

PROPHECY FLASH!

A magazine of insight and understanding of Biblical truth and prophecy for our time.

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Telephone: (509) 826-7997; E-mail: triumphpro@aol.com

Mind-Boggling New Revelation – Daniel’s End-Time “70 Shavuot” Prophecy!

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The Last Generation**

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Editor
William F. Dankenbring

A Voice in the Wilderness

God tells His servants in His Word, “Cry aloud, spare not. Lift up your voice like a trumpet and declare to My people their transgression and to the house of Jacob their sins!” (Isa.58:1, Parallel Amplified Bible).

God also declares: “Comfort, comfort My people, says your God. Speak tenderly to the heart of Jerusalem, and cry to her that her time of service and her warfare are ended, that [her punishment is accepted and] her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received [punishment] from the Lord’s hand double for all her sins.”

We are living in a world gone berserk with anger and rage. “Why do the nations rage?” (Psalm 2:1). Answer – because they don’t know the true God, and are in rebellion against His laws and teachings and the true way of life and peace!

Isaiah wrote: “A voice of one who cries: *Prepare in the wilderness the way of the Lord* [clear away the obstacles]; make straight and smooth a highway for our God. . . . And the glory (majesty and splendor) of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken it” (Isaiah 40:3-5).

The Messiah is coming very SOON! Its time to prepare to MEET Him! “Surely the Lord will do nothing without revealing His secret to His servants the prophets” (Amos 3:7). The purpose of this magazine is to warn the world of what lies ahead, and to help prepare people to get ready to meet the Messiah, when He returns to restore all things (Acts 3:19-21), put an end to wars, and usher in the Kingdom of God! The prophet Amos declared, “*Prepare to meet your God, O Israel*” (Amos 4:12). No matter is more urgent, today!

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In This Issue

Shocking, mind-boggling NEW prophetic understanding has been revealed! A new analysis of Daniel’s 70 weeks prophecy unlocks a **WHOLE NEW DIMENSION** to the prophecy for our day, TODAY! We are truly living in the “last days,” the “crisis” at the close of this age!

And a vital, essential, overlooked **BIBLE COMMANDMENT** stands revealed – the command to “**COUNT THE OMER**” from Passover to Pentecost – each one of us, individually! Just what is an “omer”? What relationship does it have to YOUR eternal SALVATION? You need to **KNOW** the answers – and begin **OBEYING** God’s fantastic command!

-- William F. Dankenbring

Mind-Boggling New Insight Revealed—

The Astonishing End-Time Fulfillment of Daniel 9 and the 70 Shavuot Prophecy!

It's high time we take a brand new look at Daniel's cryptic prophecy of the "70 weeks" recorded in chapter 9 of his revealing and enigmatic book. Is this prophecy DUAL? Does it have a special application to this END TIME generation? Here is frightening, incredible, mind-boggling new insights into Daniel's mysterious prophecy!

William F. Dankenbring

This year is the 62nd anniversary of the state of Israel. Is that fact significant in terms of Bible prophecy?

The world is watching breathlessly, but Biblical prophecy has much to tell us about the current Middle East peace accords involving Israel and the Palestinians. President Obama, together with the European Union, Russia and the UN, are pressuring Israel to give up not only the west Bank of the Jordan (Samaria), the Golan heights, and Gaza, which has already been relinquished, but the eastern part of Jerusalem, including the Temple Mount, to supposedly insure "peace" in the Middle East.

Will the pressure work? Will peace be attained?

In a much misunderstood prophecy in the book of Daniel this very process is described, and tied in with the soon coming of the Messiah to save Israel, and the entire earth, from cosmocide and utter annihilation.

One of the most amazing and intriguing prophecies of all the Bible is found in Daniel 9:24-27. Throughout the ages men and women have puzzled over the meaning of this cryptic passage. It has stumped theologians, baffled scholars, and puzzled Christians and Jews alike for thousands of years. Let us carefully review this entire prophecy, and see how germane it is to the present "peace process" in the Middle East. Notice!

First of all, let's read the passage in the King James Version:

“SEVENTY WEEKS are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish [margin, to restrain] the transgression, and to make an end [margin, to seal up] of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.

“Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and rebuild Jerusalem [margin, to build again Jerusalem] unto Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall [margin, breach, or ditch], in troublous times.

“And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be CUT OFF, but not for himself [margin, and shall have nothing]: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined [margin, it shall be cut off by desolations].

“And he shall confirm the covenant with many for ONE WEEK: and in the midst of the WEEK he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations [margin, and upon the battlements shall be the idols of the desolater], he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate [margin, desolater]” (Dan.9:24-27).

What a strange prophecy! It outlines strange events to occur in and around Jerusalem, till the coming of the Messiah and the end of the age. What are these mysterious “seventy weeks”?

In Numbers 14:34 God told the Israelites, “After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, even forty days, each day of a year, shall ye bear your iniquities, even forty years . . .” Each day of the prophetic 70 weeks, then, is a year in being fulfilled!

Ezekiel confirms this same principle. God told Ezekiel concerning the punishment and siege of Israel, “This shall be a sign to the house of Israel. Lie thou also upon thy left side, and lay the iniquity of the house of Israel upon it: according to the number of the days that thou shalt lie upon it thou shalt bear their iniquity. For I have laid upon thee the years of their iniquity, according to the number of the days, three hundred and ninety days: so shalt thou bear the iniquity of the house of Israel. And when thou has accomplished them, lie on thy right side, and thou shalt bear the iniquity of the house of Judah forty days: I have appointed thee each day for a year” (Ezek.4:3-6).

To understand the 70 weeks prophecy, one must realize each day of the prophecy equals a year being fulfilled. Since there are seven days in a week – or a total of 490 days in 70 weeks -- this prophecy involves 490 years. At the end of this time period, the "Most Holy" -- the Messiah -- will bring in everlasting righteousness – He will become King of the whole earth and put a complete end to all man's rebellion. All nations will finally be reconciled to Him.

But how are these 490 years to be understood? When do they commence? And are they consecutive? “Know therefore,” Gabriel told Daniel, “and understand, that from the

going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince [the Messianic king] shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks [a total of 69 weeks or 483 prophetic years]: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times” (Dan. 9:25).

The Historical Fulfillment

What commandment or decree was this? Daniel recorded this prophecy in 538-537 B.C. History records that Cyrus reigned from 538-537 until 530-529. Cambyses followed Cyrus on the throne and reigned for eight years, until 522-521. He was followed by Darius I who reigned 36 years, until December 23, 486, when Xerxes took the throne. Xerxes was the Ahasuerus of the Bible (see Finegan, *Light From the Ancient Past*, p.238). Xerxes reigned from 486 to 465-464 when he was followed by his son Artaxerxes. Artaxerxes then reigned nearly 41 years, until 424 B.C.

Which of these men made a decree to “restore and to build Jerusalem”? Cyrus made a decree in 536-535 regarding the rebuilding of the Temple in Jerusalem (see Ezra 1: 1-2). This particular decree was specifically to build the Temple – the city is not mentioned. This decree, therefore, is not the one spoken of by Daniel in chapter 9:25. The Jew's had opposition in building the Temple throughout the days of Cyrus, "even until the reign of Darius king of Persia" (Ezra 4:4-5). Local Samaritans frustrated their purpose and attempted to over throw the project. Work on the Temple ceased until the second year of Darius (521-485) (see Ezra 4:24).

Darius also made a decree and ordered the construction of the temple to continue (Ezra 6:11-12). But, again, this decree was to build the house of God – not the city of Jerusalem. The Temple, except for the finishing touches, was completed by the sixth year of the reign of Darius (Ezra 6:14-15). Therefore, the evidence is that neither of these two decrees was the one spoken of by Daniel the prophet.

A third decree, however, was made by king Artaxerxes I (464-423). Since the Temple was already built, Artaxerxes’ decree concerned another matter. In the seventh year of Artaxerxes, the Jewish scribe Ezra came to Jerusalem, carrying a copy of a letter containing the decree of king Artaxerxes (Ezra 7:1, 6, 12). We read in the book of Ezra: “Artaxerxes, king of kings, unto Ezra the priest, a scribe of the law of the God of heaven, perfect peace, and at such a time. I make a decree, that all they of the people of Israel, and of his priests and Levites, in my realm, which are minded of their own freewill to go up to Jerusalem . . . Forasmuch as thou art sent of the king ... to inquire concerning Judah and Jerusalem according to the law of thy God which is in thine hand: and to carry the silver and gold, which the king and his counsellors have freely offered unto the God of Israel, whose habitation is in Jerusalem, and all the silver and gold that thou canst find in all the province of Babylon . . . “ (see Ezra 7:11-26).

After this epochal decree, Ezra prayed to God, saying: “Since the days of our fathers have we been in a great trespass unto this day; and for our iniquities have we, our kings, and our priests, been delivered into the hand of the kings of the lands, to the

swords, to captivity, and to a spoil, and to confusion of face, as it is this day. And now for a little space grace hath been shewed from the LORD our God, to leave us a remnant to escape . . . to give us a reviving, to set up the house of our God, and to repair the desolations thereof, and to give us a wall in Judah and in Jerusalem” (Ezra 9:7-9).

Mark carefully – this decree gave Ezra authority not only to rebuild and beautify the house of God, but also to repopulate Jerusalem, to set government in operation, and to rebuild the city and the wall! The Jews had never been given authority from the Persian kings to rebuild Jerusalem and the city wall. However, early in the reign of Artaxerxes, the Samaritans had accused the Jews of building the city once again (Ezra 4:7, 11-12). The king issued an order for the Jews to stop all such activity until further notice (vs.17-21). After a thorough investigation, Artaxerxes issued (another decree – the decree mentioned in Ezra 7. This must be the decree Daniel had reference to since it was the first one that clearly involved the city of Jerusalem as well as the temple.

When, then, was the “seventh year” of king Artaxerxes? To understand when the seventh year of Artaxerxes occurred, we must find the year he ascended to the throne.

Artaxerxes’ Seventh Year

Ctesias, a Greek physician at the court of Artaxerxes II, and who undoubtedly had access to the Persian archives, relates that Artaxerxes learned that Artabanus had killed his father. Artabanus was slain, and Artaxerxes assumed the throne without fear of a rival.

But when was Xerxes murdered?

Discoveries in Mesopotamia and Egypt have thoroughly established the chronologies of the Neo-Babylonian and Persian empires. The evidence of Ptolemy’s Canon, the Saros Tablets, and papyri dated with two calendar systems, reveal that Xerxes’ reign ended in his 21st year. His 21st year then was counted from spring of 465 B.C. to spring of 464. (The Persian civil year was reckoned from spring to spring). Artaxerxes’ first year thus began in the spring of 464 B.C. Artaxerxes must have ascended to the throne sometime in the year 465/464 B.C.

A document that was written during the accession year of Artaxerxes has been found. It is listed as Aramaic papyrus (AP 6) and was written from the Jewish colony of Elephantine in Egypt. The document was dated the 18th of Kislev or the 17th of Thoth, “in the year 21, the beginning of the reign when King Artaxerxes sat on his throne.” Artaxerxes I took the throne in the 21st year of Xerxes. He must be the Artaxerxes in question, since neither Artaxerxes II or III came to the throne in a year 21.

The 18th of Kislev or 17th of Thoth dates the document as having been written the evening of January 2 or daytime January 3, 464 B.C., since the Hebrews reckon a day from sunset to sunset. Therefore, by January 3, 464 B.C., Jews in Egypt obviously knew

that Artaxerxes had ascended the Persian throne. The document speaks of “the beginning of the reign” of Artaxerxes, or his accession year. What does this mean?

Since January 2/3, 464, is dated in the accession year of Artaxerxes, his first regnal year – according to the Hebrew reckoning – could not officially begin until Tishri 1, in the autumn of 464 B.C.! The Hebrew civil calendar began each year in the autumn with Tishri. Since the first year of Artaxerxes, according to the Hebrew civil year, did not begin until autumn of 464 B.C., seven years later would bring us to autumn of 458 B.C. The seventh year of Artaxerxes, therefore, was from the autumn of 458 to the autumn of 457 B.C.

Fall-to-Fall Reckoning

But do we have proof that the Hebrews still used the fall-to-fall reckoning for their civil year after they returned from Babylonian captivity? Or did they adopt the Babylonian custom of dating each civil year from spring to spring?

There is conclusive evidence that during Nehemiah's time the Hebrew civil calendar was still in use. Consider: in Nehemiah 1:1, Nehemiah said he received bad news of Jerusalem in the month Chisleu, (November-December) in the twentieth year of Artaxerxes. He later mentioned that in Nisan (March-April), in the twentieth year of the king, he gave wine to Artaxerxes (2:1). Thus Nehemiah said Chisleu or Kislev preceded Nisan in the 20th regnal year of Artaxerxes, showing he used a fall to fall reckoning.

Today, the Jews still reckon the year from fall to fall, beginning the new year in the autumn. They celebrate Rosh Hoshana, or New Year's day, in the autumn, on Tishri 1. They have clung tenaciously to this practice.

According to the Hebrew calendar used by Nehemiah, then, the seventh year of Artaxerxes fell from the fall of 458 to the fall of 457 B.C. Ezra's journey from Babylon to Jerusalem took place from about late March to about early August (Ezra 7:8-9), 457 B.C. He carried the decree of king Artaxerxes with him. Therefore, the famous decree for the restoration of Jerusalem was signed, sealed, delivered to Ezra, and went into effect as soon as he reached Jerusalem – in the late summer or early fall of 457 B.C.

Now we have dated the decree. Notice again Daniel was told that from the issuance of the decree till the coming of the Messiah was to be “seven weeks, threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times” (Daniel 9:25).

The re-settling and rebuilding of the city of Jerusalem made rapid strides from the 20th year to the 32nd year of Artaxerxes (Neh.5:14-16). The building program continued into the reign of Darius II who succeeded Artaxerxes. During his reign the wall around Jerusalem was finished (Neh.12:22, 27-30, 43). But even after the wall was complete, many buildings within the city had yet to be built (Neh.7:1-4; 11:1-2).

These were “troubulous times,” as Daniel foretold and as Ezra 4:4-5 summarized. Persecution and hindrances slowed progress. But after seven prophetic weeks the city was rebuilt and the temple restored.

Then Daniel mentioned “sixty two weeks” were to follow – or 434 more years were to pass – until the appearance of the Messiah. Thus a total of sixty nine prophetic weeks -- or 483 literal years – were to exist from the commandment of Artaxerxes in 457 B.C. till the appearance of the Messiah.

457 B.C. -- year-date of the decree
~~-483~~ years -- time to pass till Messiah would come
 26 A.D.
 +1 -- since there is no year “zero”
 27 A.D. -- year the prophecy would be fulfilled!

Counting 483 years from 457 B.C., then, brings you to 27 A.D. This was the year the Messiah was prophesied to appear on the scene.

Was this prophecy fulfilled? What happened in 27 A.D.? For a full explanation, be sure to read our article *The Birth, Ministry, and Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ!*

Yeshua Begins His Ministry

The very interesting fact is that 27 A.D. was the very year Jesus Christ – Yeshua Ha Moshiach, in Hebrew – began his ministry, and commenced preaching the Gospel of the coming Kingdom of God (Matt. 3:13-17; 4:1-23; 9:35).

Daniel also foretold what was to happen to the Messiah. The Jews of Jesus' time thought that when the Messiah would appear he would restore the Kingdom of Israel and deliver them from the Romans. They looked for a shining knight on a white charger. But when Christ came as the humble preacher from Nazareth, of all places, they rejected Him. This was too much! So they had Him put to death claiming He was an impostor, a heretic. After preaching the gospel for three years, from the spring of 27 A.D. until the spring of 30 A.D., Jesus was condemned by the Sanhedrin and the high priest, and put to death!

The apostle Paul explained, “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom.5:8). “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him” (II Cor:5:21). “We were reconciled to God by the death of his Son . . . “ (Rom.5:10).

Did Daniel foretell that Christ would die for our sins and reconcile us to God? Notice!

Daniel 9:26 – “And after [the period of threescore and two weeks] shall Messiah be cut off [that is, killed], *but not for himself* . . .” Daniel prophesied that the Messiah would be “CUT OFF.” The Hebrew word here is #3772 in *Strong's Concordance*. It is *karath*, a primitive root meaning “to cut (off, down, asunder); by implication, to destroy or consume; spec. to covenant (i.e. make an alliance or bargain, orig. by cutting flesh and passing between the pieces.”

How would the Messiah be “cut off”? What does this mean? He would be killed, destroyed, put to death! But in so doing, He would “make a covenant” – the New Covenant – in His own blood, reconciling sinners to God! Thus He fulfilled the prophecy of making “reconciliation for iniquity” (Daniel 9:24).

This same astonishing truth is revealed by the prophet Isaiah, who lived 700 years before the coming of the Messiah in 27 A.D. Isaiah wrote of the future Messiah, “He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he opened not his mouth. He was taken from prison and judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was CUT OFF out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken. And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth. Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed [the children of the New Covenant, bought by His blood], he shall prolong his days [that is, be RESURRECTED BACK TO LIFE!], and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand” (Isaiah 53:7-10).

Read this whole chapter. It is the most astonishing and detailed prophecy of the first coming of Christ, the Messiah, in which He would be cut off, killed, and reconcile sinners to God by means of His pouring out His life as a sin offering for mankind.

Most Jewish rabbis, to this date, however, have not recognized this fact. Yet even their own translation of the prophecy in Daniel 9 provides us insight into this mystery.

Notice the Jewish *Tanakh* translation of this passage:

“Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city until the measure of transgression is filled and that of sin is complete, until iniquity is expiated and eternal righteousness ushered in; and prophetic vision ratified, and the Holy of Holies anointed. You must know and understand: From the issuance of the word to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the [time of the] anointed leader is seven weeks; and for sixty-two weeks it will be rebuilt, square and moat, but in a time of distress. And after those sixty-two weeks, the anointed one will disappear and vanish. The army of a leader who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary, but its end will come through a flood. Desolation is decreed until the end of war. During one week he will make a firm covenant with many. For half a week he will put a stop to the sacrifice and the meal offering. At the corner [of the altar] will be an appalling abomination until the decreed destruction will be poured down upon the appalling thing” (Dan.9:24-27).

“The Anointed One”

Notice! The prophecy in Daniel 9 in the *Tanakh* says in verse 26 that after the seven weeks, and sixty two weeks, “the anointed one will disappear and vanish.” That is a strange statement! The Jews expected that the Messiah would appear on a white horse, as a national champion against the Romans, and lead them to glory! Yet that is not quite what God inspired Daniel to write! God said that the Messiah would DISAPPEAR – VANISH!

After a ministry lasting three years, Jesus Christ was crucified and buried. And then He arose from the grave, and taught His disciples for forty days, and then notice what happened. After He gave them some final instructions, “He was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud HID him from their sight. They were looking intently into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ‘Men of Galilee,’ they said, ‘why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, WILL COME BACK in the same way you have seen him go into heaven’” (Acts 1:9-11).

Jesus literally VANISHED before their very eyes!

How exquisitely, uniquely, and precisely, this prophecy of Daniel was fulfilled! Jesus truly “disappeared and vanished,” just as Daniel the prophet FORETOLD over 580 years before!

But this event occurred BEFORE the fulfillment of the complete 70 WEEKS of the prophecy. Technically, only 69 weeks had gone by. Now notice the rest of the amazing, dumfounding prophecy!

Even as Christ the Messiah was “cut off,” so the prophesy itself was “CUT OFF” – that is, interrupted – and will resume with the final “week” of years ending with His SECOND COMING when He will finish the rest of the fulfillment of the prophecy, and usher in the Kingdom of Righteousness, the Kingdom of God, at His coming!

Daniel 9:24-27 and the End of Days Revelation

One of the keys to understanding Bible prophecy is the principle of DUALISM. That is, many Bible prophecies are not single events, but have a lesser forerunner, and then a major fulfillment – a former and later fulfillment. Some are deliberately ambiguous so that they can be taken, or explained two different ways – both of them being correct!

Such is the case of Daniel 9:26-27, the rest of this amazing prophecy. Notice! “The army of a leader who is to come will DESTROY THE CITY AND THE SANCTUARY” (v.26). Of course, this occurred in 70 A.D. when Titus and Vespasian, Roman generals, led the Roman armies in a conquest of Jerusalem because of Jewish

rebellion. Over a million Jews perished in the war, and the city was burned and the Temple was razed.

However, many Bible prophecies show that the invasion of Judea and conquest of Jerusalem and the burning of the Temple are also predicted as events leading up to the **SECOND COMING** of the Messiah! Thus prophecy is *dual*. In the prophecy of Zechariah we read: “Lo, a day of the LORD is coming when your spoil shall be divided in your very midst! For I will gather **ALL NATIONS TO JERUSALEM** for WAR: The city shall be captured, the houses plundered, and the women violated; and a part of the city shall go into exile. But the rest of the population shall not be uprooted from the city.

“Then the LORD will come forth [from heaven, where He has gone!] and make war on those nations as He is wont to make war on a day of battle. On that day He will set His feet on the Mount of Olives, near Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives shall split across from east to west . . . And the LORD my God, with all the holy beings, will come to you” (Zech. 14:1-5).

Notice! Here we find that God Himself – the Messiah – will **STAND ON THE MOUNT OF OLIVES** – the very same mountain from which Jesus Christ ascended to heaven (Acts 1:12) – and the same mountain to which the angels told the disciples that He would return (v.11). This prophecy of Zechariah, therefore, is a vision of the **SECOND COMING** of the Messiah, Jesus Christ, when He will fight against the nations who have once again conquered Jerusalem!

How incredible!

The Wicked Prince

The leader of the army which will come against Jerusalem will this time not be Titus or Vespasian, but the one foretold by Daniel who would arise in the **END TIME**, one who “will be extraordinarily destructive; he will prosper in what he does, and destroy the mighty and the people of holy ones. By his cunning, he will use deceit successfully. He will make great plans, will destroy many, taking them unawares, and will rise up against the **CHIEF OF CHIEFS** [the Messiah Himself!], but will be broken, not by [human] hands” (Daniel 8:24-25).

This wicked king is also described in Daniel 7. We read: “He will speak words against the Most High, and will harass the holy ones of the Most High. He will think of changing times and laws, and they will be delivered into his power for a time, times, and half a times [three and one half years]” (Dan.7:25).

The book of Revelation in the New Testament describes this wicked tyrant as a “beast.” The apostle John writes: “The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise his authority for **FORTY-TWO MONTHS** [three and one half years!]. . . . He was given power to make war against the saints and to conquer them” (Rev.13:5-7, NIV).

This “beast,” along with all the kings of the earth, will gather at Jerusalem to fight against Christ at His return, at “the battle on the great day of God Almighty” (Rev.16:14). John says, “They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings—and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers” (Rev. 17:14).

John goes on:

“I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God [compare John 1:1-2,14]. The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. He will rule them with an iron scepter. He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. . .

“Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war against the rider on the horse and his army. But the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet . . The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulphur” (Rev.19:11-20).

Thus the army of this world ruling “beast” will be destroyed by Christ, and the beast himself slain in the lake of fire. As Daniel foretold, “its end will come through a flood. Desolation is determined until the END of the war” (Dan.9:27), when Christ Himself will end the “appalling abomination” and the prophesied “decreed destruction will be poured down upon the appalling thing” (Dan.9:27).

The Final Week of Daniel’s Prophecy

These things will culminate the final “week” of years of Daniel’s prophecy. They occur during the FINAL SEVEN YEARS of this age, leading up to the return of the Messiah!

In the end of this amazing prophecy of Daniel, we read that a wicked leader arises, and he will “confirm the covenant with many for one week; and in the MIDST of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease” (v.27).

What is this strange-sounding “covenant”? The Hebrew word *berith* literally means “a cutting,” or a “compact, league, confederacy, treaty.” That is, he will “confirm” an agreement, treaty, with the Jews and others, during this end-time of this age. What treaty is this? Could this be the infamous Oslo Peace Accords?

Notice carefully! The word “confirm” in this passage is *Strong's* #1396, the Hebrew word *gabar*, a primitive root meaning “to be strong,” “by implication, to prevail,

act insolently: -- exceed, confirm, be great, be mighty, prevail, put to more (strength), strengthen, be stronger, be valiant.”

Since 1993 the world’s nations have been striving to twist the neck of Israel, and hammerlock them into a “peace treaty” which is very dangerous to their security. The PEACE ACCORDS, which began in 1993, are now being called “the road map to peace.” Originally, these accords were designed to bring peace to the Middle East over a period of seven years – from 1993 to 2000 A.D. That didn’t work out. Then President Clinton literally pressured, hammered, cajoled, and threatened the leaders of the Palestinians and the Israelis to get this treaty and peace process back on track. He was there at the original signing on the White House lawn on September 13, 1993. He pushed it as long as he was in office. Then President Bush pushed the same “road map to peace.” Incremental progress was made, and the Jews finally evacuated the Gaza Strip as a sign of good faith – but violence and rocket attacks still continued.

The prophecy states of an end-time world leader, “he will confirm a covenant with many . . .” The word for “many” in Hebrew in this verse is #7227 in *Strong’s Concordance*, the word *rab*, meaning “abundant (in quantity, size, age, number, rank, quality).” It can refer to numbers, or even to a “captain, chief, great, lord, master,” or even “archer” (see also #7228 and #7229, all from the same root). Interestingly, the Hebrew in Dan.9:27 uses the plural of *rab*, that is, *rabbim*. Isn’t it interesting – the play on words? Hebrews often use similar-sounding words as a “play on words” to teach a truth or to get a message across. This is often done with names of people. The word *rabbim* is very similar in sound to the name Rabin – that is, Yitzak Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister who first signed the Oslo Peace Accords in 1993, and who was subsequently gunned down and assassinated while campaigning in Israel!

It seems very likely that we have now identified the “treaty” mentioned in Daniel 9:27. It is the Oslo Peace Accords! And the one who has been in the process of twisting Israel’s arm to “confirm” them, today, with more pressure than any previous administration, is none other than Barack Hussein Obama, the Muslim American President of the United States!

But now let’s notice the remainder of this astounding prophecy!

“And in the MIDST of the Week”

Daniel goes on to say, “And in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate . . .”

