

The Apostle

Mike Ferrigno

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The Four Faces of God



The Face of a Lion



(Act I)

June 15, 1997

Dale wrote:

Hi, I'm new to this newsgroup, but I would like to share a few things the Lord has relayed to me. I hope it confirms what is in your hearts as well. While praying with friends for revival, we received the following vision, which I believe is intended to be shared with the Church. I saw the river of life flowing in front of the throne of God, wider than the Mississippi. As I looked down the river, I saw it plummet off a great precipice from heaven to the earth in an enormous waterfall. God spoke and asked, "do you want to stand at a distance and take pictures like a tourist and say to yourself, "isn't our God wonderful?" or do you want to stand under the waterfall?" I replied, "but Lord, I would be crushed by the water and deafened by the noise." Then the Lord said, "as surely as the burning bush was not consumed, you will not be crushed or deafened. But you will be a sign to the nations. You will drink directly from the river of life as it poured out from heaven and be a pipeline to carry this precious water to the people who are dying of thirst. For I am sending the river from heaven to earth to wash away the filth of sin and wherever the water goes, life will come. Those that thirst will drink and be satisfied. This day I give you the choice to stand beneath the waterfall, to receive cleansing and a new life, and let it flow on

to others, or to stand at a distance and watch and wonder why nothing ever happens to you. The choice is yours. But I say choose to stand under the waterfall, and do not be afraid."

June 15, 1997

Laura wrote:

Last night and this morning my friend kept getting the picture of an hour glass. The sense she had was that it had just been turned. Following is the word that the Lord gave her. I am assembling my army. I am enlisting those who hear and search me to their appointed positions and I am bestowing upon them the gifts they need to march upon the land, the preparation is great but the battle is bigger. Fear not, be strong and courageous, do not be afraid. With us is the Lord our God to fight out battles. (2 Chronicles 32:7) Your time is now in the phase of the hour glass. The sands are falling away and the time is coming when I will invade the evil one's territory. The people will either be for me or against me. The ones for me will slide down through the hour glass and stand ready, the foundation of the battle to begin. Those who have slept away the years and ignored my word will not be able to pass through the hour glass because the sin they live in will cling to them and prevent them from slipping through. As they struggle to pass through they will crush one another and will suffocate. For those in my army I will supply the armor of God. Know these, know what is available to you, for you will need each one in battle. To know how to use these weapons you must be very

close to me for when you know me you know how to use the things I give you... If anyone has received anything similar, or wishes to add further "light" please let us know. Lots of love.

June 15, 1997

Dale wrote:

Dear Laura, I appreciate your dream of the hour glass. I am also concerned that if many do not wake up soon, it will be too late or at least, extremely difficult for them. Over the past several months I had a dream placing me back at the air force academy. (Although a firm believer in discipline, I was never the type to be overly gung-ho.) What I saw was beyond even my own standards. The military squadron was a gaggle of people, some in uniform, some not, but all in shabby condition. No one paid any attention to good order. Instead of marching, it was more of a casual stroll by a group of people rather than a well-ordered formation, marching in unison and force and each knowing and executing their role towards a common goal. In each case, I spoke out using the authority of the position I held that to fight in a war, discipline must be adhered to. The squadron jeered back, what war, we are at peace, besides, we will do what we need to when the time comes. I spoke out again reminding them that the time to train and prepare was now, because there won't be time when the war comes. If we don't train now, the casualty rate will be extremely high, if we are not completely wiped out. I then reminded them of the quote that we had to memorize from George Patton when he said that, "if a

man won't do the little things, how will you get them to die for their country?" which is similar to (Luke 16:10). I hope this is a confirmation and a blessing to you.

June 17, 1997

Laura wrote:

Dear Dale, thanks for your reply. Just to confirm – it was my girlfriend who had the vision of the hour glass... Not me. However, what you have shared with your dream of the air force and a lack of discipline is something that the Lord has been speaking to me about in this time. A couple of weeks ago on a retreat during a time of ministry, a word that was spoken over me was: "what you want brings great responsibility." That really cut deep. Responsibility scares me a lot because I'm so bad at it. Every time I have tried to bring discipline to my life it only ends up in legalism and death. I want to respond to the call of my father – that if I do big things for him, I need to be earnest in my relationship with him. So you see I am feeling the call to become disciplined... To pay the cost... To not be a partaker of his glorious work with minimal effort... But I know that it is only my father that can bring this transformation in me. I guess my role is to remain surrendered and obey the call when I hear it. I am still struggling with this... If anyone through our Lord has won or is winning the battle in this regard – I would love to hear from you. Thanks again for your reply Dale. It's truly a blessing. Lots of love.

June 18, 1997

Apostle wrote:

Dear Laura, I spent many years in your position before God finally opened my eyes to the truth. Perhaps, my experience can be of some service to you and to others. Year after year I sought the Lord. I prayed, I cried, I begged, I studied, I went to Church, I searched and searched for something more.

Nevertheless, I always found myself right back where I started and even worse. After some 20 years of this I finally gave up in despair. Then something strange began to happen... My eyes began to open. The scales fell off. For the first time in my life everything started to make sense. All the verses that I thought I once knew came alive with a new meaning. It is more blessed to give than to receive. Obedience is better than a sacrifice. Christ did not die so that I could live in sin. Christ died so that I could be free from sin. By the time, I finally gave up, sin had stolen everything in my life. So, the change that took place was not the result of me trying harder, but the result of me failing completely. I was so shattered that I could no longer speak or remember my name. Like Paul, I had to be led around by the hand like a little child. I had no choice but to surrender. Lo and behold, that was all God had ever asked of me in the first place. You see before that time I always thought that if I just prayed

hard enough, or long enough, or gave more, or tried harder that I would get more disciplined, more caring, more loving, more like Christ (tree of knowledge). I found out later that this is not the case. I did not need more effort or knowledge. What I needed was to be a servant (tree of life). So, true life changing power is the result of humility, not zeal or knowledge. I had inadvertently (not really, God did it) stumbled across the key. As time went on it became clear to me that this method not only worked, but that it was in fact the message of the Gospel. Just to be clear, I already thought that I was saved. I already thought that I loved my family. Sadly, I was just lying to myself. It turns out that not everyone who says, "Lord. Lord." Really means it. I was just a hearer of the word, not a doer, I was deceived. Now I am trying to make this as painless as possible for you as I can. Your problem is simple. You are not saved. The first command of God is to love God with all your heart, all your mind, and all your strength. Unfortunately, you have not done it yet. I can tell you firsthand that once you do submit to God with all your heart that you will be free from sin. Good water and bad water cannot come from the same well. You and millions like you across this country have a choice to make. Make the tree good or make the tree bad. The proof is in the fruit. Repentance does not prove goodness (Matthew 7:21). Goodness proves repentance (Acts 26:20). So, test yourself to see if you are in the faith or not. I would be happy to help you or anyone else obtain this most worthy goal.

June 19, 1997

Dale wrote:

Dear Laura, remember the words of Paul – (Romans 7:15) “I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do, I do not do, but what I hate to do, I do.” (Philippians 3:12-14) “Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.” I don’t think anyone can claim that Paul wasn’t saved because he admitted his short comings. I don’t know where you stand with God, only Jesus knows your heart. I know the more I mature in the Lord, the more I recognize my need for him and how despicable my flesh is. I do know when we open the door he comes in. And I know that scripture isn’t just for initial salvation, but as we open each new door of our heart and our life to him. Unless I am missing something in the spirit, I don’t understand the statements made towards you in one of the other replies. Don’t let it shake you. With all the love of God that he has given me, I speak the peace of the Lord into your soul.

Jesus said, "My peace I give you and my peace I leave with you.
Be blessed.

June 20, 1997

Apostle wrote:

Dear Dale, You are missing something. It is called holiness.
Must you deny others the same gift as well?

June 27, 1997

Dale wrote:

Dear brother Apostle, I'm not going to debate you in the public forum. But with all humility I think you're out of order. I've checked out your homepage and read your messages. You are full of zeal which is a good thing, but it must flow out of love. Jesus did not beat sinners over the head with the truth. He presented it as a loving father or brother. Your comments to Laura, if sincerely led of the spirit, should have been made in the private forum because of their personal and sensitive nature. But making your comments in public required a public rebuke, which I tried to do as gently as possible. As you well know from scripture, the ones Jesus rebuked harshly were those, not who committed adultery or were tax collectors, but the self-righteous Pharisees. Be careful that you do not fall into the same trap. For it is to the Pharisees that Jesus commanded to take the plank out of their own eyes, so they could see clearly to remove the speck. Truth is not the cause, spiritual warfare is not the cause, holiness is not the cause for which we fight. The cause of Christ is not worth trampling over human souls because the cause is for human souls. Rather we fight for human beings. We fight with love. Without love, for all your spiritual power and holiness, you are a clanging gong before the

throne. Love operates through 29elationnships. You have no relationship with me. We are brothers in Christ, but you don't know anything about me or Laura, or anyone else. Before you pass judgment, why don't you spend time building relationships. Then you will know if correction is deserved and then you will know how to deliver the correction in such a way that builds the relationship and does not destroy it. My prayer is that you receive this in the splrit it is intended. I expect your rebuttal, but as for me the matter is closed and you will hear no more about it from me. Sharing the truth in love.

June 27, 1997

Apostle wrote:

Dear Dale, Thanks for the concern, but you should have thought about all this before you decided to tell others that my teachings are incorrect, especially if as you put it, "I don't understand the statements." Now if you decide to apologize, feel free to do so in a public forum. I assure you that I can withstand the pressure.

June 29, 1997

Michael wrote:

A woman at my Church's Friday night watch service had a vision. In the vision she saw a child's top spinning. It then became a whirlwind. The word of the Lord to her was "Tell Mike its coming..." Keep listening. You will hear a mighty rushing wind...

July 01, 1997

Apostle wrote:

Dear Saints of God, On 09.23.96, your prophet Bob Jones wrote, "It is time for the fivefold ministry of the Church to be revealed." Today, this prophecy is fulfilled in your hearing. The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone. Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, but he on whom it falls will be crushed. (Luke 20:17-18)

July 01, 1997

Apostle wrote:

Dear Saints of God, Good morning class. Now that we have dispensed with the introductions, let us get down to work. For those who feel offended by my words I can only say that if you had esteemed others higher than yourself as the scriptures teach, you would not have found yourself being rebuked in the first place. I assure you that no true Apostle of Jesus Christ will ever tolerate anything that exalts itself above the Word of God especially out of the mouths of those who call upon the name of the Lord. Even Peter, an insider, and a leader in the Church, needed to be rebuked by an ostracized outsider named Paul. Think of it this way. Would any of you dare speak to your pastor in such a manner? How much more respect should you show the highest office in the Church? Even if you considered me the very least in the Kingdom of God, I would be worthy of more respect than John the Baptist. Not to mention, how you treat me, the least of the brethren, is how you are treating Christ himself. Now for those who think I am mean or not loving please refer to Hebrews 12:5-6. I have merely treated you like sons and daughters of the living God. I have been called, trained, and sent to teach the future judges of the world how to wage war against Satan. What did you expect to find? A reed

swaying in the wind? A man dressed in fine clothes? I forgive you all. Now let us move forward. A quick look at this news group reveals that most of the messages deal with two things – spiritual warfare and the fivefold ministry. As you know, Sojourner (Truth) is going to Mars (War) in three days. The first thing you need to learn is that “revelation” always requires “interpretation.” The Jews (the chosen people) had revelation about the Messiah (the anointed one). Herod knew what city the Christ would come from. Caiaphas knew that one man must die for the nation. But were these men righteous? Obviously not. You see it takes more than revelation. It takes the correct interpretation and the subsequent right actions to be fruitful. Without it you are in danger of attacking the very gift God sent you – Me.

July 01, 1997

Dale wrote:

(1Peter 1:22) – “now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart.” (1John 3:23) – “and this is his command: to believe in the name of his son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us.” (John 13:34-35) – “a new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciple, if you love one another.” Peace my brothers and sisters. There is work to do. There is a dying world that needs to know the love of God. They also need to know that we are God’s messengers. The enemy can counterfeit signs and wonders of profound wisdom and teaching, but only we can share the pure love of almighty God. And only by our love for each other will they know this pure love. Be a blessing. Be a lover of the lovely and the unlovely.

July 01, 1997

Apostle wrote:

Dear Dale, How would you show love to a group like this? On June 15, 1997, you wrote, "The military squadron was a gaggle of people, some in uniform, some not, but all in shabby condition. No one paid any attention to good order. Instead of marching, it was more of a casual stroll by a group of people rather than a well-ordered formation, marching in unison and force and each knowing and executing their role towards a common goal. In each case, I spoke out using the authority of the position I held that to fight in a war, discipline must be adhered to. The squadron jeered back, what war, we are at peace, besides, we will do what we need to when the time comes. I spoke out again reminding them that the time to train and prepare was now, because there won't be time when the war comes. If we don't train now, the casualty rate will be extremely high, if we are not completely wiped out."

So, Dale what do you think? Would you tolerate their insubordination? Would you tolerate their evil insinuations? Would tolerate their lack of respect? Would you tolerate their laziness? Would you tolerate their arrogance? Would you spare the rod and spoil the child?

July 02, 1997

Doug wrote:

I cannot speak for everyone else on this newsgroup, but I for one would be interested in reading your testimony about your calling by God. Serving him.

July 02, 1997

Apostle wrote:

Dear Doug, There are 13 Apostles in Anglo America and 33 Apostles in Latin America. They are not well known. They do not write books. They are not on the internet. They are not in a church. The number is set. This will be the only record. These modern-day Apostles are the same as those found in scripture. They may have a different style because of time and location, but the method remains the same. They preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ (Philippians 2:1-11) and lead the Church into the fullness of maturity (Ephesians 4:11-16). Do we call Jesus Christ our lord and savior? Yes. Do we perform miracles in his name? Yes. Do we prophesy in his name? Yes. Do we cast out demons in his name? Yes. Does this qualify us to be Apostles? No. The definition of Sainthood is the ability to obey, not just to perform miracles and in that respect, Apostles are chief among men. It is after all the very message we preach: "If you love me you will obey my commands" (John 14:15). Apostles know firsthand that God is a consuming fire and that he demands a good return on his investment. He does not just hope we have success. He requires it! Not to mention, God is ferociously jealous for his Son's name and reputation and expects Apostles to do even greater things than Christ did. Many believe that God

is good, that God is wise, that God is merciful, but most fail to grasp that God is also very demanding. He demands a harvest of 30, 60, or 90 times the original investment (Matthew 13:1-9). Apostles are expected to go out, start a family, raise them, protect them, feed them, clothe them, and teach them, until they are mature enough to carry on the work as laid down by our holy forefathers. We are gentle as doves, wise as serpents and as serious as a lion robbed of her cubs. We are the good shepherds who lay down our lives for the flock. When trouble comes, we cannot run. When people rebel, we cannot just ignore it. When someone is in pain we must have the answer. When there is hardship we are the ones who lose sleep for your sake. When our legs are tired, hearts heavy or minds confused we must go forward like any parent would and complete the job. Indeed, God has provided us with every good thing, but as leaders we are still required to go out and get those things for the flock. As a father, I can tell you that food always cost something and that something must be earned! Likewise, no one becomes an Apostle without having first paid a heavy price. We qualify the same way all prophets do, including Christ the greatest prophet of all. Anything less would allow the enemies of God to cry "favoritism." The same principle holds true for the rest of the body as well. Anyone who has ever worked for their parents can tell you that even if the oldest child did a great job the other kids still need to prove themselves. In fact, family members are expected to work longer and harder than other workers. The alternative would be to let unqualified and even

foolish children run the store. On this subject the scriptures are clear. A wise servant will rule over a foolish son" (Proverbs 17:2). Have you ever tried working for a son or daughter who was lazy or selfish or did not understand the business? Yet, this is precisely what happened within Western Christianity. Is it any wonder the world hates us? Are we hated for doing our job or is it because we act like spoiled King's kids? Of course, our father owns everything, but that is no reason for us to assume that we do not have to prove to him, to ourselves, and to the world, that we are qualified to run things. Apostles have one concern. To restore the glory due the name of Jesus Christ. (Psalm 22-2) The Almighty can curse or bless anyone at any time and Apostles have authority to tear down as well as to build up. (Psalm 28-5) We are the very ones who plead to God on your behalf even as loses did for the Israelites. We have full authority over the Church and anything that exalts itself above the Word of God will be dealt with accordingly. When they asked Christ, "How may we do the good works of God?" He responded, "Obey the one God sent!" (John 6:25-29). Every person on earth has a duty to God and to their people to prepare themselves for this "Day of Visitation" (Luke 19:44). The key to receiving a blessing is the Gospel itself. Submission. Even the most ignorant are blessed if they humble themselves and even the most informed are cursed if they rebel against the authority of God. To be the greatest one must first become the slave of all. Those who follow this example will never receive anything less than a blessing from an Apostle of Jesus Christ. There is a proper

procedure for dealing with every authority under the sun and that includes the Office of Apostle.

