springboard for voices from mainstream Christianity to instill fear and paranoia in their congregations of groups "outside the camp." Nevertheless, it is true that the life and the voice of our Master Yahshua and his disciples in the early church came from "outside the camp" of the organized religion of their day.

Labeled together with these notorious groups is a restoration of the life of those first genuine disciples. They have come out of the organized religions, out of other groups labeled as cults, and out of today's decadent society, to be a demonstration of God's love and unity, such as has not been seen since the days of Acts 2 and 4. It is the life

that Yahshua, the Messiah, earnestly prayed for in the hours before his death.<sup>16</sup> This people is growing into a spiritual nation that will bear the fruit of the kingdom — an observable life of love and justice.

But for this life to grow to full stature, there need to be voices like those of Gamaliel and Roger Williams that call for the freedom to speak and to live according to one's convictions. But what motivates people to instill fear of the prophetic voices that call for a return to the life and teachings of Yahshua and his apostles? It is the same motive that fueled the cries, "Crucify him!" and led to shedding the blood of countless sincere seekers of God's kingdom over the past 1900 years.

Every person is accountable before God for what voices he gives ear to. As Proverbs 17:4 says, "*An evildoer gives heed to false lips; a liar listens eagerly to a spiteful tongue.*" So, be careful who you listen to. Make sure that you judge a tree by its fruit, and not by the sayings of men. Exercise your freedom. Find out for yourself, lest you find yourself opposing God. ❀

<sup>15</sup> Matthew 24:14; Daniel 2:44; Isaiah 49:6; Matthew 21:43

<sup>16</sup> John 17:21-23

To the religious he will seem to be a minister of righteousness; to liberals and conservatives alike, he will seem to be the champion of their causes; to the poor and oppressed he will seem to be the great emancipator.





# TO THE JEW FIRST

**W**hen our Master Yahshua died on the cross, the curtain in the Temple was torn from top to bottom. For the first time, worshipers in the Temple saw into the Holy of Holies, faced with the reality that the presence of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob was no longer there. Ironically, His very own presence was in the man who was being crucified for their sins, outside the camp of their religious system. This sacrifice would soon cause the presence of God to come and live inside the hearts (not in the building) of all those who would truly believe in the Savior, Yahshua the Messiah.<sup>1</sup> When the life-giving presence of the Holy Spirit filled the first disciples, a new spiritual Israel began, made up of those who were empowered to love one another with an ever-increasing bond of unity and affection.<sup>2</sup> Yet it wasn't long before this new nation of vibrant communities collapsed. How did this happen? How did it become a religious system void of the Spirit of Messiah?<sup>3</sup>

Part of the answer lies in Romans 11:22, *"Behold then the kindness and severity of God; to those who fell, severity, but to you, God's kindness, if you continue in His kindness; otherwise you also will be cut off."* Paul exhorted the community in Rome to keep their hearts in a place where the lovingkindness and tender mercies of God could reach them. This word *lovingkind-*

*ness* was a covenant term, implying loyalty and faithfulness. Paul warned the Roman disciples that if they disobeyed the covenant they would be cut off just as old Israel had been cut off when they disobeyed the covenant by not producing the fruit of the kingdom.<sup>4</sup> They were scattered among the nations.<sup>5</sup> Likewise, the spiritual twelve tribes that Paul spoke of in Acts 26:7 were scattered among the nations<sup>6</sup> in the second century. James told them that they had no more faith,<sup>7</sup> and in their fallen condition they were on their way to becoming a harlot.<sup>8</sup> Paul himself also warned the Romans much earlier that the fruit of falling away would be living without revelation. They would become "wise in their own opinions" about God, about salvation, and about what the church is,<sup>9</sup> but blind to the revelation of the Holy Spirit.

The severity Paul warned about in Romans 11:22 soon came upon them. The revelation of Messiah given to Peter in Matthew 16:18 was lost, and true faith ceased. The church in Rome was turned over to blindness<sup>10</sup> and a cold and cruel religious system developed. Taking the place of the revelation given by the Holy Spirit was a belief system based on decrees and "right" doctrine. Since this belief system came from man, not God, it could not produce the fruit that could only be produced through revelation by the Holy Spirit. Only through the Spirit

<sup>1</sup> Hebrews 13:12-13   <sup>2</sup> 1 John 3:16   <sup>3</sup> John 14:18   <sup>4</sup> Matthew 21:43   <sup>5</sup> Ezekiel 35:13-20   <sup>6</sup> James 1:1   <sup>7</sup> James 2:18   <sup>8</sup> Revelation 18:2   <sup>9</sup> James 2:19   <sup>10</sup> Romans 11:25

**The Great Schism: Church splits between east and west**

**The Pope launches the first of several Crusades**



each excommunicating the other  
1054 AD (Matthew 12:25-26)

Christian soldiers slaughter 70,000  
Muslims and Jews, 1095 AD

can the life that expresses the love of Yahshua come about. Only by revelation that Yahshua is the resurrected Messiah can someone die in the waters of baptism.<sup>11</sup>

Without this revelation, belief becomes a lifeless ritual. When the "church" was filled with this other kind of belief, it produced the fruit of Matthew 16:18. The powers of the unseen realm (the gates of Hades) prevailed over what used to be the spotless Bride of Messiah.<sup>12</sup> For the past 1900 years, this evil unseen realm has prevailed over men's lives. Through a belief system of doctrinal decrees,<sup>13</sup> the Evil One stands over that house as its prince. Its bloody history proves that those with the "right" doctrine will always persecute those with the so-called "wrong" doctrine. That is not the house of which our Master Yahshua is the head. His house is filled with the fruit of abundant life, love, and unity, not abundant decrees.

The fate of this unfaithful, disloyal religious system that has become a harlot will be as the Law decrees: she will be burned with fire

<sup>14</sup> Her fruitless branches will be gathered and burned with fire.<sup>15</sup>

But Ezekiel 37:6-14 and Romans 11:23-27 speak about the death of old Israel. Paul said that their death was only temporary, until the end of this present age, when the life of the Spirit is given to the Twelve Tribes of Israel, a nation that will produce the fruit of the Kingdom in the next age.<sup>16</sup> But first, before the next age can come, we, the spiritual Twelve Tribes of this present age, must destroy all the spiritual enemies of the King of Kings, putting them under His feet.<sup>17</sup> Then and only then will the Messiah return.<sup>18</sup>

At that time, a remnant<sup>19</sup> of the natural seed will look upon Him whom they pierced, and will believe.<sup>20</sup> Their blindness will be stripped away, and the revelation of Yahshua, the Messiah, will fill their hearts, thus beginning the fulfillment of the promise to Abraham. But before this can happen, Romans 9:25-26 must come to fruition to bring about all that has been spoken by the Hebrew prophets of old. ❀

<sup>11</sup> Romans 6:1-5 <sup>12</sup> 2 Corinthians 11:2-4 <sup>13</sup> Of "flesh and blood" origin, Matthew 16:17 <sup>14</sup> Revelation 17:16; 18:8,10; 19:2-3 <sup>15</sup> John 15:6; Matthew 13:30,40  
<sup>16</sup> Matthew 19:28 <sup>17</sup> Hebrews 10:13 <sup>18</sup> Revelation 11:15; Acts 3:21  
<sup>19</sup> Romans 9:27 <sup>20</sup> Zechariah 12:10

**The Great Mystery**  
*continued*



Christianity's finest hour is at hand. Intimately connected like a harlot to the one-world government, and enmeshed in the business world, she finally gets her chance. The woman climbs onto the back of the beast and takes the reins of power. (John 15:19; 1 John 2:15; Revelation 18; 17:1-3)





# FULL SPEED AHEAD

**Do the 250,000 deaths annually in the US from “medical mistakes” bother you? What about the fatal results of “gene therapy” experiments? And what about the call for tighter government controls? Does that scare you more?**

**T**he problem with modern man is that he is so self-confident. You’d think that after a few nuclear melt-downs and an ocean full of plastic waste he’d start to see that he is in deep trouble — too deep to back out of it. But somehow he thinks that no matter how much he monkeys around with the order of nature, no matter how many problems he creates in the process, science is going to solve them all before it’s too late.