Bible prophecy is often written in a manner that is NOT straightforward -- in a vague, nebulous-appearing sense. The Hebrew language often makes for many interpretations because single words are often used with many different meanings, and the best meaning must often be determined by context. This leads to much subtlety and nuances of meaning.

In the passage just quoted, the subject of the entire passage, from verse 24 to verse 27, is the 70 WEEKS. As I have explained, we have seen the fulfillment of the first 69 weeks, or 483 years, leading up to the first coming of Messiah. The final week, then, must refer to the seven years (last week of days) leading up to the climax of the SECOND coming of the Messiah to inaugurate the Millennial rule of God upon the earth!

Therefore, when the passage states, “In the MIDST OF THE WEEK he shall cause sacrifice and oblation to cease,” this would be a clear reference to the FINAL WEEK OF THE PROPHECY! The final week under discussion is NOT necessarily the same week as the one just described, the “week” of the confirming of a very important “treaty” or “agreement” on the world scene. The two weeks are not necessarily one and the same thing. They could, however, be parallel or overlap each other, or run concurrently.

The 6,000 Year Plan of God

Notice! According to Jewish history and tradition, and early Christian traditions and beliefs, God Almighty is working out a 6,000 year plan on this earth with humankind. This plan began in 4004 B.C., according to the chronology of Archbishop James Ussher, whose Biblical chronology is the best one I’ve seen so far. This plan of God is based on the “seven day week.” According to the apostle Peter, one day is with God as a “thousand years,” and a thousand years as “one day” (II Pet.3:8-10).

Thus in God's Plan, the first six days of the week picture the first 6,000 years of mankind on earth. The weekly Sabbath, or seventh day, pictures the Millennial kingdom of God (compare Rev.20:4; Heb.4:4-11). Therefore, it will last 1,000 years! This indicates that the previous “six” days would last 6,000 years!

However, according, to the book of Jubilees, Jewish literature written by Levites and priests during the inter-testamental period, about 150-200 B.C., there is strong reason to believe that Adam and Eve did not sin, and forsake the ways of God, until seven years had passed in the Garden of Eden. For the proof of this, read my article *The 6,000 Year Plan of God – Are We Nearing the End of the World?* Therefore, they did not come under the influence of Satan the devil, and begin their “work” week, until 3997 B.C.

Notice:

“And during the first week of the first jubilee Adam and his wife had been in the garden of Eden for SEVEN YEARS tilling and guarding it. And we gave him work and we were teaching him to do everything which was appropriate for tilling. And he was tilling. And he was naked, but he neither knew it nor was he ashamed. And he was guarding the garden from the birds and beasts and cattle and gathering its fruits and eating. And he used to set aside the rest for himself and his wife. And what was being guarded he set aside.

“At the END OF SEVEN YEARS which he completed there, SEVEN YEARS EXACTLY, in the second month on the seventeenth day, the serpent came and drew near to the woman” (Jubilees 3:15-17).

As we know, Eve and Adam both sinned, were enticed into transgression, and banished from the Garden. This occurred most likely, therefore, seven years after their original creation, in 4004 B.C. – or in the year 3997 B.C. The seven years of idyllic paradise should not be counted in the 6,000 years during which mankind has been subject to the “god of this world,” Satan the Adversary (II Cor.4:4, Eph.2:2).

However, even as there was a seven year period of peace and harmony, in the beginning, so there will be a final seven year period of the exact opposite – war, woe, horror and great destruction – in the earth – Daniel’s seventieth week – the last week of his prophecy – which is brought forcibly to a conclusion only by the swift arrival and intervention in human affairs by the Messiah Yeshua!

This means the final seven years of this age ends or terminates with the coming of the Messiah!

It is independent of that great event. The Oslo Accords began in 1993 and ended in 2000 A.D. as a failure. They lasted seven years. But the final week of this age, is still to come! When will it occur?

How close are we to the END?

Exciting NEW Understanding – A New Analysis

This is exciting – marvelous! God has revealed a WHOLE NEW END-TIME DIMENSION to this remarkable ancient prophecy!

Let’s notice carefully!

The Hebrew word for “weeks” in the prophecy of the 70 weeks, is the word *shavuot*. It also designates the “Feast of Shavuot,” or “Feast of Weeks,” which follows Passover, fifty days later. We are told to “count seven weeks,” till the 50th day, from the day after Passover, counting beginning Nisan 16, and the fiftieth day is “Shavuot,” the Feast of Weeks. Its name is derived from the counting of seven weeks from Passover, thus, “Feast of Weeks.”

The Hebrew word Shavuot, therefore, also refers to an ANNUAL HOLY DAY, which is counted, and looked forward to with great expectancy and joy. Anciently, it represented the day of the covenant God made with Israel on that day at Mount Sinai.

The Hebrew word “Shavuot” literally means #7620, *shavua*, (plural *Shavuot*), and means “literally *sevened*, *i.e. a week*.” It also means, #7621, “something sworn, an oath.” It was at Mount Sinai, after a period of seven sevens, that the Feast of Shavuot was arrived at, and it was the day God and Israel swore an “Oath” – a Covenant of Marriage.

So literally, the prophecy of Daniel is the prophecy of “seventy sevens” or even “seventy Shavuot” – that is, Festivals of Shavuot. If we look at it that way, then seventy such Festivals would equal 70 years, as the Feast occurs once a year!

Now, let’s take a fresh look at this intriguing prophecy.

“Seventy weeks [Shavuot] are determined.” Seventy Feasts of Shavuot would be 70 years!

“. . . for your people and for your holy city, to finish the transgression . . . to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy.” (Dan.9:24).

So this prophecy says (also) that there will be seventy years to the end point – the coming of the Messiah and the Kingdom of God, ending the period of man’s transgression on the earth.

“Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince . . . (v.25). The United Nations voted to partition Israel in November 1947, and Israel became a state May 14, 1948. Both of these occurred during the Hebrew year 5708. This would be the date for the restoration of Israel and Jerusalem.

“There shall be seven weeks and sixty two weeks; the street shall be built again, and the wall [of protection], even in troublesome times” (v.25b). Seven “weeks” also means “seven Shavuot,” or Feasts of Weeks – meaning “seven years.” Sixty two “weeks” likewise can mean 62 years. So we have a period of seven years, and a period of 62 years. From Israel’s inception in 1948, there was war. The nation was born in a bloodbath as surrounding Arab nations immediately attacked.

In May, 1948, Israel had to fight the surrounding Arab nations which invaded her territory, and the following years were “troublesome times.” War again broke out in 1956, and in 1967 the “Six Day War” was fought, and the “Yom Kippur War” in 1973, then the invasion of Lebanon in 1982, and the subsequent Palestinian intifada in 1987, lasting to the present time.

“And after the sixty two weeks Messiah [anointed one] shall be cut off . . .”

62 “weeks” is also 62 Shavuot = 62 Shavuot or “years.” From 1948, counting 62 years, brings us to 2010 A.D.

$$\begin{array}{r} 1948 \\ +62 \\ \hline 2010 \text{ A.D.} \end{array}$$

After these “62” Shavuot, ending in 2010, the “anointed one” – a designation for the *anointed people of God, Israel* – shall be “cut off” – that is, begin to be “cut off” as a nation, as a people, and destroyed.

What happened in 2010? The Muslim Barack Hussein Obama became president of the world’s last remaining superpower in 2009 – the United States – and by 2010 he began compromising Israel’s security, independence, and forcefully turning against America’s only true ally in the Middle East. Currying favor with the Arab oil producing nations, he has begun cutting Israel off at the knees. Denying them missiles and bunker-busting bombs. Threatening them with sanctions, and trade embargoes. Treating their diplomats and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu with contempt, hostility, scorn and derision.

Israel has begun to be “cut off” – the anointed people are being persecuted by their supposed sole remaining “friend” and ally in all the world.

“And the people [army] of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, and till the end of the war desolations are determined. . .” (verse 26).

Israel will be invaded! Jerusalem destroyed! Jihad will reign! Desolations and destruction will rage and follow till the end of the period of conflict and warfare.

“Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; but in the middle of the week he shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering” (v.27).

The final “week” – THE FINAL SEVEN YEARS – will be from 2010 to 2017 – the last week of years! In the middle of this final period Temple sacrifices and prayers will cease. The dark prince will force them to stop.

“And on the wing of ABOMINATIONS shall be *one who makes desolate*, even until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate [or, desolator, marginal reading]” (verse 27b).

This constitutes a shocking, incredible new view of Daniel’s 70 weeks prophecy, as it applies to the END TIME, – a pattern of fulfillment beginning in 1948 and ending 70 years later – in 2017-2018 A.D.

Could this be the final countdown to the coming of the Messiah?

Note that this incredible prophecy has many levels. It correctly predicted the first coming of the Messiah, as the lamb of God who was sacrificed, to the *very year* He began His ministry – 27 A.D.!

This mind-boggling prophecy also appears to predict the *exact year* of the SECOND and FINAL coming of the Messiah – 2017-2018 A.D.!!!

Since it predicted the first coming of Messiah to the precise year, then it should logically predict the second coming to the *precise year* as well!

Halleluyah!

The End of the Age

Now notice! The “prince” causes sacrifice and offering to cease in the “MIDST” of the final week – or middle. Half-way through a week is 3 1/2 days. Since this is a prophetic week, it refers to 3 1/2 years. Thus the prince and his forces will “rule” over the holy city and its environs for the last 3 1/2 years of this age. This coincides with the 42 months mentioned in Revelation 11 – for 42 months equals 3 1/2 years!

This desecration of the newly established Temple or Sanctuary is also mentioned in other prophecies in Daniel. Notice! Daniel 11 describes what will happen this way:

“Ships from Kittim will come against him. He will be checked, and will turn back, RAGING AGAINST THE HOLY COVENANT. Having done his pleasure, he will then attend to THOSE WHO FORSAKE THE HOLY COVENANT [apostate, renegade Jewish and Christian leaders]. Forces will be levied by him; they will DESECRATE THE TEMPLE, the fortress; they will ABOLISH THE REGULAR OFFERING and set up the appalling abomination [probably either a statue of the “prince” himself]. He will flatter with smooth words those who act wickedly toward the covenant, but the people devoted to their God will stand firm. The knowledgeable among the people will make the many understand; and for a while they shall fall by sword and flame, suffer captivity and spoilation. In defeat, they will receive a little help, and many will join them insincerely. Some of the knowledgeable will fall, that they may be refined and purged and whitened until the TIME OF THE END, for an interval still remains until the appointed time” (Dan. 11:30-35).

This evil end-time tyrant, the head of a coming “New International Order” or modern version of the ancient “Holy Roman Empire” of the Middle Ages, will “do as he pleases; he will *exalt and magnify himself* [he has a terrible case of inflated vanity and supreme egotism!] above every god, and he will speak awful things against the God of gods. He will prosper until wrath is spent, and what has been decreed is accomplished” (Dan. 11:36). Do we know any world leader today who is so wrapped up in himself, cloaked in vanity and supreme ego?

This flattering, insincere, very savvy “king,” this end-time political figure, is also referred to in Daniel’s prophecy as a “contemptible man” (Dan. 11:21), or “a vile person” (NKJV), a “despicable creature” (Moffatt translation), who will “come in unawares and seize the kingdom through trickery” – “intrigue” (KKJV) – he will gain the leadership of the coming New World Order by cunning wisdom and sleight-of-hand, using deceitful, underhanded and devious means (Dan. 11:21). Moffatt translates, “by means of specious promises he shall *pervert* those who bring guilt upon the nation” (Dan. 11:32).

Does this not sound like the way Barack Obama became president of the United States? Trickery, deceit, blandishments, smiles, charisma, promises, chants, slogans, songs, spell-binding mass hypnotism, illusion, magic, perversion, fraud! Born in Kenya, yet claiming birth in Hawaii, despite the available evidence. The world has been deceived. Satan has inspired his servant and prophecy will show the conclusion of the diabolical hoax.

Our present world is an age of savage and vehement apostasy. It will be unmatched in all the annals of the history of mankind. Blood will flow in rivers. Billions will die in thermonuclear and chemical-biological warfare that is soon to rise up in our faces.

Moffatt translates Daniel 9:27 as follows: "For a week of years *the main body of the people shall cease to practice their religion*; for half of that time sacrifice and offering shall cease, and instead of this there shall be an *appalling abomination*, till finally the appointed doom falls upon the sacrilegious abomination." Moffatt also declares, "

This upcoming final week of years on the earth will be 'HELL WEEK'!

The Jubilee Cycle Also

Another incredible prophecy ending in 2017 has to do with the Jubilee cycles which God appointed for Israel. They were to count seven Sabbatical year cycles, each cycle a 7 year period ending in a land Sabbath, a year of rest for the land (Lev.25). Seven such cycles would be 7 x 7 or 49 years, and the 50th year was the Jubilee year.

Ancient Judah was taken into captivity by king Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon in 604 B.C. They began to suffer "seven times" punishment at that time. As a "time" equals a year, and a prophetic year is 360 days, and each day equals a "year" in fulfillment, then this punishment lasted 2,520 years.

Let's apply this principle to the "seven times" punishment God said He would pour out on his people if they broke His covenant (Lev.26).

Thus $360 \times 7 = 2520$ years!

If we count 2520 years from 604 B.C., we come to 1917 A.D.!

2520 years
<u>-604 B.C.</u>
1916
<u>+1</u> (no year zero)
1917 A.D.

What happened in 1917 A.D. that relates to the kingdom of Judah?

Counting from 604 B.C., 2,520 years brings us to 1917 A.D. – the very year General Allenby conquered Jerusalem and wrested control of Palestine from the Turkish Empire during World War I! *In that very same year, the Balfour Declaration in Great Britain paved the way for the return of the Jewish people to their homeland in the Middle East.*

Arthur James Balfour (1848-1930) served as the Prime Minister of Great Britain from 1902 to 1905 and was a leader of the Conservative Party for over 20 years. The Balfour Declaration issued in 1917 bore his name. He served as Foreign Secretary in the coalition war cabinet of David Lloyd George from 1916 to 1919.

The Balfour Declaration dealt with the establishment of a Jewish homeland in Palestine. The Declaration read as follows:

“His Majesty’s Government view with favor the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavors to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country.”

In 1922 the League of Nations endorsed the declaration and gave Great Britain a mandate to rule over Palestine. The British mandate ended in 1947. In 1948, the Jews in the territory mandated to Britain established the independent state of Israel.

1917 was the pivotal year. Notice! Once again, a very significant fulfillment of prophecy occurred, 2,520 years after the original nation of Judah was taken into captivity by Babylon in 604 B.C. This amazing prophetic fulfillment, like that for the kingdom of Israel, clearly validates the prophetic principle of 2,520 years of punishment on God’s people for disobedience – for both Israelites and Jews.

The trumpet sounded, as it were, and Israel was restored!

Then, exactly 50 years later, one Jubilee cycle, the Six Day War broke out in 1967 – and once again God intervened mightily to save His people!

Since the punishment on Judah was completed in 1917, it makes sense that we should begin once again counting “Jubilee cycles” from that date. If we do so, several interesting things develop. Notice!

$$\begin{array}{r} 1917 \\ +50 \\ \hline 1967 \end{array}$$

1967 could also be considered the end of one Jubilee cycle beginning in 1917

when Israel was “restored” in Palestine by the Balfour Declaration! It is also the fateful year of the miraculous “Six Day War” in which Israel defeated the surrounding Arab states in a blitzkrieg type war in a mere six days!

Says the *Worldbook Encyclopedia* in regard to this marvelous event:

“UN troops prevented raids across the Israeli-Egyptian border after the 1956 war. But Arab raids continued from Syria and Jordan into Israel, and Israeli forces raided those countries in return. Border clashes increased greatly in the mid-1960's.

“In May 1967, Israel and the three Arab countries all alerted their armed forces for possible war. At Egypt's demand, the UN troops left the Gaza Strip and the Sinai Peninsula. The Egyptians then again closed the Gulf of Aqaba to Israeli ships.

“On June 5, 1967, Israeli planes attacked airfields in Egypt, Jordan, and Syria. The Israelis destroyed the Arab air forces almost completely. Then they defeated the Arab armies. By June 8, Israeli troops occupied the Gaza Strip, the Sinai Peninsula, and Jordanian territory west of the River Jordan, including Jordan's half of Jerusalem. On June 10, Israel captured Syria's Golan Heights. The war was over in six days.

“When the brief war ended, the Israelis controlled Arab territory totaling more than three times the area of Israel itself. In June 1967, Israel officially made Jordan's half of Jerusalem a part of Israel” (“Israel,” p.393).

Is this astonishing victory for Israel in 1967 significant? A nation of 2 1/2 million put to rout the armies and military forces of Arab nations with a combined population of over 140 million. This was “a staggering achievement,” in the words of Winston S. and Randolph S. Churchill. Colin Legum in *The Observer* called the Israeli victory “a *miracle of arms*” (*ibid.*,p.194-195). He added that one of Israel's leading soldier-politicians remarked:

“The only analogy I can think of is if Britain had found herself in occupation of Berlin just three days after Dunkirk. The suddenness of the transformation from a situation of acute danger to unparalleled victory is too much for any people to absorb. It will take time to get over it” (*ibid.*).

On June 27 three laws were passed through the Knesset annexing the Old City of Jerusalem and reuniting it with the New City on the next day. Was this amazing Six Day War significant in relation to Biblical prophecy? *Of course it was!*

But now let's continue the ‘Jubilee cycle.’ The next 50 years ends in the year 2017. Could this also be significant?

$$\begin{array}{r} 1967 \\ +50 \\ \hline 2017 \end{array}$$

Notice! This date, 2017, is the same date as the 70 years beginning in 1947, the year of the UN mandate to divide Palestine into a Jewish and an Arab state! By this reckoning, the year 2016-2017 is a JUBILEE YEAR! Could this be the “Jubilee year”

on which the Messiah will return in glory?

The apostle Peter thundered that the Messiah would return at “the times of restitution of all things” (Acts 3:21) – and the Jubilee year was the year of “restitution of all things,” the year when each person would return to his possession, a holy year, a year “to proclaim liberty throughout all the land to all its inhabitants” (Leviticus 25:9-13).

2017 is a unique “Jubilee year” counted from 1917, when God restored His people to the Middle East when General Allenby conquered Jerusalem and the Turkish Empire, and when the Balfour Declaration opened the doors and encouraged Jewish emigration to their original homeland. Could all this be mere coincidence? Or is GOD Almighty in control of the times and the seasons of Biblical prophecy and their fulfillment?

The Last Generation

In Matthew 24:32-33, Jesus Christ said to His disciples, “Now learn this parable from *the fig tree*: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. So you also, when you see these things, know that it [His coming] is near—at the doors!”

He declared, “Assuredly I say to you, *this generation* will by no means pass away till all these things take place” (verse 34).

What is this fig tree? The fig tree is a type of Israel and the Jewish people. We read in Hosea 9:7-10, “The days of punishment have come; the days of recompense have come. Israel knows! The prophet is a fool. The spiritual man is insane, because of the greatness of your iniquity and great enmity. The watchman of Ephraim is with my God; but the prophet [ministers in general] is a fowler’s snare in all his ways—Enmity in the house of his God. They are deeply corrupted, as in the days of Gibeah [when homosexuality was rampant – see Judges 19:22]” (Hosea 9:7-9).

Hosea continues, ““I saw your fathers as the *first fruits on the fig tree* in its first season. But they went to Baal Peor, and separated themselves to that shame [disgusting, shameful idol]; they became an abomination like the thing they loved” (verse 10).

End-time Israel, America and Great Britain, and the Jews also, are spiritually contaminated by SIN – wickedness – gross sensual immorality, licentiousness and the whole gamut of wickedness!

Yeshua says to His disciples, “Look at *the fig tree* and all the trees. When they are all ready budding you see and know for yourselves that summer is now near. Assuredly I say to you, **THIS GENERATION [THAT SEES ISRAEL BUDDING LIKE A FIG TREE] WILL BY NO MEANS PASS AWAY TILL ALL THINGS TAKE PLACE**” (Luke 21:29-33).

Yeshua says “*the fig tree*,” designating a particular fig tree, beginning to put out its leaves, and when we see it we are to know that it is the time of the *last generation*.

The nation of Israel was “born” in 1947-1948 and began to put out its leaves and became a great nation in the Middle East and is today an outstanding leader in commerce, technology and science. We are living in that generation!

But how long is a “generation”?

Moses wrote in the Psalms, “For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past, and like a watch in the night” (Psalm 90:4). Verse 10 goes on, “the days of our lives are *seventy years*.”

In verse 12 we read, “So teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom. Return, O LORD! How long? And have compassion on Your servants” (v.13).

The average generation is 70 years. Counting from 1947-1948, the year of the birth of Israel, 70 years, brings us to 2017-2018!

According to the words of Christ, ALL THESE THINGS WILL BE FINISHED, COMPLETED, BEFORE THE END of THIS GENERATION!

Prophecy Being Fulfilled!

The prophecy of Daniel 9 and the “seventy weeks” has been fulfilled, to the very year, thus far. There is no reason to think that the remainder of this amazing, crucial, pivotal prophecy will not also be fulfilled to the very year! And the events of the last “week” of years before the return of the Messiah are laid out for us – including a period of apostasy, invasion, overthrow, and 3 1/2 years of terrible persecution and travail among the nations under the dictatorial fist of a tyrannical world despot!

How does this knowledge relate to the prophecy in Daniel 9? It fits like hand in glove. This would imply that the “final week” or seven years of Daniel’s “70 Shavuot” or “weeks” prophecy” actually is IMMEDIATE and begins this very year 2010-2011!

This final period of time corresponds to the “crisis at the close” spoken of by Daniel – a “time of trouble” such as has never been upon the earth in all its gory, bloody, sanguinary, cruel history (Daniel 12:1). Daniel was told, “And now, O Daniel, keep all this a closed secret and keep the book shut as a secret, *till the crisis at the END*; err then many shall give way and *trouble shall be multiplied* on earth” (Dan.12:3, Moffatt).

The revelation was to be hidden away; stashed secretly. Daniel, fascinated, was told, “Ask no more, Daniel, for the revelation is to be kept secret and close, TILL THE CRISIS AT THE CLOSE. Many shall purify themselves and make themselves white and

be refined, but the evil shall do evilly; none of the evil shall understand things, it is the pious who understand" (Dan.12:10, Moffatt).

No man knows the exact day or hour of the Messiah's coming. Yeshua declared, "Now no one knows anything of that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, not even the Son, but only the Father" (Mark 13:32). In fact, Messiah went on, "Take care, keep awake and pray; you never know the time. It is like a man leaving his house to go abroad; he puts his servants in charge, each with his work to do, and he orders the porter to keep watch. Watch then, for you never know when the Lord of the House will come, in the late evening or at midnight or at cock-crow or in the morning. Watch, in case he comes suddenly and finds you asleep. Watch: I say it to you, and I say it to all" (Mark 13:33-37).

We must never assume that we know all the answers. But could it be possible that for those of us who live at this special time, that He has given us insight into the year of His return?

The Second Coming

Turning and turning in the widening gyre
 The falcon cannot hear the falconer;
 Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold;
 Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,
 The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere
 The ceremony of innocence is drowned;
 The best lack all conviction, while the worst
 Are full of passionate intensity.

Surely some revelation is at hand;
 Surely the Second Coming is at hand.
 The Second Coming! Hardly are those words out
 When a vast image out of *Spiritus Mundi*
 Troubles my sight: somewhere in sands of the desert
 A shape with lion body and the head of a man,
 A gaze blank and pitiless as the sun,
 Is moving its slow thighs, while all about it
 Reel shadows of the indignant desert birds.

The darkness drops again; but now I know
 That twenty centuries of stony sleep
 Were vexed to nightmare by a rocking cradle,
 And what rough beast, its hour come round at last,
 Slouches towards Bethlehem to be born?

-- W. B. Yeats

Prophecy Briefs

Obama Administration Encourages Palestinians

“JERUSALEM – The Obama administration has encouraged “resistance” by Palestinians to protest Israel’s presence in eastern Jerusalem, a senior Palestinian Authority official claimed to WND.

“The senior PA official, speaking from Ramallah on condition of anonymity, said that in recent meetings with U.S. envoys to the region, the American diplomats supported and encouraged the concept of Palestinian protests to pressure Israel into evacuating eastern sections of Jerusalem.

“The PA official’s claim follows a meeting in Jordan last week between PA President Mahmoud Abbas and George Mitchell, Obama’s envoy to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. At a press conference immediately following the meeting, Abbas declared the Palestinian ‘right’ to ‘resistance’ against Israel.

“The U.S. has come down hard on a decision by the Jerusalem municipality to approve 1,600 new homes in Ramat Shlomo, an already-existing Jewish community in eastern Jerusalem. The decision was made public during Vice President Joe Biden’s visit to the region earlier this month.

“The Palestinians claim eastern Jerusalem as their future capital, while Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has made clear he does not intend to give up the Jewish sections of the city.

“Netanyahu has stated that he had not been aware of the decision to build in Ramat Shlomo and that the announcement was not timed to coincide with Biden’s visit. Still, Obama senior adviser David Axelrod called the Ramat Shlomo announcement an “insult.” Other administration

officials called the Jewish neighborhood expansion an impediment to Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.

“Yesterday, Netanyahu’s office made public a U.S. demand for a four-month freeze of Jewish construction in Jewish neighborhoods of eastern Jerusalem. In exchange for the freeze, the U.S. said it would coax Abbas to hold direct negotiations with Netanyahu regarding the establishment of a Palestinian state. The Palestinians have been engaged in riots and street violence targeting Jews in Jerusalem.

“Two weeks ago, Israel rededicated an ancient synagogue in the main Jewish quarter of the Old City. The structure had been badly damaged by Jordanian forces that overran the Jewish Quarter in the 1948 Middle East war.

“The Hurva synagogue is hundreds of feet from the Western Wall and is in no way connected to the Temple Mount. Israel did not conduct heavy construction on the synagogue, a structure that had been in the Jewish quarter since the second century. Still, the PA and Hamas claimed Israel’s rededication ceremony was a threat to the al-Aqsa Mosque. Hamas called for a “day of rage,” prompting Palestinians throughout eastern Jerusalem to hurl stones at police. There were also reports of rocks and Molotov cocktails aimed at Israeli buses” (*Jerusalem Post*, April 2, 2010).