July 02, 1997

Apostle wrote:

Dear Saints of God, Things are not always what we think they are. Even as the heavens are high above the earth, so God's ways are not our ways. Yet mercifully he rains down revelation on the good and bad so that we can all learn his true pattern. One common belief in the Church today is that at least two or three witnesses must confirm every word. Most assume that this means two or three people speaking the same message. Beloved, this is not the case. According to Paul,

This is the third time I am coming to you. In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established. I told you before, and foretell you again, as though present, a second time. And being absent now I write to those who heretofore have sinned and to all others, that if I come again, I will not spare you (2 Corinthians 13:1-2).

So, Paul counts his own word as one witness. He also says that each time he repeats himself it is the second and third witness. How can this be? The answer is that the words belong to the Holy Spirit, not Paul. The Holy Spirit decides who and when and how the gifts are distributed, not us. This is confirmed by Jesus who said,

Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, "I am the light of the world; he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." The Pharisees therefore said unto him, "Thou bearest record of thyself; thy record is not true." Jesus answered and said unto them, "Though I bear record of myself, yet my record is true: for I know whence I came and whither I go; but ye cannot tell whence I come and whither I go. Ye judge after the flesh; I judge no man. And yet if I judge, my judgment is true: for I am not alone, for the father sent me. It is written in your law, that the testimony of two men is true. I am one that bear witness of myself and the father that sent me also beareth witness of me (John 8:14-18).

So, Christ counts his own words as one witness. He also says that God is the second witness. In both cases, we are left with the words of just one man and that is more than enough to fulfill the requirements of the law. I should also mention that it was the Pharisees who wanted a second or third witness. Say amen or oh me.

July 03, 1997

Dale wrote:

(1John 4:1) – “Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.” (1Corinthians 13:12) – “now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.” My dear brothers and sisters, test every spirit, every word that comes forth. If after judging it by the word and the spirit (the devil knows the scripture better than we do and how to manipulate it against us so both tests must be applied). If it stands true, then receive it with gladness. If it does not, let it blow away with the chaff. Do not receive the word of the flesh into your spirit and so be distracted from living a full life in God. The shield of faith will quench every fiery dart of the enemy. I say every because we see dimly now at best. This goes for the greatest and the least of God’s servants. Do not think ill of the person that speaks in the flesh. We are all growing in God and God commands us to think evil of no man. Remember his ways are not our ways. His ways overcome with love and doing good for our enemies and the enemies of the cross of Jesus Christ. Be blessed.

July 03, 1997

Apostle wrote:

Dear Dale, Perhaps this can help you in your hunt for those dastardly impostors. On 09.23.96, the prophet Bob Jones wrote, "Their ultimate goal is betrayal." By the way, what would you do if you found one, say "I love you?"

July 04, 1997

Dale wrote:

I would like to say farewell to my brothers and sisters in this newsgroup. In my prayer time this morning the Lord spoke that there are three primary ways the devil comes against us. The first is by luring us into sin. The second is to intimidate us by fear into inactivity. The third is to distract us from doing what God called us to do. I have succeeded in against the first two attacks, but I have let the devil use this false Apostle to distract me from fulfilling my calling. I sincerely pray for you Apostle. I pray that your pride and self-righteousness will be broken on the rock of Jesus before the rock falls on you. I pray that in your brokenness you will be filled with love and clothed with humility. I pray that one day God will raise you up to be a true Apostle, making you a father to those you have birthed. In that day you will realize that authority comes from God and is established through relationships and deeds. To elevate yourself as an Apostle means nothing and doesn't give you any authority over anyone. When God elevates you to the office of Apostle, you won't say a word, but everyone else will recognize what God has done and honor you with the title. For my brothers and sisters, you have truly been a blessing to me. I appreciated your words of encouragement, both public and private. I also

appreciated sharing what the Lord has shown you to the edification of the whole Church. You have my email address. I pray that we may keep in touch. Please share the words the Lord gives you. God bless you all. Be blessed.

July 04, 1997

Apostle wrote:

Dear Saints of God, It is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour. They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us. But you have an anointing from the holy one and all of you know the truth. I do not write because you do not know the truth, but because no lie comes from the truth. Who is the liar? It is the man who denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a man is the antichrist. He denies the father and the son. No one who denies the son has the father; whoever acknowledges the son has also the father.
(1John 2:18-23)

This leads us to the third doctrine of devils currently found in the Church. Some believe that anyone who can say the words, "Jesus came in the flesh," or "Jesus is the Christ," or "Jesus is Lord," must be born of God. Beloved, this is not the case. To begin with, the test refers to our heart, not just our words. Secondly, the test applies to how we treat all Gods anointed, not just Jesus. This includes the body as well as the leaders. For

example: Jesus came in the flesh – the fivefold is real. Jesus is the Christ – the fivefold is anointed. Jesus is Lord – the fivefold has authority. Deny the fivefold – deny the one who sent them. Accept the fivefold – accept the one who sent them.

July 04, 1997

Carly wrote:

Shalom everyone, when my husband and I attended the prophetic school last July at the Church of Charlotte, Rick, Scott, Lester and Bobby kept referring to spiritual spheres of authority. This teaching helped me understand what I was to undertake and what I was to leave alone. For instance, I have authority in my family's life and my neighborhood and with members of my cell group. But that is it. It is not my place to speak into anyone else's life. I can disagree with what others say though and converse with them in a respectful manner. Rick said when we step out of our sphere of authority, it is a sin that opens us up for attacks from the enemy. Even Paul and Peter had separate spheres of authority. Paul's was the Gentiles and Peter the Jews. Paul rebuked Peter when Peter started to mess with Paul's sphere of authority. (Also Peter did not know what he was talking about because he stepped out of his authority). The bible also says that we know a tree by its fruit. The fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, self-control, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness and gentleness. This helps us sheep because it is a measuring stick for us. This doesn't mean that God doesn't love these people, it just gives us the ability and the confidence to not let these people affect us so much.

We also have authority to rebuke their words if we know they are not from the Lord. I heard Scott Trent talk about a brother once who said something way off out of his sphere of authority. Scott said that he spoke to the brother in love and everything but this is what he said, "I categorically reject everything you just said in the name of Jesus Christ." I haven't seen anyone posting their words, visions and dreams lately here. I know why. But here is a thought; Jezebel's life mission was to kill the prophets. Her mission today is the same; kill the prophetic. Yes, she was a haughty and bossy female but more than that she wanted to silence the voice of God by killing the prophets. Jezebel is clever and is in the picture before we know it, but her signature is the prophetic voice is silenced. Shalom to you precious people of the Lord Jesus.

July 04, 1997

Apostle wrote:

Dear Saints of God, Here is a little something I learned along the way about the prophetic world. Perhaps it will be of service to you and to others. If one looks closely, one invariably finds that sinners always talk about the sins they themselves are in. For instance, someone who calls others false is probably a liar. Someone who calls others mean is usually full of hate etc. You see sinners always talk about what they know best – themselves. So, whatever is in their heart is usually what comes out of their mouth. Although God is graciously giving them revelation about themselves, they arrogantly assume that the revelation is for someone else. Eventually, they turn and accuse the righteous of the very crimes they themselves are in. Like the Pharisees calling Christ a blasphemer. How ridiculous, right? Yet it happened. Now when the sinner learns to apply these revelations to him or herself rather than to others, he or she can learn to see clearly, repent and be healed. Later they become useful for helping others get out of the same sins. But if they refuse to humble themselves they will get worse and worse until they either run away or are destroyed or both. This principle not only allows the Church to heal itself, but also reveals just who is doing what and to whom. Understanding

this also helps us to stay within our correct sphere of authority. By the way, holiness is also a fruit of the Holy Spirit. Well I guess I can take a day off now. Have a happy 4th.

July 05, 1997

Reuben wrote:

Apostle this post is directed towards you. We created this news group with intention of providing a safe place to fellowship with others. We promote edification, exhortation, and encouragement to our brothers and sisters. Your posts have done little to promote our basic vision and purpose. You have severely criticized and wounded many believers in this news group. I can no longer allow this to happen and I am going to have to "ban" you from this news group. Many have responded to you with love and blessings, but your replies have been out of line. I pray that God will bless you. (Church of Charlotte)

July 06, 1997

Apostle wrote:

Dear Reuben, If you cannot even ban a gardener then either the gardener is very wise or you are a fool. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. (John 14:1) To the Church of Charlotte, Thus says the Lord, Why do you persecute me? Since you only gave my servant 36 hours to rest, you will be silent for 36 days.

July 06, 1997

Roger wrote:

"Like a fluttering sparrow or a darting swallow, so an undeserved curse does not come to rest" (Proverbs 26:2). In the name of Jesus, neither will this one.

July 06, 1997

Apostle wrote:

Dear Roger, If you were humble you would have noticed that a curse never rests – it hovers – like a hurricane... Waiting...

July 06, 1997

Apostle wrote:

Dear Saints of God, Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. (Matthew 5:10-12)

July 07, 1997

Apostle wrote:

Dear Saints of God, I hope I have not missed a reply to anyone. Forgive me if I have and feel free to try again. I catch up with everyone eventually. Well here we are on 07.07.97. Seven. What a blessed number. This should be good. I am always excited to hear the word of the Lord. How about you? Well there are two groups of seven that come to mind. The Seven Sons of Sceva (Acts 19:14) and the Seven Deacons of Jerusalem (Acts 6:3). One group was arrogant. One group was humble. One group looked for demons. One group looked for widows. One group was full of hot air. One group was full of the Holy Spirit. One group had its clothes torn off. One group was given white robes. One group ran away. One group became martyrs. Which group do you prefer? Not a hard choice, now is it?

July 07, 1997

Reuben wrote:

Friends, please excuse me as I try to work through the technical difficulties of "banning." Please do not let a person distract the main purpose of this news group. It is an obvious distraction to get all of us to write about him and not Jesus. In the process, I will figure out how to work through the difficulties of this news group server software. I appreciate your patience.... (Church of Charlotte)

July 08, 1997

Apostle wrote:

Dear Saints of God, Then said some of them, "Is not this he, whom they seek to kill? But, lo, he speaketh boldly, and they say nothing to him." Then they sought to take him: but no man laid hands on him, because his hour was not yet come. (John 7:30)

July 08, 1997

Apostle wrote:

Dear Saints of God, Come out of her, my people, so that you will not share in her sins, so that you will not receive any of her plagues; for her sins are piled up to the heaven and God has remembered her crimes. (Revelation 18:4-5)

July 08, 1997

Apostle wrote:

Dear Saints of God, If the world hates you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. Remember the word that I said unto you, "The servant is no greater than his Lord." If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. But all these things will they do unto you for my names sake, because they know not him that sent me. If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloak for their sin. He that hateth me hateth my father also. If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and hated both me and my father. But this cometh to pass, that the word might be fulfilled that is written in their law, "They hated me without a cause." (John 15: 18-23)

July 08, 1997

Apostle wrote:

Dear Saints of God, It is better to go to the house of mourning, than to go to the house of feasting: for that is the end of all men; and the living will lay it to heart. Sorrow is better than laughter: for by the sadness of the countenance, the heart is made better. The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning; but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth. It is much better to hear a rebuke of the wise, than for a man to hear the song of fools. (Ecclesiastes 7:2-5)

July 08, 1997

Cecelia wrote:

I am new to this newsgroup. I am not sure if this newsgroup is only for prophetic words that have to do with the body of Christ at large, or if we can submit words that are more personal in nature in the hopes that someone will receive an interpretation that we can pass on to the one who had the vision. This is what I would like to do with a vision I had two years ago. I have never received an interpretation for this dream, but I feel that it has some kind of significance. This is the vision: I saw a beach with palm trees in the middle of a great and terrible storm. The palm trees were blowing violently to and fro. Then I saw my husband Walter inside a tiny tent huddled around a lantern. The wind was not affecting the tent whatsoever. I then heard a voice that said, "You will find shelter in the trees." This is where the vision ended. Please forgive me if this sounds completely out to lunch, but I really believe that there is something to it. If anyone receives an interpretation for this vision, please let me know. Thank you very much. Your sister in Jesus.

July 08, 1997

Apostle wrote:

Dear Cecelia, The storm represents trouble or judgment. The tent represents the home or the Church. The trees represent people or cities. The lantern represents light or the Word of God. Your husband represents Jesus or the fivefold ministry. On 06.04.91, Bob Jones wrote, "God is creating sanctuary cities." Since that time, God has been placing certain leaders in certain cities to protect the Church from the coming storms. Those with ears to hear, hear what the spirit is saying to the Churches. Thank you Lord for the revelation. Thank you Lord for the interpretation.

July 08, 1997

Apostle wrote:

Dear Saints of God, Put aside your evil suspicions and you may just learn something. Esteem others higher than yourself and you might just find that you do not know everything. Be a wise son who loves the chastisement of his father. One who knows that without the rod he has no hope of becoming mature. You have many teachers, but few fathers. Therefore, humble yourself under the mighty hand of God and in time he will exalt you. First be trained and then you will be like the master. There is a proper procedure for dealing with everything under the sun, but fools rush in and are humiliated for it. He who answers before listening that is his folly and his shame. Now I have question for all of you. How many times must a horse be broken? Must it be broken over and over and over again? Surely, once is enough. After that it only needs to learn two things; how to pull a plow and how to walk a straight line. Once that is done it is useful for every good work.