Right now, man seems to be racing full speed ahead to mastering the secrets of life itself. But protests are being raised about genetic engineering. Splicing genes from bacteria into corn is supposed to kill pests, but it kills helpful insects as well. Thousands of people have been poisoned by genetically engineered stuff that supposedly was tested as safe. Some have died. Gene splicing is clumsy, the pro-

As the Beast bides his time, this woman, the great Harlot, uses him to suppress all opposition to her rule. One group outside her control is another woman: the virgin Bride of the Messiah. Despite the Beast’s policy to wear the Bride down day after day, she prepares a very special group of young men to be sent on a special mission. (John 15:18, 16:1-3; Rev 14:1-5, 18:23-24; Gal 4:29; Dan 7:25)





Triggers the Inquisition 1229 AD

torture suspected heretics The "Dark Ages" begin

October 31, 1517 Luther also writes against the Jews

testers say, and the results are unpredictable. They want laws to be passed requiring tighter controls and stricter tests.

Such laws seem necessary. But can man make the world safe for man to live in while he tears apart its foundations and puts them back together to suit his whims? Will government control of genetics keep things from going

wrong? If the US government controls the progress of genetics, will other nations, also? Or will they race ahead and unleash terrors on the earth? Will a powerful, centralized world government be needed?



The world is racing full speed ahead towards the rule of the beastly empire described in Revelation 13:1-4, and there is nothing you can do to stop it.

*And I saw a beast coming up out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads, and on his horns were ten diadems, and on his heads were blasphemous names. And the beast which I saw was like a leopard, and his feet were like those of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. And the dragon gave him his power and his throne and great authority. And I saw one*

*of his heads as if it had been slain, and his fatal wound was healed. And the whole earth was amazed and followed after the beast; and they worshiped the dragon, because he gave his authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast, and who is able to wage war with him?"*

Is it possible that this beastly government will have the power to flick the genetic switch that controls life and death? Will man finally give his body the unlimited power to heal itself, no matter how serious the injury? Will tampering with genes also be the cause of some of the plagues that devastate the earth at the end of time?

*And out of the smoke came forth locusts upon the earth; and power was given them, as the scorpions of the earth have power. And they were not permitted to kill anyone, but to torment for five months; and their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it stings a man. And in those days men will seek death and will not find it; and they will long to die and death flees from them. (Revelation 9:3,5,7)*

Will locusts with the stings of scorpions be a genetic experiment gone haywire? Why will men not be able to kill themselves? Are you ready to go where the world is heading now? Have you sold out and bought your ticket? Or do you realize that man needs someone to save him from himself? ❄

Peasant's War  
Luther orders the

killing of the peasants  
50,000 slaughtered, 1525

Henry VIII becomes head  
of the Church of England

Catholics and Protestants begin  
persecuting each other, 1534

William Tyndale  
burned at the stake

for translating the Bible  
into English, 1536



# THE LAST DAY

*For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in him may have eternal life; and I myself will raise him up on the last day. (John 6:40)*

## What is the Last Day and when will it come?

THE LAST DAY is an actual day in the future. It is the day that Yahshua the Messiah will come back to this earth in the same way he left.<sup>1</sup> He will claim his bride and will establish his kingdom, his rulership over the earth. When He was with his disciples on the Mount of Olives, just before he went up into the heavens and disappeared in the clouds, he told his disciples that he would return through the clouds in flaming fire, accompanied by His mighty angels.

On that day He is going to give relief to his people on the earth who are all being persecuted and afflicted — to his strained and stressed ones who will have endured to the end.<sup>2</sup> He will give his faithful ones rest — those who have proved their love for him by their patient endurance and their obedience.

At the same time, he is going to deal out tribulation and vengeance to those who have suppressed the truth in their consciences (what they know about God), and to those who have heard but have not obeyed his gospel. That is the day when he brings an end to this wicked and perverse generation.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Acts 1:11   <sup>2</sup> 2 Thessalonians 1:7; Matthew 24:13   <sup>3</sup> Acts 2:40; Galatians 1:4

The  
Great  
Mystery  
continued



As the Beast attempts to destroy the Bride, she sends out 144,000 of her sons. Their sudden appearance in society distracts him and gives her time to flee to a place prepared for her in the wilderness.



Michael Servetus burned at the stake by John Calvin for questioning

Mary crowned Queen of England as a Catholic

Elizabeth crowned Queen of England as a Protestant

the doctrine of the Trinity and infant baptism, 1553

Burned 273 Protestants 1553 - 1558

1558

He is not going to give relief to his people by taking them up in the sky sometime before the last day. Relief to his disciples will come on the same day that he deals out retribution to his enemies.<sup>4</sup> When is this last day? It is the last day of the seven years of the Great Tribulation<sup>5</sup> when the last trumpet sounds.<sup>6</sup> Then Yahshua will descend with a shout, and the dead who had entrusted their lives to him will rise out of their graves. Those who are alive and have remained faithful to him will be caught up together with those who come out of their graves, to meet their Master Yahshua in the clouds. From that time on they will always be with him.<sup>7</sup>

### Who will he come for?

Yahshua made it clear in John 6:39,40,44,54 that the resurrection of his people would come on the last day of this age. This is the true "rapture." This is the second coming of Messiah for his elect, his bride who will have been crying out for him in the wilderness day and night.<sup>8</sup> This bride is depicted in Revelation as a woman clothed with the sun,



with a crown of twelve stars, and with the moon under her feet.<sup>9</sup>

Midway through the tribulation period, she will flee to the wilderness to a place prepared for her.<sup>10</sup> There she will be cared for during a period of 1,260 days.<sup>11</sup> She will have been persecuted and forced out of society, because her way of life was

<sup>4</sup> 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10 <sup>5</sup> Matthew 24:29-31; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

<sup>6</sup> 1 Corinthians 15:52 <sup>7</sup> 1 Thessalonians 4:14-17 <sup>8</sup> Luke 18:7 <sup>9</sup> Revelation 12:1-2

<sup>10</sup> Revelation 12:1-14 <sup>11</sup> Revelation 12:6,14; a time, times, and half a time.

The Great Mystery continued



These 144,000 pure young men warn people to come out of the established churches. They proclaim the age-lasting message, "Fear God and give Him glory" and warn men not to take the Mark of the Beast.



1620

Kills half of Germany  
1618 - 16481631  
Puritans soon banish himFoothold of Religious  
Freedom, 1636

a testimony against the world that its deeds were evil.<sup>12</sup> She will be hated by all men, just as her bridegroom promised.<sup>13</sup> She will be persecuted, not because she has committed mass murder (like the Cru-

*... we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.*

*(1 Corinthians 15:51-52)*

*For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Messiah shall rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Lord.*

*(1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)*

sades) or molested children (as some "priests" have done) or isolated herself in some far-away compound, or armed herself (as dooms-

day cults) to fight against the evil empire of the Beast, but because she had the love of her bridegroom filling her, producing the unity and peace that qualified her as the true witness of God's salvation.<sup>14</sup>

As a restored twelve-tribed nation she will have fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah 49:6, having become the witness of the kingdom<sup>15</sup> that he is waiting for as the sign heralding his second coming.<sup>16</sup> This woman in the wilderness is the "stone kingdom cut out of the mountain of the world" in Daniel 2:34,45. There will be no more room for her in this evil age. She will be in her final moments of crying out to him, longing for his appearing,<sup>17</sup> just before her bridegroom calls for her and takes her with him to destroy all the evil kingdoms of the world.