Special Army Unit Ready To Be Deployed On American Soil Just Before November Elections

“In October of this year, one month prior to the November midterm elections, a special army unit known as ‘Consequence Management Response Force’ will be ready for deployment on American soil if so ordered by the President.

“The special force, which is the new name being given to the 1st Brigade Combat Team of the 3rd Infantry, has been training at Fort Stewart, Georgia and is composed of 80,000 troops.

“According to the Army Times, ‘They may be called upon to help with civil unrest and crowd control or to deal with potentially horrific scenarios such as massive poisoning and chaos in response to a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear or high-yield explosive, or CBRNE, attack.’

“The key phrase is ‘may be called upon to help with civil unrest’” (Anthony Martin, Examiner.com, April 13, 2010).

Concern about Another “Dust Bowl” Mounts

“MULESHOE, Texas -- James Wedel remembers seeing thunderheads on the horizon and thinking: ‘Oh good, we’re finally gonna get some rain.’

“One problem: Those weren’t rain clouds.

“ ‘The wind started blowing, the dust started blowing, and you could hardly see in front of your face,’ Wedel says. ‘Static electricity was flying around. It was hard to breathe. I tell you, it was awful scary.’

“Seventy-five years have passed since the worst of the Dust Bowl, a relentless series of dust storms that ravaged farms and livelihoods in the southern Great Plains that carried a layer of silt as far east as New York City. Today, the lessons learned during that era are more relevant than ever as impending water shortages and more severe droughts threaten broad swaths of the nation.”

‘Some issue dire warnings.

“Gary McManus, a climatologist for Oklahoma’s state-run climate organization, says global warming could have a ‘catastrophic’ impact across the parts of Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, Kansas and Oklahoma that suffered most in the ‘Dirty Thirties’” (Brian Wlinter, *USA Today*, April 9, 2010).

Grasshopper Plague Could Ravage Crops

“DENVER -- Farmers and ranchers across the West are bracing for a grasshopper infestation that could devastate millions of acres of crops and land used for grazing.

“Over the coming weeks, federal officials say, grasshoppers will likely hatch in bigger numbers than any year since 1985. Hungry swarms caused hundreds of millions of dollars in damage that year when they devoured corn, barley, alfalfa, beets -- even fence posts and the paint off the sides of barns” (Stephanie Simon, *Wall Street Journal*, Economy.com, March 29, 2010).

Mexican Assassins

“As you know, one of the local ranchers was murdered in Douglas two weeks ago. His funeral is tomorrow. I received three messages similar to the one below from different officers within the Rangers and law enforcement.

“Yesterday afternoon I talked to another rancher near us who is a friend of ours and whose great grandfather started their ranch here in 1880. These are good people. He told me what really happened out at the Krentz ranch and what you won’t read in the papers. The Border Patrol is afraid of starting a small war between civilians here and the drug cartels in Mexico.

“Bob Krentz was checking his water like he does every evening and came upon an illegal who was lying on the ground telling him he was sick. Bob called the Border Patrol and asked for a medical helicopter evac. As he turned to go back to his ATV he was shot in the side. The round came from down and angled up so they know the shooter was on the ground. Bob’s firearm was in the ATV so he had no chance. Wounded he called the Cochise County Sheriff and asked for help. Bleeding in the lungs he called his brother but the line was bad so he called his wife but again the line was bad.

“Several ranchers heard the radio call and drove to his location. Bob was dead by this time. The ranchers tracked the shooter 8 miles back towards Mexico and cornered him in a brushy draw. This was all at night. The Sheriff and Border Patrol arrived and told them not to go down and engage the murderer. They went around to the back side and if you can believe it the assassin managed to get by a BP helicopter

and a Sheriff's posse and back to Mexico. So much for professional help when you need it.

“One week before the murder Bob and his brother Phil (who I shoot with) hauled a huge quantity of drugs off the ranch that they found in trucks. One week before that a rancher near Naco did the same thing. Two nights later gangs broke into his ranch house and beat him and his wife and told them that if they touched any drugs they found they would come back and kill them. The ranchers here deal with cut fences and haul drug deliveries off their ranches all the time. What ranchers think is that the drug cartels beat the one rancher and shot Bob because they wanted to send a message. Bob always gave food and water to illegals and so they think they sent the assassin to pose as an illegal who was hungry and thirsty knowing it would catch Bob off guard.

“What is going on down here is NOT being reported. You need to tell people how bad it is along the border. Texas is worse. Near El Paso it's in a state of war. 5000 people were killed in Ciudad Juarez last year and it's over 2000 so far this year. Gun sales down here are through the roof and I get emails from people wanting firearms training.

“Something has to be done but I don't hold out much hope. These gangs have groups in almost every city in the US. Please read below. This is serious business. The Barrio Azteca and their sub gangs are like Mexican Corporations and organized extremely well. If this doesn't get dealt with down here you guys will deal with it on your streets.

Israel Turns 62 – USA Lacks Strategy to Stop Iran

“(Washington, D.C., April 19, 2010) -- Israel turned 62 on Sunday. Israeli leaders marked the occasion by warning Iran not to mess with them. But a secret memo by Defense Secretary Robert Gates indicates that the U.S. does not have a clear decisive strategy to stop Iran from getting nuclear weapons.

“Meanwhile, Russia will allow the Iranian nuclear reactor facility at Bushehr (near the Persian Gulf) to go live in August. Now Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu has a fateful decision

to make. Will he order a preemptive military strike against all of Iran's nuclear sites before August when the Bushehr site becomes "hot"? Also, Jordan's King Abdullah warned over the weekend that he is increasingly convinced that a major war could break out by this summer” (Flash Traffic, Joel Rosenberg, April 18, 2010).

Iran to Go Nuclear in One Month

“Iran will join the global nuclear club within one month, according to the deputy research chief of the Islamic republic's Atomic Energy of Iran (AEOI).

“The state-run Fars news agency on Tuesday quoted Behzad Soltani, who also serves as the secretary-general of the AEOI's Scientific Cooperation Council, as saying that 'no country would ever think about attacking Iran' once the nuclear threshold has been crossed” (Jerusalem Post.com, April 2, 2010).

Iran Threatens US Cities with Nuclear Terror if Attacked

“This warning, along with an announcement that Iran would join the world's nuclear club within a month, raised the pitch of Iranian anti-US rhetoric to a new high Tuesday, April 13, as 47 world leaders gathered in Washington for President Barack Obama's Nuclear Security Summit.

“The statement published by Kayhan said: 'If the US strikes Iran with nuclear weapons, there are elements which will respond with nuclear blasts in the centers of America's main cities.' For the first time, DEBKAFfile's military sources report, Tehran indicated the possibility of passing nuclear devices to terrorists capable of striking inside the United States.

“Without specifying whether those elements would be Iranian or others, Tehran aimed at the heart of the Nuclear Security Summit by threatening US cities with nuclear terror” (Debkafile.com, Special Report, April 13, 2010).

Enforced Sunday Observance Discussed in Europe

“Some European politicians are demanding that Sunday be made a compulsory work-free day,

with religious groups gathering on March 24 for the first European Conference on a Work-Free Sunday and a German member of the European Parliament starting Europe's first European Citizens' Initiative.

"One third of Europe's meps have signed an appeal asking the European Commission to enforce work-free Sundays as part of an upcoming review on the European Working Time Directive. Proposals are due this fall.

"German mep Martin Kastler is collecting signatures from the public directly petitioning the Commission to discuss the issue. Under the Lisbon Treaty, European "citizens" can force the European Commission to discuss a relevant issue in a procedure called the European Citizens' Initiative. One million people in a significant number of EU nations must sign up to the initiative to force the Commission to act. So far, Kastler has collected about 14,000 signatures, but he hopes to gather many more as the word spreads.

"His campaign—with the slogan 'Mum and Dad belong to us on Sunday'—argues those in the European Union must be forced not to work on Sunday so that families can spend time together.

"Naturally, Europe's churches support the movement. A statement by a collection of Catholic and Protestant organizations released ahead of the European Conference on a Work-Free Sunday said that 'as a matter of principle, all citizens of the European Union are entitled to benefit from a work-free Sunday.' The Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Community (comece), one supporter of the statement, has pushed strongly for Sunday-enforcing legislation in the past.

"Supporters of Sunday worship have previously attempted to use the EU's Working Time Directive to enforce their beliefs on the whole continent. They argue that Sunday observance has health benefits, and therefore it should be enforced for the health and safety of the workers.

"So far they have failed, but revising the Working Time Directive is back on the EU's agenda. The principle of Sunday rest is already codified in EU law for all employees under 18, within the 1994 Protection of Young People at

Work Directive. It would be just one more step for the EU to impose it on the whole workforce.

"The pope has been a strong advocate of the revival of Sunday keeping. "Without Sunday [worship] we cannot live!" Pope Benedict xvi declared during a mass on Sept. 9, 2007, stating that it was a 'necessity' for all people.

"The prospect of a European government so powerful that it could declare one specific day a day of rest is a frightening one. This would be an EU willing and able to enforce lifestyle changes on its subjects, whether they liked it or not. The enforcement of Sunday worship will be the mark of a powerful, Vatican-allied, European superpower" (The Trumpet.com, April 12, 2010).

Obama Recalls Bunker-Buster Bomb Kits to Israel to Prevent Attack on Iran

"**Shortly after Vice President Joe Biden's Israel visit ended** on March 11 in high dudgeon over the approval 1,600 new homes [*sic*] in East Jerusalem, US president Barack Obama ordered a consignment of Joint Direct Attack Munition -- JDAM already on its way to Israel to be diverted to the US Air Force base on the Indian Ocean island of Diego Garcia.

"This step, the pointer to a US arms embargo for preventing Israel attacking Iran's nuclear sites, is first revealed here by DEBKAFfile's military sources" (Debkafile.com, March 20, 2010).

Scientists Stumped by Bee Population Decline

"The decline in the US bee population, first observed in 2006, is continuing, a phenomenon that still baffles researchers and beekeepers.

"This affects not only honey production but around 15 billion dollars' worth of crops that depend on bees for pollination.

"Scientists call the phenomenon 'colony collapse disorder' that has led to the disappearance of millions of adult bees and beehives and occurred elsewhere in the world including in Europe.

“The rough winter in many parts of the United States will likely accentuate the problem, says Jeff Pettis, lead researcher at Department of Agriculture’s Bee Research Laboratory in Beltsville, Maryland.

“Research conducted in 23 US states and Canada and published in the Public Library of Science journal found 121 different pesticides in 887 samples of bees, wax, pollen and other elements of hives, lending credence to the notion of pesticides as a key problem.

“ ‘The world population growth is in a sense the reason for pollinators’ decline,’ he said” (SeedDaily.com, March 29, 2010).

Joe Biden’s Blatant Hypocrisy

“While America’s Vice President Joe Biden has been long known to have some mixed up connections in his brain, nevertheless, the U.S. State Department and other named Senators had access to the Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995.

“The ‘assumed insult’ came directly from the office of the President, Barack Hussein Obama, no doubt, with the malevolent thinking of Rahm Emanuel, David Axelrod and the large staff of advisors who are know to be Arabists, all dedicated to severing relations with Israel.

“Both Obama, Biden and Hilary Clinton owe Israel a very large public apology, having been caught in a deliberate ‘official’ lie to manipulate public opinion against a stalwart ally.

“The slander is even more disgusting as Obama moves to appease Iran and Syria with invisible sanctions. Obama has been reported to have opened dialogue with Iran’s Revolutionary Guard.

“Clearly, it is past time to start drawing up a bill of impeachment for a President who is conducting American policy as if he were an openly declared Muslim and, therefore, a clear and present danger to America, Israel and all nations targeted by the Islamic ‘*Jihadists*’ (warriors for Islam).

“Obama and his family have decided not to choose a church in Washington. Instead, they will use a military chapel.

“For some time the Obamas have had a CIA-designed Blackberry communication device. The question about that is: Are the Obamas on an open channel to Rev. Jeremiah Wright and possibly a few Muslim Kings, Princes and Dictators?

“Since the Media fears asking tough questions, might they ask the President IF his Blackberry is his ‘church of choice’?” (Winston Mid-East Analysis and Commentary, April 4, 2010).

US and Israel: End of a Special Relationship!

“Israeli tanks left the Gaza Strip yesterday after the most violent clash in the Hamas-ruled enclave in 14 months ended with two soldiers and at least one Palestinian killed. The bloodshed followed weeks of unrest as attempts to bring Israelis and Palestinians back to negotiations stalled.

“Last night Arab League officials warned of a complete failure in the peace process, and spoke of alternative plans to “face Israel”. Israel’s “inner cabinet” discussed how to rescue its relations with the United States after the prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, was snubbed by a frustrated Barack Obama in Washington last week.

“The split between Israel and the US comes at a critical time as Iran’s nuclear ambitions grow steadily nearer to being realized.

“Here Benny Morris explains why this is a threat to world peace. Without doubt, the Middle East’s rogue or terrorist leaders, from Iran’s Mahmoud Ahmedinejad to Hizbollah’s Hassan Nasrallah to Hamas’s Khalid Mashal, are rubbing their hands with glee.

“The year-long rift between the Netanyahu and Obama administrations over Israel’s settlement policy in the West Bank and East Jerusalem is threatening to turn into a political rupture – just as Israel faces an existential threat which it needs every ounce of American support to counter.

“In the first decades of Israel’s existence, when it fought and defeated Egyptian armies, the Eisenhower and Nixon administrations twice twisted arms in Tel Aviv to force Israeli forces to withdraw - first from the Sinai Peninsula (1956-

57), then from territory west of the Suez Canal which it had occupied during the October War (1973). But the Americans continued to provide Israel with strategic cover to counter Soviet threats of nuclear destruction and direct military intervention.

“Today, Israel faces an Israel-hating Islamist coalition, of Iran, Hizbollah and Hamas, which may soon have nuclear weapons – but does so without any certainty about American goodwill and protection.

“Barack Obama may say that the United States supports Israel and will not countenance a "nuclear Iran". But most Israelis see Obama as lacking in that basic commitment to and sympathy for Israel that characterised American presidents from Truman through Kennedy to Clinton and George W Bush.

“As recently as 2000 and 2005, Israeli prime ministers Ehud Barak and Ariel Sharon felt able to offer or make major territorial concessions to the Palestinians because they knew that Washington would make up any shortfall in security that withdrawing from the West Bank and Gaza might entail.

“Obama's deliberate coldness toward America's traditional ally has not been lost on the Israeli public. He spoke in Cairo last year to the Muslim world, while avoiding a "balancing" visit to Jerusalem. He pettily humiliated Netanyahu during last week's visit to America (on the evening of their meeting, Obama left Netanyahu for more than an hour stranded in the White House while he dined without his guest). Nor will Washington's overbearing tone be quickly forgotten.

“And while, without doubt, Obama's health care bill victory has bolstered his stature in American public opinion and enabled him to face off with Netanyahu, his Democratic Party may yet pay a price in the congressional elections in November.

“The pro-Israel lobby in Washington remains powerful, despite recent knocks and the emergence of a small, Obama-supporting dissident Jewish lobby called J-Street.

While American Jews traditionally vote Democrat, Obama's trouncing of Israel may well affect campaign contributions and votes

(American Jews, who number more than 5 million, tend to contribute and vote disproportionately).

“In the coming weeks, it will become clear whether Israelis interpret Obama's behaviour toward Netanyahu as a personal issue or whether it reflects a deeper disaffection with Israel itself.

“Israelis have recently been given grounds for feeling that Netanyahu is an incompetent (and unlucky) prime minister: the international political fallout from the assassination he authorised of Hamas leader Mahmoud al-Mabhouh in Dubai, including Britain's expulsion of the Mossad head of station in London, is still reverberating.

“And while most Israelis approve of the killing of a Hamas general and condemn Western and Arab hypocrisy in this regard (MI6 agents have never used non-British passports? Did Dubai's rulers really support Hamas's gun-running activities, in cahoots with Iran, on its soil?), many question the wisdom of the cost-benefit calculus.

“Many Israelis have been wary of Netanyahu since his first tenure as prime minister in the late 1990s, when his relations with Clinton were poor. But they will not endorse American interference in Israel's politics or with its vital interests” (telegraph.co.uk).

Obama Removing Terms Related to “Radical Islam”

“President Barack Obama's advisers plan to remove terms such as "Islamic radicalism" from a document outlining national security strategy and will use the new version to emphasize that the U.S. does not view Muslim nations through the lens of terrorism, counterterrorism officials say.

“The change would be a significant shift in the National Security Strategy, a document that previously outlined the Bush Doctrine of preventive war. It currently states, ‘The struggle against militant Islamic radicalism is the great ideological conflict of the early years of the 21st century.’

“The officials described the changes on

condition of anonymity because the document is still being written and is unlikely to be released for weeks, and the White House would not discuss it. But rewriting the strategy document is the latest example of Obama putting his stamp on U.S. foreign policy, as with his promises to dismantle nuclear weapons and limit the situations in which they can be used.

“The revisions are part of a larger effort about which the White House talks openly, one that seeks to change not just how the U.S. talks to Muslim nations, but also what it talks to them about, from health care and science to business startups and education.

“That shift away from terrorism has been building for a year, since Obama went to Cairo and promised a ‘new beginning’ in the relationship between the U.S. and the Muslim world. The White House believes the previous administration based that relationship entirely on fighting terrorism and winning the war of ideas” (apnews.myway.com).

US-Israel Ties Strained

“After 14 months of frustration over the moribund Mideast peace process and nearly three weeks of open confrontation with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, President Barack Obama shows no sign of backing down — and may be about to double his bets.

The clash began when Vice President Joe Biden visited Jerusalem on March 9 and Israel announced construction of 1,600 new apartments for Jews in disputed East Jerusalem. Biden condemned the decision, and Obama's top aides publicly dressed down Netanyahu for a step they called ‘insulting.’

“Hoping to capitalize on Israel's embarrassment, the administration sought concessions on Jewish settlements and other issues to set the stage for renewed talks with the Palestinians.

“That, too, didn't work. This past week, first Obama, then his aides held closed talks with Netanyahu at the White House for two days running. No reporter was allowed near the talks, no joint appearances were made and no statements were released afterward.

“An Israeli newspaper commented that

Netanyahu had been treated as if he were the leader of Equatorial Guinea.

“Obama, fresh from his legislative victory on health care, is planning an attempt to turn the current disaster into a diplomatic opportunity, according to U.S. officials, former officials and diplomats.

“The administration is said to be preparing a major peace initiative that would be Obama's most direct involvement in the conflict to date, and would go far beyond the tentative, indirect Israeli-Palestinian talks that were torpedoed earlier in the month.

“ ‘It is crystallizing that we have to do something now. That this can't go on this way,’ said one of the officials who, like the others, wouldn't speak for the record because of the issue's sensitivity.

“Because of the U.S. political calendar, Obama has limited time to press Israel before it becomes a major domestic political issue during midterm elections. Netanyahu, who this weekend conferred with his closest allies, has limited political space in which to operate, if he wants to stay in power.

“His coalition at home is populated with Israeli politicians who support Jewish settlements in the West Bank, oppose any concessions on Jerusalem and are skeptical of an independent Palestinian state next door.

“One irony of the current confrontation is that the administration, which had laboriously organized indirect talks between Israel and the Palestinians, had planned to use Biden's visit to provide “strategic reassurance” to Israel, in hopes of improving relations with the closest U.S. ally in the Middle East after a year of strains.

“Now, trust between the two sides seems to be at a very low ebb.

“ ‘There's not a great deal of trust that he believes deeply in the two-state solution,’ a former senior U.S. official in touch with the White House said of Netanyahu. ‘There's a belief that he's a reluctant peacemaker here.’

“The Obama administration is said to believe that Netanyahu has more control over Jewish settlements than he admits, and political

flexibility to dump his right-wing partners and form a government with the moderate Kadima party if he chose.

“ ‘Fundamentally, he's going to have to decide between his coalition and his relationship with the United States,’ the former official said.

“From the day of his inauguration and his first major appointment — former Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell of Maine as his special Middle East envoy, efforts by Obama, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Mitchell have been a study in frustration.

“Netanyahu turned aside a U.S. demand last year for a comprehensive settlement freeze, offering a 10-month moratorium that excluded East Jerusalem. Even under President George W. Bush, whose interest was episodic, Israeli and Palestinian leaders held direct talks. Obama has struggled just to start ‘proximity talks,’ in which U.S. mediators would shuttle between the two sides.

“So American anger was white-hot when the March 9 announcement left the proximity talks stillborn.

“Mitchell, who labored for months during frequent Mideast shuttles ‘is a patient man. . . . but this has to be aggravating,’ one State Department official said.

“Senior U.S. officials are said to debate whether the unveiling of the 1,600 new apartments at Ramat Shlomo was a deliberate attempt by Netanyahu to avoid peace negotiations, or merely symptomatic of his tenuous control over his own government. The Interior Ministry is run by the ultra-orthodox Shas party.

“Either conclusion bodes poorly for Obama's attempts at diplomacy. Israeli officials say Netanyahu was as blindsided by the announcement as Biden was.

“On Friday, March 12, Clinton and Netanyahu spoke by phone in a tense conversation, in which the secretary of state relayed U.S. anger at the move in Ramat Shlomo. She demanded that Israel take steps to revive hopes for peace.

“The U.S. government has declined to list them, but they're said to include an end to provocative moves in East Jerusalem; removing checkpoints

and otherwise easing conditions on the West Bank; and agreeing to immediately negotiate core disputes with the Palestinians.

“Clinton and Netanyahu were both keenly aware that they were scheduled to speak on March 22 in Washington at the annual conference of the powerful Jewish-American lobby, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee.

“Netanyahu called Clinton, who was in Moscow, on March 18 and delivered his response to the American demands. Israeli officials say he insisted that the Palestinians had to make concessions too, not just Israel.

“Publicly, the administration moved to tone down the rhetoric, and meetings were arranged with Clinton and Obama, who had canceled an Asia trip to be in Washington for the health care vote.

Netanyahu's speech at AIPAC gave no ground. He declared: "Jerusalem is not a settlement; it's our capital" and described a limited U.S. role in the peace talks. The next morning, he went to Capitol Hill, where Democrats and Republicans alike showered him with promises of support for Israel.

“It looked for a moment like the Israeli prime minister had weathered the storm.

“At the White House, however, distrust of Netanyahu ran deep. Maps were prepared, showing how Israel had all but encircled Jerusalem's Old City with Jewish settlements and even religious theme parks — "facts on the ground" that would preclude a peace deal. Palestinians also claim the city as their capital.

“By all accounts, the White House meetings went badly, both in substance and tone, as the Obama team pressed Netanyahu to make concessions on Jewish settlements and other issues. Netanyahu balked at some of the requests, which the administration hasn't made public” (mcclatchydc.com).

Obama Humiliates Netanyahu During White House Visit

“For a head of government to visit the White House and not pose for photographers is rare. For a key ally to be left to his own devices while the President withdraws to have dinner in private

was, until this week, unheard of. Yet that is how Binyamin Netanyahu was treated by President Obama on Tuesday night, according to Israeli reports on a trip viewed in Jerusalem as a humiliation.

“After failing to extract a written promise of concessions on settlements, Mr. Obama walked out of his meeting with Mr. Netanyahu but invited him to stay at the White House, consult with advisers and ‘let me know if there is anything new’”, a US congressman, who spoke to the Prime Minister, said.

“ ‘It was awful,’ the congressman said. One Israeli newspaper called the meeting ‘a hazing in stages’, poisoned by such mistrust that the Israeli delegation eventually left rather than risk being eavesdropped on a White House telephone line. Another said that the Prime Minister had received ‘the treatment reserved for the President of Equatorial Guinea’.”

“Left to talk among themselves Mr. Netanyahu and his aides retreated to the Roosevelt Room. He spent a further half-hour with Mr. Obama and extended his stay for a day of emergency talks to try to restart peace negotiations. However, he left last night with no official statement from either side. He returned to Israel yesterday isolated after what Israeli media have called a White House ambush for which he is largely to blame.

“Sources said that M. Netanyahu failed to impress Mr Obama with a flow chart purporting to show that he was not responsible for the timing of announcements of new settlement projects in east Jerusalem. Mr. Obama was said to be livid when such an announcement derailed the visit to Israel by Joe Biden, the Vice-President, this month and his anger towards Israel does not appear to have cooled.

“Robert Gibbs, the White House press secretary, cast doubt on minor details in Israeli accounts of the meeting but did not deny claims that it amounted to a dressing down for the Prime Minister, whose refusal to freeze settlements is seen in Washington as the main barrier to resuming peace talks.

“The Likud leader has to try to square the rigorous demands of the Obama Administration with his nationalist, ultra-Orthodox coalition partners, who want him to stand up to

Washington even though Israel needs US backing in confronting the threat of a nuclear Iran.

“ ‘The Prime Minister leaves America disgraced, isolated and altogether weaker than when he came,’ the Israeli daily newspaper Haaretz said.

“In their meeting Mr. Obama set out expectations that Israel was to satisfy if it wanted to end the crisis, Israeli sources said. These included an extension of the freeze on Jewish settlement growth beyond the ten-month deadline next September, an end to building projects in east Jerusalem and a withdrawal of Israeli forces to positions held before the second intifada in September 2000.

“Newspaper reports recounted how Mr. Netanyahu looked ‘excessively concerned and upset’ when he pulled out a flow chart to show Mr. Obama how Jerusalem planning permission worked and how he could not have known that the announcement that hundreds more homes were to be built would be made when Mr. Biden arrived in Jerusalem.

“Mr. Obama then suggested that Mr. Netanyahu and his staff stay at the White House to consider his proposals so that if he changed his mind he could inform the President right away. ‘I’m still around,’ the daily newspaper Yediot Aharonot quoted Mr ..Obama as saying. ‘Let me know if there is anything new.’

“With the atmosphere so soured by the end of the evening, the Israelis decided that they could not trust the telephone line they had been lent for their consultations. Mr. Netanyahu and Ehud Barak, his Defense Minister, went to the Israeli Embassy to ensure that the Americans were not listening in” (timesonline.com.uk).