July 09, 1997

Apostle wrote:

Dear Saints of God, I am one who knows what it is to be punished by God. He drove me deeper and deeper into darkness and beat me again and again with merciless blows. He has left my flesh open and raw, and has broken my bones. He has shut me in a prison of misery and anguish. He has forced me to live in the stagnant darkness of death. He has bound me in chains; I am a prisoner with no hope of escape. I cry aloud for help, but God refuses to listen; I stagger as I walk; stone walls block me wherever I turn. He waited for me like a bear; he pounced on me like a lion. He chased me off the road, tore me to pieces, and left me. He drew his bow and made me the target for his arrows. He shot his arrows deep into my body. People laugh at me all day long; I am a joke to them all. Bitter suffering is all he has given me for food and drink. He rubbed my face in the ground and broke my teeth on rocks. I have forgotten what health and peace and happiness are. I do not have much longer to live; my hope in the Lord is gone. The thought of my pain, my homelessness, is bitter poison. I think of it constantly, and my spirit is depressed. Yet hope returns when I remember this one thing: the Lord's unfailing love and mercy still continue, fresh as the morning, as sure as the sunrise. The Lord is all I have, and

so in him I put my hope. The Lord is good to everyone who trusts in him, so it is best for us to wait in patience — to wait for him to save us — and it is best to learn this patience in our youth. When we suffer, we should sit alone in silent patience; we should bow in submission, for there may still be hope.
(Lamentations 3:1-27)

July 09, 1997

Apostle wrote:

Dear Saints of God, Then said he unto him, 'A certain man made a great supper and bade many: and sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, 'Come; for all things are now ready.' And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first man said, 'I have bought a piece of ground and I must go and see it: I pray thee have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife and therefore cannot come.' So the servant came and shewed his Lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city and bring in hither the poor and the maimed and the halt and the blind.' And the servant said, 'Lord it is done as thou has commanded and yet there is room.' And the Lord said unto the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges and compel them to come in that my house may be filled. For I say unto you that none of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper' (Luke 14:16-24)

July 09, 1997

Apostle wrote:

Dear Saints of God, To whom shall I speak and give warning that they may hear? Behold, their ear is uncircumcised and they cannot hearken: behold, the Word of the Lord is unto them a reproach; they have no delight in it. Therefore I am full of the fury of the Lord; I am weary with holding it in: I will pour it out upon the children abroad and upon the assembly of young men together: for even the husband with the wife shall be taken, the aged with him that is full of days. And houses shall be turned unto others, with their fields and wives together: for I will stretch out my hand upon the inhabitants of the land saith the Lord. For from the least of them unto the greatest of them everyone is given to covetousness; and from the prophet even unto the priest everyone dealeth falsely. They have not healed the hurt of the daughter of my people, saying, "peace, peace; when there is no peace." Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? Nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush: therefore they shall fall among them that fall: at the time that I visit them they shall be cast down saith the Lord.
(Jeremiah 6:10-15)

July 09, 1997

Apostle wrote:

Dear Saints of God, Good evening class. I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work. (John 9:4) Let us see if anyone can answer this question. Did Gamaliel do the right thing or not? When they heard that, they were cut to the heart and took counsel to slay them. Then stood up one in the Council, a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a doctor of the law, who had a reputation among the people, and commanded to put the Apostles forth a little space; and said unto them, "Ye men of Israel, take heed to yourselves what ye intend to do as touching these men. For before these days rose up Theudas, boasting himself to be somebody; to whom a number of men, about four hundred, joined themselves: who was slain; and all, as many as obeyed him were dispersed. After this, a man rose up, Judas of galilee, in the days of taxing, and drew away much people after him: he also perished; and all, even as many as obeyed him, were dispersed. And now I say unto you, 'Refrain from these men and let them alone: for if the counsel or this work be of men, it will come to nought: but if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God. And to him they agreed: and when they had called the Apostles and beaten them, they commanded that

they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. And they departed from the presence of the Council, rejoicing that they were worthy to suffer shame for his name. And daily in the Temple and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus. (Acts 5:34-42)

July 11, 1997

Reuben wrote:

Folks, I was finally able to "deny" access to Apostle. This is a stop gap measure, he can get around the ban. He will be slowed down some... My intentions for this post is prayer for Apostle. God knows his heart and God can deal with him and change him to become a formidable force for the kingdom of God. He has hurt and wounded many in this news group, but I feel we have handled this attack with love and blessings. We have fought through this the way the Lord would want us to. I also feel that this is just a taste of what we will experience as the war rages on... We must learn from this and deal with it the way the Lord directs us to. At times we will fight the enemy... Tooth and nail and at other times with love, mercy and forgiveness. The battle is the Lord's and we need to be humble and sensitive to the way he wants us to fight his battle. I am proud to be amongst a group of saints such as yourselves. For the glory of our Lord and for his just reward of the cross. God bless all of you as we lock arms in battle. (Church of Charlotte)

July 11, 1997

Caleb wrote:

I agree. Let's lift up brother Apostle right now.. Heavenly father, we lift up Apostle to you. Lord Jesus, we choose to speak blessings to he who would throw curses at us. We ask that the full blessings of Godly humility, a Godly sorrow, and full repentance would be bestowed upon our fallen comrade. We stand against the spirit of rebellion and pride in the name of Jesus the Christ. And by his authority we speak healing to all those with damaged emotions, bitterness and resentment toward our brother. Lord God, we thank you for your wisdom during this battle. Lord we look to you and you alone for direction as the battle rages on. You are our commander in chief and we humbly submit to your direction. Master we pray that you would restore our brother to us. Let not the enemy continue to have his way with Apostle. Instead Lord, we ask that whatever circumstance are responsible for producing the haughty spirit of our brother would suddenly become the very things that lead him to the cross of Christ. We believe and have full confidence in you, father and we ask that you would make this whole situation become a tremendous testimony for brother Apostle and us as well. We thank you and give you all the glory. In Jesus' holy name, amen.

July 11, 1997

Bart wrote:

Yes Lord, amen and I also bind and cast out the spirits of delusion. Yours in Christ.

July 11, 1997

Ralph wrote:

Excellent post.

July 11, 1997

Danielle wrote:

Yes and amen.

July 11, 1997

Carl wrote:

I am also in agreement with all of you in this.

July 11, 1997

Karen wrote:

Praise the Lord that the brethren on this ng "hold forth the word of life." I bear witness that this ng does stand together in unity and one mind. Peace.

July 12, 1997

Apostle wrote:

Dear Saints of God, If I be lifted up from the earth, I will draw all men unto me. (John 12:32) Do you remember the day you first heard that Christ loved you? Do you remember when you gave away everything you owned to follow him? Do you remember the first time you decided to forgive instead of hate? Do you remember the first time you spoke with the tongue of an angel? And what about the first time you opened a Bible? How about the first miracle? The first healing? The first prophecy? Do you remember when you were the first to suffer? The first to submit? The first to work? Do you remember your first love? Repent before it is too late.

July 13, 1997

Reuben wrote:

Apostle, your comments are uncalled for. Lord rebuke you for your conceit, pride, arrogance and selfish deception. With the authority that has been given me as the keeper of this ministry, I give you over to judge. May he be merciful in dealing with you as a fair and loving judge. You are no longer wanted in this news group. Your name will be turned over to the leadership of the Church of Charlotte and the Church of Mobile, Rick Joiner, Bob Jones and others regarding your actions on this news group. We pray that the Holy Spirit will humble you and show you the road of true repentance and Apostleship. If you insist on continuing to post on this news group, you will be totally ignored and eventually I will be able to permanently deny you access to this ng. (Church of Charlotte)

July 13, 1997

Apostle wrote:

Dear Reuben, You can tell the Mobile School of Prophets, Thus says the Lord, Have you no eyes? Can't you see? Have you no ears? Can't you hear? We are living in the Age of Netanyahu (Net and Yahoo!).

July 16, 1997

Apostle wrote:

Dear Reuben, I have waited 72 hours for this so-called leadership to contact me. It seems they are unwilling to write in their own newsgroup. I get the message. Now receive mine.

July 26, 1997

Apostle wrote:

Atlanta, Georgia (AP News) After causing severe flooding from Mobile to Charlotte, hurricane Danny finally headed off shore producing a water spout at Wright Brothers National Monument at Kill Devil Hills.

43 inches of rain in Alabama.

The Face of an Ox



(Act II)

July 14, 1998

Reuben wrote:

Friends, thanks for bearing with us one more time. Our newsgroup server has been upgraded to NT 4.0 and IIS 4.0. Our sincere apologies for all the down time. It is a never ending battle to keep this ng up and online. We will do our very best to keep this ng server up and reliable. We appreciate your patience and endurance. All the posts regarding this ng and protocol have been well stated and offer excellent instruction. These NGs have been created for the sole purpose of encouragement, edification and exhortation and a lot of fellowship with fellow Christian who have a calling in the revelatory gifts (Church of Charlotte / prophetic anointing). Though we will not exclude anyone with other giftings. This ng has been very trying at times and has been around for about 1.5 years. There aren't many like this one because of the subject matter and freedom to share with others. I am very involved with the Microsoft Network and many of the different NGs within msn. I was an assistant religion forum manager on msn and it was very very difficult to work there... There was extreme religious spirits and just the mention of gifts of the Holy Spirit brought on the judgment and religiousness of many Christians there on MSN. This NG is unique and we have had many many battles and

trials. Maybe, one reason is because we are a “unique” group of Christians who believe in the super natural and look forward to more of the glorious anointing’s that God wants to give his children (this is just a thought). For whatever reason, I’d rather keep this place a free and giving place to come to. I try and keep things in order, but I do not want to put in many rules, though I will administrate this ng if need be. If anyone was here when a gentlemen by the name of Apostle was around, you know how trying it can be. We weathered that storm and it brought a lot of us closer together in unity. A lot of us thought that Apostle was brought to the ng for a purpose (if you know what I mean?). What am I trying to say...umghhhhhh ? Great question... We should use this place to fellowship, unify, grow and mature in Christ. Yup, this place ain’t perfect and we will step on toes and make some people upset... Get over it as Rick Joiner would say. (Church of Charlotte)

July 14, 1998

Apostle wrote:

Dear Reuben, I see that even after a year has passed you are still trying to slander my good name and the Office of Apostle. On July 06, 1997, I wrote, "To the Church of Charlotte, Thus says the Lord, Why do you persecute me? Since you only gave my servant 36 hours to rest, you will be silent for 36 days." As you know, the Church of Charlotte is closed from June 28th thru August 2nd. Will you join with me in giving the glory to God? Thank you, Jesus.

July 14, 1998

Tammy wrote:

Mr. Apostle and so what is your point? Anyone came make statements such as you did and even be right. Why would you rejoice that you were right in stating something that has no consequence except that folks who have had a grueling schedule have taken some time off.

July 14, 1998

Apostle wrote:

Dear Tammy, If you do not want to give glory to God why don't you just say so?

July 14, 1998

Apostle wrote:

Dear Saints of God, Many of you have been sending me private messages. I respectfully request that you direct your comments to the newsgroup. Ministers of the Gospel, especially Apostles, need to keep everything on the up and up. For those of you who do not know me, I am 37, white, married, have 2 children and another due on November 1st. I am currently employed as a part time laborer for a carpenter. I was directed to this newsgroup exactly one year ago and instructed to teach the Saints how to wage war. Needless to say, I have succeeded. When I arrived you were undisciplined, unorganized, full of confusion, and strife. And now look at you. You have order, you have unity, you have a plan, you have better software. Anyone who was paying attention to the signs last year knows that of the 27 named storms, only two hit the United States mainland. Hurricane Danny hit the southeast on July 19th. Hurricane Nora hit the southwest on September 25th. Danny means judgement. Nora means respect. You do the math.

July 17, 1998

Apostle wrote:

Dear Saints of God, We are at the crossroads. According to one prophet, "The tent has been secured on three corners, but the canvass is still flapping in the wind in North America." One strong gale and the whole thing may collapse ending the final move of God before it even begins. Certainly, the other countries will ask why? Has the enemy worked harder to stop the Americans? Have they run out of resources? Are they too exhausted to finish the race? Have they no leaders? No prophets? Is there no one they can turn to for guidance? Not one wise man in all their towns? Why have they jeopardized the entire Church? The answer is simple. They are full of sin, full of greed and envy and strife, full of backbiting, slander, and suspicion, full of arrogance, selfishness, and accusation. They are in full blown rebellion. Against who? Their own leaders. For years, the prophets boldly proclaimed that a mighty apostolic move was coming. But when it arrived, what the response? Not yet. Not yet. It isn't time. It isn't time. No one is going to tell us what to do. We have prophets. The pastors will lead us. The teachers will teach us. The evangelists will spread the news. We have the Word. We have the Holy Spirit. We can speak to God ourselves. We are saved. Unfortunately, by rejecting the

messenger they rejected the message. Now, they look for answers, but find none. They cry to God, but he is silent. They call for the prophets, but they have no vision. They are left confused, desperate, and powerless. And look, in the horizon, Hell is coming. It swallows us. It devours us. Nature has revolted. Demons are released. Deception is everywhere. No one can be trusted. Why didn't we listen? The Apostles were here. They knew what to do. We are fools. See the fire that burns across the nation! Call the elders. Tell the prophets. Look to Zion. In the desert. There is a highway. A level road. A holy path. Can you hear it? A voice calls out. In the wilderness. In the desert. A single voice. Let us listen and learn. Let us find shelter from the wrath of God. Then we will sing for joy. Then the poor will find food. Then the poor will find rest.

July 20, 1998

Chad wrote:

Hello friends, I have been in some serious combat, some of you may know as I posted earlier that God had called me to battle but I wasn't sure to what extent. Well I was nearly defeated today and could barely stand, when the Lord (finally) gave me revelation through the confession of one dear and close to me. The confession was a sexual sin, and God opened my eyes and lifted the burden from me upon this confession. I have been praying against perversion, lust, and immorality for about 2 months, but had no idea that it is as serious as the Lord has revealed to me tonight. He had me confessing over his bride just 2 weeks ago in tears that she was indeed "a spotless virgin and the enemy could never take that away from him" the reason why I had no understanding into this earlier was because the demons have been hiding in unconfessed sin. In just the last 2 hours since the first confession there has been several more friends of mine repent for masturbation, lust and have confessed to having seducing spirits provoking them in dreams. I want to challenge everyone, and everyone that you all fellowship with to search their hearts for unconfessed sexual acts of sin, for any impurity that is hidden, and repent before the Lord, before wives and husbands. This thing is at work in the

leaders and God wants to forgive and cleanse us, and provide strength against all temptation. I challenge you all to seek his heart on this matter because he has been hurt and grieved. He doesn't want us walking in guilt and shame, and hates it when the marriage bed is defiled. In him.

July 20, 1998

Apostle wrote:

Dear Chad, "Lewd" – obsolete: evil, wicked, sexually unchaste, or licentious, obscene, vulgar. For certain men, have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ. (Jude 1:4) In other words, they use the Gospel as a license for sin. They deny that power exists to live holy lives. They are two timers, double minded, liars, Babylon, whore etc. They sin, wipe their mouth, and say "Jesus loves me." Sound familiar?

July 21, 1998

Apostle wrote:

Monterey, California (AP News) Alan Bartlett Shepard, Jr., the first American to fly in space and one of only 12 astronauts to walk on the Moon, died today.

The days of "The Good Shepherd" are over.

July 21, 1998

Apostle wrote:

Westlake, California (AP News) Robert George Young, an actor who created solid, wholesome, common-sense characters on television in "Father Knows Best" and "Marcus Welby, M.D.," died today.

The days of "Father Knows Best" are over.

July 21, 1998

Beth wrote :

I dreamed we were having home group at our house. I was being terribly distracted and the phone rang. After getting off with a telemarketer, I was walking back across the room to the meeting. Out of the corner of my eye I saw an orange turtle. Something told me it was bad news. I started to make a run for it but the turtle bit me on my ankle and stayed attached. It had a paralyzing effect on me and I fell to the ground. One of the elders gave me a towel to bite on. My husband and a couple of others began to take this turtle off me. They got it off but the head remained attached to my ankle. We weren't concerned because we knew that it would eventually come off. That's the extent of my dream. I wrote earlier that I'm a new dreamer. I still think some of my dreams are weird and my husband says to pray about them because they could be from God. I've tried to be faithful to write them down and pray about them. I'd appreciate any response any of you might have. Thanks!

July 21, 1998

Apostle wrote:

Dear Beth, A ringing phone represents a warning or wakeup call. A telemarketer is a charlatan or a false leader. Orange means danger or poison. A turtle is a lizard, dragon, snake, Satan etc. The elders represent the Fivefold, true leaders like me. Your husband represents Christ. The dream is a warning. God is going to hand over America to Satan for the destruction of its flesh.

July 23, 1998

Carol wrote:

I remember seeing posted once about what the fingers on our hands stand for in regard to ministry. During worship my pinky finger on my right hand has started to stand apart from the others and it feels very heavy (like a lead weight) could someone please post a reply to this for me??In Christ.

July 23, 1998

Apostle wrote:

Dear Carol, Here ya go!