From the beginning, when she first fell in love with him, she knew that she would have to go outside the camp of the established religion to be with him.<sup>18</sup> She could no longer be comfortably conformed to the ways of the world. She lives only to please her bridegroom. Soon he

<sup>12</sup> John 16:1-3,8    <sup>13</sup> Matthew 10:22; 24:9; Mark 13:13; Luke 21:17; John 7:7; 15:18,19,23; 17:14    <sup>14</sup> Isaiah 43:12    <sup>15</sup> Matthew 24:3,14    <sup>16</sup> Acts 1:8,11

<sup>17</sup> 2 Timothy 4:8; Hebrews 9:28    <sup>18</sup> Hebrews 13:13-14



Shortly after this warning, the Harlot rebels against the Beast's ever-increasing lust for power. The Beast turns on her. Unwilling to share his glory any longer, he gathers her people together in assemblies all around the globe and destroys them in a single hour. Every trace of the ecumenical church is wiped out as she is burned with fire. (Revelation 18:8-18; Leviticus 21:9)

1640s

Prohibits establishment of  
a state church, 1787

between church and state  
echoing Roger Williams, 1802

1804 -1814

will come for her, and he will not delay long. He will come on the last of the 1,260 days.<sup>19</sup>

So, who is the bride? The bride is the "we" that will be "changed in a moment ... at the last trumpet," and the "we" who will be "alive and remain [when we are] caught up in the air to meet Him in the clouds." So, are you the "we" or are we the "we" ... or are we both the "we"? Our eternal destiny depends on the answer.

### The Great Tribulation

Just before the woman flees to the wilderness, she will give birth to a generation of pure young men.<sup>20</sup> This means they will be sent out from her, 12,000 from each of her twelve tribes. After she flees, the Man of Lawlessness, Satan incarnate, will go after those 144,000 pure ones who will be warning all the inhabitants of the earth of the coming judgments. As the plagues of the Great Tribulation come upon the earth during their preaching, they will let the people know that the strange occurrences of Isaiah 24:6 and Revelation 16:9 are a result of men breaking the age-lasting covenant of conscience.<sup>21</sup>

**What will happen to this woman?  
Will she be raptured or burned?  
(Revelation 17:3,18)**



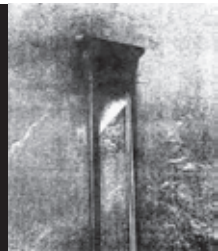
They will preach their message for 1260 days, and will be killed one by one.<sup>22</sup> When the last one is slain, the spiritual mask of the Beast's magnificent civilization will be ripped away, the dark covering of the earth will be peeled back, exposing the leader as the embodiment of Satan himself. He will be held responsible for the death of those 144,000 innocent men, along with the two witnesses whose bodies will lie in the streets of Jerusalem as the whole world rejoices. After 3½ days these two witnesses will come back to life, and, in so doing, give witness

<sup>19</sup> Revelation 17:14    <sup>20</sup> Revelation 12:1-6    <sup>21</sup> Genesis 3:16-19    <sup>22</sup> Revelation 6:9-11

The  
Great  
Mystery  
continued



With the Harlot gone, he turns his attention to the 144,000. Many of them are stripped and beaten, thrown into prison for their message, and suffer hunger and thirst. All are eventually killed – a pure sacrifice like Yahshua. Those who help them are killed or must flee for their lives.





600 years of  
Inquisition end

1808

Mass killings of  
Jews

in Russia and Eastern  
Europe, 1880+

3,000,000 Jews living  
in Poland

at beginning of  
Hitler's reign, 1939

30,000 Jews living  
in Poland

at end of Hitler's reign  
1945



to the salvation of God as the LAST TRUMPET sounds! The dead in Messiah will rise from their graves, and those who are alive and remain in the wilderness will be caught up in the air to meet him as he comes in the clouds on THE LAST DAY.<sup>23</sup>

### What will he do when he comes?

When his people are caught up in the air to meet him, he will go with them to the Valley of Megiddo in Israel to fight the Battle of Armageddon. All the armies of the earth will be gathered there to wage war against him.<sup>24</sup> They will know he is coming because the 144,000 will have sacrificed their lives to proclaim it for 1260 days.<sup>25</sup> Satan, through the Man of Lawlessness, will actually think his armies can destroy the coming Messiah. He will convince all the kings of the earth<sup>26</sup> to join him because, at this point, the only ones still remaining will be the unjust and filthy — liars who pay give ear to the father of lies.<sup>27</sup> Instead of being destroyed, Yahshua will wage war and defeat the armies of the earth. This battle will last 30 days, and will be like no

battle ever before or since. The blood of those slain will be up to the bridles of the horses.<sup>28</sup> Yahshua's cloak will be stained red from the blood of his enemies. Then he will place his feet on the Mount of Olives to begin his reign of peace with his bride for 1000 years.

### What keeps him from coming?

Yahshua, the Messiah, cannot come back now because many of the prophecies of the Bible are not yet fulfilled. One example is the rise and seven-year reign of a world leader variously known as the Antichrist, the Beast,<sup>29</sup> or the Man of Lawlessness.<sup>30</sup> He will come to power through an alliance of church and state that will bind the whole world together. This alliance is symbolized in Daniel 2 as the ten toes of a statue, made of iron mixed with clay.<sup>31</sup> The iron is the beast of Revelation 17, and the clay is the other woman,<sup>32</sup> the unfaithful bride who has become a harlot.

This harlot is also depicted in Revelation 17 as a woman drunk with the wine of her immorality, riding on the back of the Beast. She

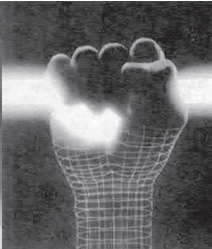
<sup>23</sup> Revelation 17:14; John 6:40; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 <sup>24</sup> Revelation 19:11-21

<sup>25</sup> Just as the two witnesses in Revelation 11:3 <sup>26</sup> Revelation 19:20 <sup>27</sup> Proverbs 17:4; 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12 <sup>28</sup> Revelation 14:20 <sup>29</sup> Revelation 13:3-7

<sup>30</sup> 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12 <sup>31</sup> Daniel 2:41-43 <sup>32</sup> Revelation 17:3,18



Suddenly the Beast suffers a fatal wound. Satan enters into him and brings him back to life, enabling him to perform extraordinary signs and wonders. As the Beast presents himself as God, men everywhere worship him. (Revelation 13:3,4,12,15; 2 Thessalonians 2:4)





that he would be admitted to paradise, 1945

Jews rounded up in Rome brought to death camps

recommendations against the Jews in their defense

*Pray that your flight may not be in the winter, or on a Sabbath; for then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever shall.*

*(Matthew 24:20-21)*

*Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken, and then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and glory. And He will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.*

*(Matthew 24:29-31)*

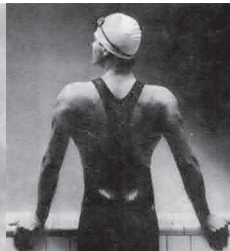
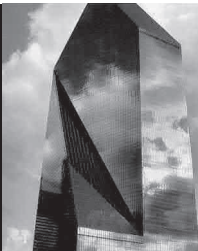
used to be the betrothed Bride of Messiah, but became a harlot by being unfaithful to her betrothed. The

description in Revelation 18:2,4 says she will have become (i.e., her nature gradually changed into) the dwelling place of every unclean spirit. After the Man of Lawlessness (the Beast) comes into power, he will turn on his former ally, the Harlot, and destroy her with fire in one hour.<sup>33</sup> Then he will establish his absolute authority over the earth, since the restraint of the Harlot's religious principles will be lifted.<sup>34</sup>