Leadership from Hell

“Our current President is a man who embraces all religions, and while trying to appear to be good, he continually embraces evil. Here let it be noted that I have been heavily criticized by mainstream ‘Christians’ for exposing Obama for what he really is and for saying that he is not an American and that he holds the office of the President of the United States illegally. I have been told that I should be praying for him. I many times will pray the Psalms when I pray.

There are some Psalms where you can actually pray the verses. Let the record show that I do pray Psalm 109:8 for Obama, which reads as follows: 'Let his days be few; and let another take his office.' Have Americans forgotten that they have a right to redress and criticize a faulty government? If that is not the case, America has no right to exist because our founding fathers rebelled against the King of England. It is not only our right but also our duty to speak out and declare the truth!

"The situation is critical at this time, and every indicator points to the fact that this present world is coming to an end. The Bible is proven true by the events of each day, and the vast majority of the people are completely oblivious to it. Very soon time will end and give way to eternity. Where will you be and what will you be doing when that last trumpet of God sounds? Are you ready to meet the Saviour? You can be at peace with Him right now by repenting and yielding your heart, soul, and mind to Him. He will receive and accept you. Do it now, before it is too late. If you contact us, we will help you to obey the entire Gospel. The Lord Jesus Christ will hear the simplest prayer if it is truly from the heart.

"Governance in the United States is not what it once was. While it is true that there was trouble from the beginning, there was a time when character and honor were of primary importance. There was a time when the government listened to the voice of the people. After years of slowly and subtly brainwashing the people, dismantling their thinking apparatus, and desecrating the standards of morality, the conspirators in high places are now ready to move beyond socialism to totalitarianism. In fact, the entire world is being made ready to accept a one-world dictatorship.

"On February 13th, 2010, the White House announced a new strategy against the people of the United States. White House Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel arrogantly stated the following: 'We are reviewing a list of presidential executive orders and directives to get the job done across a front of issues.' Anyone who has ever seen the complete list of existing executive orders, which are only to be used in a time of dire emergency, would quickly realize that they collectively constitute a dictatorship. We are living in Orwellian times!

"Who is this strange man who occupies the White House and embraces every religion? Why did Obama hold a secret meeting with the Buddhist icon, the Dalai Lama, in the map room of the White House on February 18th, 2010? Why were no reporters allowed, and why was the content of the meeting kept a secret? We must remember that the objective of the Antichrist is not only to have a one world government but also to have a one world religion.

"At the beginning of March, Barack Obama went in for his required physical examination. The White House physician, Navy Captain Jeffrey Kuhlman, reported that Obama drinks and smokes too much. Obama was told that all of the social events he must attend produce a job hazard because of all the alcoholic drinks. Remember the President's infamous 'Beer Summit' held on the White House lawn to pacify racial tension? I also have in front of me a photograph of Obama and a relative sitting in front of his family home in Kenya. He is sitting there in front of that mud hut with a cigarette hanging out of his mouth, looking very much like a thug. Could such a man ever become President of the United States? This photograph reveals how far gone we are!

"If we go back sixty years or so, we see quite a difference in the character and office of the President of the United States. I realize that President Harry S. Truman had his problems, but he did have some character compared to what we have now. The only assets President Truman had when he died was his house in Independence, Missouri, that his wife inherited from her parents. When Truman retired from the Presidency in 1952, he received only a U.S. Army pension of \$261.78 per week.

"Congress, however, noted that President Truman bought his own stamps and was personally licking them, so they gave him a retroactive pension of \$25,000 per year. When he left the White House, he and his wife Bess drove home to Missouri by themselves with no secret service escort. After Truman left office, he was offered numerous high paying positions in the corporate world. He always said no to these offers with the following explanation: 'You don't want me. You want the office of the President, and that doesn't belong to me. It belongs to the American people and its not for sale.'

“On Truman’s 87th birthday, Congress tried to award him the Medal of Honor, but he refused to accept it. He wrote the following explanation: ‘I don’t consider that I have done anything which should be the reason for any award, Congressional or otherwise.’ We should also note that while he was President he personally paid for all his own travel and food. President Harry Truman once made the following statement: ‘My choices in life were either to be a piano player in a whore house or a politician. And to tell the truth, there’s hardly any difference.’ . . .

“Obama seems to want to leave his mark on everything. This world-renowned ‘man of peace,’ who won the Nobel Peace Prize for doing absolutely nothing, has now received approval to rename the war in Iraq as ‘Operation New Dawn.’ This was confirmed in a memo signed by U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates. I have no doubt that the Iraqi war, being fought in the land of the Euphrates River with volatile Iran to the immediate east, is the gateway to Armageddon. The Scripture warned us about fearful sights in the last days, and most Americans have been kept in the dark about the horrors of these wars. On December 31st, 2009, the prestigious London Times newspaper featured a story that revealed the following about what is going on in Afghanistan: ‘American-led troops were accused yesterday of dragging innocent children from their beds and shooting them during a night raid that left ten people dead. Afghan government investigators said that eight school children were killed, all but one of them from the same family. Locals said that some victims were handcuffed before being killed.’

“Another thing that should be noted is that Obama, the warmonger man of false peace, has redesigned the official logo for the Missile Defense Agency. It is now looking very Islamic with a blue crescent moon and a star within the crescent. The star has three red tails with white margins.

“I am convinced that it is far later than most people may think it is. In the European Union, the German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle has announced a forthcoming European Army as provided for in the Lisbon Treaty. This would be a massive single military force for United Europe!” (David Meyer, *Last Trumpet* Newsletter, April 2010).

Our Polluted World

“The conspiratorial powers of the New World Order have completely contaminated this world with the products of their greed, avarice, and selfishness. They are now trying to reduce the population down to manageable levels and rebuild a so-called ‘green earth.’ These people have no regard for human life because it is their purpose to dispose of large segments of the world population. In a recent speech, the infamous Bill Gates called for reducing the world population by immunizations. In the speech he said the following: ‘The world population is headed for nine billion people. Now, if we do a really good job on new vaccines, health care, reproductive health services – we could lower that perhaps ten or fifteen percent.’

“The deceptive dangers of vaccines are destroying lives continually. On January 12th, 2010, the Express in the United Kingdom reported that two hundred doctors, nurses, firefighters, prison officials, police officers, and others experienced serious physical and mental health problems after taking required immunizations. All of these had to leave their jobs, and some are 60% disabled.

“In Amos 7:17, the prophet declared that we would die in a polluted land. That prophecy is even now coming to pass. On December 9th, 2009, the Bayer Company admitted that they have been unable to control the spread of their genetically-altered organisms despite their best efforts to stop contamination. Their admission reveals that all outdoors field trials, the growing of genetically engineered crops, must be stopped before our crops are irreversibly contaminated. While genetically-altered crops bring higher yields and greater profits, they destroy the natural system of plant growth in various ways, including cross pollination. Even with complete knowledge of this present danger, genetically modified forests are now being planned for the Southeastern section of the United States. International Paper and MeadWestvaco are planning to transform plantation forests of the Southeastern United States by replacing native pine with genetically engineered eucalyptus.

“No matter where we look, pollution has engulfed our planet. In a new study conducted by the U.S. Geological Survey, every single fish

tested in 291 streams and waterways throughout the United States revealed that 100 percent of the fish are contaminated with mercury. Mercury is a heavy metal and potent neurotoxin that builds up in the food chain and accumulates as a residual poison in the human body.

“We also know that on March 1st, 2010, the Times-News reported that much of the sodium fluoride that is being added to our drinking water is now being imported from Red China. This fluoride, which is manufactured by the Shanghai Mintchem Development Company, LTD, contains high levels of arsenic and lead with 50 and 40 milligrams per bag respectively. It seems that things that make us sick or kill us are in ready supply, but things that are good for us are being regulated and even outlawed by the government. As of January 1st, 2010, colloidal silver, a powerful and natural antibiotic, antiviral, and antifungal substance, which is perfectly safe, has been banned and outlawed in the European Union. This has been done under the laws of Codex Alimentarius, which regulates the sale and use of all natural vitamins and supplements. We have now learned that recently Senators John McCain and Byron Dorgan have introduced a dietary supplement bill that would regulate natural products from the manufacturer to the retail store level. It would allow the Federal Government to arbitrarily ban nutritional supplements by the FDA” (*ibid.*).

Spirit of the Antichrist

“As Earth prepares to receive her king by continually rejecting the God of the Bible, society and religion are being continually corrupted. On February 4th, 2010, Barack Obama attended the National Prayer Breakfast where he pushed his ‘gay’ and ‘green’ agenda. During Obama’s speech, he praised the evangelical pastors for their cooperation in his ‘green program’ to save the environment. Obama also thanked the evangelical pastors for their cooperation with his homosexual agenda. Obama went on to honor a homosexual civil rights leader who made the following statement: ‘The God of the Bible is a sinful homophobic bigot who needs to seek forgiveness for the pain and suffering which his sinful homophobia has needlessly inflicted upon gay people for the past 4,000 years.’

“Without a doubt, the spirits of Sodom and Gomorrah are in Washington, D.C. In fact, at the beginning of March 2010, ‘gay’ marriage became legal in the U.S. Capital.

“At the end of the same month of the prayer breakfast, the White House hosted a meeting of atheist groups from throughout the United States. Men such as Salman Rushdie, author of *The Satanic Verses*, and Christopher Hitchens, author of *God Is Not Great*, were invited to attend. These atheist groups are highly organized and outspoken. One atheist group recently started a ‘holy book for porn program.’ The atheists are asking people to trade in their Bibles for pornography, which the atheist group will provide

“In these days of the rising of the Antichrist, anything even resembling Christianity is being desecrated and openly mocked. On March 6th, 2010, the BBC News Service released a story exposing a papal senior aide, who was running a gay prostitution ring. The official title of this man, Angelo Balducci, was a ‘Gentleman to His Holiness.’ Police caught him through a telephone tap. On March 10th, 2010, the Vatican’s chief exorcist, ‘Father’ Gabriele Amorth, age 85, announced, ‘The Devil is in the Vatican.’ This Vatican official admitted that the Roman Catholic Church has bishops and even cardinals who do not believe in Jesus. Amorth also mentioned the massive amounts of sex abuse and pedophilia and said, ‘When one speaks of ‘the smoke of Satan’ in the holy rooms it is all true.’ At least one of their own has finally admitted it” (*ibid.*).

COMMENT: The more one looks at our current U.S. President, the more struck one is by his characteristics which are so similar to the Biblical description of the end-time “king of the north” of Daniel 11:21-36, who is a “vile person” who comes in “peaceably” and seizes “the kingdom by intrigue” (v.21), the “little horn” of Daniel 7:25 who intends to “change times and law” – a man who is the end-time “Anti-Messiah” or one who comes “in place of Christ” – a false, proud, arrogant stern-faced dictator “having fierce features” (Dan.8:23), – a man of “sinister schemes” and who is cunning and causes “deceit to prosper under his rule” (Dan.8:23-25) – a man who is engineered and put in office by Satan the devil, the “god of this world” (Rev.13:2-5).

The *Awesome Secret* of Counting the Omer to Pentecost!

What is all this business about “counting the omer,” the wave sheaf offering, and counting the days to Pentecost? Most churches are thoroughly confused on this issue, and totally miss the point of this **COMMANDMENT** of God! What is the truth? What is the hidden mystery of the omer? What is an “omer,” anyway, and why should we be concerned about it? Here is vital new truth which is a **KEY** to spiritual overcoming and enduring to the end!

William F. Dankenbring

One of the most potent and powerful keys to being an “overcomer” and enduring to the end is overlooked by the majority of Christians because of rejection of the Old Testament and rejection of the Laws of God in favor of pagan superstitions. Most churches forget that Jesus said that man shall not live by bread alone, but by **EVERY WORD** that proceeds out of the mouth of God, which is the Bible (Matt.4:4; Luke 4:4). Jesus said the scripture cannot be broken (John 10:35). Paul said all scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, instruction, reproof, correction that the man of God may become perfect thoroughly furnished unto good works (II Timothy 3:16-17).

One of these overlooked commands of God is to count 50 days (7 complete weeks) “for yourselves,” starting on the second day of Passover – the day the wave sheaf is brought to the priest for the Omer offering on Nisan 16. Churches are even confused over what day this count should begin, are ignorant of its true spiritual meaning, and fail to observe it at all!

“You Shall COUNT . . .”

God declares, “You shall then **COUNT** seven complete weeks after the day following the Passover holiday when you brought the Omer as a wave offering” (Lev.23:15).

According to Jewish understanding, “Sefirat Ha’Omer” – counting the Omer – refers to the forty-nine days from the second day of the Passover festival, and recounts the journey of the Israelites from Egypt, through the desert wastes, to the revelation of God at Mount Sinai, when the Commandments of God were set forth from heaven, and God made a Covenant with His people Israel, and “married” His bride.

This step-by-step journey through the wilderness was a time of trial and testing. God revealed to His people the Sabbath day (Exo.16), and satisfied their hunger with manna from

heaven. When they complained of thirst, He caused water to spring forth. When the Amalekites attacked, He intervened for them and helped them fight off the vicious hordes (known as the Hyksos in Egyptian history).

Each day the Israelites are commanded to count the Omer, as they experienced their journey from captivity (Egypt) to freedom (Sinai).

Notice that there are actually TWO commands in counting the Omer! First, we are commanded to “count off” the weeks, week by week. Then we are commanded to count off the DAYS, till we come to fifty – the fiftieth day being Pentecost!

The Testimony of Josephus

Flavius Josephus was a noted Jewish historian of the first century, who was himself a priest, a famous general in the war against the Romans in 70 A.D., and a Pharisee as well. He writes about Pentecost: “But on the *second day of unleavened bread*, which is the sixteenth day of the month, they *first partake of the fruits of the earth*, for before that day they do not touch them . . . They also at this participation of the first fruits of the earth sacrifice a lamb, as a burnt offering to God.

“6. When a week of weeks has passed over after this sacrifice, (which weeks contain forty and nine days,) on the fiftieth day, which is Pentecost . . . they bring to God a loaf made of wheat flour” (*Antiquities*, III, x, 5-6).

Observing this day was the customary practice of the Jews in the time of Christ. Josephus tells us that ALL THE MULTITUDE followed the teachings of the Pharisees in this respect. He tells us: “. . .the Pharisees, who are one of the sects of the Jews . . . These have SO GREAT A POWER OVER THE MULTITUDE, that when they say anything against the king or against the high priest, they are presently believed” (*Antiquities*, XIII, x, 5).

Concerning the Sadducees, the other sect of the Jews, which included some of the aristocracy and some of the high priests, who counted Pentecost from the day after the weekly Sabbath which fell during the Days of Unleavened Bread, Josephus tells us: “. . . the Sadducees are able to persuade NONE BUT THE RICH, and have not the populous obsequious to them, but the Pharisees have the MULTITUDE ON THEIR SIDE. . .” (*Anti.*, XIII, x, 6).

WHY Count the Omer?

I could answer, simply, “Because God says to do it!” Would that be sufficient? It is a simple, clear-cut, direct commandment of God. If we fail to obey Him, we bring upon ourselves the curses for disobedience, and SIN – and the wages of sin lead to DEATH (Rom.6:23).

Therefore, because God commands us to count the days from Passover to Pentecost, we should acknowledge that it is a LAW OF GOD, one that we must obey, if we are to reap the spiritual benefits and avoid the consequences of disobedience!

However, Eliyahu Kitov, in his work *The Book of Our Heritage*, points out:

“Israel does not seek logical reasons for the performance of the mitzvos; the fact that God has commanded us is sufficient reason for performing

a mitzvah with enthusiasm. If our Sages nevertheless offered us reasons for the performance of a mitzvah, then the understanding – to the level that we are capable given our limited comprehension – of that reason is in itself a mitzvah; i.e., understanding that which can be understood. Just as one’s heart must fully serve God, so too are man’s other faculties and his intelligence bound to serve God to the best of their ability. . . .

“When our Sages have given reasons for the mitzvos, it is for the benefit of all, including those who will be encouraged and motivated by having reasons, and whose will thereby be ultimately strengthened” (vol.2, page 680).

Defilement and Contamination

When Israel left Egypt, they left behind hundreds of years during which they had become contaminated by Egyptian influence, idolatry, and had developed the mentality of slaves, as they were oppressed and driven by harsh taskmasters. They had sunk to new spiritual lows. But at their extremity of suffering, God sent Moses to bring them out of their bondage and suffering, and to lead them to freedom and sovereignty.

They left Egypt on the day of Passover, Nisan 15, after the night when the first born of Egypt were all put to death supernaturally (Exodus 12:29).

Says Avraham Yaakov Finkel in *The Essence of the Holy Days*, “When the Israelites were in Egypt, they sank to the depth of the forty-ninth Gate of Impurity. God wanted to extract Israel from the forty-nine gates in stages, by illuminating on each day between Passover and Shavuot the Gate of Holiness that is the counterpart of its opposite Gate of Impurity. This tikkum, correction or restoration, comes to life each year in the counting of the Omer, on the forty-nine days between Passover – the day of the Exodus – and Shavuot – the day of the Giving of the Torah” (p.165, quoting Rabbi Moshe Chaim Luzzatto).

Another Jewish rabbi, Samson Raphael Hirsch, offers another profound insight into the counting of the Omer. Writes Avraham Finkel: “He notes the seven-day periods in the laws of uncleanness and purity as periods during which the individual strives to *bring uncleanness to a close in order to enter a state of purity* on the eighth day.

“Thus, a *sevenfold counting of seven-day periods*, that is, a counting of forty-nine days, would symbolize the *complete elimination of uncleanness, namely, of bondage*, to our senses. The fiftieth day [Pentecost or Shavuot] would mark our *final entry into purity*, that is, into the realm of moral freedom. The Omer count thus symbolizes the idea that we can acquire moral freedom only through *sevenfold intensive work on ourselves*” (p.166).

A Spiritual TYPE

How does this apply to God’s people, today?

This journey through the wilderness is a TYPE of the Christian life of overcoming – from baptism and leaving sin behind (Egypt), marching and struggling through the spiritual wilderness (this evil world, and our human nature), until we reach the Kingdom of God – typified by Mount Zion.

As we go through our Christian lives, we meet obstacles, encounter problems, face trials and difficulties. All these are reflected in the “counting of the Omer,” a task which identifies with our progress in “overcoming” our sins, faults, and human nature, putting sin out of our lives, and developing the holy attributes of God, from the moment of conversion and baptism, until that final time when we are changed into spirit beings, the sons of the Father, and inherit the promises of the New Covenant, at the coming of the Messiah!

There is a lot of confusion on this issue. The truth is very plain to those who have eyes to see and ears to hear and those to whom God opens their minds to perceive the truth. Let’s see what the word of God has to say about the “omer” and its incredible spiritual meaning and significance!

The Original Command

God commands His people, “When you come into the land which I give you, and shall reap the harvest thereof, you shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest unto the priest. He shall wave the sheaf before the Lord to be accepted for you: on the morrow after the Sabbath [Passover/annual Sabbath] the priest shall wave it before the Lord” (Lev.23:10-11).

This was in the spring obviously. The first crop to be reaped in the spring is the barley crop (harvest). Verse 11 goes on, “wave the sheaf *the day after the Sabbath*”. What Sabbath? We are going to see that it is the Passover, an annual Sabbath and the first Day of Unleavened Bread. The sheaf is waved the day after Passover, first day of Unleavened Bread.

Verse 14 declares: “You shall not eat bread, parched corn, nor green ears, until the selfsame day that you have brought an offering unto your God; it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations in all your dwellings.” Verse 15 goes on, in the King James Version, “*you shall count for yourself (unto you), from the day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven Sabbaths shall be complete.*”

In the Tanakh this word “Sabbath” is translated as “WEEKS”. Many other translations agree it is weeks. We will see why the translation of *weeks* is the proper translation and understanding. Notice, seven weeks shall be *completed*, not partial weeks).

What is meant by seven complete Sabbaths? How do you count seven complete Sabbaths? A Sabbath is from sunset to sunset. In Deuteronomy 16: 9 we read: “you shall count seven *weeks*.” The Hebrew word here is *shavua* and means “week” and *shavuot* is the plural form, denoting “weeks.”

This is a commandment we are to do for our own benefit (for ourselves). The Omer Count begins from the time you put the sickle to the grain (firstfruits). Then after the seven weeks are counted, we read, “you shall keep the Feast of *Weeks* (Shavuot)” (v.10).

Notice! It is not the feasts of “Sabbaths” but the “Feast of Shavuot” – *weeks*. It is a clear distinction. It is not the feast of counting Sabbath days but the Feast of Counting Weeks! That is why the terms *Shavua* and *Shavuot* are used. This is the real meaning. Deuteronomy 16 shows clearly that we are to “count seven weeks.” Why then is the word “Sabbath” used in Leviticus 23:11 and 15?

Why the Word “Sabbath”?

If the counting is to begin the day after Passover, why didn't the command say, “Begin the day after Passover”?

First of all, that would not have been clear, because people could have thought the 14th day of Nisan were meant, the day the Passover was killed! Or, they could have thought the 15th day was meant, the day the Passover was eaten! Which would have been correct? Confusion would have abounded, without further clarification.

However, Eliyahu Kitov points out, “The Torah, when referring to Pesach [Passover], uses a different term from that used for the other Festivals, referring to it once as *Shabbat* but never as *Shabbaton*. Moreover, it is referred to as *Shabbat* only in conjunction with the mitzvah of counting the omer, and there the Torah twice refers to the Festival as *Shabbat*” (page 687).

In *The Book of Our Heritage* by Eliyahu Kitov, Vol. 2, Adar – Nisan, page 691, Joshua 5:11 relates: “And they ate from the produce of the land from the ‘morrow of Pesach (Passover)’”. Says Eliyahu Kitov, “The Torah states [**Leviticus 23:14**], ‘you shall not eat bread or parched grain or green grain until this day’ [i.e., when the omer is brought]. In the book of Yehoshua [5:11] we find: ‘And they ate from the produce of the land from the morrow of Pesach.’ [Interestingly, this is the only source in Tanach where the fifteenth of Nisan is referred to as *Pesach*.] Were you to posit that Pesach that year fell on a Shabbat as the fools [i.e., the Sadducees conjectured], how is it possible that the permission to eat new grains would be made dependent by the Torah upon something totally unrelated [i.e., the day of the week]—on pure happenstance! Rather, since this [the eating of new grain] was made dependent upon ‘the morrow of the Pesach,’ it is obvious that ‘the morrow of the Pesach’ is the reason why new grains are permitted, and we pay no attention to the day of the week” (p.691).

The Sadducees had strayed from the fold of Israel during the time of the second Temple. They said that when Torah said “on the morrow of the Shabbat” it was referring to the day following the weekly Sabbath (Sunday, rather than the day after the Festival (Passover). Says Eliyahu Kitov, “Our tradition is that [the reference is] not to Sabbath [the day] but to the Festival, and this was seen in the PROPHETS AND THE SANHEDRIN OF EVERY GENERATION who brought the Omer on Nisan 16” (p.691).

Seven “Sabbaths” or Seven “Weeks”?

In Leviticus 23:15, where we read we are to count “seven sabbaths” – does it mean literal Sabbath days, or seven weeks? The Rotherham translation has a footnote at this verse which says: “Seven sabbaths = seven weeks. Compare N.T. (New Testament) Ap. ‘Sabbath.’”

Turning to the Appendix to the Rotherham New Testament, we find a section on “Sabbath.” Rotherham says, “A few critical remarks on the word sabbath as it appears in the New Testament may be useful. First, this word seems to be sometimes an appellative [of or relating to a common noun] and sometimes a proper name (‘day of rest,’ ‘Sabbath’). Second, the term sabbath is, in several texts, used in the plural in the Greek, where, nevertheless, it is evident that only one particular day is intended. Under this head, the following texts are worthy of note: Mat.12:1, 11; Mark 1:21; 2:23; 3:2; Luke 4:16; 13:10; Acts 13:14.; 16:13. In all these passages the word in the original is in the plural, and yet it is plain that a particular, individual day is

intended. Nor is there anything surprising in this; for ‘the Hebrew at times uses plural forms where other languages employ the singular.’”

Rotherham then adds, “Third, the word sabbath is extended to signify ‘week.’ Even in this there is nothing very far fetched; since the transition from the idea of ‘rest’ to that of a ‘rest-bounded period of seven days’ is a comparatively natural one. Still the question must be considered mainly as one of fact; although, even so, more demonstrative evidence should not be demanded than the nature of the case admits of; and it often suffices to attach a new meaning to a word, that the ordinary application of it is repeatedly seen to be unnatural, illogical, bewildering, or absurd. Hence the current opinion is probably correct that finds notwithstanding that the word for ‘week’ is here sabbaton in the singular; since it would appear a very paltry boast to say, ‘I fast twice on the sabbath’ when anyone (with more pleasantry than pharisaism) might reply, ‘I fast three times.’”

Rather ridiculous, isn’t it? No one would boast about fasting twice in a single day! That would be preposterous! Obviously, the word – as in this case – sometimes means “week,” just as translators all have it!

Rotherham goes on: “To this example of sabbaton in the singular, used in the sense of ‘week,’ may now be added I Corinthians 16:2, where not only Westcott and Hort, but the entire board of Revisers find the word in the singular number; and it would seem enough simply to ask the question, Is it credible that the apostle Paul meant to enjoin on the assemblies of Galatia and on that of Corinth to lay by on ‘the first [hour] of sabbath’ without so much as specifying that it was the first HOUR of the day that he intended? If not, and if ‘first day of the day’ is impossible, what is left but to assume that he meant ‘first [day] of the week’? ‘Week’ also approves itself in Mat.28:1; Mark 16:2; Luke 24:1; John 20:1, 19; Acts 20:7. . . There is nothing unnatural in supposing the meaning to be ‘week’; for, as we have seen: (a) the word in the plural form may convey a singular idea; (b) the word in the singular is twice used in the sense of ‘week.’ Now let us test the two words ‘sabbaths’ and ‘week’: ‘Late in the sabbaths, as it was on the point of dawning into the first of the sabbaths.’ Will that stand? Now try ‘week’: ‘Late in the week, as it was on the point of dawning into the first of the week.’ Here everything is harmonious. With the Hebrews the sabbath closed the week. Late on the sabbath would be late in the week, and the transition is natural from the end of one week to the beginning of the next. Hence the correct rendering here is ‘week’” (Rotherham *Emphasized Bible*, Appendix, p.271).