Then the young men who had grown up with him spoke to him, saying, "Thus you should speak to this people who have spoken to you, saying, 'Your father made our yoke heavy, but you make it lighter on us' – thus you shall say to them: 'My little finger shall be thicker than my father's waist.' (1Kings 12:10)

July 27, 1998

Apostle wrote:

Dear Saints of God, Your Born-Again Theology is a half soul, half spirit, lie from the pit of hell. A doctrine of demons. A vain philosophy. And more importantly, it does not work. It was developed by halfhearted leaders to explain away their halfhearted conversions. Rather than admit to themselves and to their congregations that their own conversions were false (Finney calls it Spurious Regeneration) and risk embarrassment and loss of income, they just replaced the truth with a lie. This "Name it, Claim it, Frame it" theology has now spread so far that even conservative leaders buy into it. Are we saved by faith? Of course we are. Has every person who said "The Sinners Prayer" had faith? Of course not. Does this mean that the Gospel has failed? By no means. It only proves the point that "All men have failed and fallen short of the glory of God." Now in most cases the process was nothing more than "Jail House Religion" which quickly fades like the seed sown among the rocks. It is no coincidence that one of Christ's first sermon was to tell an established religious leader that "He must be born again." What was Christ trying to say? That flesh gives birth to flesh. And spirit gives birth to spirit. If after having followed Christ, you find yourself unable to conquer sin, it does not mean that Christ

failed. It does not mean you still need time to develop. It means that you failed to have faith. Your commitment was only wishful thinking. So now am I preaching a Gospel of works as my accusers proclaim? No, I preach a Gospel of faith. Pure faith. That is the real reason they try to stop me. For what they failed to accomplish thru the law and what they failed to accomplish thru grace, was accomplished in me thru childlike faith. And they hate me for it. The message is clear. Anyone who is born of God will not continue to sin. Behold he is a new creation. Old things have passed away. New wine cannot be put into old wineskins. The old man cannot develop into a Christian. He cannot learn to be holy. He cannot do anything but burst wide open like Judas. No one sows a new patch on an old garment. If the tree is good so is the fruit. Good water and bad water cannot come from the same well. God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. No one can be raised with Christ until they are first buried with Christ. Don't you see it? Are you all blind. These liars want you to pay their rent. They want you to feed their families, not yours. Sure, they say follow Christ and read the Bible and pray for that makes good little slaves – slaves who will not rock the boat, slaves who pay tithes – slaves who can be milked for all their worth. And what happens when you do go home and do pray and do read your Bible and do try to change, and do try to live free from sin? They are right there again tickling your ears saying; "Everything is fine" "Christ died for you." "You can't be perfect." "Don't be so hard on yourself." "God is Love." Then just when you are back to being your old

rotten self again, they start all over with the guilt trips and tell you to improve, to get better, to be more like Christ, to change your spots. But not too much now. No just enough to pay their rent. "After all, no one is holy but Christ." And so, you go round and round and round. All the time they get fatter and fatter and fatter. And what happens if someone dares to point out these facts? What happens if one of you dares to lift his head above the crowd? They label you a liar, a demon, a sinner, an outcast, a deceiver. Do not be fooled. Their fathers did the same thing to Christ before you. Don't believe me? Try it? They'll deal with you swiftly and without the so-called mercy they love to preach about. Well Christ came to set you free. Not some. Not part. All the way. Right now. Not tomorrow. Today is the Day of Salvation. Break the yoke of Satan. Cast off the restraints of Babylon. I say live. I say be free. I say free yourself from bondage. Flee Babylon. Flee now. Be holy. Be holy now. Be a saint. Be a saint now. Ah, but if you let them keep you alone, and in the dark, separated and confused, and fed the scraps from their filthy tables, eventually you will be too weak to run. Then they will keep you on the farm and mark you like an animal. Follow the Apostles! Follow me! Follow now! Can I promise you anything? No! Nothing! Just pain and suffering. But it is free pain. Free suffering. Suffering that means something. Freedom from sin. Freedom from your dead rotten self. Free to save others. Or just go back. Go sit in your pew. Pay your tithe and wait for Christ to do everything. He won't you know. He already died once. What more do you want? Oh, go

ahead. Go back with those other liars and thieves and murderers. Go with the ones who shrink back in fear. Those lazy servants who want the pat on the back, who want to be slaves in the big house. The good little slaves. The yes men. But don't call me when the slave owners molest your daughters and steal your wives and rob your parents. Don't call me. I'll be at a true camp meeting, having a true revival, in a true tent city, a true slave of a true master.

July 27, 1998

Apostle wrote:

Dear Saints of God, Do you hear that sound? It is the sound of the gift of Godly sorrow which leads to true repentance being deposited in your heart. Beautiful, isn't it? Like a cool breeze on a hot summer day. Satan has fled in terror. Make the most of this time and examine yourselves. True revival is not the result of words whether soft or harsh but the result of faithful obedience in the delivery of those words. Whether God tells a man to speak harsh or gentle is Gods business and Gods alone. Surely the almighty can do both and both are righteous. For a man to speak harshly when God commands gentleness is as evil as to speak kindly when God commands severity. Only God knows which words his children need at which time and the true Man of God hears God and obeys them all. So, real revival is not the result of the words themselves, but the result of one man's obedience to God in speaking those words. The Gospel we preach is not a message of persuasive arguments, or of gentle pleadings, but a message of true power that leads to true obedience of the heart resulting in true holiness. Therefore, it is not how or even what a man speaks, but how he obeys the still small voice that leads him. In the days to come many will run back and forth looking for "revival" and the "right message." Do

not be fooled – anyone can feed a child and anyone can use the rod, but only the man who hears God will know when to use which one and that alone produces true revival.

July 27, 1998

Bart wrote:

Apostle, do you love me?

July 27, 1998

Apostle wrote:

Dear Bart, Of course I love you. Don't you remember how hard I fought last year to feed you even though all of Hell tried to stop me?

July 28, 1998

Katie wrote:

Its best is to ignore Apostle. Pray for the Church of Charlotte (Rick Joiner and Reuben Miguez). Another alternative is to lock the newserver, requiring a username/password which the Church of Charlotte can then control: you must apply to be registered. This is a bit like moderated email lists. Blessings.

July 28, 1998

Apostle wrote:

Dear Saints of God, So they came to Jerusalem. Then Jesus went into the temple and began to drive out those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. And he would not allow anyone to carry wares through the temple. Then he taught, saying to them, "Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations'? But you have made it a 'den of thieves.' "And the scribes and chief priests heard it and sought how they might destroy him; for they feared him, because all the people were astonished at his teaching. (Mark 11:15-18)

July 28, 1998

Apostle wrote:

Dear Saints of God, Normally I would agree wholeheartedly with the notion of submission. In fact, Christ told his own disciples to "Submit to the Pharisees." And as Paul said, "Every authority on earth is established by God" and that we are to submit to them all for our own good and the good of the lands we live in. He also makes it quite clear that we are to submit to our own Church leaders, especially those who teach and preach for a living. Therefore, I am convinced that before He was baptized in the Holy Spirit Christ was the perfect model of a submissive servant. However, things changed dramatically once the Holy Spirit came upon him. And speaking of Paul, who can forget the story of his conversion and how he immediately began to defend the way, so much so that he was forced to escape the city in a basket. Then there is Peter and the other Apostles who just moments after receiving the Holy Spirit rose in opposition to the Pharisees and condemned the men of Israel for having killed the Christ. So, we see that each time the Holy Spirit arrived on the seen these once submissive men began to change and change quickly. The question is why? The answer is simple. The Holy Spirit of God has authority over all men, including governments, nations, rulers, and priests. The

almighty sets one in place and removes another without hesitation or consultation and he does so through the words of his Holy Prophets and Apostles. So, all the rulers of the earth are as nothing before the mighty authority of the Kingdom of God. That is why Christ told his disciples that "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and Samaria, and to the ends of the Earth. Prior to that time, they were told to wait. But once the Spirit descended they immediately went out and proclaimed the Wonders of God whether anyone liked it or not, just like their Master. Now does this principle apply to the Church as well? Can some stranger just come right in off the street and tell everyone what to do? The answer is yes. Of course he can. The Holy Spirit can lead any man to rebuke or change the order of things any time he sees fit. Whether that man is sitting in the last seat or on the stage, if he is led of the spirit he not only has the right to, but also the power to back it up. This is God's divinely appointed method for keeping all things in check including kings, presidents, governors, and yes – even pastors. Does this include the Apostles as well? It certainly does. Remember how Paul rebuked Peter openly for following the practices of the Jews to the exclusion of the gentile traditions. Now did Peter argue? Did he ask for more witnesses? Did he attack Paul? Did he cast Paul out? No. He submitted to Paul's words and repented. And in his last letter to the Church Peter goes on to say of Paul "His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and

unstable people distort, as they do the other scriptures, to their own destruction.” Peter learned firsthand that sometimes God will send an outsider, someone who knows more than the insiders, a man who receives a greater revelation than the other leaders, a man who will not settle for just any old practice, a man who is tried and tested and refined, a man without 3000 followers, a man who went directly to the desert first, a man like Paul. Should we submit to a man like this? To tell you the truth I do not know what I would do. I never met a Paul before. Maybe there is only one. Maybe not – I do know that I met a Bob once and when he rebuked me I listened and it saved my life and my marriage and I received a Golden Crown. But then again, I am not like everyone else.

July 29, 1998

Apostle wrote:

Westerville, Ohio (AP News) Thirteen machine shop workers from Ohio won the biggest-ever Powerball lottery prize – a cash lump sum of \$161.5 million before taxes – a spokeswoman for the company where they work said Thursday. The all-male group, known as, “The Lucky 13,” range in age from their 20s to 60s.

Casting the lot ends the dispute.

August 07, 1998

Apostle wrote:

Miami, Florida (AP News) This Spring my wife won employee of the year and was awarded a seven day cruise. On July 31, 1998, we boarded the Carnival ship Sensation. That night, we sat at the captain's table, and he informed us that unless Tropical Storm Alex changed course, we would return to Port Miami. That night I prayed. Within hours, Alex was sheared off by strong upper winds and we stayed the course. At noon, we received an SOS from a small craft taking on water. An hour later, the whole ship cheered as we rescued 21 refugees from the Dominican Republic.

Thank you Lord for true salvation.

August 26, 1998

Tammy wrote:

Reuben....are there archives somewhere to access the previous year's posts? I was looking for a prophecy about Princess Diana and Mother Teresa.

August 26, 1998

Reuben wrote:

No Tammy, I have not set this up, due to disk space needed to archive. I can look into this if more people want it. (Church of Charlotte)

August 26, 1998

Patrick wrote:

The other day I went to my basement to make some photocopies, just before I did I heard the word juxtapose. I thought to myself, what a weird word, I had never heard the word before. I went about my business. A couple of days later I went to make some photo copies, at about the exact location I heard very clearly the word again, juxtapose. I shared with my home group late but am still trying to figure out what God is trying to say to me, any wisdom, interpretation revelation? No turning back.

August 26, 1998

Apostle wrote:

Dear Patrick, Here ya go!

“Juxtaposition” – a placing or being placed in nearness or contiguity, or side by side. To fight on horseback as a knight or man-at-arms. To engage in combat with lances on horseback. To engage in personal combat or competition.

August 28, 1998

Diane wrote:

Hi all. It's nice to meet you. I hope I'm not interrupting all the excitement, you are a bunch of interesting folks. I have a question if anybody cares to respond to: what about tithing? I was raised very traditionally, but since got saved for myself and studied the bible, never quite understood it. My heart believes in giving as described in NT, but Church largely convinced (sometimes pressured) otherwise i.e. tithing. It seems even if following the OT we should collect and use tithes differently. But many Churches exist because of such teaching. It provides a stable support. I'm inclined to think it's wrong. Am I rebellious? Talk to me. Where does the Church of Charlotte stand on this? Joe? And the rest of you.

August 29, 1998

Apostle wrote:

Dear Diane, Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.
(James 1:27)

September 04, 1998

Believer wrote:

Greetings beloved, I was wondering this morning about Apostle and the Church of Charlotte. Are you guys warning people privately?? My concern is the “newbie” brethren who don’t know what’s up with him. Please advise. Blessings.

September 04, 1998

Reuben wrote:

Dear Believer, yes, you do raise a valid point about the newbies. And it is a tough decision. We all must grow up unto Christ and learn to deal with him. His postings, however, are monitored, and if we must deal with him, we attempt that separately. We feel that you will agree with our decision as you take into consideration at this time, that he gives each of us a great opportunity for testing and sharpening our character, our level of discernment, and strengthening our walk in the Lord, bringing an increase in authority in the Lord to deal within these situations. We also feel that Apostle represents more of what is to come to the body of Christ. That is, the false doctrine, false prophecy etc. (Matthew 13:24): another parable he put forth to them, saying: "the kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; 25: "but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. 26: "but when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. 27: "so the servants of the owner came and said to him, 'sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?' 28: he said to them, 'an enemy has done this.' The servants said to him, 'do you want us then to go and gather them up?' 29: "but he said, 'no, lest while you

gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. 30: 'let both grow together and until the harvest, and at the time of harvest will say to the reapers, "first gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn." Yes, newbies should know, and each of you can help us as well by filling them in on the higher calling and on a higher level of spiritual warfare that this news group represents. The kingdom of heaven is righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost....whatever is written on these NG's that is not that Please, know The Lord is not in it All glory to God. In his calling, his servants and yours. (Church of Charlotte)

September 05, 1998

Apostle wrote:

Dear Saints of God, The last four hurricanes this year were just a warning. Call it juxtaposition if you like. Now I will show you what true power is.

September 27, 1998

Apostle wrote:

Mobile, Alabama (AP News) Trailing a 1,500-mile wake of death and destruction, hurricane Georges punched across the Florida Keys with 105 mph winds Thursday and took aim at the gulf coast on a track that could slam it into Mobile with even greater ferocity. It is the first time since 1893 that four hurricanes occurred at the same time in the Atlantic.

Georges, Ivan, Jeanne, and Karl.

The Face of a Man



(Act III)

January 11, 1999

Bill wrote:

How I long for the day when we will all know just who is who and what is what. Come Lord Jesus. Come Quickly.

January 11, 1999

Apostle wrote:

Dear Bill, That day is here. It is called the internet.

January 11, 1999

Bill wrote:

Hello, I have no great revelation to give; but, I do have a question. Why should I listen on eternally important matters to someone calling himself an Apostle who uses "smart-mouth" kinds of evasive answers when asked if they are being forthright? I don't have many expectations I would feel comfortable laying on any of the true (Ephesians 4:11) services to the body, but honesty, openness to questioning by others in the body, and concern for avoiding even the appearance of evil are at the top of the list.

January 11, 1999

Apostle wrote:

Dear Bill, You are correct. You have no great revelation to give. You would do well to follow my example and train your mouth before using it. I hope this was not too evasive for you to understand.

January 30, 1999

Bill wrote:

I just wanted people to know not to think there is a "saint" sitting out here in the deserts of California that is "better" than anyone else. I wish it was true, in its best sense, because such a person would surely be a great help to all of us who are engaged in such struggles as to nearly drive us mad. Alas, 'tis not so I am an ordinary Christian struggling with what everyone else is struggling with.

January 30, 1999

Apostle wrote:

Dear Bill, As I read your letter I do indeed feel great pain. As I sit here looking into the eyes of my 3-month-old son and then look into yours, it is obvious that your heart is full of evil and your mind consumed by filth. It is a shame that you think that your only course of action must be to condemn a holy man who has struggled long and hard to be free just so that you can justify your own lack of commitment.

February 01, 1999

Roger wrote:

Apostle, I pray you don't misunderstand. I'm sure you know these verses. I pray the Holy Spirit brings illumination to them. (Romans 6:5-7) 5 for if we have become united with {him} in the likeness of his death, certainly we shall also be {in the likeness} of his resurrection, 6 knowing this, that our old self was crucified with {him} in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; 7 for he who has died is freed from sin. Nau) (Galatians 2:20-21) 20 "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the {life} which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the son of God, who loved me and gave himself up for me. 21 "I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness {comes} through the law, then Christ died needlessly." (Nau) (Romans 9:30-33) 30 what shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, attained righteousness, even the righteousness which is by faith; 31 but Israel, pursuing a law of righteousness, did not arrive at {that} law. 32 Why? Because {they did} not {pursue it} by faith, but as though {it were} by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone, 33 just as it is written, "behold, I lay in Zion a stone of stumbling and a rock of

offense, and he who believes in him will not be disappointed." (Nau) please don't stumble. Jesus is Lord.

February 01, 1999

Apostle wrote:

Dear Roger, Even though you were among the first to slander my name, I always have time for the Word. Now I agree wholeheartedly with every verse. Surely, you would agree that faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen? Is it so strange that someone's faith resulted in righteousness? Shall we deny Christ the glory for having transformed that life? And what of those lost sheep who are trying to get out of bondage? Shall we have them follow men who cannot control themselves all in the name of false humility? Have you strayed so far from the truth that you mock a man for following Christ's example? Have you fallen so low that the very thought of living a holy life seems impossible to you? The scriptures are clear. Those who fail to attain righteousness did so because they were under the law. So, you see it is you who need faith, not me.

February 04, 1999

Bruce wrote:

But I read your website. No e-mail address... You lack transparency and willingness to communicate? Once a man becomes sinless apparently he also becomes invisible... The quote from Finney is good. Everything is was useless in telling someone how to be sinlessly perfect. I don't doubt you, by the way. I think you may be sinlessly perfect, just immature beyond your years. Damning everyone who doesn't see you as being an Apostle is not the wisest course in convincing them of that fact by evidencing a walk of love and power.