The Messiah can't just return "any day now." Many things must happen before that last day. His bride is only now being formed, as a baby still in the womb. She is not yet fully formed into the spiritual nation of twelve tribes that the prophets have foretold.<sup>35</sup> The tribes of Jacob must be raised up, and everything must be restored that the first-century disciples lost when they left their first love, staining the white garment they had received at their baptism.<sup>36</sup> The pure message that Messiah brought in the beginning has to be proclaimed once again. The witness of the coming kingdom has to spread to the ends of the earth.<sup>37</sup>

<sup>33</sup> Revelation 17:16 <sup>34</sup> 2 Thessalonians 2:7 <sup>35</sup> Isaiah 49:6; Revelation 7:4-8; 12:1; 21:9-12 <sup>36</sup> Revelation 2:4-5; 3:4-5; Galatians 3:27 <sup>37</sup> Matthew 21:43; 24:14; Malachi 1:11; Acts 26:6-8

The Great Mystery continued



The world at his fingertips, the Beast is ready to build his magnificent civilization. Gathering his loyal followers in the valley of Megiddo, he prepares for the last battle – to try to destroy Messiah at his coming.  
(Revelation 13:13-16)



1958

movement, embracing Protes-  
tants as fellow Christians, 1962

1968



You may have heard people speak of a “rapture” when the Messiah will whisk all true believers off the earth at some arbitrary time that is not dependent on their readiness to be his bride. But actually, the Last Day is still a long way off, and this fact is part of the good news. Our Master told a story in Luke 14 about two kings who would one day have to face one another in battle.<sup>38</sup> The lesser king with the smaller army considered whether he could stand against the one who was coming. Realizing that he had no hope of victory, he sent a delegation to ask for terms of peace while the greater king was still far off. If he waited until the last hour to submit, then the conquering king would have no mercy on him.<sup>39</sup>

So this is our message of hope for you — that you would realize that our Master, the Messiah, is the greater king, and that he is coming for his bride, and when he comes for her, he will bring this fallen world and everything that it stands for to its deserved end. There is no hope of resisting him who conquered death itself. But now, while he is still a long way off, you have



***Where will you be when this happens? (Revelation 17:16)***

the opportunity to meet his terms of peace. If you do, then you will become a part of the “we” who eagerly await his return.<sup>40</sup>

You can be as the king in Luke 14:31-32 who became (as we all did) his disciples by doing what all who are his disciples must do in order to belong to him — give up your

<sup>38</sup> Luke 14:32-33    <sup>39</sup> Revelation 19:11-21    <sup>40</sup> Hebrews 9:28

Yahshua comes in the clouds and calls for his bride, who has endured in the wilderness until the Last Day.

Caught up to meet him in the air with all those he resurrects, they destroy the combined armies of the world, as well as the remainder of God’s enemies. After 30 days of war, the Earth is finally ready for the new age of peace. (Acts 1:9-11; Revelation 12:6; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; Revelation 19:11-21; Luke 14:31-33; Zechariah 14:3-9; Daniel 12:11; Isaiah 2:3-4; Micah 4:2-4)



under a central rulership  
1993

by the Church against non-Christians, March 12, 2000

2020



life, including all your possessions.<sup>41</sup> Only in this way can you become one of the "we" in 1 Thessalonians 4:17. Then we (that could include you also), together with all the faithful ones who have gone before us, will be taken up to meet him in the air, and so shall we ever be with our Master.<sup>42</sup>

The Last Day is at the very end of this age, the day when the Messiah returns to earth.<sup>43</sup> This evil age will come to an end only when he returns.<sup>44</sup> When his holy nation of twelve tribes produces the fruit of the kingdom, he will return and establish his kingdom on the earth.<sup>45</sup> This fruit can only be produced when true disciples are allied together in the same cause, living and working together in unity, standing together as one man, one body, serving one Master.<sup>46</sup>

The Messiah will rule here on earth for a thousand years with his people who will have become a kingdom of priests.<sup>47</sup> They will be his holy nation, the same nation Isa-

iah prophesied would be restored,<sup>48</sup> the same commonwealth of Israel that Paul reminded the Ephesians they had been grafted into.<sup>49</sup> This nation is the wife of the Lamb<sup>50</sup> and the twelve tribes that James wrote to in his epistle.<sup>51</sup> It is the same twelve tribes that Paul spoke of in Acts 26:6-7, who earnestly serve God day and night.

### The Restoration of All Things

It is during Messiah's thousand-year rule on earth that the promise to Abraham is going to be fulfilled. Israel will be resurrected. The dry bones of the natural seed will come up from their graves and return to the land of Israel<sup>52</sup> at the same time that the kingdoms of this world become the kingdom of our Sovereign Yahshua.<sup>53</sup> At that time the twelve apostles of the Lamb will sit on twelve thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.<sup>54</sup> Thus the promise to Abraham will be fulfilled: to give him the land from the river of Egypt to the great river Euphrates. Israel

<sup>41</sup> Luke 14:33; see also John 12:25-26 <sup>42</sup> Revelation 17:14 <sup>43</sup> Luke 22:18; 1 Corinthians 11:26 <sup>44</sup> Matthew 24:14; Galatians 1:4; 1 John 5:19 <sup>45</sup> Matthew 21:43; 1 Peter 2:9; Hebrews 10:13; Daniel 7:18,27 <sup>46</sup> Proverbs 17:17; Ephesians 4:1-6 <sup>47</sup> Revelation 1:6; 5:9,10; 20:6; Exodus 19:6 <sup>48</sup> Isaiah 49:6 <sup>49</sup> Ephesians 2:12; Romans 11:17 <sup>50</sup> Revelation 21:9,12 <sup>51</sup> James 1:1 <sup>52</sup> Ezekiel 37:11-14 <sup>53</sup> Revelation 11:15 <sup>54</sup> Matthew 19:28



Having received their immortal bodies, his bride rules with him on Earth for 1000 years over the righteous survivors of the nations and their offspring. Mankind's labor restores the whole Earth to what it was like in the Garden and God fulfills His promise to Abraham. (1 Corinthians 15:51-53; Daniel 7:27, RSV; Zechariah 14:16; Matthew 19:28; Revelation 5:10; Ezekiel 37:14).



**The End**

will become a majestic nation and bring about all that God promised to Abraham. This will be fulfilled during Yahshua's millennial reign.<sup>55</sup>

In that day, Israel will be an enemy-free land, and all of its inhabitants will dwell together in peace. But before that *physical* restoration can come in the next age, a *spiritual* restoration has to come<sup>56</sup> — not a *reformation*, but a *restoration* of the way of life that began in Jerusalem after Peter spoke the "many other words" on the day of Pentecost.<sup>57</sup> The church can be no other way. The world needs to see the hearts of fathers restored to their children and the hearts of children restored to their fathers.<sup>58</sup> The world must see husbands and wives living together as one, thus restoring families, clans, and tribes to become that holy nation.<sup>59</sup>

The prophet Jeremiah spoke of this restoration of spiritual Israel in this age when God would "restore the fortunes of Jacob's tents, have mercy on his dwelling places — rebuilding the city on her ruins." It is a time when "their community will be restored."<sup>60</sup> God promised that "at that time" He will be the God of all the families of Israel.<sup>61</sup> The Hebrew word translated *community* or *congregation* in Jeremiah 30:20 is *edah*, which means witness or swarm. This witness spoken of by the prophet Jeremiah is the same witness spoken of by our Master Yahshua as the sign of the end of the age. This witness must be re-

stored as a demonstration to all nations before the end of this evil age can come.<sup>62</sup>

Jeremiah also prophesied that these restored families who make up this witness, the true church, will be those who "survive the sword" (government onslaught), "find favor in the wilderness," and will be "given rest [or relief]." This prophecy is talking about the true church, the woman who flees to the wilderness,<sup>63</sup> who survives the sword of the Man of Lawlessness and finds relief or rest on the day our Master Yahshua returns.<sup>64</sup> God's holy nation are the merrymakers and circle dancers,<sup>65</sup> the forerunners of that coming age of peace. They are the harbingers in this age who overcome all the spiritual enemies that keep this life from being demonstrated to the world.