How plain that the Greek word *sabbaton* not only means “Sabbath,” but it also clearly means “WEEK”!

What about the Hebrew language? What about the Old Testament Scriptures?

“Sheva’ shabbatot t’miymot”

Let’s notice Leviticus 23:15 more carefully: The Hebrew wording, *sheva’ shabbatot t’miymot* is mistranslated as “seven sabbaths shall be complete” in the King James Version. Notice – the Hebrew does not read *sheva’ shabbatot tam* or *sheva’ shabbatot tamam*, but rather it reads *sheva’ shabbatot t’miymot*. Both *shabbatot* (“Sabbaths”) and *t’miymot* (“complete”) are in the PLURAL forms, which makes *t’miymot* (“complete”) refer directly to *shabbatot* (“Sabbaths”). If we believe the “sabbaths” here to be literal weekly sabbaths, then the meaning

is totally unintelligible, because nothing exists in Scripture defined as either a “complete Sabbath” or an “incomplete sabbath.” All “sabbaths” are a contained unit of time and cannot be specified as either complete or incomplete. But, there is such a thing as an incomplete “week.”

Contrary to what some church groups teach, “week” is a valid alternate meaning of the Hebrew word *shabbat*. Shabbat can mean “week” in the sense that a *kodesh* (“New Moon”) can also mean “month” – a period of 29 or 30 days. In the idiomatic manner in which *kodesh* means both “new moon” as well as “month,” the Hebrew word *shabbat* means both “Sabbath” and “week.” For instance, a valid alternate reading of Isaiah 66:23 is, “from one full month [*kodesh* – “new moon”] to another, and from one full week [*shabbat* – “Sabbath”] to another, shall all flesh come to worship before Me, saith the LORD.”

In Leviticus 23:15, then, one can render *sheva’ shabbatot t’miymot* as “seven weeks each one complete,” expressing nothing specific in regard to the weekly Sabbath. This is the proper rendering since the plural form *t’miymot* (“complete”) is used instead of the singular form *tam* (“complete”) or *tamam* (“complete”). The “seven Sabbaths” is not described as a single unit of complete time as would have been the case if *tam* or *tamam* were used. Rather, the usage of the plural form *t’miymot* indicates that there are as many “completes” as there are “*shabbatot*,” which forces “*shabbatot*” into the alternate meaning of “weeks” instead of referring to weekly Sabbaths which are always complete units of time with no further designation necessary.

However, the Hebrew word *tam* also means “portion” or “cycle” in addition to “complete.” Therefore, its plural form *t’miymot* can mean “portions,” “cycles,” or “levels.” Now the passage begins to become more interesting.

What is God telling us here?

By using the word *shabbatot* for “weeks” or “periods ending with a rest” WITH the word *t’miymot* meaning “periods” or “cycles” or “levels,” we have a description of a PROCESS OF OVERCOMING, DELINEATED BY “SEVEN STAGES,” or “SEVEN LEVELS” of spiritual growth and development, each stage “complete” in itself!

Thus we have God showing us that we must OVERCOME the SEVEN (complete) aspects of HUMAN NATURE which will tend to drag us down, and keep us from entering His Kingdom! We must GROW in the SEVEN COMPLETE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD’S DIVINE CHARACTER, as revealed to men!

These seven areas of human nature we must overcome are the seven categories of human nature which the apostle Paul refers to as the “works of the flesh” (Galatians 5:19-21).

The seven aspects of God’s divine nature are listed by Peter, when he writes: “Giving all diligence ADD to your faith virtue [spiritual power], to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren [useless, margin] nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins” (II Pet.1:5-9).

We need to be working on developing these qualities daily.

Old Testament Evidence

Further evidence that “Sabbath” can refer to “week” and ‘sabbaths’ can refer to ‘weeks,’ is also found in the Old Testament!

In Leviticus 23:15, we read in the Rotherham, “seven sabbaths complete.” The footnote says “Seven sabbaths = seven weeks.” Because this is understood by scholars, this verse is translated often with the word “weeks” instead of “sabbaths.” For example:

The Moffatt translation: “you shall count seven full WEEKS.”

The Good News Bible: “Count seven full WEEKS.”

The New Revised Standard Version: “You shall count off seven WEEKS; they shall be complete.”

New International Version: “Count off seven full WEEKS.”

Revised Standard Version: “seven full WEEKS shall they be.”

The Amplified Parallel Bible: “And you shall count from the day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the wave sheaf offering, seven Sabbaths; [SEVEN FULL WEEKS] shall they be.” The bracketed words are in the Amplified Parallel Bible, to explain the usage of the word “Sabbaths,” that in this case the word refers to “WEEKS.”

The Hebrew Tanakh: “And from the day on which you bring the sheaf of elevation offering – the day after the Sabbath – you shall count off SEVEN WEEKS. They must be complete: you must count until the day after the SEVENTH WEEK.”

Certainly, the Jews above all peoples ought to know the nuances of their own language! The term “Sabbath,” then, can also refer to “week,” in the Hebrew language, just as it also does in the GREEK language of the New Testament! It should be crystal clear that the word *Shabbat* can be translated as “week” and its plural as “weeks” – to argue about this fact is to create imaginary puff clouds of foolishness to befog the minds of innocent people!

Keil and Delitzch Commentary

The *Keil and Delitzch Commentary on the Old Testament* is an excellent source of information and knowledge. In the section on Leviticus 23, it declares:

“When the Israelites had come into the land to be given them by the Lord, and has reaped the harvest, they were to bring a sheaf as first-fruits of their harvest to the priest, that he might wave it before Jehovah on the day after the Sabbath, i.e., after the first day of *Mazzoth*. . . .

“**מחרת השבת** (the morrow after the Sabbath) signifies the next day after the first day of the feast of *Mazzoth*, i.e., the 16th Abib (*Nisan*), not the day of the Sabbath which fell in the seven days’ feast of *Mazzoth*, as the Baethoseans supposed, still less the 22nd of *Nisan*, or the day after the conclusion of the seven days’ feast . . .” (volume 1, p.613).

The Commentary goes on:

“The ‘Sabbath’ does not mean the seventh day of the week, but the day of rest, although the weekly Sabbath was always the seventh or last day of the week; hence not only the seventh day of the week (Exo.31:15, etc.), but the day of atonement (the tenth of the seventh month) is called ‘*Sabbath*,’ and ‘*Shabbath shabbathon*’ (v. 32 , ch.16:31). As a day of rest, on which no laborious work was to be performed (v.8), the first day of the feast of *Mazzoth* is called ‘*Sabbath*,’ irrespectively of the day of the week upon which it fell; and ‘*the morrow after the Sabbath*’ is equivalent to ‘the morrow after the Passover’ mentioned in Joshua 5:11, where ‘Passover’ signifies the day at the beginning of which the paschal meal was held, i.e., the first day of unleavened bread, which commenced on the evening of the 14th, in other words, the 15th Abib” (p.614).

States the Commentary:

“That שבתות [Shabbatot] (v.15) signifies weeks like שבועות [Shavuot] in Deut. 16:9, and τα σαββατα [weeks] in the Gospels (e.g. Matt.28:1), is evident from the predicate תמימת [tamiyot], ‘complete,’ which would be quite unsuitable if Sabbath-days were intended, as a long period might be reckoned by half weeks instead of whole, but certainly not by half-Sabbath days. Consequently, ‘the morrow after the seventh Sabbath’ (v.16) is the day after the seventh week, not after the seventh Sabbath. On this day, i.e., fifty days after the first day of Mazzoth, Israel was to offer a new meat-offering to the Lord, i.e., made of the fruit of the new harvest (ch.26:10), ‘wave-loaves’ from its dwellings . . . ‘as first-fruits unto the Lord,’ and of the wheat-harvest (Ex.34:22), which fell in the second half of May and the first weeks of June . . .” (p.615).

Nevertheless, the controversy still rages and many churches reject the Jewish interpretation and follow their own reasoning, refusing to take seriously God’s command to “count the omer.”

Why is there such a controversy over when we start counting to Pentecost? Why do some follow the Jews and count from the day after the Passover holy day (Nisan 15)? And why do so many follow the Sadducean reckoning and begin counting after the “weekly Sabbath” that falls during the days of Unleavened Bread? Could Satan the devil be stirring the pot, and creating the disorder and confusion? Isn’t he the author of confusion and lawlessness?

Such confusion – it is sheer madness!

The Witness of the Septuagint, 250 Years Before Christ

The Septuagint is the original translation of the Torah into the Greek language 250 years before Christ, before there was a Sadducee or a Pharisee. These sects developed during the days of Antiochus Epiphanes and the Maccabee brothers about 167 B.C. which was about 100 years later.

What does the witness of the Septuagint tell us?

I quote from the Septuagint, in Leviticus 23. Remember, this was the Bible used by the EARLY, GREEK-SPEAKING CHRISTIANS and Jews. Notice carefully the pivotal Scripture concerning the counting of Pentecost, found in Leviticus 23, quoted exactly from the LXX:

“These are the festivals for the Lord -- holy, set days, which you shall proclaim in their set times. In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month, between the two evenings, is the Passover for the Lord. And on the fifteenth day of this month beginneth the festival of unleavened bread for the Lord. Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. Now the FIRST DAY shall be a holy, set day for you. You shall do no sacrificial service, but offer whole burnt offerings to the Lord seven days, and the SEVENTH DAY shall be a holy set day for you. You shall do no sacrificial service.

“Moreover the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, Speak to the children of Israel, and thou shalt say unto them, When you are come into the land which I give you, and are about to reap the harvest thereof, you shall bring a sheaf, as the first fruits of your harvest, to the priest, and he shall offer up the sheaf before the Lord, to be accepted for you *ON THE MORROW AFTER THE FIRST DAY*, the priest shall offer this up” (Lev. 23:4-11).

How interesting and plain this makes this controversial verse of Leviticus 23:11, which some claim tells us to offer the wave sheaf on the day after the weekly Sabbath. NOT SO! The Septuagint very plainly says, “on the morrow after the FIRST DAY,” and there is no way you can interpret the “first day” to ANYTHING OTHER THAN THE FIRST DAY OF THE FEAST! It clearly does not refer to the weekly Sabbath – the weekly Sabbath is the “SEVENTH DAY,” by its own definition!

Testimony of Philo, a Contemporary of Peter

The Testimony of the Works of Philo, a well-known Jewish philosopher teacher who lived during the time of Christ and Peter, who lived in Alexandria, Egypt, provides further evidence.

Philo, on page 583, states, “There is also a festival on the day of the paschal feast, which *succeeds the first day, and this is named the sheaf*, from what takes place on it; for the sheaf is brought to the altar as a first fruit both of the country which the nation has received for its own, and also of the whole land; so as to be an offering both for the nation separately, and also a common one for the whole race of mankind.”

Alfred Edersheim’s Testimony

Alfred Edersheim, in *The Temple, Its Ministry and Services*, declares: “The expression, ‘the morrow after the Sabbath’ (Lev. 23:11) has sometimes been *misunderstood* as implying that the presentation of the so-called ‘first sheaf’ was to be always made *on the day following the weekly Sabbath of the Passover-week*. This view, adopted by the ‘Boethusians’ and the Sadducees in the time of Christ, and by the Karaite Jews and certain modern interpreters, rests on a *misinterpretation* of the word ‘Sabbath’ (Lev. 23:24, 32, 39). As in analogous allusions to other feasts in the same chapter, it means not the weekly Sabbath, but the day of the festival. The testimony of Josephus (*Antiq*, 3.248-249), of Philo (Op.ii.294), and of Jewish traditions leaves no room to doubt that in this instance we are to understand by the ‘Sabbath’ the 15th of Nisan, on whatever day of the week it might fall.

“Already, on the 14th of Nisan, the spot whence the first sheaf was to be reaped had been marked out by delegates from the Sanhedrim, by tying together in bundles, while still standing, the barley that was to be cut down. Then on the evening of Nisan 15, (even though it was a Sabbath) just as the sun went down, three men each with a sickle and basket formally set to work. They asked questions of the bystanders three times each of these questions: Has the sun gone down? With this sickle? Into this basket? On this Sabbath (or the first Passover-day)?—and lastly, ‘Shall I reap?’ Having each time been answered in the affirmative, they cut down the barley to the amount of one ephah, or ten omers.”

The Awesome Significance of the Omer

The “counting of the Omer” from Pesach (Passover) to Shavuot (Pentecost) is a process – a daily task – that reflects like a mirror our spiritual lives. If we are not counting the Omer as God tells us to do, it is reflective of the fact that we are not overcoming sin and temptations and distractions in our lives. If we fail to count one day, but repent, and begin counting from that time, then God forgives us, and we go onward and forward. But it is better if we are faithful from beginning to end.

The Omer count is a reflection of our spirituality. Are we developing the attributes of God and His Spirit in our lives? Are we growing daily, constantly, in love – joy – peace – longsuffering (patience) – gentleness – goodness – faith – meekness – moderation (self control)?

Each day of the forty-nine day Omer count is like a building block to salvation. It is a tool to develop and grow in spiritual maturity, so that we are ready when Christ comes, so that we will be a pure and perfect “Bride” for the KING of the Universe!

Think about such a high calling! Are you faithfully “counting the Omer”?

Even more, the Omer count is a pattern – a template – to TEACH us what we should be doing EVERY DAY OF OUR LIVES – “COUNTING THE OMER” AND DEVELOPING THE TRAITS OF GOD'S HOLY SPIRIT IN OUR LIVES – EVERY DAY – DAY-BY-DAY – TILL THE MESSIAH, JESUS CHRIST, RETURNS FOR HIS BRIDE!

Each and every day should be an “Omer count” day in our journey to spiritual perfection. Each day we should “number the days,” and “count the days,” as we journey onward and upward to that thrilling time when Jesus Christ will come again, bringing the Kingdom of God with Him!

The “Omer count” then is a physical “type” or typology of a spiritual reality – the Christian life process. It represents the spiritual journey – the Odyssey – of our lives, as we go through the wilderness, overcome obstacles, and root out the negative attributes of the flesh, and develop and strengthen the positive manifestations of God's Spirit in our lives. We are on a great spiritual Quest. Each day counts. Each week is significant. Every month is a palpable unit of time which ought to be devoted to overcoming, growing, and strengthening the Spirit of God within us. Every year brings us that much closer to MESSIAH!

At Passover we begin the march to freedom with God delivering us through supernatural miracles by the hand of God. It took Israel 50 days to march to Mt. Sinai. Shavuot then is the conclusion of the march to freedom. It is the concluding feast of liberty with the marriage of

Israel to the Lord in a covenant vow where Israel becomes His people and one with Christ. That is *true freedom*. It begins with Passover and ends with Shavuot/Pentecost.

How can we be free unless we are connected to God? It is vital to our freedom. This is why counting the Omer beginning the second day of Passover is very vital to arriving at Pentecost. And “counting the omer”, becoming more and more “connected” to God, from the moment of our conversion and acceptance of Christ as our Saviour till the coming of Christ, is VITAL to our entrance into the Kingdom of God!

The Meaning of the Omer Itself

In Leviticus 23 we read, “And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye be come into the land which I give unto you, and shall reap the harvest thereof, then ye shall bring a SHEAF of the FIRSTFRUITS of your harvest unto the priest: and he shall WAVE THE SHEAF before the Lord, to be ACCEPTED FOR YOU: on the morrow after the sabbath the priest shall wave it.

“And ye shall offer that day when ye wave the sheaf an he lamb without blemish of the first year for a burnt offering unto the Lord” (Lev.23:10-12).

What is this “wave sheaf” offering? What does it symbolize and represent? Notice that it is a sheaf of the “first fruits,” and it is offered to God before the Israelites can harvest the spring harvest. God commands, “And ye shall eat neither bread, nor parched corn, nor green ears” – that is, produce from the new harvest – “until the selfsame day that ye have brought an offering unto your God: it shall be a STATUTE FOR EVER throughout your generations in all your dwellings” (Lev.23:14).

In the book of Romans, Paul writes to Christians, saying, “For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the FIRSTFRUITS OF THE SPIRIT, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body” (Rom.8:23).

Christians, those called of God during this lifetime to serve and obey Him, out of every nation, are likened to “firstfruits” of God. We have the “firstfruits of the Spirit” of God as a downpayment, or earnest (Eph.1:4-14) of our inheritance, as we are the ones who “should be to the praise of his glory, who FIRST trusted in Christ” (v.12). In writing of Christians in the region of Achaia, Paul says of them, “Salute my well-beloved Epaenetus, who is the FIRSTFRUITS of Achaia unto Christ” (Rom.16:5). In the book of James we read: “Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a KIND OF FIRSTFRUITS of his creation” (James 1:18). Also, in Revelation God speaks of the members of the true Church of God as those who “were redeemed from among men, being FIRSTFRUITS to God and to the Lamb” (Rev.14:1-4).

In the book of Romans, Paul addresses our calling – which is special, and unique, in the sight of God. Of all people on earth, we are the few who have been given the Spirit of God as a begettal, indwelling within us – a priceless heritage and gift! Therefore “the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit which is given unto us” (Rom.5:5). Paul goes on, “There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. . . But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of

God DWELL in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his” (Rom.8:1-9).

Identity of the Omer or the Wave Sheaf

In the past, many have ASSUMED – and many STILL assume – that the “wave sheaf” offering referred to Jesus Christ, who was the offering for our sins upon the stake (II Cor.5:21). But does this make any sense, when we stop to think about it? It was accompanied by the offering of a male lamb without blemish – which itself typified Christ! It was waved by the high priest before God, to be accepted of the Father – and the high priest was of the Aaronic priesthood, representing the people and nation of Israel. Furthermore, this “wave sheaf” was offered AFTER the sacrifice of Christ our Passover Lamb (I Cor.5:7-8). The Passover lambs were slain in the afternoon of Nisan 14 – the precise time when Yeshua the Messiah was slain for us! Christ was still in the grave when the wave sheaf was offered!

Clearly, then, the wave sheaf – contrary to what many have assumed and believed – does NOT refer to Christ at all – but rather is made possible BY the Sacrifice of Christ, which precedes it in time sequence! The wave sheaf of firstfruits refers to **US!** We have the following sequence of events:

- 1) the sacrifice of Christ on Nisan 14, late afternoon;
- 2) the holy day of Passover – (Nisan 15)
- 3) the next evening, as Nisan 16 began, a sheaf (bundle) of grain is selected from the field across the Kidron valley, east of Jerusalem, and cut and bundled;
- 4) the next morning, Nisan 16, it is prepared and waved before the Lord and accepted of Him as “THE FIRSTFRUITS” of the harvest.

Do you begin to comprehend? Do you see? The wave sheaf offering is an offering which is a BUNDLE OF SEPARATE BARLEY GRAINS, FROM A NUMBER OF PLANTS, AMOUNTING TO AN “OMER” – about five pints, or two and one half quarts. This offering followed the offering of Christ, as our Passover lamb, who paid for our sins. It was accompanied by the burnt offering of a lamb – Christ – without blemish (Lev.23:12). The wave sheaf itself, then, is NOT CHRIST!

What then is it?

The Wave Sheaf Offering, composed of MANY individual grains, offered together, made possible by the sacrifice of Christ, represents US – TRUE CHRISTIANS – those called of God during this age, as His “FIRSTFRUITS”!

It was offered to the Father AFTER the sacrifice of Christ, because there is NO WAY the Father could accept us BEFORE our sins were pardoned, and atoned for, and wiped away and washed away by the blood of Christ! But since Christ became our Saviour, and qualified by living a perfect life, and DIED for us on the stake, this made possible OUR acceptance before the throne of God in Heaven! WE are that WAVE SHEAF OFFERING! We are the “FIRSTFRUITS”!

What could be plainer?

The Preparations of the Bride

God delivered Israel for a purpose: to bring them into union with Him and oneness of spirit THROUGH OBEDIENCE to Torah His Law. He was their redeemer, provider, protector and defender. This is one of the main reasons for counting the Omer today, because we are looking forward to the marriage to the Lamb of God with the church (those who obey and follow Him) when Christ returns. Revelation 19 talks about the great marriage supper after the bride has made herself ready.

What does the bride have to do “to make her-self ready”?

God commands us to purge out the sin and become pure – to get rid of the selfishness, envy, jealousy, wickedness, disobedience, pride, arrogance, and the lust of the flesh—so we can meet Christ at His coming being without blemish and be part of His Bride, the Church, which will enter into marriage with Him. Christ is setting apart and cleansing the Church, “with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish” (Eph.5:25-27).

Pentecost is the day that the Law was given on Mt. Sinai. Technically it was on a Friday the year that Israel came out of Egypt. After so many years of slavery, the Israelites had degenerated in this pagan idolatrous society to the 49th level of contamination, and were almost gone. The further Israel got away from Egyptian influence, the less idolatrous they became and were gradually being restored forward during those 50 days to the illumination and understanding of holiness that they needed to achieve while marching toward Mt. Sinai to meet God on Pentecost. They had to set aside three days and purify themselves before they would be ready to appear before God at Mt. Sinai to accept the covenant God would make with them.

This time when Christ returns He will marry the church as His bride which he has made spiritually pure without spot or blemish. The church in turn is preparing herself to be ready to meet Him at His coming return. So we are to count the Omer daily as a reminder and remembrance of overcoming. There are 50 gates of holiness that we are to go through every day and at the same time we are getting further and further away from the contamination of sin (Heb. *tuma*) which also has 50 gates. The Jews understand this part of counting the Omer, but they don't understand that the key to the whole process is Christ.

The Template and Pattern

Counting the Omer is called Sefirat Ha Omer and is derived from the offering of the Omer on that 16th day of Nisan and is a cycle of seven and completion. It symbolizes that we can acquire moral freedom (perfection) only through seven fold intensive work on ourselves.

The various churches and off-shoots of the old Worldwide Church of God have rejected the whole process of counting the Omer, today, so they are totally ignorant of this whole process. Their sermons during this period are lackluster and inane – usually just old repetitions of sermons given years ago – blah and spiritually empty.

This should be an exciting period of time! If you knew that Christ was coming to visit your home on a specific day, wouldn't you be cleaning, sweeping and making everything spotless and orderly before the time He was to arrive?

Christ is the one who provides the Holy Spirit to overcome our human nature, the world and the devil. He is the One who instituted the countdown of the omer, and the wave sheaf offering.

When a couple marries, and enters into a covenant relationship, as head of the family the husband is responsible to Christ for both himself and his wife. For example: A groom may not explain everything to his bride before marriage. But he may decide sometime during that marriage that they are going to move from California to the state of Washington. His wife might think to say, "I did not agree to that. I'm going to stay right here. Why didn't you tell me you were going to move to the state of Washington?"

Or she could say "Yes, Lord" as Sara did to Abraham when he said they would be moving to Canaan. Sara could have reacted and said. "WHAT, you want me to live in a tent and be the wife of a sheep herder? Not on your life! I'm going to stay here in the cultural country of Babylon!"

Genesis 19 tells of Lot's family who lived in the populous but depraved cities of Sodom and Gomorrah which God was getting ready to destroy. Lot was found to be righteous, so the angels of God came to warn Lot to make haste! *GET OUT!* As his two daughters, his wife and Lot *lingered* the men (angels) laid hold upon all their hands and brought them forth and set them outside the city saying, "ESCAPE to the mountain for your life. DO NOT LOOK BEHIND YOU, or stay in any part of the plain, *or you will be consumed.*"

God granted Lot's plea to stay in a small city. Then the Lord destroyed those cities, all the plain, all inhabitants of the cities with fire and brimstone from heaven. But Lot's wife LOOKED BACK – she could not let go of her life in Sodom—and she was turned into a pillar of salt in the fiery destruction which overwhelmed the cities of the plain. Why? Because she did not obey God. She did not have faith. She disobeyed and died.

What about us?

All of God's servants SERVED HIM in FAITH, even though they did not know everything from the beginning. We are to keep the Omer mitzvah (good deed) in faith that there will be a blessing. If we obey God's command to count, there will be a blessing. If we disobey, there will be a curse.

It is for our benefit to help us to become overcomers and develop righteous, godly character, that God gave us this commandment.

The Spiritual Struggle

The Christian life is a life of spiritual struggle. We must learn to keep our eyes on the goal. The apostle Paul knew this.

Paul understood that we must endure to the end – that we must be FAITHFUL till our dying day, or till Christ returns (whichever comes first!). Paul wrote, of his own spiritual battle: “Do you not know that in a race the runners all compete, but only one receives the prize? RUN in such a way that you may WIN it. Athletes exercise self-control in all things; they do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable one. So I do not run aimlessly, nor do I box as though beating the air; but I punish my body and enslave it, so that after proclaiming to others I myself should not be disqualified” (I Cor.9:24-27, NRSV).

Notice this in the Amplified Parallel Bible: “Do you not know that in a race all the runners compete, but [only] one receives the prize? So RUN [your race] so that you may lay hold [of the prize] and make it yours. . .

“Therefore I do not run uncertainly (without definite aim). I do not box like one beating the air and striking without an adversary. But [like a boxer] I buffet my body [handle it roughly, discipline it by hardships] and subdue it, for fear that after proclaiming to others the Gospel and things pertaining to it, I MYSELF SHOULD BECOME UNFIT [not stand the test, be unapproved and rejected as a counterfeit].”

Seven Weeks of Concentrated Overcoming

It is a remarkable fact that there are “seven weeks” that we count the Omer. These provide us seven optimal weeks to work on ourselves – seven weeks of concentrated, distilled “overcoming.”

Paul also wrote about this battle in the second letter to the Corinthians. He declared, “For though we walk (live) in the flesh, we are not carrying on our warfare according to the flesh and using mere human weapons. For the weapons of our WARFARE are not physical [weapons of flesh and blood], but they are mighty before God for the overthrow and destruction of strongholds, [inasmuch as we] refute arguments and theories and reasonings and every proud and lofty thing that sets itself up against the [true] knowledge of God; and we lead every thought and purpose away captive into the OBEDIENCE of Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One), being in readiness to punish every [insubordinate for his] disobedience, when your own submission and OBEDIENCE [as a church] are fully secure and complete” (II Cor.10:3-6).