February 04, 1999

Apostle wrote:

Dear Bruce, Have you never read, Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that receiveth whomsoever I send receiveth me; and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me. (Matthew 10:40)

February 04, 1999

Bruce wrote:

Hi Apostle, no offense is intended, my friend. But here is something to consider. No one wants you here, so why not brush the dust from your shoes and leave us? Christ did not hang around places he was not received, and likewise told his disciples. Every time you respond it shows you are not Christ like. I will be happy to correspond with you via e-mail if you wish.

February 04, 1999

Apostle wrote:

Dear Bruce, Have you never read, If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. (John 15:19)

February 06, 1999

Carly wrote:

Last year this was all dealt with very biblically and actually probably with a little overkill. Many people posted and privately wrote to Mr. Apostle in a careful and gracious manner. Reuben then posted and warned many times. Finally after all steps were taken, he was banned from the group. This has already been done. A message from Bob Jones was even posted last year denouncing Mr. Apostle's claims. It seems as if you are placing the responsibility of the maturation of the Apostles and prophets on the people. I agree that is part of it but they certainly bear a big burden in being obedient to the Lord and being a bondslave to him. What you are saying seems to release those who are called from that role. In addition, I have had the distinct pleasure of seeing the Holy Spirit. This is wonderful but probably a rarity. Most people do not accept correction such as this (present company excluded). One last thing for everyone. Reuben, the one with the authority on the newsgroup, has asked that we ignore Mr. Apostle. I don't understand why so many of us are being blatantly disobedient. For a couple of days no one posted to him and his presence was minimal. But now you guys are just fueling his fire. I am frankly tired of reading these posts, as one who has already

done this. It seems the newer folks are just disregarding what some of us who were here last year suggest. Not that we have any authority but we have already been around the block once with this and made all of these mistakes and learned from them. Please let's move on. Mr. Apostle is a distraction just as he was a year ago. When he first started posting, many people became obsessed with changing him or they were so incensed and insulted they became obsessed with rebuking him. Obsession does not equal a true assignment from God. We became distracted with him and some even left. Most of us who were around are not participating in these interchanges because we know it is a road going nowhere. I know this is to the point but it is almost impossible to sound any other way through this medium as has been discussed. Shalom.

February 06, 1999

Apostle wrote:

Dear Carly, Are you referring to the last time everyone voted to ban me, hate me, mock me, ignore me, etc. etc.? Technically speaking, this would be the third vote. Curiously, not once has anyone produced a single shred of evidence suggesting that I have done anything other than speak the truth in love. In fact, if you look at the previous posts, you will find that Reuben Miguez instigated this most recent assault on my name. As to Bob Jones sending a letter denouncing me (not that I believe it), I would be happy to see a copy of it. Feel free to post it right here where everyone can judge for themselves whether you are telling the truth or not.

February 07, 1999

Joe wrote:

Apostle are you trying to imply that the persecution you get on this newsgroup is because of your righteousness? Not hardly. It is because of your arrogance pride and contentiousness.

February 07, 1999

Apostle wrote:

Dear Joe, You just admitted you are persecuting me. Talk about arrogance.

February 08, 1999

Jay wrote:

Apostle, I've always found that flies, gnats and other annoying critters, can only bother people for a period of time. Since you have such a defeatist view of the North American Church and these newsgroups, why do you bother being an annoyance? Since you claim to be an Apostle, why not follow Jesus' example and dust your feet off and move on to those who will listen to you. No one here is really persecuting you and you have insulated yourself so no one really can. I sincerely pray that you will see the Church of the living God will not be defeated. You either fall upon the rock and are broken or the rock will fall upon you and grind you to powder. Even if North America was in as bad a shape as you say- God would send us missionary-Apostles from other countries who would wake us up. In fact I believe he has. I mean if you had something constructive or edifying to say people would want to listen to you, but I don't see that. So buss on if you want, it won't bother me. I just hope you get help before you have to stand before God. Blessings in Christ.

February 08, 1999

Apostle wrote:

Dear Jay, Which is worse? To tell a fool that he is a fool or to mock a Holy Apostle for warning him. You strain out a gnat and swallow a camel. As to the condition of North America, I think your attitude proves my point all too well. Go ahead. Ignore my words. Wait for an Apostle from Yemen to ring your doorbell. Go ahead – wait.

February 08, 1999

Apostle wrote:

Dear Saints of God, Wisdom is calling out in the streets and marketplaces, calling loudly at the city gates and wherever people come together: "Foolish people. How long do you want to be foolish? How long will you enjoy making fun of knowledge? Will you never learn? Listen when I reprimand you; I will give you good advice and share my knowledge with you. I have been calling you, inviting you to come, but you would not listen. You paid no attention to me. You have ignored all my advice and have not been willing to let me correct you. So when you get into trouble, I will laugh at you. I will make fun of you when terror strikes -when it comes on you like a storm, bringing fierce winds of trouble, and you are in pain and misery. Then you will call for wisdom, but I will not answer. You may look for me everywhere, but you will not find me. You have never had any use for knowledge and have always refused to obey the Lord. You have never wanted my advice or paid any attention when I corrected you. So then, you will get what you deserve, and your own actions will make you sick. Inexperienced people die because they reject wisdom. Stupid people are destroyed by their own lack of concern. But whoever listens to me will have

security. He will be safe, with no reason to be afraid. (Proverbs 1:20-33)

February 08, 1999

Tammy wrote:

Apostle....you can't possibly believe, even at the height of your deception that you can pass off this kind of talk and behavior as being what Jesus would have done. Remember....even the demons in scripture recognized Jesus.

February 08, 1999

Apostle wrote:

Dear Tammy, If Elijah can mock the prophets of Baal, and David can feign insanity, and Jesus can call Samaritans dogs, I see no reason I cannot challenge another man's integrity to save his soul. After all, iron sharpens iron.

February 08, 1999

Patrick wrote:

Greeting to you all in the name of our Lord. I do not like talking about someone else unless I have told them what I am saying. And even then I am not comfortable. The body is made up of all sorts of different gifting and personalities and we do need each other. We learn even as we disagree. We grow as we listen to the ideas that do not support our own. We please our Lord when we show mercy and humility by covering each other's shortcoming. I do love it when we can talk about him. I have a hard time posting anything that does not remind me of him. He is so much more important than our stuff but our stuff still needs to be addressed. I have said my piece to Apostle himself and I do not wish to spend a more time on him. But I am going to make this discernment open to all. Take it as it hits you. I am willing to be wrong. When I read what Apostle posts I become mad. Anger is a very real emotion and when it comes my way I stop and ask the Holy Spirit why am I angry. Has this person hurt me? Is this person hurting someone that I love? Is this person just pushing my buttons and messing with my self-worth? I tend to take my spirituality very practical. And I always come up with the same answer every time I have read Apostle's works. And that answer I get is "wolf in sheep's clothing". This is

not my anger-judgment for my anger does not cause me to react. I do not fire back reactions to what he has said in my anger. But I want to agree here with Bob Jones and confess that I do not receive Apostle as a believer. I do not see that we can bring him back into the fold but to preach the Gospel to him that he might repent from his witchcraft and be saved born again brought into the light from out of the darkness. This is about as plain as I can make it. You cannot judge these things in the natural. You cannot because they are spiritual in nature. Several years ago I took a Southern Baptist pastor from Madison Wisconsin to a radio interview. I was leading a seminar in his Church on spiritual warfare and that is why I was to be on the radio. This was a Christian radio station and after the interview with the show host the host opened up the program to listeners. Several believers called and we were having a good time of it all. Then a witch called and was offended at first and wanted to know who I thought I was coming off the way that I was. And I was very nice to her and polite to her and conceded what good points she had to say and when the conversation came to a close and she ended it by saying that I was the first Christian that was kind to her and that she appreciated that. So I ask her if we could meet face to face. We did and I took my sb friend with me. The meeting went on for about one and a half hour. We got in the car my sb friend turned to me as soon as we shut the doors to the car and said, "Patrick I have been in the ministry for 20 years and I know that one of us (he or she) is wrong but I do not know which one". The

man was shook. I told him, "Shawn you cannot listen to the word that she says but the spirit that is speaking they must be spiritually discerned". It was very soon after that that my friend received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The time is pressing on into living in the spirit and not leading with our minds. We can talk all we want about this "vote" and what you do with Apostle is up you each one of you for sure. But there are two of us at least that have drawn the line and said Men and woman of this news group this Apostle is not a Christian. He is not of the spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ of Nazareth who came in the flesh. So be warned. We are to love our enemies and understand that we do not need to fear them for our Lord has prepared our table before them. But we do not share in the same cup that they do. And we should not treat them as what they are not, brothers in the Lord. It is not what is said as much as who is saying it. I for one want to get back into posting about the cool stuff dad is doing and the new wine that drips down my shirt (I have learned how to spell this word {inside joke}) and focus on the fire of the Holy Spirit running through my veins. I have looked forward to this year that we are living in for a long time. This is the end of the end and our Lord has bent low to the earth and is giving out kisses to all who will take them. And oh are they worth it. Hail to the king who is in love hail to one who is that one hail to the king that is ready to come hail to the spirit who making us ready open up you gaits and let him come in I have been ruined by you Lord. I want no other love. Your heart has made an impression upon me and I cannot be sane any longer. I do not

want to miss one minuet of this time that we have before you come to only see you by faith for oh how sweet it is. To love what I do not see more than that which I do. To invest all that I am for what I cannot hold in my hand. I have sunk my boat. I will swim no longer. I have sunk to the bottom of the river and here will I wait. Overwhelmed by you love. My heart is in this place but my spirit rests in you grace before the one who we both know is the one who we love. Our father.

February 08, 1999

Apostle wrote:

Dear Patrick, You miss the whole point. You say that you have buttons and you say that I push them every time but do you thank me for giving you this revelation about your need for inner healing and repentance? No, instead you choose the easy way out and blame the messenger. Even worse, you attack the one who reminds you that you're unclean before yourself, before the world and before God. Wouldn't it be easier to address your problem like a man instead of making up lies about me to cover up your own sins? But you prefer the darkness don't you pastor? In the darkness, you can pretend it does not matter if you hate your brother. Grow up. Face your wretched self and conquer it. If not, it will consume you.

February 08, 1999

Virgil wrote:

You have heard that the ancients were told, "You shall not commit murder" and "Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court." But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever shall say to his brother, "Raca," shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever shall say, "You fool," shall be guilty into the fiery hell. Please, stop your sinning. Love.

February 08, 1999

Apostle wrote:

Dear Virgil, Too bad you did not read the next verse.

Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift. Agree with thine adversary quickly, whiles thou art in the way with him; lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and thou be cast into prison. Verily I say unto thee, Thou shalt by no means come out thence, till thou hast paid the uttermost farthing. (Matthew 5:23-26)

February 08, 1999

Virgil wrote:

For we have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. How can you call what you are doing glorious? Whether or not you are arrogant I cannot say, but the words that you post are arrogant, without doubt. Not one here agrees with you, which as I readily admit is not a test of truth, but still you have not spoken is love or truth or wisdom, only in attack of everyone who even takes the thought to write you back, and your words are and have been rude and arrogant and hateful, to the extreme. This has not one thing to do with who my fleshly parents are, but who your progenitor is. I am truly sorry that you are hurting so much, and I would love to talk to you about the things that are so deep in your heart that cause such pain. As I told you the last time, several months ago, I stand ready to talk with you, whenever you are ready to talk, (which is two way, not one,) with his love. Everyone has suffered hurt, pain, loss, suffering, hatred, and many other things. But not one of us has suffered what our Lord suffered at the hands of men. When we have, then, maybe, we might be justified in saying these type of things to and about others. Suffering has a very precious place in our father's work on us, in his perfecting us into the image of his dear son. It always has. Some suffer more than others, and

job suffered more than more, but Jesus suffered things we cannot even imagine. Accept what God sends your way, he is good, in all that he does. Love in him.

February 08, 1999

Apostle wrote:

Dear Virgil, Unlike, you I am not confused about what a man says and what he is. Out of the heart the mouth speaketh. The reason you don't understand these things is because you lie to yourself and pretend to have love. The scriptures are clear. Love is to obey the commands of God, not a warm fuzzy feeling you get from your mommy. You are nothing more than a spoiled hippie running around, living in sin, singing "All we need is love." It did not work in the 60's and certainly will not work now. Someone, somewhere must stand up in the midst of this perverse and adulterous generation and draw a line and it just so happens that God made me one of those thirteen men. If you had any decency at all you would help me, not try to stop me.

February 08, 1999

Taylor wrote:

What is 666?

February 08, 1999

Apostle wrote:

Dear Taylor, 666 is 911.

February 08, 1999

Taylor wrote:

I am also seeking the Lord regarding the fivefold ministry.
Trying to better understand what he is trying to reestablish.
Please define Apostle. Thank you.

February 08, 1999

Apostle wrote:

Dear Taylor, We are God's gift to the world. Apostles reform the Church by establishing correct doctrine; Prophets lead the reformation; Evangelists spread it; Teachers explain it and Pastors run it.

February 08, 1999

Taylor wrote:

Reform and establish correct doctrine? Who gives the Apostle their authority? How are Apostles confirmed? And how are Apostles to go about their duty? Thank you.

February 08, 1999

Apostle wrote:

Dear Taylor, All good questions. Reformation always brings people back to the central themes of the Gospel. Different times and places require different types of reformation. In Israel, the people were consumed by the law, so the early Apostles had to drag them kicking and screaming back to faith. Nowadays, people are consumed by lawlessness, so modern Apostles drag them kicking and screaming back to the law. Extremes in either direction are always dangerous and the reformers job is to bring the people back to the plumb line of reality. Now in a sense, all Christians are Apostles. However, the Office of Apostle is much more and much less. An office is a designated authority like the priesthood and must be treated as such. If you noticed, Apostles do not just interpret scripture, they write it. Like Priests and Judges of old, God has ordained men for each generation. These appointed men judge the various problems associated with that generation or group. They are trained specifically and authorized completely to decide all matters of importance and or peculiar difficulty. In essence, the buck stops with them. They appear when needed, bring about reformation, and then fade away. Afterwards, the people usually revert to one form of darkness or another until a new group of leaders arise to deal

with the new issues. As to authority – it comes directly from God in whatever manner he decides. For the early Apostles, it was tongues of fire, for Paul it was a blinding light, for me it was a gold crown representing the final phase in Church history. Obviously, a reformer works alone in the beginning and so do the Apostles.

February 13, 1999

Virgil wrote:

Apostle, I see that you still have not admitted the truth. Why not my friend? Will you still claim that you are righteous on your own, by your own merits? That your heart is perfect and pure before God? That you own no man anything but to love him? That you love your enemies and pray for those who despite fully use you and persecute you? What is the truth that you hold which causes you to hold in such derision of everyone who speaks to you in any way. It could be said that you are the proof of the commandment of Jesus to cause each tree to bear the fruit of its heart.

February 13, 1999

Apostle wrote:

Dear Virgil, To answer your question, yes, I pray for you every day.

February 13, 1999

Joe wrote:

Ah shucks – name one Apostle in the bible who had e-mail..
Chuckle.

February 13, 1999

Apostle wrote:

Dear Joe, The only sure sign of an Apostle that transcends all time is the hatred of the religious hypocrites like you and the others. If I sign my name you say I seek glory though you do the same. If I use an alias, you say I am a coward though many of you do the same. If I call myself an Apostle you say it is up to others to decide, although you call yourself one. If I tell you to repent you say you do not have to because Christ forgave you. If I say I have repented because Christ forgave me, you say I am a liar. You see in every way you prove you are false. I am here for the others, the good ones, the ones who obey authority, the ones who do not waste their time writing in news groups.

February 13, 1999

Jay wrote:

Well Apostle, then why don't you get rid of the term anonymous apostles. I mean I have seen other folk who use that terminology on the web and they do so because they are afraid of getting caught for doing something illegal. What's your excuse? I have a web page, but I am reworking it at the moment. You are much better in presentation than you are in content (referring to your web page). I am not anonymous, nor do I claim to be an Apostle, but I think you need help. So I would be glad to talk with you in a friendly fashion. I have no time for arguments that really lead nowhere. God bless.