We are putting our spiritual enemies under our Master Yahshua's feet. Once these enemies have been defeated by his holy nation in this age,<sup>66</sup> Yahshua will return to establish his kingdom,<sup>67</sup> and then the land can be restored to the physical descendants of Abraham in the next age. When he comes back, he will punish those who oppressed his bride,<sup>68</sup> the restored twelve tribes of Israel, and will contend with those who contended with them.<sup>69</sup> This full restoration is what we are living for, which will be carried out by the spiritual nation<sup>70</sup> that is now being raised up in these last days to bring about THE LAST DAY. ❁

<sup>55</sup> Genesis 15:18; 17:3-8; 18:19 <sup>56</sup> Matthew 17:11; Mark 9:12 <sup>57</sup> Acts 2:37-47

<sup>58</sup> Malachi 4:6 <sup>59</sup> 1 Peter 2:9-10 <sup>60</sup> Jeremiah 30:20 <sup>61</sup> Jeremiah 30:17-31:4

<sup>62</sup> Matthew 24:3,14 <sup>63</sup> Revelation 12:1-17 <sup>64</sup> 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10 <sup>65</sup> Jeremiah 30:19; 31:4 <sup>66</sup> Hebrews 10:13 <sup>67</sup> Daniel 7:18,27 <sup>68</sup> Jeremiah 30:20 <sup>69</sup> Isaiah 49:6,25,26 <sup>70</sup> 1 Peter 2:9; Revelation 1:6; 5:9-10



# DANIEL 12:4

## THE INCREASE OF KNOWLEDGE & TRAVEL

**A**re you interested in prophecy about the end of the world? Judging from the headlines of the tabloid newspapers at the grocery store, somebody must be. They regularly feature headlines of doom and gloom, bizarre encounters with a 600-foot Jesus that is supposedly prophesied in the Bible, and other such nonsense. And they sell a lot of papers.

But it's not just the foolish and insincere newspapers that find a ready audience. For a long time, movies with thrilling plots about the end of the world have successfully entertained and even scared a lot of viewers. But still, it's just entertainment. Life goes on... to somewhere.

And it's not just the entertainment media that has made a lot of money from this subject. Preachers stir up a lot of business with their books and even their movies. But once the show is over, it's out the

theater or seminar door, but to where? For most of us, it's just back to business as usual, making a living and hopefully finding some pleasure along the way. Yet the world is surely headed somewhere, and even if you don't like its direction, you're still a part of it. There is not much hope of getting off the planet. Wherever the world is headed, you're going with it.

Regardless of all the sensationalism and the hucksters out for gain, there are legitimate prophecies in the Bible written by men of character and dignity. One such man is Daniel, a prophet who lived some 2500 years ago. He was a Jew who lived the majority of his life in Babylon. It is in his book that the clearest prophecies of the end can be found. Yet even he was not allowed by God to understand how or when these prophecies would come about. The last chapter of the book

of Daniel says, "The words are closed up and sealed until the time of the end."

At the beginning of a new millennium, what would make us think that we are in the "time of the end?" How can we be sure? Is there any way to know? History tells us of many horrible times when men had good reason to believe it was surely the end of the world. Yet the end did not come. Why would this present day be any different?

*"But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase."*

If these two things, travel and knowledge, mark the time of the end, then Daniel's book is ready to be unsealed. Maybe to those born in the past few decades, travel and knowledge are no big deal. But only a hundred years ago, the basic transportation for people was their feet, or a horse if they had one; as it has been so from the beginning. But today, what used to be a big planet has shrunk to a golf ball, man's plaything. Cheap and easy travel is changing the way we live and how we view the world. It has also brought new and frightening problems. Now a deadly virus can originate in one country and fly around the world in a few hours. Before the health officials even know what has hit us, people drop dead from a foreign invader. Yesterday it was beyond human imagination; today it is becoming commonplace.

Knowledge is the same. Such rapid access to information is storming society so quickly, no one really knows where it is taking us, or even

if we want to go there. Want to build a terrorist bomb? The info is out there somewhere; just wirelessly surf the web in the comfort of your living room on the smartphone in your pocket. But hurry, because if you blink twice, your new device may become obsolete. This increase in knowledge is pushing us ahead so fast we can barely keep our feet underneath us. Maybe we lost our balance a long time ago and just haven't hit the ground yet.

This extreme rise in knowledge and travel is making life radically different from how human beings have always lived on the earth. Science is tampering with the universe like a child let loose in the control room of a nuclear power plant. Some rejoice over this newfound freedom. Some shudder.

Is this the beginning of a Golden Age of Progress, or is our ship like the Titanic, plowing through the midnight waves, proudly defiant of the icebergs? Are we steaming to a glorious future, or a grisly nightmare? Shall we break out the lifeboats, or order more champagne? Who really knows where the world is headed? Some would say, "God only knows!"

To this, Daniel would agree. His God sealed the prophecies until the end. Not until they are unsealed will the mystery be made known. But to whom will He reveal such mysteries? What will they do with such understanding? Who will listen to them?

We have heard something in our hearts about this "time of the end," and so we write this paper. Perhaps you will hear in your heart what we have heard in ours. It is taking us to a place worth going. ❀

# A House Divided

*Satan will one day destroy half his house to exalt the other half. Could that signal his coming end?*

**A** house divided against itself cannot stand," is more than common sense. These words of the Messiah, Yahshua, were actually one of the most awesome prophecies of the entire Bible – the end of Satan, his finish!

*Any kingdom divided against itself is laid waste; and any city or house divided against itself shall not stand. And if Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself; how then shall his kingdom stand? (Matthew 12:25-26)*

*And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but he is finished! (Mark 3:26)*

There is no way to unlock the mystery of Satan's fall without seeing in the Word of God the two aspects of the world system he will dominate. These two powers will in the end violently oppose one another, because each is filled with Satan's desire to dominate and rule, but only one can. His own schemes to seize control over every aspect of people's lives and souls will actually backfire on him. Yahshua spoke prophetically that when Satan rises up in one to destroy the other, he is divided against himself, and then he is finished!

What are these two powers? The Bible says the time is coming when the Evil One will dominate,

through a man, the governments of the world. This coming world dictator is called "the Beast" in the Bible. Before he comes, ten kings of great power will arise on the very soil of the ancient Roman Empire. They will appear in the last days to gather the awesome political, military, and economic power of Europe under one authority. The European Union of today is only a foreshadow of the might of the coming ten kings.

Men have long heard of "the Beast." The ten kings have also been thought to be the rulers of some future super-Europe. But these political leaders do not solve the mystery of Satan's divided house that must fall, for they are in perfect harmony. The other power is called a "mystery" in the Bible because it has been so little understood. For at the same time the Beast is rising to world prominence there will be another great power on the earth, which is described in the Bible as a *woman*. So great will be her power that it will seem to more than match that of the Beast himself. In fact, it is she who will make possible his rise to power.

This beast, a man so insensitive to the soul and spirit of man that he might as well be called a beast, will actually be under the control of this woman. She is depicted in the Bible as riding on his back. This is a picture of the one who is in control, for



the one who rides on the back holds the reins. This woman is a body of people so numerous and so powerful that her numbers can only be described as “peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues.”<sup>1</sup> Her corrupting influence affects the entire planet:<sup>2</sup>

*The kings of the earth committed acts of immorality, and those who dwell on the earth were made drunk with the wine of her immorality.<sup>3</sup> And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness; and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast, full of blasphemous names, having seven heads and ten horns. (Revelation 17:2-3)*

What she represents will be a force so mighty, a people so great, that she will actually rule over the kingdoms of the earth! With the spread of democracy the world over, no one will be able to get elected without her support.<sup>4</sup> The one who rules over her sits enthroned in the city of seven hills.<sup>5</sup>

Many Protestant leaders, from Martin Luther onward, have identified this passage as the Pope’s influence, centered in Rome. But they did not see them-

selves as the daughters of this Mother Harlot.<sup>6</sup>

*And the woman that you saw is the great city which has dominion over the kings of the earth. (Revelation 17:18)*

This dominion is something the Ten Kings will not tolerate any longer than they have to. They will use her influence over the voters to gain office, and then resent her influence over them. They will realize what stands between them and ultimate power. They will see the need for one man to stand out from all the rest – one man for the whole world to rally behind. To that man these ten kings will surrender their power and authority, and together they will take action.