Notice! We are not yet “fully secure and complete.”

Rather, as Paul himself wrote to the Philippians, again quoting the Amplified Parallel Bible, “[For my determined purpose is] that I may know Him [that I may progressively become more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him, perceiving and recognizing and understanding the wonders of His Person more strongly and clearly], and that I may in that same way come to know the power outflowing from His resurrection [which it exerts over believers], and that I may so share His sufferings as to be continually TRANSFORMED [in spirit into His likeness even] to His death, [in the hope] that IF POSSIBLE I may attain to the [personal and moral] RESURRECTION . . . Not that I have now attained [this ideal], or have already been made perfect, but I PRESS ON TO LAY HOLD OF (GRASP) and make my own, that for which Christ Jesus (the Messiah) has laid hold of me and made me His own.” (Phil.3:10-12).

Notice Paul's attitude! He did not believe or claim to already have salvation, but sought to progressively GROW up into the likeness of Christ, so that "IF POSSIBLE" he may attain to the resurrection of the righteous dead, or salvation!

Paul goes on, saying, "I do not consider, brethren, that I have captured and made it my own [yet]; but one thing I do [it is my one aspiration]: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I PRESS ON TOWARD THE GOAL TO WIN the [supreme and heavenly] prize to which God in Christ Jesus is calling us upward." So, Paul declares, "So let those [of us] who are spiritually mature and full-grown have this mind and these convictions; and if in any respect you have a different attitude of mind, God will make that clear to you also" (verses 13-15).

Once we begin the Christian life, there is a lot of overcoming to do – straining forward to make sure that we will enter the Kingdom of God and attain to salvation! We must "PRESS ON," we must "STRAIN FORWARD," and make sure that we win the ultimate prize!

A Program for Overcoming

Since counting the Omer pictures overcoming sin and developing the righteous-ness and character of God in our lives, and becoming more and more Christ-like (see Gal.4:19), we should use these days to pray about overcoming and growing in God's holiness and righteous character.

Each day it is helpful to pray that day especially about the characteristic of God which we are working on developing in our lives, pertinent to that day. For example, the Jews derive seven major characteristics of God which are mentioned in the Old Testament, which can be applied to the Omer count. These seven attributes are also characteristic of the "seven patriarchs" mentioned in the Scriptures – Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Aaron, Joseph, and David. The characteristics are:

Chesed	Loving-kindness	Abraham
Gevurah	Strength, Power	Isaac
Tiferet	Harmony, Peace	Jacob
Netzach	Victory, Triumph	Moses
Hod	Glory, Majesty	Aaron
Yesod	Foundation	Joseph
Malkut	Sovereignty	David

Developing Positive Godly Character Traits

We can also use each day to work on one of the attributes of God's Holy Spirit in our lives. Paul wrote to the brethren in Galatia, these plain and instructive words: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections [or, "passions," marginal reading] and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another" (Galatians 5:22-26).

There are actually nine fruits of the Spirit listed here. But if we combine gentleness and

meekness, which go together, and faith and self-control (temperance), then we have seven combinations of Divine Attributes. The apostle Paul lists them in Galatians 5:19-20.

1. Love
2. Joy
3. Peace
4. Patience (Long-suffering)
5. Gentleness, Goodness
6. Faith (Faithfulness)
7. Meekness, Self Control

Counting the Omer, for forty-nine days, till Pentecost, helps us to concentrate during this period and focus our minds on overcoming our sins and weaknesses and developing the attributes of God in our lives. This helps us to have a PLAN of overcoming! It is Biblically-based! And it will help you to be a true overcomer in your life!

To make the most of the Omer season, and the days of counting the Omer, it is vital to spend extra time in earnest, heartfelt prayer every day, to put your heart into your prayers for spiritual growth and overcoming. As Jeremiah wrote, “Arise, cry out in the night, at the beginning of the watches, pour out your heart like water before the presence of the LORD!” (Lamentations 2:19). Become the embodiment of prayer like David who wrote, “I am all prayer” (Psalm 109:4, Tanakh, marginal reading). The apostle James wrote, “The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective” (James 5:16, NRSV).

The Seven *Sefirot* and Fruits of the Spirit

Chesed – loving-kindness. This is also known as *Ahavah* (love). This quality is associated with Abraham, the father of the faithful, who loved God so much he was willing to sacrifice Isaac, his true son, if God so required it. Abraham was also noted for his hospitality. This quality refers to unconditional acceptance and love of others – out-going concern and care.

Love is also the first of the fruits of God's Holy Spirit! Love is the bedrock of the Law of God – the first great commandment is to love God, and the second is to love our neighbor. “For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous” (I John 5:3). “Love works no ill to his neighbor: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law” (Rom.13:10).

Gevurah – Strength. This quality is also known as *Yirah* – awe or fear. This quality is connected with Isaac. It refers to strength that comes from containment, the power to contain and hold the energy of love. It is the power of inhibition, the power of discrimination and judgment that allows one to make wise, right choices. Isaac’s name means “laughter.”

Joy is the second fruit of the Spirit of God – unbounded laughter and happiness. God’s Word says, “The joy of the LORD is your strength” (Neh.8:10). Thus true joy is a source of strength – *gevurah*. “Rejoice in the Lord always,” Paul wrote; “and again I say, Rejoice. Let your moderation be known to all men” (Phil.4:4-5).

Tiferet – Beauty. This quality is also known as *Rachamim* – mercifulness. “It is also a symbol of PEACE because it represents the perfect BALANCING of the left and right sides,

integrating love and containment . . . *Tiferet* is associated with Jacob” (Joel Ziff, *Mirrors in Time*, p.105).

Peace is the third attribute of God’s Spirit! Jesus Christ said, “In me ye shall have peace” (John 16:33). “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid” (John 14:27). Paul also wrote: “And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus” (Phil.4:7). Jacob was a man of peace. He was noted as a peace-maker.

Netzach – Victory, Triumph. This begins the second triad (or division of three qualities) of the Sefirot. This quality is associated with Moses, who triumphantly led Israel out of Egypt “with a high hand.” This quality translates *chesed*, *gevurah*, and *tefirat* into bold action and accomplishment with power, energy, planning, and activity.

Gentleness and meekness are two of the fruits of the Spirit of God which seem to fit together. These also are defining characteristics of Moses. Why did Moses achieve such *netzach* – such victory and success? Because he was a man God could use and work with, a man to whom “success” would not “go to his head” and cause him to swell up like a puffed balloon. We read of Moses: “Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth” (Num.12:3). And David writes of the quality of gentleness, speaking of God Himself, “Thy gentleness hath made me great” (Psalm 18:35). He wrote, “It is God that girdeth me with strength, and maketh my way perfect” (Psa.18:32).

The apostle James tells us: “But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality [favoritism], and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace” (James 3:17-18).

Hod – Glory. This is the quality that lights up a person's face, the inner strength that causes the face to “glow” with confidence, peacefulness, serenity, dignity, honor, and majesty. It is associated with Aaron, the brother of Moses. Aaron was noted as a “peace” maker, and a man of honor. Sometimes he went too far in seeking to be a “peace-maker,” as when he molded the golden calf for the rebellious Israelites. He sought to preserve the people in unity, so he fell into a spiritual trap. Nevertheless, he was a noteworthy man of God, and a man of wisdom and inner strength. God’s word says of such a man, “Who is as the wise man? and who knoweth the interpretation of a thing? a man’s wisdom maketh his face to shine, and the BOLDNESS [strength] of his face shall be changed” (Eccl.8:1). God also says, “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in UNITY! It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments” (Psa.133:1-2). A key part of true “glory” is humility, meekness – otherwise *hod* becomes puffed up pride and false glory – vanity!

Goodness is the sixth fruit of the Spirit of God. This also was a strong quality in Aaron, and a quality we must strive to inculcate into our innermost character. David writes, “Good and upright is the LORD: therefore will he teach sinners in the way” (Psa.25:8). Jesus Christ declared, “A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things” (Matt.12:35). Paul wrote, “For we are his workmanship, created unto GOOD WORKS, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them” (Eph.2:10).

Yesod – Foundation. This quality is the integration of both *netzach* and *hod*, and is the balance between power and presence. Joseph, the son of Jacob, became the prime minister of Egypt, and virtual ruler of the world, after suffering slavery as a teenager, and imprisonment for a crime he never committed. Yet after these harrowing trials he rose by God’s miraculous deliverance to an exalted governmental position. He is the embodiment and epitome of this characteristic. Joseph by his suffering and continual growth and strength through contact with God, and His Spirit, became the foundation of the world, delivering the whole earth from the ravages of the most terrible famine mankind had seen up to that time. His wisdom and planning and spiritual strength provided a way to save his own family, and millions of others.

Longsuffering is the fourth fruit of the Spirit of God. Certainly, this characteristic was well-illustrated in the life of Joseph. Despite his trials and tests, tribulations and suffering, Joseph remained faithful to God and worshipped Him through it all. His long-suffering and patience and endurance in well-doing finally led to his exaltation to high office where he could serve in a much greater capacity. The apostle Paul wrote: “Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward. For ye have need of PATIENCE, that after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry” (Heb.10:35-37). James added, “My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations [trials, sufferings]; knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing” (James 1:2-4).

Connected with this trait is the quality of “self control” – self mastery – which is also one of the fruits of God’s Holy Spirit. Self-control and long-suffering go together like hash browns and eggs. They are two aspects of the same quality – endurance – and constitute a “foundation” for true achievement!

Malchut – Kingdom, kingship, royalty, sovereignty. This quality represents manifestation, the translation of energy into action and activity – and means literally “KINGDOM.” *Malchut* is associated with the *Shekinah* – the “Presence” – of God. King David is connected to this *Sefirah* as he is the one whom God used to bring the Kingdom of God to fruition and accomplishment as a type, in his day. He was himself a type of the Messianic King, Yeshua – and the promised Messiah was to be born of his descendants, of his royal lineage.

These powerful Seven *Sefirot* of God – these SEVEN manifestations of the Holy Spirit – are mighty vehicles to spiritual growth and becoming godlike. If we will meditate on these attributes of God, and ponder them, and reflect upon them, and study them in the Scriptures, and spend time thinking about them, and considering HOW we might express them more fully and completely in our own daily lives – these divine spiritual energies will provide us a powerful tool to use to become the true SONS OF GOD in actual spiritual image and character likeness.

What a glorious destiny God has in store for those who serve Him, obey Him, count the omer and make the omer count in character growth and development! One day soon, God willing, we will shine like the sun in its glory, and endure like the sun, as masters of eternity, ever-ruling sons in the expanding family of God, forever and ever!

As you “count the omer,” make the omer counting practice really COUNT – for *you!* Enter into the dazzling, radiant JOY of “counting the omer” faithfully, and you will be blessed!

Why Is There So Much CONFUSION, MADNESS, and Ignorance, in the Churches about the Counting of the Omer and Establishing the Date of Pentecost?

Follow of follies! It is sheer madness! The End-time Churches of God are mired in ignorance and stubborn rebellion against God and His pivotal commandments!

Look at the picture! Most churches totally ignore God's commanded eternal annual holy days, like Passover and Pentecost – and those which acknowledge and accept them in principle refuse to study why the Jewish people and rabbis observe them on a particular day, and instead go astray and follow their own human ideas and methods of determining Pentecost, counting the days from the wrong date! Thereby they all ignore the proven TRUTH and follow FABLES and LIES!

Satan the devil has insidiously foisted off HIS version of the “truth” on the end-time churches of God, with great glee and mischievous laughter! And people seem to swallow his “medicine” hook, line and sinker, not realizing that it is a deadly POISON which will rob them of eternal life and health in the Kingdom of God!

No wonder God says of the last, final generation of His Church, before the coming of Christ, that it has become “wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked” and says to them, “I counsel you to buy of Me gold refined in the FIRE [Great Tribulation!], that you may be rich [spiritually]; and white garments [righteousness instead of filthy rags – see Psalm 119:172], that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see [those of you who are BLIND spiritually – the vast majority, today!]. As many as I love I rebuke and

chasten. Therefore BE ZEALOUS [margin, “eager”] and REPENT [change your ways now, before it is too late!]” (Rev.3:17-19).

How many have ever heard a sermon on “counting the omer”? How many even know what an “omer” is? How many realize that the way their church counts to Pentecost was established by the Sadducees, the priestly class of the time of Christ which Christ Himself said was “mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God” (Matt.22:29). They denied the existence of angels, denied the resurrection, but counted Pentecost from the weekly Sabbath during the Days of Unleavened Bread, in total defiance of the Jewish mainstream and the Pharisees, who counted from the day after the first Passover holy day each year! Notice! Christ said the Sadducees were IGNORANT of the Scriptures! So why do the churches follow them? It makes no sense at all!

The apostle Paul, a true believer and obedient to Christ and the faith, wrote more of the New Testament than any other writer. Yet he boasted that his religious background was as that of a Pharisee, not a Sadducee, and said to the Philippians, “If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a PHARISEE . . . CONCERNING THE RIGHTEOUSNESS WHICH IS IN THE LAW, BLAMELESS” (Phil.3:4-6).

Notice! As a Pharisee, Paul says he kept the law of God BLAMELESSLY – that is, righteously! And the Pharisees, like the Jewish rabbis today, counted to Pentecost from the day after the Passover high holy day of Nisan 15 – not from the first day of the week following the Sabbath which could occur at any time during the Feast of Unleavened Bread, thus ignoring the vital LINK between Passover itself and Pentecost, the last holy day of the spring holy day season!

Christ Himself said the scribes and Pharisees “sat in Moses’ seat” – not the Sadducees (Matt.23:2-3). WHY DO PEOPLE TODAY BLINDLY INSIST ON FOLLOWING ERROR, AND THEREBY INCUR SIN AND BECOME BLAMEWORTHY, IN GOD’S SIGHT?

It’s high time people take charge of their own lives, and STUDY THE SCRIPTURES, and QUIT following mere MEN who establish themselves as “leaders,” “ministers,” and who are really misguided and sinning FOOLS in God’s sight! God says of them, in the words of Paul, that they are “always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth” (II Tim.3:7), and have “a form of godliness, but denying its power. And from such people turn away!” (verse 5) – in other words, stay away from them, ignore them, get away from them, don’t listen to them!

Paul warns the church, “For the time will come when they will not endure SOUND DOCTRINE, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to FABLES’ (II Tim.4:3-4).

What about YOU? Are you willing to take charge of your life, and not just believe any man or so-called minister, and CHECK UP AND PROVE the doctrine – the truth? Paul exhorts us all, “PROVE ALL THINGS; hold fast that which is good” (I Thess.5;21).

We offer the following list of articles, free of charge, to help you in your endeavor to learn the TRUTH of God, and to “prove” the truth, and know what is right and good in God’s sight, and what is sheer unadulterated error and false!

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What about YOU? Are you willing to take the time to open your Bible, to STUDY to show yourself “approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of God” (II Tim.2:15)?

Do not follow cunningly devised fables! Beware of “the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting” (Eph.4:14).

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- How to Count Pentecost!
- The Amazing Truth about Pentecost!
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Holy Days for 2010

Passover Seder Evening	Wednesday	March 31
1 st Day of Unleavened Bread	Thursday	April 1
Wave Sheaf Offering Day	Friday	April 2 (Omer Count Begins)
7 th Day of Unleavened Bread	Wednesday	April 7
Pentecost (Shavuot)	Friday	May 21 (Sivan 6)
Feast of Trumpets (Yom Teruah)	Sabbath	September 11
Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur)	Monday	September 20
1 st Day of Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot)	Sabbath	September 25
7 th Day of Feast of Tabernacles	Friday	October 1
8 th Day (Shemini Atzeret)	Sabbath	October 2

Write for your own copy of the 2010 New Moon and Holy Day Calendar for the coming year!

When did the Sadducees keep Passover?

When should the Passover be observed? What about the practice of the Sadducees, during the 2nd temple times? Did they eat the Passover at the beginning of Nisan 14, thus providing credence for those who keep the “Lord’s supper” as the “Passover” at the Beginning of Nisan 14?

William F. Dankenbring

Some are of the mistaken idea that the Sadducees observed Passover at the beginning of Nisan 14, after sunset of Nisan 13. This is not true. They observed it at the end of Nisan 14, beginning of Nisan 15, like the Pharisees did. The only difference between them was that they considered the “twilight” at the end of the 14th, after sunset, as part of the 14th of Nisan, and this portion of time they considered “ben ha arbayim,” or “between the two evenings.” In their mind the 14th closed at the end of twilight, not at sunset itself, so they sacrificed their lambs during that twilight period.

Technically, we would say that the day begins and ends at sunset, but the Sadducees began and ended the day after “twilight” – the “inbetween period” leading up to complete night. They most certainly did not slay the Passover lambs at twilight at the beginning of Nisan 14 – there is no historical record of any one or any group in Israel or Judah doing such a thing.

Some have gotten confused thinking that since the Sadducees considered the twilight time after sunset and before nightfall as “ben ha arbayim,” the time of the slaying of the Passover lambs (Exo.12:6), that they must have done so since the day ends with sunset. However, they did not look at it that way. Actually, the Scriptures say “from even to even shall you celebrate your Sabbath” (Lev.23:32). It does not say “sunset.” Even is a broader period of time, erev, in Hebrew, and means both late afternoon and twilight, before nightfall or dark.

Ben Ha Arbayim

According to the Scriptures, the Passover was to be sacrificed “between the two evenings.” That is, toward even. “According to the Talmud, the ‘first evening’ is the time in the afternoon when the heat of the sun begins to decrease, about 3 o’clock; and the ‘second evening’ commences with sunset. Josephus relates that the Passover sacrifice ‘was offered from the ninth to the eleventh hour’, i.e. between 3 and 5 p.m.” (note at Exo.12:6, *Pentateuch & Haftorahs*, edited by Dr. J. H. Hertz, late chief rabbi of the British Empire, p.254).

The Stone edition of the *Chumash* relates, regarding “ben ha arbayim,” “in the afternoon [lit., *between the evenings*]. The afternoon is given this name because it falls between two ‘sunsets’; the first is when the noontime sun begins to dip toward the horizon, and the second when it sets below the horizon (*Rashi*)” (*Chumash*, commentary on Exo.12:6, page 351).

The Sadducees, however, interpreted the phrase “ben ha arbayim” as meaning twilight – the period between sunset and nightfall, when the stars come out. So they tended to sacrifice their lambs after sunset of the ending of the 14th, but before the onset of night – a brief span of about 45 minutes.

Says the *New Westminster Dictionary of the Bible*, on Passover, “The festival began on the 15th of Abib at evening, that is, in the beginning of the 15th day, with the sacrificial meal (Lev.23:5-6). A lamb or kid was slain between the evenings, that is, toward sunset (Exo.12:6; Deut.16:6; cf. between the 9th and 11th hours, Josephus *War* vi, 9, 3)” (“Passover,” p.705).

Jewish Practice in the Time of Christ

Declares the *Critical Experimental Commentary*, of the phrase “between the evenings,” “In the early period of their history, the Hebrews had no proper divisions of time, and accordingly periods of the day were indicated in a very loose and general manner (Gen.15:12; 43:16, etc.). ‘Between the evenings’ is a phrase of similar import, denoting the part of the day between the declining and the setting sun, or between noon and sunset. As the slaughtering of the numerous victims required would of necessity occupy a considerable time, no specific hour was specified, farther than that the operation should be performed ‘between the evenings.’ But in order to be within the limits defined, it was necessary that it should be begun and completed between the commencement of the first and termination of the second evening. On the republication of the law the time was definitely fixed at sunset (Deut.16:6). But the Israelites did not consider themselves bound by that expression to wait till sunset; and hence, availing themselves of the latitude which the general term ‘*ereb* (evening) afforded, they were accustomed to kill the paschal lamb an hour or two before that period . . .” (vol.1, page 310).

But, the commentary goes on, “In later times a controversy arose in reference to the time thus marked. The Samaritans and Karaites considered it as the interval between sunset and darkness . . . But the Pharisees and Rabbinites (*Mishna*, Pesach, 5, 3), who maintained that the first evening began after noon [first evening] , and the second with the sunset, taught that the paschal lamb was to be killed in the interval between the ninth and eleventh hour, which, at the time of the equinox, corresponded to one, three, and six o’clock P.M. Josephus states that such was the practice of the Jews in the time of our Lord” (*ibid.*).

The people of that time adhered to the practice of the Pharisees and Rabbinites. The multitudes followed their reckoning, and Christ Himself acknowledged that they are

the ones who “sat in Moses’ seat” (Matt.23:2-3), and that we should do as they declared on these matters of the law. He never corrected them or lamblasted them for being in error on when they killed the Passover. In fact, He our Passover Lamb died on the stake at the very time the Jews were sacrificing their Passover lambs! (Mark 15:34). By His silence and by His death at the time the Passover lambs were being killed testifies and proves that they had it right!

It should be clear, however, that nobody but nobody sacrificed the Passover lambs on Nisan 13, and then ate them at the beginning of Nisan 14. That would have been an utter violation of the Law – and the penalty would have been to be “cut off” from Israel, and regarded as an extreme heretic and infidel!

Says the *Adam Clarke Commentary* about the Passover, “*In the evening] beyn haarbayim*, ‘between the two evenings.’ The Jews divided the day into *morning* and *evening*: till the sun passed the *meridian* all was *morning* or *forenoon*; after that, all was *afternoon* or *evening*. Their *first evening* began just after *twelve o’clock*, and continued till *sunset*; their *second evening* began at *sunset* and continued till *night*, i.e., during the whole time of *twilight*; between twelve o’clock, therefore, and the termination of *twilight*, the Passover was to be offered” (vol.1, Exo.12:6 commentary, p.350).

The Jewish authority Maimonides says, “the killing of the Passover is after mid-day, and if they kill it before it is not lawful; and they do not kill it till after the daily evening sacrifice, and burning of incense: and after they have trimmed the lamps they begin to kill the paschal lambs until the end of the day” (*ibid.*, p.351).

Notice that it was forbidden and unlawful to kill the Passover BEFORE MID-DAY of Nisan or Abib 14 – high noon, as it were! It had to be slain “between the two evenings,” which began at mid-day and ended at twilight or dusk.

To kill the Passover the day or evening before, then, would have been tantamount to BLASPHEMY – A GREAT SACRILEGE – an act of overt REBELLION AND WICKEDNESS!

God means what He says in His Word. His instructions are complete and plain. The Passover therefore could not be observed by anybody BEFORE THE APPOINTED TIME – and that time was NOT the end of Nisan 13 and the beginning of Nisan 14. Those who claim to keep such an observance as “the Passover” are in dire ignorance, resisting the Spirit and Law of God, and are being led ASTRAY from the true faith once delivered to the saints (Jude 3-4).

Isn’t it about time we take these matters seriously, and diligently, and study to show ourselves APPROVED by the Lord (II Tim.2:15), and KEEP His Passover the way He ordained it, in Spirit and in truth!

What Do You Mean, “the First Day of Unleavened Bread”?

QUESTION: “For once, I find it very difficult to fully agree with you on how you explain away the problem of Matthew 26:17. No matter how I read that verse, it DOES say: ‘Now on the First Day of unleavened Bread the disciples asked . . . Where do You want us to prepare for You to eat the Passover?’ This verse has always puzzled me. I have, kind of, considered this a ‘slip of the tongue’ or a mistranslation because IF He was supposedly asked this on the first day of Unleavened Bread THEN the disciples were indeed TOO LATE. After all, by that time they should have ALREADY partaken of the Passover dinner (as seemingly they had not considered it some days before). Why, indeed, ask this on that very day, whether they did this at the beginning of the 15th of Abib or in the day part of the 15th – it was STILL already AFTER Christ was crucified and buried on the 14th!”

ANSWER: Strange, isn’t it, that they would appear to wait so long before asking such a question – why, it appears, from the surface context, that the Feast had already begun, when they asked about where to observe the Passover! Yet the Passover introduces the Feast – it doesn’t come “later on” during the Feast of seven days! What gives?

The problem is simply one of mistranslation. Notice that the words “day of the Feast” are in italics. This means they were supplied by the translators and were NOT in the original Text of Matthew!

A Crucial Mistranslation

Matthew’s account says:

“Now the **FIRST *day*** of the *feast of* UNLEAVENED BREAD the disciples came to Jesus, saying unto him, Where wilt thou that we PREPARE for thee to eat the passover?”

“And he said, Go into the city to such a man, and say unto him, The Master saith, My time is at hand; I will keep the passover at thy house with my disciples. And the disciples did as Jesus had appointed them; and they MADE READY THE PASSOVER” (Matt.26:17-19).

Mark’s account has:

“And the **FIRST DAY** of unleavened bread, *when they killed the passover*, his disciples said unto him, Where wilt thou that we *go and PREPARE* that thou mayest eat the passover? . . . And his disciples went forth, and came into the city,

and found as he had said unto them: and they *made ready the passover*” (Mark 14:12-16).

Luke’s account declares:

“Then came the **DAY** of unleavened bread, when the passover must be **killed**. And he sent Peter and John, saying, Go and PREPARE us the passover, that we may eat. And they said unto him, Where wilt thou that we PREPARE? . . . And they went, and found as he had said unto them: and they MADE READY the Passover” (Luke 22:7-13).

Notice! The King James Version has inserted the words “day” and “feast of” in Matthew’s account. These words do not belong! In the original Greek, as the *Englishman’s Greek-English Interlinear* shows, the correct rendering is as follows:

“Now on the first [day] of unleavened bread.”

Thus the real Greek reads, “Now on the first of unleavened bread.” However, the first *day* of unleavened bread would not come till Nisan 15th arrived! What does the expression “the first of unleavened bread” really mean? The Greek word for “FIRST” here is #4418 in Strong’s Concordance – *PROTOS* – and means, “FOREMOST (IN TIME, PLACE, ORDER OF IMPORTANCE): -- BEFORE, BEGINNING, BEST, CHIEF.”

Therefore, this verse in Matthew merely states, “Now in the *beginning of* unleavened bread,” or “Now *before* unleavened bread”! This refers to a period of TIME at the beginning of or preceding the Feast of Unleavened Bread – *an indefinite period which is not specified but which is related to the beginning of the Feast of Unleavened Bread!*

The Word “DAY”

But what about the word “day” as found in the accounts of Mark and Luke? Mark says it was the “first day” of unleavened bread “when they killed the passover.” So this could not be the first day of the FEAST (Nisan 15), because the lambs were killed the DAY BEFORE the Feast began (Nisan 14 they were slain).