February 13, 1999

Apostle wrote:

Dear Jay, It appears that all you have is time for arguments that really lead nowhere. ApostlesAnonymous.com was designed for pastors like you and Virgil and Bill and Patrick and Michael who think they are apostles. It is a place where men, addicted to pride and the notion that they are some kind of minister can learn the truth about themselves. Not only are they not ministers, they are not even saved. So, my website is not a place where apostles hide. It is a place where false apostles are exposed.

February 13, 1999

Jay wrote:

But who decides what pure is? By your standards Apostle? Then it explains your view of your own perfection. Please remember that unjust weights and a rigged scale is an abomination unto the Lord.... Enjoy eternity.

February 13, 1999

Apostle wrote:

Dear Jay, Who decides? Whoever has the highest authority in the given situation. Don't you know anything about work, life, family, or reality? The boss decides. And when the boss is away he designates other men who are fully trained and who have full authority to decide matters in his absence. Why do think Jesus told the Apostles, "Whoever you forgive is forgiven and whoever you don't forgive isn't?" If you cannot understand earthly matters how will you ever understand spiritual matters?

February 13, 1999

Joe wrote:

Apostle – phony Apostle, it is very difficult for me to understand why you get such enjoyment out of being so provocative and obnoxious. But this is really a cheap shot. The fact is, the “so called men of God” you mention are simply way more busy doing real ministry than to spend their days “playing on their computer” like you or i. Why do you do this? Why don’t you go get a real job and leave these people alone.

February 13, 1999

Apostle wrote:

Dear Joe, To answer your first question you get what you deserve. To answer your second question – A good shepherd leaves the 99 to search for the one. Just because the one resides in this cesspool of ignorance and pride is no reason for me to take the easy road like false leaders who only work for money. (Luke 15:1-7)

February 13, 1999

Virgil wrote:

Apostle, here is the post, the reply that I made to you several days ago, which you did not answer. Why? "you understand not the scriptures, nor God. The keeping of the commandments is not love. The seed imparted, this is love, for it is of God, and God is love. It is also the commandments, the law, for God is the law. It is also the Sermon on the Mount, for Jesus is the sermon, the word, the more sure prophecy, living, even now in heaven at the right hand of God. All life and goodness and holiness and truth and love is in him, and nowhere else... The nature of every man and woman is dark, evil, sinful; from conception. Not one is exempt, not one is pure, holy, good, true, faithful, sincere. All have come short of the glory of God..... My heart without the love of Jesus Is as dark as the deepest depths of hell. So is yours and everyone else's who has lived and who will ever live. This is the truth of God, as revealed in Jesus Christ. No other truth means anything until one sees this truth. I cannot justify myself before God by the keeping of the commandments. Jesus died for this reason, that we are all evil. He died for and to and in this evil for us, as he took upon himself all that we are in this world and died. He took this darkness of ours upon himself and identified with us so

completely, that his father turned his back on him in that day, on the cross. Our evil is so horrible that this is the only price that could redeem us from our state. In that death we died with him. You speak as a Pharisee, and even go farther than they did. Would you crucify another? You have already done so as have we all, and his name is Jesus. Your supposed righteousness is no more righteous than those who cried out, "crucify him." Their sins you partake in, and even this is not enough for you, but now you take for yourself the seat of Moses. Jesus said this about those like you, that they say things but do not do them. "if you say that you have not sin, you are a liar, and the truth is not in you." (I know, I changed the words some, but this is what they say.) Now maybe if you can admit to the truth, then we can talk. But if not, then I shake the dust from off my feet of you. If you wish to remain a stain, an empty cloud, a wave that tosses up its shame before all, a broken cistern that can hold no water, so be it.

February 13, 1999

Apostle wrote:

Dear Virgil, Your post makes no sense whatsoever. The only thing we can agree on is that you are living in sin. You are, aren't you? That is your point, isn't it? My point is simple – You do not have to keep living in sin, unless of course, you prefer the darkness. So, go ahead and defend your right to sin. Then condemn a Holy Apostle for telling you to repent.

February 14, 1999

Roger wrote:

Dear Apostle, I ask for a clear and reasoned synopsis of what you teach. Give my word to suspend judgment pending your reply.

February 14, 1999

Apostle wrote:

Dear Roger, The term salvation means little if we fail to understand why we are being saved. May I suggest we are not just saved from the wages of sin but from sin as well?

For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts we should live soberly righteously and Godly in this present world; looking for that blessed hope and the glorious appearing of the great God and our savior Jesus Christ; who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify unto himself a peculiar people zealous of good works. These things speak and exhort and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee (Titus 2:11-15).

Christ made a point of saying He did not come to change one jot or title of the law (Matthew 5:17-20). He also said anyone who taught otherwise was better off with a millstone tied around their neck and thrown into the sea (Matthew 18:6, Revelation 18:21). Clearly, we should never teach that a law can be broken or that sin is somehow acceptable. Considering God's hatred for sin and our own natural affection for evil, how can we dare go near the subject, let alone argue in favor of it?

To take such a stand would place us in the unenviable position of having to defend our right to sin. Besides how can we tell the world sin is evil and they should quit, if we can't? How can we possibly hope to remove the speck from their eye if we don't first remove the log from our own? (Matthew 7:3).

What about Paul? Well what about Paul? We know he was blinded for his sins (Acts 9:1-19). We also know afterwards he agreed with Christ by saying "What then? Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? By no means" (Romans 6:15). We also know Peter's last words found in 2 Peter 3:16 warn us evil men will twist Paul's writings for evil purposes. Well what more evil purpose is there than to tell Christians, the very ambassadors of a holy and righteous God, the royal nation, the holy priesthood, the Bride of Christ, without spot or blemish, they can continue to sin?

Contrary to popular belief, 1 John 1:8, "If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us," is not a license to sin, but a license to live a holy life. For 1 John 1:5-7 says,

This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: but if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and

the blood of Jesus Christ his son, cleanseth us from all sin (1 John 1:8-10).

So, God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness we lie and do not live by the truth. Therefore, anyone who claims to know Christ had better be like Christ or they are “deceived and the truth is not in them.” This cursed lifestyle, is best described by Paul, “The things that I want to do, I cannot do and the things that I do not want to do, I do” (Romans 7:19). Paul continues, “You however are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit lives in you” (Romans 8:9). So, the question is not can we control our sinful nature, but are we doing it? And if not, can we call ourselves Christians? According to Paul, the answer is simple. “If anyone does not have The Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.”

Hopefully, I am not the first person to suggest Christians live holy lives. Surely someone, somewhere, besides me, was persecuted for telling the chosen people to quit sinning. That they are fools to think that any sacrifice is great enough to cover a continual rebellion. That God can make saints out of stones and that anyone who claims to serve him had better bring forth fruit in keeping with that repentance. That the axe is already laid at the root of the tree and that those who refuse to obey God will be cut down and burned in the fire. Does all of this put the fear of God in you yet? Good. The Fear of The Lord is the beginning of wisdom. The Fear of The Lord is to hate sin. A

person who receives mercy and then sins again is in more trouble than someone who was never forgiven in the first place. It is evil to teach Christians not to be perfect after Christ commanded them to "Be perfect even as your father in heaven is perfect" (Matthew 5:48). It is nonsense to tell sinners to stop sinning if Saints cannot even do it. It is madness to expect any judge to pardon you more than once. Sure, God is more merciful than man, but God deserves mercy too. How long must his name be associated with liars, hypocrites, and thieves? No one in Hell is going to get a second or third chance to repent of their wickedness. How much less the one who was forgiven already? (Hebrews 10:26).

But salvation is a gift. Well so is everything else on earth. Take your job for instance. It was a gift from God, right? How long do you think you would it if you skipped work every day and then ignored your supervisor's warnings? As long as it takes the noon day sun to scorch a seedling? As long as it takes a flock of birds to eat a handful of seed? As long as it takes a patch of weeds to choke a tender sapling? (Matthew 13:3). Not so simple, now is it? Like any other gift salvation requires something more than just receiving. It requires giving. Throughout the New Testament we hear, "With the same measure you use it will be measured back to you" (Matthew 7:1-2). And "Forgive us our sins in the same manner we forgive those who sin against us" (Matthew 6:12). Now if such things are true, then salvation really depend" on us. Apparently, we can

have as much of it as we want. Give and it will be given back to you. Knock and the door will be opened. Ask and you shall receive.

Why did Christ suffer and die? First, to pay off our old debts. Second, to show us how to stay out of debt forever. Sure, sinners are saved by grace, but only because Christ did not have to die for us. Besides even if he wanted to Jesus cannot die twice. Is it any wonder He told us to be perfect? We don't get a second chance. Why else would John write "No one who is born of God will continue to sin" (1 John 3:9). Why else would Paul write "When you are tempted God will also provide a way out" (1 Corinthians 10:13). Why else would James write "A person is justified by what he does not just by faith alone" (James 2:24). Why else would Peter write "If you have escaped the corruption that is in the world by knowing our lord and savior Jesus Christ and are again entangled in it and overcome you are worse off at the end than you were in the beginning" (2 Peter 2:20).

Do we have all power over the enemy or not? And if so, does it include our infamous flesh? The answer is yes and amen. We are more than conquerors through Christ Jesus who strengthens us. We can have the very mind of Christ. Ah, but do we merely listen to The Word and so deceive ourselves or do we obey it? According to Christ, the answer is simple "If you love me you will obey my commands" (John 14:15). Now, Solomon was right in saying "Though you grind a fool with a mortar and

pestle you will not remove his folly from him" (Proverbs 27:22). Yet, he was also right in saying "If anyone turns a deaf ear to the law even his prayers are detestable" (Proverbs 28:9). Personally, I think David said it best in Psalm 51:17, "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit. A contrite heart O God you will not despise."

Are you saved? The answer is no. You are horribly, terribly, incredibly, deceived. It isn't the first time, now is it? I can tell you how to make it the last, but I must warn you, it will cost everything (Matthew 10:38). But you probably already knew that, now didn't you? You were probably just wondering when God was going to get to that part right? Well that day is here. The time to gr'w up. The time to lay down your life, not just talk about it. The time to make Christ your Lord, not just your Savior. Who knows, you may even be sick enough of your sins by now to finally believe the truth. The rules have not changed. The answers are still the same. You just need to believe them with all your heart, not half of it. "Therefore, humble yourself under the mighty hand of God and in due time he will exalt you" (James 4:7, 1 Peter 5:6). "First be trained and then you will be like the master" (Luke 6:40).

In conclusion, you can always go back to your old dead religion and pretend everything is just fine, but isn't that what you were trying to escape in the first place? Did you really think Satan would not have a plan b (Babylon)? Yep, you fell for it and so do most saints including yours truly. I used to search the whole world to find converts, but they just became twice the sons of

hell I was. Thank God I now know the truth and that truth has set me free – free from sin. I no longer have a form of Godliness that denies the power to be holy (2 Timothy 3:5). I no longer take the name of God in vain (Exodus 20:7). “Whom the son sets free is free indeed.” According to 1 Peter 4:1, “He who has suffered in the flesh has ceased to sin.” Therefore, join with me in the sufferings that are ours in Christ Jesus. Why suffer for what is wrong when you can suffer for what is right?

February 15, 1999

Brooke wrote:

Can anyone tell me the significance of being given a red mantle? Thank you.

February 15, 1999

Apostle wrote:

Dear Brooke, Here ya go!

Let my accusers be clothed with shame, and let them cover themselves with their own disgrace as with a mantle. (Psalm 109:29)

February 18, 1999

Virgil wrote:

Convict me of sin Apostle, go ahead. Tell me what the spirit is telling you that I am doing that is sin. Tell me what I am doing that is against the Holy Spirit. Tell me what Bruce is doing, or Joe, or Michael, or Jay, or anyone but you. Show us that you are at least a prophet. But just in case you wonder, I will tell you your sin. You have not love for anyone, and you put the yoke of the burden which cannot be kept on those who have not been entrusted to you, and you tell people to do such and such, and you do not even do it yourself. You take the outside of the cup and wash it so that it looks good, but the inside is full of filthy dirt and sin and all manner of creeping things. The cup is your heart. If you have not love, then you are not of the Lord, and you do not know the Lord. If you have not love for the brethren, then you are still in death. If you have love for the brethren, then you know that you have passed out of death into life. Show me your good works by your words, (which you have not so far,) and I will show you my good works by his love. How can you say that you love God when you do not love the one created in his image right before you? You cannot, and so you are a liar, and the truth is not in you. Repent of your evil, and ask the Lord for forgiveness for your hate. Oddly enough, I love you, and have

ever since I first heard of you, and have prayed for you for this time. Not that I expect you to believe this, but this is love. I have not accused you of anything but have rather spoken the truth to you, and for this you say that I have a demon. Well, I still love you.

February 18, 1999

Apostle wrote:

Dear Virgil, Rivers of living water flow outward from the heart of a righteous man to reveal, convict, and heal those around him. Like the rain that falls on the good and bad, this river of revelation flows to good and evil men alike. Those who humble themselves and apply the revelation to themselves will be healed. Those who remain stiff necked assume that the revelation is for someone else and they attack and condemn those around them for the very sins they themselves are committing. That is why prophets are not welcome in their home town. Take Jesus for instance. They accused him of being a sinner, a glutton, a drunk, insane, demon possessed and a blasphemer, when as we all know it was the religious hypocrites who were insane with hatred, possessed by the devil and blasphemed the work of the Holy Spirit. So, the things you see in me are really the sins of your own heart. I am just the mirror. Therefore, anyone who wrote me can see for themselves just what sins they are committing and so can everyone else. So, you see Virgil, I do not need to convict you of anything. You can convict yourself. Now, if you are humble enough to hear my words and meek enough to obey them then your own words will convict you. If not, well, we have already seen that end. Why

don't you try something new for a change? Go back, read your own post. Apply the things you attribute to me to yourself. Then you will learn the truth. For example:

Dear Virgil,

I will tell you your sin. You have no love for anyone, and you put the yoke of the burden which cannot be kept on those who have not been entrusted to you, and you tell people to do such and such, and you do not even do it yourself. You take the outside of the cup and wash it so that it looks good, but the inside is full of filthy dirt and sin and all manner of creeping things. The cup is your heart. If you have not love, then you are not of the Lord, and you do not know the Lord. If you have not love for the brethren, then you are still in death. If you have love for the brethren, then you know that you have passed out of death into life. Show me your good works by your words, (which you have not so far,) and I will show you my good works by his love. How can you say that you love God when you do not love the one created in his image right before you? You cannot, and so you are a liar, and the truth is not in you. Repent of your evil and ask the Lord for forgiveness for your hate. Oddly enough, I love you, and have ever since I first heard of you, and have prayed for you for this time. Not that I expect you to believe this, but this is love. I have not accused you of anything but have rather spoken the truth to you, and for this you say that I have a demon. Well, I still love you.

Sincerely,

Mike, Apostle of Jesus Christ

The Face of an Eagle



(Act IV)

June 21, 1999

Jenny wrote:

Dear all, I have a question. If you believe Jesus is giving Apostles (for today of course) to his Church, how will you manage to find one (at least) for your local Church. Awaiting your answers. Serving Christ in the Ukraine.

June 21, 1999

Apostle wrote:

Dear Jenny, We find you.

June 29, 1999

Ralph wrote:

Apostle. How have you been?

June 29, 1999

Apostle wrote:

Dear Ralph, Like any good father, I am busy filling up the sufferings that are ours in Christ Jesus for you and the other incontinent members of our group. (Colossians 1:24)

July 01, 1999

Virgil wrote:

Hello Apostle, let us look at what you have said here, for the benefit of those you claim to be suffering for. "Dear Ralph, like any good father, I'm busy filling up the sufferings that ours in Christ Jesus." I wonder when you became our father? I mean really, when did you present to us Jesus Christ as crucified, so that we came to him through your words? I mean, I have read the things you have written, and I have not seen his Gospel, but the Gospel of "Apostle" which is you, I guess. "for you and the other incontinent members of our group. Thank you for asking." Why is it that everyone must be incontinent to you? And I seem to remember that the suffering that Paul said he was filling up were the sufferings of Christ. And so it seems good to me that all sufferings became his when he came at the will of the father. I mean, it does say that he was despised and forsaken of men, and that our grief's and sorrows he himself did bear. So they are not our sorrows and sufferings, but his. A slave of Jesus Christ.