*And the ten horns which you saw are ten kings, who have not*



<sup>1</sup> Revelation 17:15

<sup>2</sup> Revelation 18:23

<sup>3</sup> Revelation 18:3

<sup>4</sup> Ezekiel 38 and 39 prophesy of the destruction of Russia and her allies, nations that will never submit to either her persuasion or his authority.

<sup>5</sup> Revelation 17:9

<sup>6</sup> Revelation 17:5



*yet received a kingdom, but they receive authority as kings with the Beast for one hour. These have one purpose and they give their power and authority to the Beast. (Revelation 17:12-13)*

They will secretly plot to remove every other authority than their own. They will break the power of the one who has brought them to power. They will throw off the one who is riding on the back of the Beast. They will turn on her, whom the Bible calls the Harlot, and burn her with fire – the ancient punishment for a woman who falls into harlotry.<sup>7</sup>

*And the ten horns which you saw, and the Beast, these will hate the Harlot, and will make her desolate and naked, and will*

*eat her flesh and will burn her up with fire. (Revelation 17:16)*

And this is the very beginning of Satan's house being laid waste, as it is divided against itself in the last, climatic moments of the last days of this age. For the mystery is this: he will possess both the Beast and the Harlot. They are each in his house.

Who is this woman who will have such great power and come to such a terrible end? To understand this, we have to see that she was once far different from the world power she has so often lusted after. She was once a pure young woman, a virgin betrothed to another man:

*For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, that to Messiah I might present you as a pure virgin. (2 Corinthians 11:2)*

She began her life as the church begun by the apostles in the first century so long ago. She was promised to Yahshua, the Messiah, who will still one day have a people so faithful and loyal to him that they can be called his bride.<sup>8</sup>

When still a young woman she began to listen to another spirit, which led her astray from the pure and simple devotion to her betrothed husband. Soon, simple obedience was no longer simple to her, and the pure gospel she received from the apostles became altered until she had received "another Yahshua."

*But I am afraid, lest as the serpent deceived Eve by his crafti-*

<sup>7</sup> Leviticus 21:9 <sup>8</sup> Revelation 19:7-8

*ness, your minds should be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Messiah. For if one comes and preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted, you bear this beautifully. (2 Corinthians 11:2-4).*

This other gospel was much easier to bear, and in time became much more attractive to the people of the world. Within a few centuries, her stature and charms got the attention of the Roman Emperor Constantine. He was the kind of man who has ever since held a special attraction for her: dominating, ruthless, powerful, and able to manipulate both politics and religion to achieve his (and her) own ends. His embrace forever changed this young woman. She became the church that would embrace every other ruler who came along, virtually without exception. Later, her daughters, the Protestant denominations, would imitate her in this.<sup>9</sup> (See the timeline.) She started to become what only the world in the last days would see in its fullness:

*Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling place of demons and a prison of every unclean spirit, and a prison of every unclean and hateful bird. (Revelation 18:2)*

The day is coming, as it has in the past, when the ecumenical

church will gain great earthly power – so great that she will control the world dictator himself. His lawless nature will resent and hate her moral and spiritual restraint. In the mounting tension and danger of her last days, she will not be able to give up her infallible decrees of the past without losing all her credibility and moral authority.


The apostle Paul long ago warned the faithful ones not to think Yahshua would return until Satan's house had divided against itself:

*Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God. (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4)*

Through the Man of Lawlessness (the Beast), Satan will destroy the woman riding on his back, thus destroying a major portion of his house. All the saints of the Most High, who will be in the wilderness or in the streets of the cities preaching the eternal gospel, and those with our Master Yahshua will rejoice greatly as the smoke of her torment goes up forever,<sup>10</sup> for her guilt will have piled as high as heaven because of all the murderous and adulterous deeds she has done throughout history. Finally she will reap what she had sown. ❀

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<sup>9</sup> Although mother and offspring would disagree over outward aspects of worship and doctrine, which was really nothing more than what kind of clothing each would wear before the world. <sup>10</sup> Revelation 18:20; 19:3



# The UNSHAKABLE KINGDOM

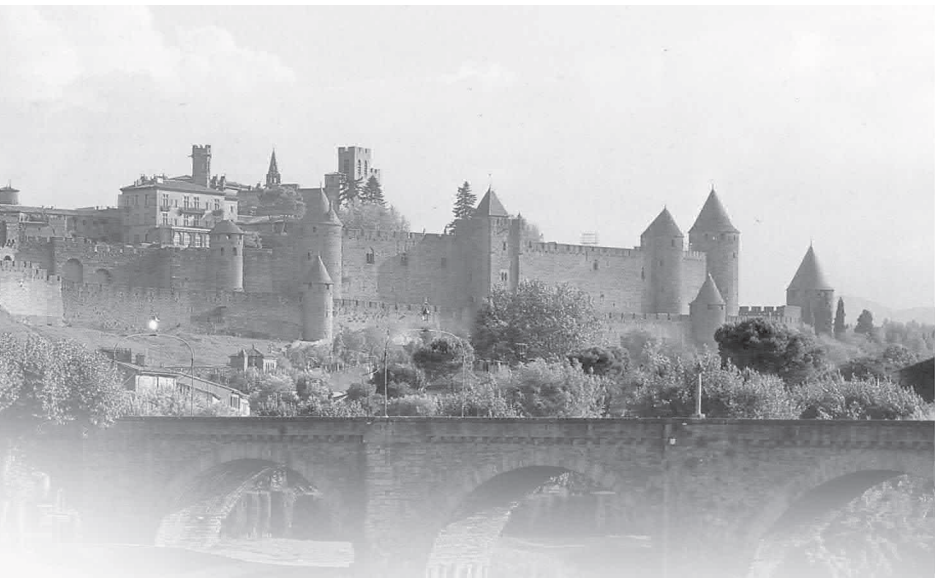
*This mystery has not been revealed to me for any wisdom residing in me more than in any other living man, but for the purpose of making the interpretation known to the king, and that you may understand the thoughts of your mind. (Daniel 2:30)*

**S**ome people scoff at the intense interest given to end-time prophecies. And maybe they've got a point. The times we live in could make a person fearful. Think about the social, moral, and economic problems that face people today. They say over 1.2 million people have died in the past year from the COVID-19 virus, including over 245,000 in the USA alone. That's one issue that makes the world a little tense. And people feel insecure when they hear about tampering with the genetic makeup of plants and animals, or violating the structure of atoms. And since roughly half of all marriages end in divorce, and growing numbers of couples don't even bother making a

commitment to stay together, people tend to worry about the future of society.

The reality is, there never has been a time like this. Even when a nation or empire was in decline, or verging on moral collapse, there was always another society standing by, ready to take over when it fell. This is the only time in over 4000 years that a global civilization and a global culture have been within man's reach. Within a generation, the whole earth could very likely be united in a federation of governments, much like the European Union is today. And many people fear that when this coming civilization falls, it's going to take everything down with it.

So there are good reasons why men are looking to Bible prophecies for direction. People want to have something secure and stable to put their confidence in. The world is mutating much too fast for them to keep up, and they have no assurance that most of the changes are for the better. They want to know



how it's all going to turn out, and they've heard that the prophets in the Bible have been right. Haven't many of their predictions already come true?