Luke says it was “the day” of unleavened bread when the passover “must be killed.” Many ASSUME that this MUST mean Nisan 14, because that is the literal 24-hour day the passover was commanded to be killed (Exo.12:6). However, the truth of the matter is that the Greek word “DAY” also has *many different meanings!*

Notice! The Greek word translated “day” in these verses is *HEMERA*. It is #2250 in Strong’s Concordance and means – “DAY, i.e. (lit.) *the time space between dawn and dark, or the whole 24 hours . . . fig. A PERIOD (ALWAYS DEFINED MORE OR LESS CLEARLY IN THE CONTEXT): -- AGE . . . DAY . . . TIME, WHILE, YEARS.*”

Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words defines *hemera* as follows: “(a) the period of natural light . . . (b) the same, but figuratively for a period of opportunity for service . . . (c) one period of alternate light and darkness. . . (d) *A PERIOD OF UNDEFINED LENGTH MARKED BY CERTAIN CHARACTERISTICS, such as ‘the day of small things,’ Zech.4:10, of perplexity and distress, Isa.17:11; Obad.12-14; of prosperity and of adversity, Ecc.7:14; of trial and testing, Ps.95:8; of salvation, Isa.49:8; 2 Cor.6:2; cf. Luke 19:42; of evil, Eph.6:13, of wrath and revelation of the judgments of God, Rom.2:5; (e) an APPOINTED TIME, Eccl.8:6; Eph.4:30 . . . (f) a notable defeat in battle, etc., Isa.9:4 . . . (g) by metonymy – ‘when,’ ‘at the time when’ . . .” Clearly, this word has many different uses in the Greek language and most certainly does NOT always refer to a particular 24-hour “day”!*

Notice how it is used in various Scriptures in the New Testament!

“Your father Abraham rejoiced to see *my day [the period of Christ's coming]*: and he saw it, and was glad” (John 8:56).

“At that TIME [*HEMERA*] there was a great persecution against the church” (Acts 8:1).

“But to Israel he saith, All DAY long [i.e., for a very long time] I have stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people” (Rom.10:21).

“But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that ONE DAY is with the Lord AS A THOUSAND YEARS, and a thousand years as one day” (II Pet.3:8).

With this understanding then, we see that the verses in Matthew, Mark and Luke can be translated, and understood, as follows:

“Now on the *beginning period [time]* of unleavened bread, the disciples came to Jesus . . .” (Matt.26:17).

“And the *beginning period of unleavened bread*, when they killed the Passover” (Mark 14:12).

“Then came the *TIME of unleavened bread*, when the passover must be killed” (Luke 22:7).

We know the Scriptures do not contract themselves. They cannot be broken (John 10:35). They are pure truth. However, translators often make mistakes, and lacking a whole vantage point to understand the truth, they easily become mixed up and supply an erroneous translation which leads to contradictions and poses huge problems, because the original text is not properly understood. As Sherlock Holmes would say, “Elementary, my dear Watson.” Be sure to read our article “A Profound Look at Jesus’ Last Week.”

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We will wave the “lulavs” – “the boughs of goodly trees, branches of palm trees, and willows of the brook” (verse 40), and “REJOICE before the LORD” (same verse)! There will also be messages on Christian living, overcoming, Biblical doctrine, and Bible prophecy and the coming Kingdom of God! Bring your shofars and lulavs and hearty appetites for God’s Truth and good spiritual fellowship and feasting! And we will “*REJOICE*” with “*joy unspeakable and full of glory*”!

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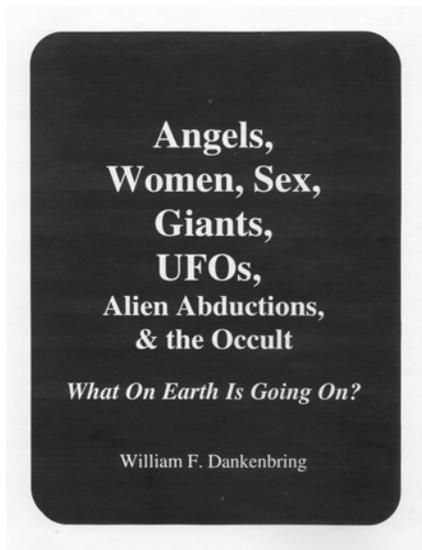
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Return of the Nephilim –

Did Alien Beings Marry Human Women Before the Deluge?



Did ancient beings from another dimension come down to earth, and breed with human women, producing offspring known as “the Nephilim,” Zamzummin, Rephaim – the “giants” of antiquity? Who were they? What was their purpose? Can “angels” – celestial beings – become flesh and blood and cohabit with women, siring children? What really happened in the days of Noah, that brought on the wrath of Almighty God?

Many ancient sources testify that certain celestial beings, under the influence of Lucifer, rebelled big time against the God of heaven, and violated His laws which ordain that there must be no inter-breeding between different “kinds” or “species” among the created beings of the Universe.

The Bible itself bears witness. In Genesis 6:1-4, we read: “The *sons of God* saw that the daughters of men were fair, and they took wives of all that they desired and chose. . . There were giants in the earth in those days – and also afterward – when the *sons of God* lived with the daughters of men, and they bore CHILDREN to them” (Amplified Parallel Bible). Who were these “sons of God”? The Septuagint Version has this verse, “the sons of God (*Alexandrian*, ANGELS of God) having seen the daughters of men.” Josephus, in *Antiquities of the Jews*, says, “for many angels of God accompanied with women, and begat sons that proved unjust, and despisers of all that was good, on account of the confidence they had in their own strength, for the tradition is that these men did what resembled the acts of those whom the Grecians called GIANTS” (Jos., *Ant.*, Bk.1, III, 1). Says the translator William Whiston, in a footnote, “This notion, that the fallen angels were, in some sense, the fathers of the old giants, was the constant opinion in antiquity.” Angels are called the “sons of God” in the book of Job: “Now there was a day when the *sons (ANGELS) of God* came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan (the adversary and accuser) also came among them” (Job 1:6). Did some of these angels rebel against God and have sex with women? Read the evidence and discover the astounding, mind-boggling TRUTH!

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Letters from Our Readers

"I wish to thank you very much for the tapes I just received. I am so thankful to God and you for the privilege of having knowledge that so few people have been given. It is very humbling to understand what has been given.

"This has been a week in which it is difficult to find the words to describe What has happened. How many brethren, and people in society are open minded without blinders. This very country is disintegrating before our very eyes, yet all the wrong things are being read into what is taking place.

"The State of the Union message has to be the bottom of the barrel in how it was presented by our leader who is delusional and angry. We are witnessing the unfolding of America's first true blue dictator. Obama's agenda is being shoved down the throats of the American people so quickly that very, very few people are able to see that it's exactly how Hitler came to power. It's as if Obama is reading a National Socialist handbook, and the American people are falsely believing that the election of Brown in Massachusetts is going to turn the tide. The inconvenience of the end of the Kennedy era is a mere speed bump to Obama, Pelosi and Reid. If any thing, the end of the Kennedy era has brought about the revealing of the true Obama. He is angry and it is only a matter of time until he takes the same steps that Hitler did. Dissenters will be arrested and imprisoned, or will simply be silenced by internment camps and ultimate death. Just this week broadcaster Glenn Beck mentioned that his days may be numbered. What is now admitted would have sounded preposterous just over a year ago .

"When looking back at the 60s and 70s, God's Church actually had a sense of urgency. Perhaps misplaced, but brethren were far more aware of what was happening than they are now. Brethren are scattering spiritually as one Church of God seems to be pitting itself against another.

"The competitive spirit is driving a wedge between friends and family, and there is a blindness that is alarming. I am just one of a

number of brethren who are sickened by the total lack of urgency in God's Church. Thank you for your dedication to God's way of life. I fear for the future of lukewarm brethren and ministers. So many are falling into Satan's trap of complacency.

"In prison it is an atmosphere in which a person cannot afford to sit idly by. God's way of life is an absolute must in order to survive. I thank God that I am afforded the time to listen to your tapes, and read literature. Thank you for the reminder that we must also do personal Bible study. I share a cell with a Muslim, and I look forward to the day that I have an opportunity to not only teach my cell mate, but the many thousands of other prisoners that I see each day.

"I want to thank you again for the work you are doing, and it was not a coincidence that I happened to take an interest in what you are saying and writing. God has understood the injustice of my incarceration, and through the personal hell I have experienced the mere words sent in this letter can't express my appreciation for what I have learned.

"My prayers continue for you and Cappy. I also pray for those who are assisting in the work you are doing. I receive a spiritual adrenal in rush each time I listen to a tape or read an article."
-- Ohio

"Thanks, first, for the Prophecy Flash magazines, a magazine that answers all of my questions and awakens me to Yahweh's truths. I am in prison (Alabama), serving a life sentence since 1989. The condition here (at Limestone prison) is the same as stated in (Letters from Our Readers) Florida. There is a lack of compassion, of godly love from the administration towards those incarcerated, but what surprises me is the animosity, jealousy, and lack of love the convicts show towards each other; although a few stand out.

"The same attitude is active today in our cities where there is no love between neighbors,

families broken apart, police against the citizens. Hate seems to overflow. I am glad that Yahweh is the highest authority, and is soon to come.”

-- Alabama

“You, Mr. Dankenbring, have made of me a believer on your ministry. At first I thought that Prophecy Flash was a bluff, something nicely prepared by a wise guy with knowledge of the Bible. So I went back to read my first issue, then the second, third, and now my fourth. I started to conduct my own research from your citings of prophecy being fulfilled on my ‘Reina Valera’ Bible. When I read, it is the same, when I do my own mathematics to that being pronounced in your PF magazine, I come up with the same number. If I ask questions of politics of my fellow prisoners, who are really into it and like to discuss it, if I ask them to let me know about the economy, the homosexual policies that were being passed out, the president’s time on TV, the war and anything that they may provide, that is going to happen or has been done in politics, only to get the same response of what the PF magazine has already brought to my attention. . .

“For all the research that I have done on your magazine Prophecy Flash . . . I must say that there is none like it! There is no other magazine that speaks the truth directly to the point like Prophecy Flash!! You talk with accurate information that can be found in the Bible, of prophecies being fulfilled.

“I believe in my heart that God Almighty has sent you to do His Work on earth, and I will read all articles from your ministry that speak nothing but the truth to the human race.

“I thank you for opening my eyes that we are near the End of time. Thank you, thank you, thank you.”

-- Pennsylvania

“You really did a bang up job on this last PF. Your research and writing is head and shoulders above anybody else that I know of. Your writing shows that YAHWEH inspires you.

“You say that Yahweh would heal our country if we would repent and turn to Him but it looks more to me each day we are Israel around 720 B.C. and we will soon be sent into captivity.

“China has been allowing articles to be printed stating that China will surpass the US militarily and economically in the next 10 years. China has the oldest known continually operating society on this earth without name or location change and seem to be proud of that fact. Their leaders are looking forward to being the world leaders again but mankind has a lot to learn.

“The earthquake in Chile seems to be the beginning of the reshaping of this earth. It is said one city moved at least 10 feet and some land rose at least 10 feet. Also it is said a funny red ring was in the sky over the earthquake in Chile. . . .

“Barry Sotero has OK’d abortion to kill off the babies and if he gets his health care bill, the older people will get death counseling. Sounds like the Egyptian Pharaoh of the Exodus time. You are only wanted for the New World Order system if you have the physical strength to be a good slave.

“In this country they want to fluoridate the water, use GMO food, vaccinate us, and do everything possible to destroy our health.

“I see the Supreme Court chief justice does not agree with Barry Sotero and think he said Sotero’s speeches to Congress were more like pep rallies. Bible prophecy is being fulfilled with the feet of iron and clay. There are divisions in the powers to be.

“This world of Satan has to be brought to an end by YAH soon or we will destroy ourselves and make this earth uninhabited for life.”

-- Ohio

“Thank you very, very much for the PF. I’ve been enlightened so much about God’s foretold word. Until most of my time spent 23 hours a day in cell. Most of my attention and meditation is on the word of God. So much so I have to request for more literature. Prophetic Ministries has to be anointed to lead the end-time remnant of God. I can’t explain what’s happening to me. I’m always hungry to know more.

“But first I have to say—at the UN climate change conference in Copenhagen, the unannounced presence of Obama into the room where leaders of China, India and Brazil met to

discuss the agenda of one world government disguised as a climate conference—it reminds me of a book I once read titled Nicolai, volume 1 of a 13-part series about a fictional view of how the Great Tribulation would play out.

“Nicolai was the Antichrist from the moment he met at the United Nations at a round table in a conference room with supposed world leaders. The meeting was to reflect a take over of governments of the whole world by force. At the hands of a charismatic demonic influenced Nicolai. It turned out he was successful.”

-- USA

“Thank you for the material you have sent me. I’ve been visiting your website for a while and I enjoy many of your articles.

“I’m a baptized member of a small splinter group that has been through about 5 splits and has gotten a little sleepy.

“As the Passover is drawing closer I am very concerned about the ‘new moon’ issue. I hate the thought of being even 1 day off of the Holy Days. I’ve tried to talk to my minister about it and spent the next two Sabbaths listening to sermons about the evils of the internet, new doctrines, and itching ears!

“I see the conditions of the churches, the government, and the world. I fear the Father’s wrath for the ignorance of all us ‘sleepy sheeple.’

“You seem to be trying to learn about and do the Father’s will more than other groups, with an open mind. I want to learn more and do His will also. . . .

“Well, anyway, I respect your desire for truth and I hope to hear more of your thoughts on these things. Thanks again for the Prophecy Flash. I really look forward to it.”

-- Texas

“Thank you for everything that you and the others of TPM Church of God do for us. I am especially moved by the enlightenment I received from reading your articles about Manasseh and Ephraim. Satan has done well at blinding so many of us as to the truth of our Anglo-Saxon identity.

“I no longer feel my life is for nothing and I thirst for more of Scripture so I can learn more about our Father and Lord Jesus.

“Thank you so much and God bless each of you.”

-- USA

“Although I am in prison I must still confess before God and man that you are truly my Earthly Pastor.

“But for now let’s get to the matter in question, OK?”

“Pastor Dankenbring, I must say that I am a little upset with you, OK? And the reason for this situation is that I used to try hard with prayer and fasting to try to understand Biblical terminology and analogy. But now with the help of your amazing Biblical articles all my spiritual blindness has been so clearly unveiled and now I can see how easy it is to understand the Holy Bible.

“My God! Where have you been hiding all of my 48 years of church attendance? It seems like it is no fun anymore searching the Scriptures (John 5:39). Because you have summed up and answered all of the world Bible questions in your Powerful Truth Articles. But hey, that’s OK with me, because now I have more time to witness to all people about Prophecy Flash and the Articles.

“Thank you and God the Father for making my Bible studies a lot more easier to understand and digest, and Oh! About being ‘upset,’ I thought I would just throw in a little brotherly humor. Keep up the rewardly work of Prophet and Apostle of Yeshua.”

-- Texas

“I’m locked up and just see your magazine for the first time in my life. I only got to read a few of the articles in the Prophecy Flash and it rocked my world and has me wanting to know and learn more. I would love to start receiving the Prophecy Flash and any other literature you can send me. . . . I’ve never been very spiritual or read much but this magazine has grabbed me and has me wanting to learn more and has opened my eyes to the ways of our so-called leaders.”

-- Texas

"I write today to add a couple more brothers in the faith whom the Lord has opened their eyes, to seek diligently for God's truth. They are so hungry and I can't give them enough info. It's great to see those who thirst and hunger for righteousness sake and then be able to be used as a vessel to help feed and quench – somewhat – that thirst. It's simply amazing how the Lord is raising up men -- whose lives have differed in so many ways – get set apart from the 'world's system' and our Creator puts a new drive gear in their lives and it's all on the same narrow path that 'few' find. Chosen – set apart – under lock and key are God's most precious possessions at this time. Preparing them as diligent warriors who prepare for battle – not only how to overcome the issues that got us here in the first place – but to be able ministers to those who struggle to overcome in those areas.

"It's as Jeremiah described – 'fire shut up in our bones.' Even among 68 in each dorm sitting in close quarters and such diversity and chaos and noise – we – the few – are at true peace and contentment – for we live by His Word and its Promises and Covenants. Oh what a thrill it's been to teach of God's Sabbaths, His Feasts and Festivals. To get away and set free from the Pagan Celebrations. The liberation I see in the faces of these men whom the Lord has been dealing with . . . I've shared with all that I can. So I expect you'll be receiving more letters and requests for info from others as well, as prayers are being answered as revival fires kindle from the hearts of these men here. . . ."

-- Texas

"I'm a few days late in getting the Holy Days offering in the mail but here it is. Thanks to our great God for the opportunity of serving Him in this way. God has blessed this work with a little power (Rev.3:8) but think what would happen if He poured out His Spirit now upon His called and chosen ones?

"Thank you, Bill, and I'm including Cappy, for you are a team, for the inspiring Bible studies given.

"During these days of the Omer Count, we can thank God for giving to us Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Aaron, Joseph and David as role models in developing the characteristics of God.

"This morning a news commentator said that he hoped that within 50 years the USA will be on top as a world leader. I think, perhaps, the first fruits of the Kingdom of God will be."

-- Kansas

"It has been a number of weeks since being able to write to you. In the last year I've come very close to a stroke or heart attack on three different occasions. My latest difficulty was about 6 weeks ago. Prison is very difficult/both emotionally and physically. After realizing it may well be that a stroke or heart attack is the reality being faced; I felt it was important not to dwell on it, but to write a letter to you, and to make sure God's way of life is first in my life.

"A few weeks ago I had my tape player stolen. It was a personal famine of the word when it has come to listening to what you say. I have found that personal Bible study and listening to the tapes you send is equivalent to a hand in a glove. One is not complete without the other. Thankfully a new tape player was just received, and it is refreshing to hear your tapes once again. I want to thank you once again for sending them.

"As I watch and listen to the news I do wonder how long Americans will only express words, and not carry them out by way of violent actions. There is an anger building by the day as tyrannical rule grows in Washington, and treason is carried out with ease. When the health care bill was passed on March 21st, this country has become split in a way very few could have imagined. People are very angry, and Tea Party demonstrations show only the beginning stage of the frustration felt by those who know this country is being destroyed from within. Only by armed revolution would the country stand a chance of being saved, but civil unrest will totally backfire. I'm of course speaking from a totally carnal viewpoint since I know that what we are seeing is the establishment of the prophesied beast system. Regardless of how many Americans would attempt to rise up and take back the country, God's will can not be thwarted. There will be many who will eventually give their lives trying, but what is happening is spiritual warfare.

"There is a black canvass of depression hanging over the country. Could it be that Satan and demons have been granted greater power over

this country in a way it has never happened before? Satan is known as the prince of the power of the air as explained in Eph. 2:2. There is a total lack of sound reasoning by the leaders. Obama speaks in generalities, and the media is putty in the palm of his hands.

“Concerned Americans feel totally helpless, and when feeling as if events are spiraling out of control, angry words will eventually turn into violent actions. It is only a matter of when. Satan's infectious mindset is pummeling the country. Both liberals and conservatives are at war, and as the Bible says, ‘A house divided against itself cannot stand’ (Mark 3:25). What is happening is exactly what needs to take place before this country collapses. First it must be destroyed from within. The nail in our coffin is when the tentacles reach out and provides a way for our enemies to conquer from without. It will take place in a way that will not be difficult because leaders of the country will provide the way.

“How can anyone look at what is happening, and not ask the question of where is the urgency needed by God's Church? This question is asked often by brethren who are deeply bothered by what is taking place within organizations who say they are doing ‘the work.’ I do believe that when the time comes in which answers have to be given, the very brethren and ministers who are frustrated with the lukewarm state of God's Church, will stand up and be counted. Daniel 11:32-35 will be one facet of the work with God's stamp of approval, and the two witnesses will be the other. It doesn't, however, mean that what you are doing is not a part of God's overall work.

“How would I have been able to come to the understanding I do unless I was led by God's Spirit? Thank you for what you are doing, and I continue to pray for you, Cappy and all who are involved in doing the work.”

-- Ohio

“We wish to heartfully thank you for your unfailing duty in feeding the flock. Thank you for the audio tapes AND the CDs which we receive in duplication. Except for certain 'click' sounds, the CDs are of superb sound quality. All these are a lifeline to us in the distant place where we were called.

“It is strengthening bonds we have with your voice in this absolute wilderness as we prepare for the Passover. And not only at this time, but in our daily walk with God. It is now four joyous months since I realized that I need YHVH's guidance for even the minutest tasks that come on my path as I sojourn on this Earth. It is indeed another miracle that YHVH has revealed to me: we MUST consider His Way before we commence ANY project. When I flounder while performing some daily task, all I have to do is stop and remind myself that I am completely dependent on Him no matter how insignificant the job. I then do stop, acknowledge Him, ask His blessing and sure enough: I continue with success! (We could, all of us, try this – it works!).

“With a mother tongue like Afrikaans, it is not always easy to explain such important experiences. I trust that with your inspired insight, you will understand AND pass it on.

“We know that you have dedicated your life to pass on the awesome knowledge that YHVH has and is still revealing to you.”

-- South Africa

“I have just now finished rereading your excellent article, ‘A New Look at the Resurrection From the Dead’ .On page 16 you show that the ‘lake of fire’ will sweep around the entire earth destroying the incorrigible sinners, dissolving the elements, purging and consuming the surface of the earth with tremendous heat.

“Gen. 9:12 speaks of ‘perpetual generations’, indicating that physical human generations will continue one after another, never coming to an end. Do the scriptures anywhere indicate how God will protect the generation alive at the time from the ‘lake of fire’ and preserve human life beyond that time, confirming the prophecy in Isa.9:6-7 that Jesus is to be an everlasting Father with no end to the increase of his government?”

-- Florida

COMMENT: When the Great White Throne Judgment is finished, and all the generations of mankind from Adam and Eve to the final generation at the close of the millennium, have been judged, the righteous will be made immortal sons of God, and all the wicked will be burned up in the “lake of fire.” That will be a world consuming fire (II Pet.3:10) – the final fiery destruction of the wicked, along with the surface of the earth, and the heavens themselves.

As Peter wrote, “the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up” (II Pet.3:10).

The earth and heavens will be changed and recreated, as it were, as a “new heavens and a new earth.” John says, “Now I saw new heavens and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away” (Rev.21:1-2).

All human life will then cease to exist. BUT – God will then set out to RE-CREATE all things, according to His Plan. Apparently, God will then start out a new generation of mankind, a new “crop” as it were, planning new “seeds,” and begin the generational process all over again, and there will be new nations, peoples, and kings in the earth! Those made immortal sons of God will reign with Him in the holy city, New Jerusalem, over the entire Universe. But new generations of mankind will inhabit the earth, as well, thus fulfilling God’s plan to have an ever increasing government, with new sons of God being added, forever (Isa.9:6-7).

Thus there will be “perpetual generations” lasting to the “end of time.” John speaks of these new nations of men in Revelation 21:3, saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with MEN, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God” (Rev.21:3). He will “make all things new” (v.5). The nations of those “saved” – or “being saved,” in the Greek – will “walk in its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their honor and glory into it” – the new Jerusalem, the capital of the Universe, from which God will rule, and the saints with Him and Christ (Rev.21:24).

* * *

“Well here we are doing the “OMER” count once again and already over two weeks gone. I hope everyone in Omak is ok and the Work going forward. We are all doing fine here with Barbara and I having had a wonderful Passover evening at Terry’s place in Wales, plus a few days stay extra, just over two weeks ago. Terry is looking and feeling pretty good right now and on much reduced medication.

“As you may already know from news reports, all the UK’s airports have been closed for two days, due to the cloud of volcanic ash being blown over parts of north-western Europe from the Icelandic volcano eruption. Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Holland, Belgium and Germany are

also affected. I am reminded of an old proverb I heard many years ago even though I am not sure of its origin. ‘MAN PROPOSES BUT GOD DISPOSES.’

“Here in the UK we are also now in the middle of a general election campaign, with the prospect of a “HUNG” parliament a real possibility. This would mean no party having an overall majority and maybe some sort of coalition being formed in order to govern. It is also possible that the party with the most parliamentary seats could try to govern as a minority government, which last happened in the UK in 1974. We will have to await the verdict of the British electorate for the outcome to become clear. Unlike the U.S.A. we here in Britain no longer have a two-party system, although we did have for a very long time. Back in the 1700’s it was the Whigs and Tories. In the 1800’s they became the Liberals and Conservatives. In the 1900’s the Liberals declined and the Labour Party rose up and the two main parties were Labour and Conservative. Towards the end of the twentieth century the Liberals staged a revival and we are just about in a three-party system here now.

“I have heard many people of my parents’ generation, the 1939-45 wartime generation, say that the best government Britain ever had was the wartime coalition government with Winston Churchill at the head. It may be no bad thing if we returned to that form of government for a while, with the politicians co-operating for the good of the country, instead of tearing each other apart. We’ll know in three weeks as the election is on Thursday 6th May.”

-- Nick Wood, England

“We, as we get older are having our ups and downs moments, but by the grace of God, we are still being blessed and God is still a gracious God, who takes care of us in this ‘New’ South Africa.

“Whites cannot get work, all work must go to the ‘Black’ people especially the top jobs. And then they earn Millions of Rand per Month. If your company is not registered as a ‘BEE’ (Black Economic Empowerment) company, you have to put black people into your business and give them managerial positions which will enable them to take your business over at a later stage.

“Also from this year we are going to get NO WORK from any firm, and will be unable to sell

to anyone. Times are hard and a lot of young people are committing suicide. I had 3 suicides in 2 weeks. People we knew well. As NO WORK was AVAILABLE for them.”