July 01, 1999

Michael wrote:

Praise God brother Virgil.....I wasn't relishing another "back and forth" with Apostle. I hope everyone gets the "cue" from what you have written here. We need to "redeem" the time, not waste it on someone who will not suffer a two-way conversation. Blessings.

July 01, 1999

Virgil wrote:

Apostle and everyone here, I repent before you all of this reply that I have made here to you. All that I can say is that sin, arrogance, and pride, gained the upper hand over me, and this was the result. Please know Apostle, that the words before this do not in any way reflect the way that I feel about you, and that in truth I love you with the love of Christ Jesus. I can only humbly apologize to you all for the way that I have written.

July 01, 1999

Apostle wrote:

Dear Virgil, "Incontinent" – without self-control, intemperate. I forgive you.

July 16, 1999

Jay wrote:

Apostle, I do appreciate your forgiveness. My question is have you really changed? I mean you didn't address me or most anyone else as stupid and that is an improvement. Your concepts dealing with sin are a little confusing to me. Or let me put it another way: you discuss sin and point it out but what is your solution? Blessings in Christ.

July 16, 1999

Apostle wrote:

Dear Jay, The cure for rebellion is submission.

July 16, 1999

Joe wrote:

Ah.. Apostle... <false Apostle the solution is atonement.. Duh. Surely you don't want us to have to go through this whole expose' of your delusion, heresy and deception again.... Please..

July 16, 1999

Apostle wrote:

Dear Joe, Have you never read, Obedience is better than a sacrifice? (1Samuel 15:22-23)

July 17, 1999

Stewart wrote:

Apostle – obedience? As in obedience to the love expressed in Christ-likeness? Without that there is only self-worship or demon-worship.

July 17, 1999

Apostle wrote:

Dear Stewart, This is what I call obedience, And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, 'Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for today I must abide at thy house.' And he made haste, and came down, and received him joyfully. (Luke 19:5-6)

July 17, 1999

Jason wrote:

Apostle, give me a sign of your Apostleship.

July 17, 1999

Apostle wrote:

Dear Jason, On July 13, 1997, I wrote: "Dear Reuben, You can tell the Mobile School of Prophets, Thus says the lord, Have you no eyes? Can't you see? Have you no ears? Can't you hear? We are living in the Age of Netanyahu (Net and Yahoo!)." Now back then, one share of YHOO cost \$2.10. Today, that same share is worth six shares at \$43.78 or \$262.68. That is a 125-fold increase in two years. It certainly does pay to listen.

July 18, 1999

Apostle wrote:

To the Church of Charlotte and the Church of Mobile, "Thus says the Lord, Let judgment run down as waters and righteousness as a mighty stream."

August 01, 1999

Jay wrote:

Art, this guy has real problems. Delusions of grandeur seem to have blinded him to the truth, but he has also been hurt and this too is sign of pride, where he strikes out at those who have hurt him rather than have the forgiving nature of the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Satan can so bind a person through his lies that they can actually believe they are right when all the evidence points to them being very wrong. The key to this deception is pride. Those who love their own life rather than love the truth as it is revealed at the cross. We should pray for Apostle for he is in real pain and torment and it comes out through his verbal assaults. He has taken the position of the accuser and the result will be his own judgment will fall upon his head. There is freedom in the cross, there is forgiveness at the cross.

August 01, 1999

Apostle wrote:

Dear Jay, Let me get this straight. If I reply to the false accusations and lying slander you spew out against me than I am being selfish? You know I might believe you if you were not the person committing the slander. That is the problem with this group. No one has any integrity. You are all worried about how you look rather than what is right and just and fair. Take Reuben Miguez for example. First, he tries to ban me for two years and when that does not work he writes a sermon about how he is going to let the weeds grow with the wheat. Hahahaha. Which is it people? If I am evil and need help, then why don't you treat me like you treat each other. If not, beware. You are crucifying the Son of Man and that for no reason.

August 03, 1999

Darrel wrote:

Hi Apostle, what would Jesus say when he reads this newsgroup? Are you're messages loving and helping??
Greetings – Holland.

August 03, 1999

Apostle wrote:

Dear Darrel, Was David loving and helpful when he said, All day long they twist my words. All their thoughts are against me for evil. (Psalm 56:50) Was John the Baptist, loving and helpful when he said, Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell? (Matthew 23:33) Was Jesus loving and helpful when he said, This is an evil generation: they seek a sign; and there shall no sign be given it. (Luke 11:29) Was Peter loving and helpful when he said, I see that you are full of bitterness and captive to sin. (Acts 8:23) Was Paul loving and helpful when he said that, I wish they would go the whole way and emasculate themselves. (Galatians 5:12) Was Stephen loving and helpful when he said, You stiff necked people with uncircumcised hearts and ears – you are just like your fathers – you always resist the Holy Spirit – was there ever a prophet your fathers did not persecute? (Acts 7:51)

August 27, 1999

Apostle wrote:

Hollywood, California (AP News) Today marks the release of "The 13th Warrior," a tale of wayward poet shanghaied by twelve warriors on a quest to destroy an evil queen goddess.

One picture is worth a thousand words.



September 02, 1999

Joe wrote:

I know of only one contributor to this newsgroup who I would feel quite confident to call a heretic. Apostle. I do so again, without apology. In fact I do so out of love for the less discerning or immature who might actually be sucked into his delusion and deception. I would put him in the same category (although certainly not at notorious) as Joseph Smith (Mormonism), Jim Jones and other heretics who are/were preaching a false Gospel. See, I am a character.

September 02, 1999

Apostle wrote:

Dear Joe, What proof do you have to support such horrendous slander? Did I gather people to myself? Did I take their homes and money? Did I do anything other than write letters in a newsgroup? Where is your proof? I will hate to see you fall. In fact, lets settle this matter once and for all. Lets go up to the mountaintop. Lets see just who is who. Your God or mine.

September 02, 1999

Joe wrote:

Apostle, there is a strong rain that is coming to your region of the desert and it will adversely affect your financial situation in the next two weeks. We will see who is who (Acts 13:6-12).

September 07, 1999

Joe wrote:

Well, what do you think gang? Shall we pray that God shows his mercy on the Southwest desert and diverts hurricane Greg out to sea? By the way Apostle – false Apostle.. Jesus Christ is Lord and you ain't,,, <grin

September 08, 1999

Joe wrote:

Take a look at our awesome God. Hurricane Greg moved out to sea. We declare Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the father. And he will not be mocked.

September 08, 1999

Apostle wrote:

Dear Joe, As I said last week you will humiliate yourself and of course you have. You were right about one thing. God will not be mocked. You see it takes more than guts to be a messenger of God. It takes years of being truly submissive first. But isn't that what I have been saying all along?

September 09, 1999

Joe wrote:

Ok, Apostle, let me explain it to you as straight as I can. On Thursday September 2nd, you put forth this ludicrous challenge: "Lets settle this matter once and for all. Lets go up to the mountain. Lets see just who is who. Your God or mine." When I went to prayer about it, the Lord spoke to me that he wanted to show you to be false, once and for all, by picking up the challenge and prophesying a strong rain within two weeks, which I did, Friday. By Monday night hurricane Greg popped up out of nowhere, and was headed your direction. Once the point was dramatically made, I asked God to divert the storm (due to the fact that I too have family in the Southwest desert) he still may or may not do that. There is still a week to go. So now, how is that humiliating to me. You really don't get it, do you?

September 09, 1999

Apostle wrote:

Dear Joe, Just so there is no misunderstanding let me get this straight. Are you asking us to believe that God almighty told you personally that He accepted my challenge, and that He sent hurricane Greg to Mexico, which killed 9 Mexicans, just to teach me a lesson, but then after you asked Him to protect your family in the Southwest, He decided to send it out to sea instead? Is that about it Joe? I rest my case.

September 09, 1999

Lois wrote:

Who is your pastor, Apostle?

September 09, 1999

Apostle wrote:

Dear Lois, Up until a few days ago, Joe was my pastor. It seems I have no choice left but to pastor myself. You would all do well to follow my example.

October 30, 1999

Apostle wrote:

Charlotte, North Carolina (AP News) For the past two months, it has been one thing after another. First there was hurricane Dennis which battered the coast for a week before dumping up to 8 inches of rain. Two weeks later hurricane Floyd poured 20 inches of rain on the region. Then 8 more inches of rain fell in less than two weeks as tropical storm Harvey passed by. Hurricane Irene came next, soaking the soggy coastal plain with up to 11 inches of rain before veering out into the Atlantic. Early estimates indicate 30,000 pigs drowned. According to a spokesperson from FEMA, "It is the worst flooding in the Southeast ever."

47 inches of rain in North Carolina.

October 13, 2010

Apostle wrote:

Copiapó, Chile (AP News) The painstaking process of hoisting 33 miners trapped nearly a half-mile below ground for more than two months in northern Chile was completed Wednesday night, less than a day after it began, ending a saga that gripped a nation that never gave up hope.

Two pictures are worth ten thousand words.



The Nine Fruits of God



The Fruit of Love



(Poetry)

The House of Mourning

(07.01.95)

In the House of Mourning,
The men are God adoring,
Not for wealth and fame,
But for a tongue that's tame,
Boys will be boys,
But men don't play with toys,
The man to give your trust,
Is sitting in the dust,
The man who asks you for a drink,
Is a prophet or a fink,
The man who says I cannot cook,
Is like a sneaky little crook,
The man who says I hate to clean,

Is ugly nasty and obscene,
The man who says but I am tired,
Is selfish lazy and a liar,
The man who says I like to work,
Is sure to be a real jerk,
For in the House of Mourning,
The men are God adoring,
Not for wealth and fame,
But for a tongue that's tame,
Boys will be boys,
But men don't play with toys,
The man to give your trust,
Is sitting in the dust,
The man who says to me be true,
Will always want to cheat on you,
The man who says it's not my fault,

Is bad with kids and cannot count,
For if a man is truly sorry,
His own weight he's sure to carry,
If you're smart then you will listen,
Can't make a man can only pickem,
And if you think that I don't know,
Just ask your mom about her woe.

The Price of Freedom

(07.02.95)

The path we take is long and narrow,
It leads to death it leads to sorrow,
But in the end we're sure to find,
That all the pain we did survive,
Those before us straight and sure,
Showed the way we must endure,
They lived in caves they lived in holes,
They gave their lives to save our souls,
Whipped to death sown asunder,
How does a man do such wonder?
They paid a price I'm sure to say,
And if you're smart you won't delay,
The path we take is long and narrow,

It leads to death it leads to sorrow,
But in the end we're sure to find,
That all the pain we did survive,
They'll shed our blood be not surprised,
First take our homes then call us liars,
For to a camp we all must travel,
To reeducate us with their babel,
Cuz our peace they hate with passion,
All our food they're sure to ration,
In the end our heads will roll,
Be not afraid it's in the scroll,
The path we take is long and narrow,
It leads to death it leads to sorrow,
But in the end we're sure to find,
That all the pain we did survive,
I know that life is but a breath,

To love the world is even less,
To live a lie you must not do,
It's up to you to follow thru,
And if you listen with great care,
You'll hear a trumpet in the air,
But more than that you'll hear a voice,
That says well done you made a choice.

The Seven Year Itch

(07.03.95)

Seven years have come and gone,
My walk with God is still alone,
Night and day I preached the news,
But all who heard just sang the blues,
I looked for fruit but none did find,
Just more excuses of the mind,
I yearned to hear just one amen,
But all of them were worthless men,
So to the women I did turn,
But each of them refused to learn,
Throughout the valley I did search,
But all were busy playing Church,
They hated me without a reason,

Said that I was full of treason,
Thought my wife might want to listen,
But she was busy in the kitchen,
Told my daughters the big surprise,
But dreams of boys had filled their eyes,
Mom and dad I tried to show,
But all they said was no no no,
How many times I told my brother,
Not again I'll waste God's power,
So now I pray the wind does blow,
To tell the one who wants to know,
That Christ is risen from the dead,
The debts are paid if you'll repent.

The Harvest

(07.04.95)

In ninety-one the seed was sown,
Just seven years the fields well grown,
In ninety-eight a drought with sorrow,
For seven years no one can borrow,
Halfway thru the pain will double,
Time has come for Jacob's trouble,
The day and hour no man does know,
But in October a harvest mowed,
For to a statue all must bow,
"Please take a number" on your brow,
And if the beast you must refuse,
Do not expect to be let loose,
The camps are old and sometimes brrrrr,

A military base foreclosure,
For those who run it will be worse,
But if you do don't take a purse,
Don't dial the phone or they'll be there,
There is a code for those who D.A.R.E.,
For just two days is all you'll have,
To sell the house the car and scram,
Jesus Joseph Mary it's time to go,
To the place you first did grow,
Family is so important,
Bring the kids just for enjoyment,
Take two bags but leave the pets,
Pack only clothes or have regrets,
While you're there attend the classes,
Reeducate just like the masses,
Guards are few but they are friendly,

Watch the lines cause they are deadly,
Don't try to run don't try to hide,
The safest place will be inside,
To be left out would be a shame,
When all the world is in such pain,
The time has come you must decide,
To wait will end in suicide,
Don't be a fool just be the best,
Prayer with fasting is the rest.

The Facts of Life

(03.21.96)

I learned a lesson long ago,
From a town called Jericho,
That seven seals can take place,
One per year is all it takes,
First comes peace then a sword,
Famine third and death a fourth,
Five is always full of grace,
Martyrs die to save the race,
Six does shake and rattle and roll,
But seven is the one that blows,
Trumpet one burns like a fire,
Sixty days and then another,
Two will make a great big splash,

And three will happen in a flash,
Four will make a grown man cry,
But five will make you want to die,
Six is more than just a woe,
One of three will have to go,
Seven stands for seven plagues,
Just one month is all it takes,
As we rise the pain does grow,
Five days more the oceans go,
Three is sure to make you drink,
And four is sure to leave a stink,
Five they get what they deserve,
Six they gather round the earth,
Seven is the way to go,
Hail the size of buffalo,
Birds are ready for a feast,

Forty-five days without cease,
Then the wedding bells will chime,
And Christ will reign for all of time,
A millennium is just a day,
For a devil locked away,
Gog is sure the perfect name,
For a land so full of shame,
Seven months to bury dead,
Seven years the fires fed,
Look to heaven you may see,
Something sweeter than Aunt Bea,
Jerusalem all dressed in stone,
Gold and pearls and gems and more,
Trees of healing line the streets,
Twelve per year the fruit we eat,
Here a lion there a lamb,

A safer world for little hands,
Can you see how far I've gone,
Even sang for you a song,
All my children always know,
The Father's voice behind the show.

The Dirty Dozen

(01.11.99)

When Hyakutake came to thee,
The biggest house I ever did see,
I entered in for you and me,
So all the world could plainly see,
That it was forty-five right from the start,
Now thirty-three is the count,
The West was won without a gamble,
The East is ours but in a shambles,
Ben is in Puerto R.I.C.O., he says high,
I'll leave him there I'll not deny,
This dirty dozen wants a bride,
If they don't get one it's my Hyde,
So be advised, pay attention,

Let no man separate,
God's good intentions.

The Mule Train

(06.21.99)

Kansas City can prophesy,

Toronto can laugh,

Pensacola can shake,

But Mesa is flat.

For to us a child is born,

Who can bear the hurtful scorn,

Not for love or hope or faith,

Just because of conscience sake,

Thirteen Apostles knows the key,

To being grateful on their knees,

The government is more than rules,

It rests on shoulders of the mules,

So go to church sing and dance,

Don't mind us don't take a chance,

Just ignore us we don't exist,

Its ok we're used to it.

The Most High

(12.31.99)

Who is like God tell me if you know,

Who can remember your suffering and woe,

Who parts the heavens just to be there,

When all that is left is pain and despair,

Who gave his son to hang on a tree,

Just in the hopes that you might believe,

Tell me his name show me his home,

There I will dwell never to roam,

How can it be that someone so high,

Can bow so low each time I cry,

Why does he care for such men as me,

Tell me his name please let me see,

How does a man pay back a friend,

Who gave everything including his son,
I cannot rest I will not waver,
Until in his eyes I have found favor.

The End Is Nigh

(12.25.19)

The end is nigh,
A poem I'll try,
The road was long,
Lived ten men's lives,
A seed must die,
Before it grows,
Broke every bone,
Except my nose,
At suffering,
I'm the best,
Was given,
At your behest,
Taught more people,

Than Lu Xiaobo,

Wrote more words,

Than Angelou,

Make the most.