### **The Fall of the Statue**

The prophet Daniel is a good example of a man whose words are trustworthy. 2,600 years ago, he interpreted a dream for a Babylonian king. The focus of the dream was a huge statue with a gold head, a chest and arms of silver, a belly of bronze, legs of iron, and feet and toes of iron mixed with clay. From this dream, he predicted a succession of empires that would dominate the earth. And history has proven him right. The Babylonian, Persian, Greek, and Roman Empires followed one another, corresponding exactly to the statue, especially the legs of iron, which depicted the eastern and western halves of the Roman Empire.<sup>1</sup>

As for the feet and toes of iron mixed with clay, many scholars have

imagined that this would be a revival of the Roman Empire in a modified form. These speculations carry weight, because Roman law and culture undergird all of Western civilization. The essence of Rome is like a seed waiting to sprout. The West is obsessed with a united world because they still remember the tremendous economic and military success that the Roman Empire enjoyed in its heyday – the *Pax Romana* or “Roman Peace.”

It is easy to see how the current movement toward world unity will bring about the feet of iron mixed with clay, ending with ten iron-and-clay toes.<sup>2</sup> Even now, forces are at work to unify all the organized religions for the purpose of making them a dominant political force in the world. When this Ecumenical Movement succeeds, the governments of all nations will see a need to incorporate the influence of religion as a stabilizing force in society. This mixture of the iron of government and the clay of religion will re-

<sup>1</sup> Daniel 2:36-40    <sup>2</sup> Daniel 2:41-43

solve itself into a federation of ten world leaders. Many people see this much about Daniel's predictions. What they do not understand, however, is the conclusion of this vision.

### The Mystery of the Stone

In the dream, a stone was mysteriously being hewn out of a huge mountain. Without human hands, it was chipped away, little by little, until it broke free and plummeted toward the statue, striking it on the feet. The iron and clay mixture shattered, and the entire statue fell and disintegrated. Then a mighty wind came up, blowing away the dust, until no trace was left of the once-mighty statue. Only the stone remained. Then, amazingly, that stone grew into a huge mountain which filled the earth.

Fifth-century Roman Catholic theologian St. Augustine claimed that this stone was the Catholic

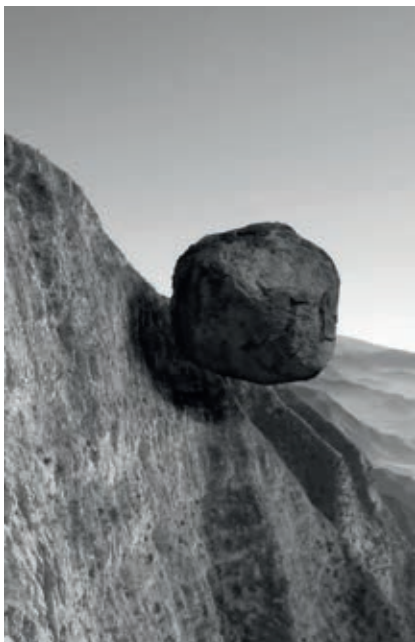
Church, and that it had already become the mountain that filled the whole earth<sup>3</sup> What he failed to realize, however, was that the Catholic Church had not removed every trace of the Roman Empire, but was instead preserving it. In fact, the Roman Church was the beginning of the clay mixing with the iron, which will become the one-world empire of the last days.

Daniel made it clear that the Stone is not a religion, but a kingdom.<sup>4</sup> And it is not just any kingdom, but the kingdom which God will set up in the days of "those kings" – the ten kings of the world federation represented by the toes of the statue. This can only happen at one time in history – the last days of this age. Obviously so, because when the Stone hits the feet of the Statue, it brings this age to an end.

The relentless progress toward religious and political unity that is now driving the Western world shows that we are clearly in the beginning stages of that federation of kings. Once again Daniel's interpretation of the dream is proving trustworthy. So we must also be living at the time when God is beginning to cut the Stone out of the mountain of the world.

### Not Subversive

Daniel said that the Stone Kingdom will not be left for another people. It will endure forever because it is completely separate from the society of the end times. This is the meaning of the stone being cut out of the mountain. Those who



<sup>3</sup> Augustine, *In Answer to the Letters of Petilian*, book 2, chapter 38, paragraph 90. <sup>4</sup> Daniel 2:44-45

make up this kingdom are hewn out of the world, not by human effort, but by divine act.

Many groups are forming today, taking their cues from such prophecies as Daniel and the book of Revelation. They are taking steps to isolate themselves from the corruption they see in society, and even to arm themselves for a conflict with the emerging one-world order. The FBI estimates that there are hundreds of such private armies in the United States alone. These survivalist groups think that by stockpiling weapons and supplies, they can make it through the collapse of the present society, and then take over. But what they do not see is that, contrary to prophecy, they are trying to cut *themselves* out of the mountain – *with* human hands.

Such alternative societies are based on reactions to the current culture, hatred of other races or religions, and even insane plans to force a confrontation with the “antichrist government.” But their efforts will prove futile. Those who are subversive will be surrounded and disarmed, or perhaps even destroyed. And others will be assimilated back into society – as many have been already. A movement based on mere reactions to moral decline will not stand. Subversive or reactionary groups cannot overthrow the current order because they are still connected to its source. They are still controlled by the same spirits that control the society that they are reacting to. The whole world lies in the power of the Evil One.<sup>5</sup> So the only society that will be able to endure is one that comes

out from under the control of the spiritual forces that work in the unseen realm.

This is how the Stone Kingdom will bring an end to the kingdoms of this world – not through subversive activity against those kingdoms, but through overcoming the spiritual forces that control them. Those in the Stone Kingdom will be given power over the spirits that stir up fear and hatred and greed and pride and every kind of selfish desire and self-centered thought.

### **The Radical Solution to Sin**

The Stone Kingdom does something truly radical. It lays an axe to the root that has caused the downfall of every civilization since the beginning. That root is self-life. Self-life is the true meaning of the often-misunderstood term *sin*. Those who choose to follow the king of this kingdom choose to put self to death. This is called *repenting*. When they repent, their king and savior lavishes on them a costly gift called forgiveness. Forgiveness causes something supernatural to spring up in their souls, known as *love*. This love is not just a good emotion; it is a good  *motive*. This supernatural love causes them to do good things – kind things that shine brightly to those around them. And those who see what they are doing start to appreciate the God who made them. They start to believe that the Creator is good and kind, and wants to help them out of the predicament they are in.

The prophet Isaiah predicted that this kingdom would take the form of the restored tribes of Jacob.

<sup>5</sup> 1 John 5:19

He said it would be a light to the nations, and would carry God's salvation to the end of the earth.<sup>6</sup> This is what the Messiah was referring to when he predicted that the good news of the kingdom would be proclaimed to set the evidence before all the nations, and then the end would be able to come.<sup>7</sup> He also said that when this nation produces the fruit of the coming age of peace, then the government of that age will be turned over to them. Then He added, "...on whomever this stone falls it will scatter him like dust."<sup>8</sup> This is a clear reference to the Stone Kingdom in Daniel's prophecy.

These tribes of Jacob will be standing on an unshakable foundation. They will have a way of life that is sustainable, a way of life that can be passed on from generation to generation. This is what eternal life is. It is not some religious fantasy about going to heaven when you die. Eternal life is the life that will fill the earth like a mountain in the next age. It will be raised up in this age like a stone cut out of the world.

As the restored tribes of Jacob live in obedience to the commands of the Messiah, they will demonstrate the life that Israel was always meant to live. They will exhibit a culture that does not come from the world around them, and is not a reaction to it. Their way of doing business, their art and music, and the festivals that celebrate their dependence on their Creator will be given

to them from above, and will have a radically different quality from the culture that surrounds them.<sup>9</sup> Every part of their life will be focused toward the goal of becoming that Stone Kingdom.