-- South Africa

“Just a short note to say Hi! I pray everyone is well and hanging in there with a strong grip. I pray everyone had a blessed Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread. I had to keep the Seder alone this year. [so-and-so] kept it on a Monday this year, and he is keeping the ‘dark of the moon’ instead of the crescent sighting. I believe he is getting this information from someone in Texas”

-- Alabama

COMMENT: Thanks for the note. I wrote the individual you mentioned the following letter:

“It saddens me to hear that you have gone off into that ‘dark of the moon’ heresy, without so much as a word to me, or an explanation. I feel like the apostle Paul who wrote to the Galatians saying, ‘Who has bewitched you, that you have so soon gone off and been led astray into error?’

“After all these years of faithful service, why have you abruptly listened to a false prophet, a false brother, a spiritual snake in the grass, who has deceived you just as the serpent deceived Eve in the garden of Eden?”

“You need to read our article on the ‘New Moon.’ You can also visit the Karaite web site for more knowledge and discussion of this topic. The theory is silly on the face of it. How would the ancients, who did not have our knowledge of mathematics and tools of science to observe the heavens, accurately determine the EXACT CONJUNCTION of the moon when it was ‘dark’ for three days in a row, with NO LIGHT, and no observability? Think about it. They couldn’t. The Jews were right, as they wrote in the Mishnah and Talmud, that they had people observe the first faint crescent image, and THEN declared the ‘New Moon.’ So I say again -who has ‘bewitched you’? How did this happen?”

“I feel great grief and remorse that you have forsaken the faith – the proven truth – and made ‘shipwreck’ because of some false pretender – some one else who has snuck in like a friendly wolf, only to have you for ‘dinner’ – dropping you right in the pot! You started off so well. You withstood temptation for so long. It angers me that this individual has gone way off,

apparently a former brother, who claimed to be one of us, but who has jettisoned the truth and turned to manmade fables and lies, and has now enveloped you in his web of untruths and confusion.

“I pray you will repent of this madness, this streak of diabolical heresy, and false teaching, and return to the true faith and teaching which God has raised us up to provide, complete with proof and Scriptural insight and understanding. Please take this admonition wisely, and in love, as it is intended. Your very salvation is at stake. As Jude wrote, “I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints, for certain men have crept in unnoticed” (Jude 3-4).

And as Paul wrote, “But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ” (II Cor.11:3). Who has done this foul deed? You should rebuke him, not listen to him with eager ears, and fascination, as his snake-eyes hypnotize you! Do as John the apostle says, and do not welcome them into your house, or bid them “goodby” – but rather, rebuke them, and tell them, “Get out,” and “Stay away” (see II John 10-11).

“We care for you, and pray for you, that you will stop listening to these ravaging wolves in sheep’s clothing. Just because they wear “wool” doesn’t mean their true sheep of God! Rather, they pull toe ‘wool’ over your eyes with their untruths and clever deceptions! Rebuke them and have nothing to do with them – your salvation IS at stake!”

* * *

“Let me say that I was associated with the Worldwide and then the Philadelphia Church.

“Just after Pentecost this year [2009] I shared a thought with a deacon about the correct day of keeping Pentecost. I even mentioned about the Samaritans and the Sadducees. After a few days I got a call from the minister. Within a week, two ministers showed up – just like the KGB and the Nazi Gestapo. So I was subsequently suspended and the reason they gave was that I was not supposed to have any association with my brother who lives next door. He in the early 90s attended. He now seems to have lost interest and is not attending any church. I think you

quite rightly said they are stuck in neutral and are not going anywhere.

“According to them once you were associated with Worldwide and you are not with Flurry – you are a Laodicean and are headed for the great tribulation . I was even admonished not to contact any of the members even though I have no such desire. Every one will have to work out their own salvation. Since my association with TPM, I’ve learned quite a lot more than all those years in the PCG.”

-- Minnesota

“The love you have shown me by sending me free and at no cost YHWH’s revealed word is phenomenal and what you do and will do, will not go unnoticed by the Most High. I have received and read your book *America and Great Britain – Our Identity Revealed* – truly a magnificent work of Ruach Ha Qodesh inspiration! You have truly been set apart as a ‘watchman for Israel’ (Ezekiel 33:7). Now I truly know what it means to be ‘set free.’ That is, set free from lies and doctrines of mainstream Christianity. I applaud you and your ministry and I praise the Most High YHWH through His Son and our Saviour Yahshua Ha Mashiach.”

-- Texas

“Little did I know what was going on in the churches of God until I read your magazine and the letters from former members. I knew things weren’t right or as a true Church or group should be doing. A ‘social gathering’ with no Spirit radiating from God. I left each Sabbath day after attending services feeling empty and time wasted. It’s been six months since I last met with the ICG group. [a friend and] I kept the Passover at the time you and your group do. The [other] ‘group’ starts the night of the 13th, all day the 14th they eat the leavened bread until the night beginning the 15th, then their days of unleavened bread begins. . .

“I like your boldness with God’s Word. Too many like to hear the soft, smooth messages, which are worthless. Isaiah 58:;1, speaking to the shepherds to tell us in strong words how we’re to live a godly, worthy life. Thank you again for the tapes and magazines.”

-- Tennessee

“Once again you have left me in total awe with the vast knowledge of prophecy and information

that God has so graciously blessed you with. You and your ministry are in my prayers daily. I thank you for the recent packet of information you have sent me. You are a blessing to me. I have been following Gerald Flurry’s teaching [the successor so-called of Herbert W. Armstrong.]. I have read all I can learn from them. But I always felt like I was missing something. I never knew what it was until a fellow inmate turned me on to your ministry. Ever since I read the first piece of literature your ministry sent, ‘The Origin of the Logos,’ I knew that I had found what I was missing. . . .

“I now know for a surety that I have found God’s true Church. I thank you for all you have done . . . Thank you for being our ‘Watchman’ and ‘Shouting out loud’ the message of truth revealed within the Scriptures today for the Laodicean era of God’s chosen. May God continue to bless you all at Triumph Prophetic Ministries and all who are associated with you.”

-- Florida

“Is God beginning to pour out His wrath out on this earth with the earthquakes and now this volcano in Iceland pouring ash out on western Europe. Volcano ash in the air could cause many crop failures and famine in the near future. The plot thickens and not too many people seem to notice. The big interest here seems to be who is winning in what sport’s arena. That has nothing to do with putting food on the table as far as I can see.

“They are trying to put the federal regulations through to put the small food producer out of business. For example: A \$14 tag for a chicken from a small farmer while Tyson or a large producer pays only \$14 for a permit for a 1,000 chickens. Also the federal regulations and inspection that the small producer or individual will have to put up with will make it prohibitive to even try to raise your own food.

“Some cereal companies have said they are going to cut down the salt in their products but will use ‘nano’ technology to sweeten or give the right taste to their product. Can the body handle the ‘nano’ crap that will be used? God designed the body to use His natural grown product and not what the mad scientists produce and what the companies can make the most money on. . . .

“Barry Soetoro keeps progressing more and more like the Pharaoh of the Israelite Exodus from Egypt. He is doing his best to destroy this country and all this stimulus or tax credit malarkey is only making matters worse.

“A man that is working and making a decent salary was bragging about what he got by this stimulus deal. I told him look how much other people will have to pay for what he got. He looked at me with a surprised look and said he never thought of it that way.

“We all have much to learn and we should all pray for God to shorten these days and hasten the setting up of His Kingdom.”

-- Ohio

“This is my first time reading your materials or writing you. Your articles are both insightful and alarming. I was worried that I was going to have to serve all of my prison time, but with the return of Jeshua ha Masiach the Son of God so near, I’m given a new confidence to share the evangelion with others through all of these newly occurring unfoldings of God’s plan.

“My brothers and I have noted the political uprising, abuses of power and the current financial instability, along with the volcanic (seismic) activity and natural disasters steadily occurring all around the globe. And we are convinced that ‘the time is near’ and we are willing to suffer persecution for the Name. Even in this hateful place we will do as Jeshua encourages. ‘But when these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near’ (Luke 21:28).

“We rejoice in Him with you, prayerfully, and we eagerly wait for the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Shalom.”

-- Prisoner

“I’ve just received my Prophecy Flash and let me say I was very impressed with the article on Isaac Newton and the end-time prophecies of Daniel. I never learned this information on the history of Mr. Newton, its amazing how this history was not taught to me in school when I was younger. But I guess the public domain does not like to teach truth any more. If it is a government funded and government run school, I mean after all, you can’t know too much truth,

because if we did the masses might start thinking and they would lose control of the ‘cows,’ so to speak.”

-- Texas

“Greetings and respects. I have been receiving a lot of literature from your ministry for close to 6 months now. I really want to thank you for the service you; do for people such as myself. I’ve been in jail for 2 years now. It’s been the most stressful time, most trying ever. Bill, I’ve been in the Aryan Brotherhood of Texas for 7 years now and a Lt. in it for 3. In May of 2008, I and 2 others took a man’s life. It was very brutal and horrendous. I was proud of what I’D DONE BECAUSE I ONCE AGAIN WAS ABLE TO SHOW MY LOYALTY AND COMMITMENT. How self-righteous I believed myself to be and the by-laws and precepts of their constitution. I’m no longer a member of this criminal organization. I have been blessed and will not be going to prison. Like Paul, who was zealous in his fight to persecute the Christians, and then being converted himself by Jesus or God, I too have been converted. Most of it has come about by the readings of your publications. You impact the lives of many people, and mine is one more to have been brought to salvation by your ministry. My life is now in the caring hands of Jesus. Matthew 11:28-30 has significance to me as well as Acts 18:9-10, because I assure you, Bill, I am the hottest topic in Texas right now. My case stretches about 400 miles east of here and down to Corpus Christi, TX, my entire survival depends on my faith in Jesus.

“Well, my friend, I want to thank you. Please continue to send me the articles I request. I share them with a few others around me as well. What I can’t seem to figure out is ‘why’ God finds me worthy? But who am I to question Him.”

-- Texas

“I just received my new Prophecy Flash. Thank you so very much. Your publication is always eagerly awaited for (have you considered publishing weekly?) and excitedly received. I am grateful both to God (for raising TPM up) and to you for your willingness to obey and sacrifice for the work. I can only imagine what your printing and postage bills must be and how much hard work all the research, writing, and distributing must be. I want you to know I realize/recognize your effort, commitment, and

love and that it is not taken for granted. I love TPM and may God the Father pour out great and abundant blessings upon you all, In Jesus' name.

“Your magazines and pamphlets are also a big hit amongst several other inmates here on my unit. I try to insure that your investment of literature in me gets the maximum amount of mileage and hopefully fruit. I try to keep all your teachings in constant circulation so others can be blessed and so that TPM gets the most spiritual bang for their buck that is possible.

“Your work, teachings and doctrines cause no small amount of controversy though. TPM has motivated me to search the Scriptures daily and to my great joy I almost always find strong support and defenses of the doctrines you espouse and I am trying to learn. I have been in several lively debates concerning the Sabbath, the Law, and the Feast days. Your teachings have been an invaluable aid in helping me to contend for the truth. . . .

“Praise God I got to keep Unleavened Bread this year (by the Orthodox calendar unfortunately, not the Karaites). We had a Seder and they gave unleavened bread for the week. I actually purged my cell (house) of all leavened items and abstained from all leavened products during meals. I'm sure my observance was probably immature and imperfect, but I could not deny that I received much spiritual blessing in the doing of it. As I swept out my physical space and wiped down the inside of my locker I could feel the Holy Spirit going through my heart in like manner. By consciously focusing all week on putting out physical leaven, it seemed the Spirit had greater permission and liberty to put out the spiritual leaven. It was as if my willing physical submission unlocked a new spiritual reality. During the week God pointed out to me things that were still unclean in my heart (like resentments, murmurings, apathy and such) and I suddenly realized the real purpose of the Feast. When I 'got in touch' with these character faults I agreed with God to crucify them and start striving to put them out of my house. Now I **know** the holy Feast days are truly still God's will. In 20 years of Protestantism, Christmas and Easter never convicted me sufficiently of sin to cause me to recognize a need for change. They felt good emotionally but never provoked me to grow in holiness. But one amateurishly executed holy Feast of God worked righteousness in my

life You be the judge. . . .”

-- Texas

“Hi Y'all! I hope this posting finds y'all enjoying the best of blessings through our Saviour and His and our Heavenly Father!

“It's been a while since I've written. I just felt the need to sit down and send this posting because it's important that y'all hear these things. Most likely y'all have already heard all this before and in your hearts and in your spirits you know these facts to be true.

“For every one person who sits down and takes the time to write you, there are perhaps 10 or 15 who read your blessed and wonderful publications and never are led to correspond with you. I've watched this happen over and over in these prisons I am locked up in.

“Your publications are leading men to come to repentance and the throne of grace. Make no mistake about this. I see it happening myself, with my own eyes.

“The Bible is a most daunting book for a man of, shall we say, meager education. He, in his perusal, will find something that captivates his attentions. But without commentary or concordance, he shrinks from the task of unearthing his gems of truth.

“Sad, but true. I see it happen every day.

“You are a very valuable resource to these guys. You speak discoverable truth (by this I mean to say that what you say you back with Scripture) in plainly spoken English.

“Studying the Bible is just like all our endeavors to learn anything. Even Scripture tells us this same principle (e.g. 'line upon line, precept upon precept . . .') so I get to watch with my own eyes and feel in my own heart the thrill and joy a teacher gets when their student grasps a thing and revels in expounding it to his companions. Their eyes light up! This builds self esteem and confidence. In both themselves and the Bible.

“You all do a very important work. I am blessed to see the veracity of this fact.

“So I felt compelled to write this oh so overdue letter of encouragement. You must forgive my poor spelling and grammar but please take to heart the heartfelt thoughts . . .”

-- Texas

“I just finished reading the latest Prophecy Flash magazine and I had to sit down and write to you concerning the main story (‘Simon Magus and the Greatest Conspiracy of All Time!’). In my opinion you just set off something really explosive! Being that I am incarcerated with nothing but time on my hands I have spent many years studying comparative religions and philosophy and history in depth. I came to the point in my studies where I drew the same conclusion as what you have stated so emphatically in your article. I am glad that you published that information. I have been trying to show people the same points in here for years . There’s much more left of the story to tell I think. Consider the claims of the Catholic Church about the ‘keys of the kingdom’ being passed down successively from bishop to bishop/pope to pope. It seems to me that upon the death of Peter (Magus), or should I say the (real) Peter rather, the keys to the kingdom should go to the next senior apostle by succession, and if so then the keys would have actually gone to the apostle John who was the only apostle still alive at the time of Peter’s death and John was not at Rome as ‘Peter’ (supposedly) was. (John being the only apostle left that was specifically handpicked by Jesus Christ/Yeshua Himself). To give strong support to the notion that John was the true heir of the keys of the kingdom, note that it was John who subsequently received the Revelations to the seven churches who were in Asia. It was not Simon Magus’ successor, or to any of the churches of Rome. So what actually happened to the remnants of the churches of Asia? Did they pass into extinction only to be reinstated in the latter days during the culmination of the fullness of times? Or, did they go into hiding to re-emerge when and wherever they thought it was safe? Or did they simply remain in hiding, keeping themselves secret and meeting and worshipping under the guise of something else? What church today does the Church of Rome feel poses the greatest potential threat to their perceived sense of primacy? I think these questions deserve to be expounded on in depth.

“Another point to consider concerning Martin Luther. Being that he was a Catholic monk and scholar who searched the Church of Rome’s archives in order to find his ‘95 theses,’ were his points of contention that he wished to debate centered around the fact that the 15th century church looked nothing like the original church founded by Yeshua, or, (and in my opinion more likely) because the 15th century church looked nothing like Simon Magus’/ Constantine’s church after or just before the first council of Nicea in 325 A.D.? If the latter is the case, then today’s Protestant denominations aren’t really the true churches in the true sense and definition of the word (as quoted by Pope Benedict, ironically) but are rather the rebellious offspring/harlot daughters of the ‘Great Whore’ of Revelation.

“I think the big question that begs to be asked is: Did Martin Luther ‘restore’ the true Church of Yeshua and His handpicked apostles, or, did Luther ‘reform’ the church of Simon Magus/Constantine? Restore one or reform the other? If restored, then who possesses the keys? If reformed, then who is the true church?”

“And whatever ultimately happened to the apostle John? . . .”

-- Texas

COMMENT: Interesting questions. I advise you to read our articles, “Where Is the True Church?”, “The Seven Churches of Revelation,” “The End-Time Apostasy,” “The Great Apostasy and the Perfect Storm,” “The Pope, Papacy, and Prophecy,” and “The Second Beast of Revelation.”

* * *

“I loved the article on Isaac Newton in your March/April ‘Prophecy Flash.’ I have always been a fan of men who are known to be ‘great intellects.’ So it is doubly refreshing to read of a genius who is a diligent believer. Thank you for a very interesting and inspiring read!”

-- Texas

“I was a member of the WCG from 1972 to 2005. Your literature seems very special to me at this time, so I thank you very much for it! I’ve heard and read both sides of the controversy. Please be patient and understanding concerning a lot of us brethren who are in limbo. I would like to see more articles on basic doctrines.

“I receive a lot of different church literature and lately I find I read more of your literature than any other. And I don’t know why? You seem not to be afraid to make an authoritative stand on various subjects, which is quite different and surprising to me! Keep up the good work and thank you very much again for your sincere efforts in proclaiming the truth as you see and perceive it.”

-- Michigan

“A friend allowed me to read his copy of Prophecy Flash and I was blown away by the amount of information on end-time and current events your magazine provided. Please put me on the mailing list for PROPHECY FLASH to the address given above. I realize we are in the end-times, and more so the people in office who are leading us down the path.”

-- Texas

“Truthfully they ought to send all of the CROOKS & CHRONIES and our Wanta-Be Commander and Thief on a one way trip to Mars.”

“He certainly is a ‘Mystery.’”

-- USA

“I can’t find the words to express my thanks to you for sending me the Prophecy Flash and the other books you have sent me over the past year or so. I have not found so much truth anywhere else. Your ministry has sure opened my eyes like nothing else.

“I just finished the first four lessons of your Bible Correspondence Course and just sent in Test #1. It is the best! Since I’ve been in prison I’ve taken other Bible Studies and most if not all of them were like Sunday school lessons for children., but yours have real meat to them. Not only do I learn from each lesson but they also get me interested in reading even more Scripture than what is necessary for the lesson. It is the best.”

-- Texas

“I have come across your packet in my dorm. I have found it VERY interesting and would like if you would please send me a monthly issue of Prophecy Flash. I just happened to open your packet and saw something about the Education Czar under attack. As I read this I’ve become aware of the acts of the homosexuality teaching

and teaching children sexual techniques and Kevin Jennings promoting sexual relationships between children and adults. I have to ask, what is Obama thinking? Is this truly what he and Obama want to teach our children? This is unbelievable! I also have to say if I wasn’t in prison I would be totally unaware of this! For as said in your article, even the Times isn’t reporting these facts truthfully. Are we becoming a nation of perverts and for perverts?

“Please send me the Prophecy Flash. I like to know what truly lies [ahead] for us, as a nation. If we keep this up we will surely be doomed!”

-- Texas

“I am 38 with a wife (Nina) and four children aged 12, 9, 6 and 4. I was brought up as evangelical Sunday Christian. I found the truth is 2005-06. I started attending, with my family, the UCG then the LCG. We were members of the LCG from our baptism (April 2008) to around about September 2008.

“Then in September 2008 we joined the next human organization (!) claiming to be God’s Church – the CGF. Then it split in two and we were, briefly, part of one half of the split – the FCGL.

“WHAT A MESS!

“Anyway, myself and my family (along with 2-3 other families) eventually figured out what you have known for a while – the wrongness of the churches of God ‘government’ and the many trappings e.g. use of titles (Mr./Mrs.). Believe it or not we knew also about a) head coverings, b) Nephilim (Gen 6), c) illuminati/NWO, d) correct dating of Passover and Pentecost, etc. But we did not know – until we came to your website – about NEW MOONS.

“So obviously this changed everything for us. We knew that we had to celebrate Passover/ULB as the 14th of Abib changed (in the evening) to the 15th of Abib. We also knew that we counted to Pentecost from the day after the annual Sabbath, but of course not knowing about the new moons, we did not know when the 14th of Abib was!!

“So we would like to thank you for all that you have taught us regarding the new moons!!”

-- United Kingdom

“Greetings from a stormy Midwest. It use to be that people would naturally talk about the weather in order to start a conversation, but What is happening is actually worth talking about as the nation experienced a bitterly cold winter, and now a tornado season in full swing.

“The nation has been under a curse ever since Obama was elected. The Bible commands who is to lead the nation, but because Americans do not know Who the United States is in Bible prophecy? It does not realize what it has done wrong. Deuteronomy 17:15-’ ‘Thou shalt in any wise set him king over thee, whom the Lord thy God shall choose: one from among thy brethren shalt thou set king over thee: thou mayest not set a stranger over thee, Which is not thy brother.’ Recently an audio tape was played on the Glen Beck and Michael Savage programs in which Michelle Obama stated that our president was born in Kenya. The media may be silent on our illegal commander-in-chief, but God isn’t.

“Is there a correlation between our electing a Gentile ruler and natural and man-made disasters? If three recent events is any indication, the country is in great danger as God’s judgment is made evident in a way we have never seen before. Treason and tyranny is destroying the country under the iron fist rule of our modern day king of Israel, or more specifically Ephraim.

“When the health care bill was passed, Obama arrogantly touted success by scoffing at those who warned of the dangers we face under nationalized health care. He sarcastically stated: ‘The earth hasn’t opened up. An asteroid isn’t falling from the sky. The birds are chirping, and people are shopping at the mall.’ Shortly thereafter the volcano in Iceland exploded. The earth opened up. Volcanic ash fell from the sky. The birds stopped chirping, and millions of people around the world were stranded at airports.

“Recently Obama announced there would be an increase in drilling for oil, but as with so many things coming out of the mouth of our illegitimate leader, he was not totally truthful. We are now facing the greatest environmental catastrophe in the nation’s history if the oil leak is not stopped from the destroyed BP oil platform. The Climate Change conference is remembered all too well for the true intent of

establishing an agreement for the creation of a one world government. Thousands of records from around the world were shattered as a blistering cold winter hit nation after nation. It was a conference instigated by Obama, and a total failure upon its completion. Mega snowstorms hit the Northeastern section of the country especially hard. Washington, D.C., was buried under record setting snow in a series of storms. The eyes of God are upon this president, and he will not be mocked.

”I fear for the country. The very attributes hated by God are in the very character of Barack Obama. Instead of being a man of character, he is a character. Proverbs 6:16-19 – ‘These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood. An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief. A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.’

“Obama is narcissistic, and speaks with arrogance. He is known to disdain anyone who disagrees with what he says or his policies. He lies constantly about one piece of legislation after another. He says one thing and does totally the opposite. He is pro-abortion and the death of innocent children is upon his head. Their blood is dripping from his hands. He is a man without a conscience towards the unborn. He is constantly devising ways to destroy the country. He travels around the country giving speeches to gullible and naive Americans who somehow are able to sit through his speeches that are totally shallow, and the media is all too willing to accommodate. He accuses those who do not agree with what he says and does as unpatriotic and promoters of hate speech. He has stated America is not a Christian nation, and apologizes before audiences around the world that the US has been a bully and abused its superpower status. He is dividing the country as no leader in our nation’s history. He sides with illegal immigrants, pro-abortionists, liberals of every conceivable Godless cause, including perverted lifestyles of homosexuals. Those who disagree with immoral lifestyles are considered bigoted and promoters of hate because others are different.

“President Obama is stirring the anger of God and Christ. The nation is entering a time of catastrophic man-made and natural disasters on a scale America has never seen. The United States

is headed for third world conditions, and a future equivalent to Zimbabwe. At the rate this country is going, the year 2012 won't be a date that scoffers jeer at, but knowledgeable non-political voices in the areas of economics, social expertise and foreign policy issues state that a time frame of 2 to two and one-half years is all the time the country has left if we do not change direction.

“Thank you once again for the tapes and articles you send. I continue to unlearn error, and what you teach has been extremely helpful in what I research for articles I am writing. God is indeed using you to teach his way of life, and I thank Cappy for assisting you, and others involved in the work you are doing. Far too many brethren and ministers are accusing you of teaching false doctrine without proving what you say. An increasing number of the Churches of God are going in different directions in what they are teaching. God will not add growth under these circumstances alone. I continue to see a spiritual sickness that is only worsening as leading ministers of organizations are interested more in the power they have over members than they are in their welfare. I thank you for teaching with authority, yet realizing the value of members of God's Church.

“I continue to pray for you, Cappy, and the brethren who assist you in the work you are doing.”
-- Ohio

“It is always with great joy to see another Prophecy Flash having arrived in the mail and, as usual, I have no real peace in my daily life than to make sure to make time to read the magazine from front to back as soon as it is possible. Indeed, everything has to wait for this.

Triumph Prophetic Ministries
P.O. Box 842
Omak WA 98841

“First of all, I would like to comment on the Jan/Feb 2010 issue: It begins to dawn on me that you could well be correct that the U.S. is Ephraim. Up to recently, I have been rather skeptical over this issue. . . . It is rather horrifying to read aspects of the Obama administration's actions, and I can understand people's distressing thoughts about them, BUT is this, seen from what is to come, not also a confirmation of the times in which we now live—the time of the end—and, in other words, the time in which we can see that it will not be long before the 2nd coming of our Messiah? After all, He will not return until things will get much, much worse. And, of course, we might not like the things that are happening these days but from another point of view is this not a great time to live in? It has all been revealed to us in Revelation with its conclusion of: ‘Surely I come quickly.’ Followed by: ‘Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!’”
-- Australia

“Your last two weeks Bible studies on Daniel 9 have been absolutely mind blowing. It really is amazing how scripture can be looked at in so many different ways and have various shades of meaning, all fitting carefully into one giant jigsaw puzzle. . . .

“Some good personal news from the Wood Gang. Barbara and I are thrilled to have a second grandchild, a little girl, Paige Joanna, born Friday 7th May at 8lb 10oz. Our grandson Jack has just turned 4 years old so time is really flying by.

“You may have heard on the news that the UK election ended in a ‘hung’ parliament as predicted, so now we have a coalition government between the Conservatives and Liberals, with David Cameron as Prime Minister, the youngest to hold the office for 200 years. I pray with all my heart that the new government will make wise decisions for the UK and its people.”
-- Nick Wood, England