Even their obedience to the divine command that Israel would let their land rest one year out of every seven<sup>10</sup> – a command that Israel of old never obeyed<sup>11</sup> – will prepare them to live a life that does not depend on buying, selling, planting, or harvesting.<sup>12</sup> Thus they will be able to endure in the wilderness for the 1260 days<sup>13</sup> until the Jubilee, when Messiah returns and the whole earth is delivered back to its rightful owner.<sup>14</sup>

This is the message of the prophets for the end times. Daniel, Isaiah, and our Master Yahshua all point to the one life, the one culture, the one kingdom that will endure. If men derive any other message from the prophets, and use it as an excuse for pursuing a course of their own invention, their plans will perish. It does not matter if they react militantly against the governments of this world or try to influence and dominate those governments – their agenda will perish. Only those whose life is based on love, who live as a demonstration of the coming age of peace, will endure. Whoever is truly looking to the prophets for direction, for a way out of the destruction and corruption of this world, will find it in this unshakable kingdom.<sup>15</sup> ❀

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<sup>6</sup> Isaiah 49:6 <sup>7</sup> Matthew 24:14 <sup>8</sup> Matthew 21:43-44 <sup>9</sup> Colossians 2:16-17

<sup>10</sup> Leviticus 25:1-10 <sup>11</sup> 2 Chronicles 36:21 <sup>12</sup> Revelation 13:17 <sup>13</sup> Revelation 12:6,14 <sup>14</sup> Revelation 11:15; Isaiah 61:2; Luke 4:19 <sup>15</sup> Hebrews 12:28-29



# THE NAME ABOVE

## ALL NAMES

**I**n the days of John the Baptist and the Son of God, the preserved language of the devout Jews was Hebrew. So, when the angel Gabriel brought the good news to the Hebrew virgin, Miriam (or *Mary* in English), that she would give birth to the Savior of the world, and told her what His name would be, what language do you suppose he spoke? Hebrew, of course! And certainly Miriam and Yoceph (or *Joseph* in English) named the child just as the angel had commanded them — *Yahshua*.

In Matthew 1:21, your Bible probably reads, “and you shall call his name *Jesus*, for he will save his people from their sins.” But the name *Jesus* is a modern English adaptation of the Greek name, *Iesous*, which is itself a corruption of the original Hebrew name *Yahshua*. The name *Jesus* or *Iesous* has no meaning of its own, but the Hebrew name *Yahshua* literally means *Yahweh’s Salvation*,<sup>1</sup> which makes sense of what the angel said in Matthew 1:21, “you shall call his name *Yahshua* [*Yahweh’s Salvation*], for he shall save his people from their sins.”

יהושע

If you look in a pre-1769 King James Bible, you will find the name

*Jesus* in these two passages:

*Which also our fathers that came after brought in with **Jesus** into the possession of the Gentiles, whom God drave out before the face of our fathers, unto the days of David... (Acts 7:45, 1611 KJV)*

*For if **Jesus** had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day. (Hebrews 4:8, 1611 KJV)*

However, if you look in any modern translation of the Bible, including the New King James, you will find that in place of the name *Jesus* they use the name *Joshua*, for in the context it is clear that it is speaking there of Moses’ successor and not the Son of God. But in the Greek manuscript the name in both of these verses is *Iesous*.

You see, *Joshua* is the popular English transliteration of the Hebrew name of Moses’ successor, which meant, “He will save.” This name looks forward to the name of the Son of God, for *Joshua* was the prophetic forerunner of the Messiah,

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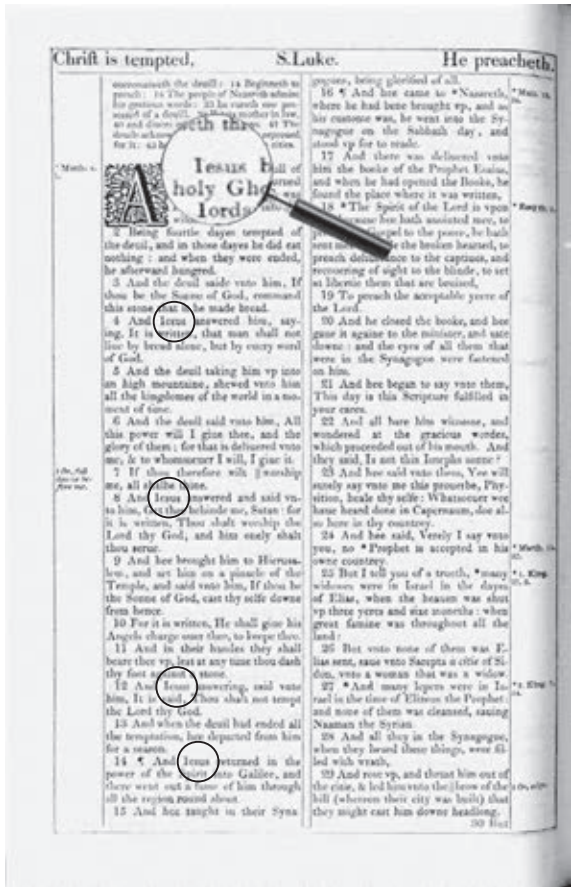
<sup>1</sup> *Yah* is the name of God, and *shua* is from a Hebrew root word that means “to save.” God identified himself to Moses as *YAH* (meaning “I AM”) in Exodus 3:14, as in Psalm 68:4 (“whose name is *Yah*”), and as most familiar in the word *Halleluyah* (“Praise *Yah*”). And in John 5:43 and 17:11, *Yahshua* says that he came in his Father’s name, “the name which you have given me” (NASB), so it is not surprising that the Father’s name would be incorporated into the son’s name, *Yahshua*.

bringing Israel into the Promised Land and leading them to victory over their enemies. But since the translators obviously know this fact, why do they only translate *Iesous* as *Joshua* in these two verses, and as *Jesus* everywhere else?

The NIV New Testament even has a footnote supporting this fact under Matthew 1:21: "*Jesus* is the Greek form of *Joshua*."

But the fact is, the name of God's Son was not even written or pronounced as "*Jesus*" in English until the 1600s, simply because there was no "J" sound or letter in English before then.<sup>2</sup> The modern letter "J" evolved from the letter "I" which began to be written with a "tail" when it appeared as the first letter in a word.

So in old English the name now written as *Jesus* was actually written and pronounced much like the original Greek *Iesous*. Eventually the hard "J" sound crept into the English language to accompany the different way of writing the initial "I" in the name.



A page from the 1611 Authorized Version (King James Bible). Note the lack of a "J" in the Savior's name.

You may also find it interesting that in Acts 26:14-15, it says that the apostle Paul heard the name of the Son of God pronounced "in the Hebrew tongue" by the Son of God Himself, so he certainly didn't hear the Greek name *Iesous* or the English name *Jesus*, but rather the Hebrew name, the name above all names, *Yahshua*.<sup>3</sup> ❀

<sup>2</sup> Compact Edition of the Oxford English Dictionary (Oxford University Press, 1971), pp. 1496, 1507 <sup>3</sup> Philippians 2:9; Acts 4:12

*Continued from back cover...*

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**THERE IS A PEOPLE** who woke up this morning with one thing on their minds: to love their Creator with all their heart, soul, and strength, and to love one another just as He loved them. Being ordinary human beings, we are far from perfect in our love, yet, in hope, we persevere. Our goal? That the Kingdom of God would come on earth as it is in heaven, so that love and justice can rule on the earth. Sound impossible? It would be, were it not that Yahshua, the Messiah, came to redeem mankind, to set us free from the curse of sin, and to enable us to love. Because we have come to see His worth and our own desperate need, we have surrendered everything in order to follow Him. Our hearts and our homes are open night and day to any who are interested in our life or are weary of their sin and want to know the purpose for which they were created. ✨