Of my endeavor,

I am the last,

Look no farther.

The Fruit of Joy



(Stories)

The Apostle

(02.11.24)

Welcome! My name is Mike Ferrigno. I am an Apostle, and you are not. I suffer from Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD), Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD), Substance Use Disorder (SUD), and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), but first, a disclaimer:

My work includes videos, memes, emails, blogs, books, essays, poems, short stories, and last but not least, the Keys to the Book of Revelation. Now, if you suddenly find yourself gasping for air, or looking for the exit, do not be alarmed. It's just the devil leaving your body.

Let's begin with the hardest question first, shall we? Why do innocents suffer and die? The answer is obvious. The strong carry the weak. Incredibly, even their sacrifice is not always enough. Sometimes, we need to pay for our sins ourselves. Here is what I do when things go wrong.

First, I look to family and friends. Is anyone having similar problems? If so, I pray God remove their, now our, burden. If

that doesn't work, I assume I am the cause, not the cure. Am I judging someone? If so, I stop it, pray for mercy, and make amends. If that doesn't work, I assume I am breaking the law, covenants I made with God and others. What exactly are my obligations? Are those in charge of me, pleased or displeased? Are those under me, cared for properly? Am I following the spirit of the law or the letter of the law? Am I fulfilling my duties cheerfully or grudgingly? What needs or wants am I overlooking?

Sometimes, the answer is simple. I am not progressing fast enough. What was ok at twenty may not be alright at twenty-five. Sometimes, the answer is complex. I may have to change my entire perspective, be born again. Is there no rain? Is there too much rain? A wise farmer does not blame God, or the devil, or others. He examines himself, changes direction, and asks for forgiveness. In other words, I accept responsibility for everything bad that happens around me, and I thank God for everything good. And that, my friend, is why I am an Apostle, and you are not. Thank You Lord.

Cascade of Mercy

(02.18.24)

Let me tell you a story. It begins where most American stories start, with the savage beating of a woman. She was born in 1911, one of twelve. When the depression hit, her father bought a small dairy farm and waited things out. They barely survived. By 1934, she was off and married. By 1940, the beatings were so severe, her face so disfigured, the authorities granted her a divorce. A few years later, she remarried, and the beatings began again. By 1951, her 16-year-old son lied about his age and went to Korea. They made him a cook. When things went south, he saved his friends. They gave him a silver star and purple heart. In Germany, he married a girl, and they had children. As they made plans to come to America, word came down: she had TB. After her death, he left, and the children were raised by her sister. The horrors of war, the childhood tortures, her death, sent him over the edge. Like both his fathers, he descended into madness. It began with chain gangs and ended on Skid Row. Every few years, he would come home and dry out. The screams would last a week. He was the humblest man I ever met, a cook for the Salvation Army. Like all her descendants, he had the face of an angel. Speaking of angels, her daughter, a daddy's girl, spent her days chasing her older

brothers and their friends. By 15, she was pregnant. After a shotgun wedding and a shaky birth, my father headed west. We didn't meet again for 18 years. My birth, like everything else, came early. I was small and weak and wouldn't feed. Thanks to nuns' prayers, goat's milk, and a case of paregoric, I recovered, sort of. Hey, it could have been worse. Thalidomide was still legal. By the time my withdrawals ended, she was married and pregnant again. A few months later, I met my brother. Like me, he was sick and weak and almost died, but they had a different cure for him: kidnapping. My stepfather sent him to Italy to force my mother to continue to work. I didn't see him again until he was one. This is where things get interesting. Think Jungle Book. Rather than walk, he scurried. Rather than jump, he pounced. Rather than talk, he snarled. It's not every day you meet a 5-year-old junkie and a 1-year-old dog boy walking down the street. The point is, suffering leads to prayer, and prayer leads to a cascade of mercy. Today, by the grace of God, I have a degree in theology, and my brother has a degree in music.

I Am Number Six

(02.27.11)

It was late August 1966, my first day of kindergarten at George Washington Elementary. Grey clouds darkened the early morning sky. The wind chill was near freezing. I remember thinking there was not going to be an Indian Summer this year. On August 1st, Charles Whitman wounded 31 and killed 16 at the University of Texas. On August 5th, Martin Luther King Jr. was stoned with rocks in Chicago. On August 22nd, the Beatles arrived in New York. Nuclear testing was routine. We finally reached Mars. Think Watchmen and you get the picture. My parents dropped me at the curb. They could not go in. Father was wary of La Migra and government buildings. Mother was still recovering from the previous night's beating. Her arm brace was new, but other than that, I didn't have a care in the world. For all practical purposes, we were equals.

My class had sixty students, half black and half white. We also had three teachers, all white, middle class, women, fresh out college, the crème de la crème of the Great Society. "Raise your hand when I call your name!" one said. On cue, we all raised our hands, then burst into laughter. I was mildly intrigued. An hour later, they called, "Mike!" Six of us raised our hands. The class

roared. A quick huddle and they decided to give us numbers. I am number six. One by one they figured out who is who. Eventually, one name is left, Mike Seeton, and one student, me. I assure them my name is Mike Ferrigno. Another huddle and one of them runs to the office. When she returns, she barks, "You are wrong! You are Mike Seeton! You better raise your hand or else!" Being Italian, I politely said, "Go @%\$# yourself!" The class began to dance like Woodstock.

It took a few seconds, then it dawned on them. Their bright JFK careers were in jeopardy. They were at my desk in an instant, hovering, railing accusations, casting dispersions on my birth. Little did they know, it was just like my home, only prettier, softer. I let them continue, until one of them made a mistake, a lesson not taught at Northwestern University. They bumped into me. I was up in a flash, I was almost their height, and years of acting out made me wiry. They were in shock. Slowly, their memories returned, and they remembered their little brothers and knew what to do. No longer educators, no longer liberals, they became themselves, daughters of WWII! To hell with nap time. They were going to show me who was boss. Together, they managed to drag me to the back room. The world never heard, nor will ever hear again, the kind of things I called them. Their solution? Wash my mouth out with soap. Long story short, in my parent's quest for the American Dream, they forgot to mention dad was not dad. Some other guy was.

As I walked home that day, I was a different man. It was like I was awake for the first time. The clouds were magnificent. The trees were alive. The sun was soothing. I could hear the wind. Maybe, I was poisoned, maybe not. Either way, I was enlightened and the stark contrast between creation and those running it was obvious. Clearly, the adults were not in charge. Like my missing father, someone else was, and that was a good thing. In other words, I found God. The bad news is, even though I learned the truth by dinner, I never once answered their roll call, and they never once missed an opportunity to torture me. By Christmas, they grew weary of it all and never called my name again. To this day, I still hate the smell of Ivory Soap.

Fast Track

(02.25.24)

By the end of Kindergarten, my parents were working 24/7. I spent my days being paddled by the nuns at Saint Nicholas Catholic School. I spent my nights playing behind the bar in my parents' restaurant. By January my mother was abused one too many times and we fled to Chandler to live with her best friend. I spent my days at Galveston Elementary School with 20 Native Americans, 6 Mexicans, and 3 whites. I spent my nights in a small trailer with seven people. By July my father's enormous black Bonneville appeared in the driveway. A chill ran down my spine. They were back together, again. We headed to Chicago. Like Forest Gump, we arrived during the Democratic Convention Riots. The car died on Michigan and Wilson. We spent the night in a gas station. It was God awful hot. A few weeks later I was back at my alma mater, George Washington Elementary School. This time things were better. My second grade teacher, Mrs. Flag, saw my potential and the hellscape I was living in and tried desperately to adopt me. My mother wasn't having any of it, and started looking for another school. Eventually, she came across an ad for a scholarship for poor kids and signed me up. Roycemore College Preparatory School in Evanston offered one scholarship a year. They served Pre-K through Grade 12. There

were 240 students. The place looked like Hogwarts. That summer, I took the test. I had the highest score in Cook County. They gave me a free ride through high school. My class had 3 girls, 10 boys, all white, all filthy rich. My teacher was British. They just rolled out their brand new, color coded, work at your own pace, experimental program. I finished high school at age eleven. Rather than enroll me in college, my parents moved to the boonies where "special programs" were still called Communism. I took the 6th Grade Standardized Test. I had the highest score in Lake County. They praised my teacher and gave me a cheeseburger. I already knew every answer to every question on every test, so I turned my attention to sports. By seventeen, I was captain seven times, had 32 inch thighs, a 44 pulse, and could run a 4:15 mile. Mostly I came in second, but I was second in every event. Bruce Jenner was my next target. Then I met alcohol. It only took 30 seconds on the slopes to pick up enough speed to completely shred my leg. Talk about the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat! It was game over. I turned my attention to religion.

The Omen

(03.06.11)

On June 25, 1976, the movie “The Omen” was released. I was fifteen. I liked science fiction. So, I bought a copy of the book. The story was interesting, but what really caught my attention was the last page which read, “Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast; for it is the number of a man; and his number is 666 (Revelation 13:18). I had never read the Bible before, but I was curious. So, I dug out my mother’s giant black leather catholic edition, dusted it off, and started reading the Book of Revelation. I could not understand a word of it. So, I started over at the beginning. After a few chapters of “he begat this” and “he begat that” I gave up.

A few months later, I tried again. This time I noticed the footnotes, which led me to the prophets, which led me to Jeremiah 31:33, “I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.” Now, I had said a thousand Our Fathers and Hail Marys, but until that second it never occurred to me God might respond. I decided to put my theory to the test. I looked up and said, “God, if you are there, please talk to me.” Instantly, I heard a voice say, “What do you want?” My heart froze. I blurted out

the only thing I could think of, "Is Evolution real or not?" Without hesitation, He said, "Why do you think I gave you the age of every patriarch?" I sure had no answer. So, I said, "Thank you," hoping it would all end soon. Calm as day, He said, "You're welcome." I ran outside into the snow gasping for air.

After a few weeks, I found the courage to try it again and the results were the same. I was never alone again. A few months later, I stumbled across a Christian radio station, which led me to a Christian bookstore. Apparently, I was not the only one talking to God. When I entered the store, I could hear two men arguing in the back. It did not sound very Christian, so I asked God what to do. He said, "Go talk to them." One man was short and dirty and dressed like a biker. The other man was tall and clean and handsome. The biker kept yelling, "You're in a cult." The yuppie kept saying, "Come and see for yourself." To me the answer was obvious. We should see both churches. The short guy was not having any of it and stormed off yelling, "You're both going to Hell." Little did I know then, just how right he was.

Later that night, I attended my first meeting of the Way International. I was so excited. I was finally going to meet some Christians. The group had thirty adults and ten children. They all lived together in beautiful mansion on the rich side of town. Everyone was well dressed and well spoken. A little girl with blonde pigtails passed around a wicker basket shaped like a horn of plenty. We sang a few songs. Then the children left the room. Then an older man read from John Chapter One. Then a

younger man explained how the Trinity was really a Catholic hoax. I had no idea what he was talking about. So, I asked, "What do you think John 1:1 really means?" He ignored me. So, I asked again, "What exactly does it mean? "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God?" As the words left my mouth, the lights started to flicker on and off and a faint wind began to howl. Suddenly, they all stood up and just stared at me.

Being a teenager, I said it again, only louder, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." Instantly, their faces started to twist and turn. Then their eyes rolled back in their heads and something evil began to peer out. Naturally, I said it again, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." This time they started to swing at me like some giant evil octopus. When they moved closer, I stood up. Then one of them knocked my Bible to the floor. Another ripped it to pieces. Another tore my shirt open. Another tore my sleeve. Right then, God says to me, "Why don't you just tell them to stop in the Name of Jesus?" My first thought was "Ya right, they'll never listen to me." My second thought was, "Well, demons do have to obey Jesus." A second later they rushed me, so I yelled, "Stop in the name of Jesus." What I saw amazed me. It looked like a flock of birds hitting a windshield. They gnashed their teeth and growled. I repeated John 1:1. They wailed and moaned. I repeated John 1:1. They giggled and drooled. I repeated John 1:1. They cried,

"You can't tell us what to do." And "You have no power here." After a few more verses and few more howls, I slowly backed out of the room and left. They never moved an inch.

A Gold Crown

(03.13.11)

After the death of our son Danny, my wife and I were desperately searching for some way or somewhere to begin again. When a friend mentioned he and his wife were moving to Kansas City to help start a church, we jumped at the chance to get away from it all. So, in the spring of 1983, we left Chicago and joined the now infamous church movement known as the Kansas City Prophets led by Mike Bickle.

About fifty families all came to live in a three-block area known as the "duplexes." Most of us were in our early twenties, married, and with newborns. We worked together, prayed together, laughed together, and cried together. Bob Jones and his wonderful wife Viola would go from house to house teaching us little brats the things of God. Within a few months, the church exploded to 10,000 people. Everyone wanted to hear from Bob. Meetings were held day and night, in our homes, and at a nearby industrial park.

On Sunday night, March 18, 1984, they held a special meeting to choose 400 new leaders to handle the growing work. Needless to say, I was not invited. As Bob used to put it, "You are the worst sinner in the church!" Nevertheless, something

called me to the church that night and I went. When I arrived, everyone was singing, so I went to the front, knelt down, and began to pray. After about thirty minutes, I just happened to look up and what I saw changed my life forever. The ceiling above my head disappeared and I could see the stars. Then the sky rolled away like a scroll, and I could see into Heaven. In the center was a throne and from it gold crowns began to rain down upon the earth. Some landed on our assembly. One came to rest on my head. It was extremely heavy and fit like a glove. I was afraid to move or speak, so I just kept praying.

Within minutes, Bob ran to the stage, grabbed the microphone, and calmly said, "Many of you have just received golden crowns of leadership." As the words left his mouth, the power went out and a fierce wind began to howl. They quickly canceled the meeting, and we all raced outside into a thick eerie fog. There was wind and rain and snow and ice. There was lightning and thunder and hail. As we drove the few miles back to the duplexes the storm seemed to follow us and grew worse. Trees and power lines and cars were scattered everywhere.

When I arrived home, it was quite a sight. Only four or five families had gas stoves and when the storm hit everyone quickly moved in with us. People were crammed in every corner of every room, babies were screaming, candles were burning, and sleeping bags and blankets covered the floors. After finding my wife and daughter, I went outside to check on our tree. I knew if it fell, it would kill all of us. As I looked up something

inside me said, "Why don't you just tell it to stand up?" I thought about it for a second. Then pointed my finger at the tree and yelled, "Stand up in the name of Jesus."

The next day it looked like a war zone. Huge oak branches covered the streets. All the cars were smashed and trapped in the driveways. Thick ice covered everything, and the temperature dropped to near zero. It took three days to get the cars out. It took eight days to restore the power. The only bright spot was one very large very lonely tree next to my door. Not a single branch had fallen off. Not even a twig!

The last word I heard in K.C. was from John Paul Jackson, who said, "A prophet is like an old oak tree surrounded by saplings or wannabes. Only the seeds that are carried away by the wind and rain to a place free of its shade will take root and grow." They never did pick their leaders that night, but God sure did. Within a few months, one sin led to another until I was swept away in a whirlwind of pain and suffering. Bottom line, I was called to the Office of Prophet on October 19, 1991, in sunny Mesa, Arizona, and to the Office of Apostle on May 30, 1995, in sunny Las Vegas, Nevada.

Go West Young Man

(03.20.11)

The falling snow was thick and heavy the way it only gets at sundown in Chicago. "Lake Effect" was the technical term, but every kid knew what it meant. It was Christmas! I drop off my angel at the ballet studio and look for a parking spot. It was a small suburban farm town about sixty miles outside the city, Main Street USA. At last, a spot finally opens up. I park the car. Turn the ignition off and wait.

The class is on the second floor. Christmas lights decorate the windows. I can just make out my daughter all dressed in pink as they start their exercises. I sure needed the break. It was tough getting through the blizzard and I hadn't played father in a long time. This time the separation lasted two years. Who was I kidding? I was still in shock. Outside I was all smiles, but inside I was just plain scared. My fears fade away as I watch the children dance. After a few more precious moments of peace and quiet, I do the fatherly thing and go inside to gloat. What a beautiful town. What a beautiful family. It reminded me of a scene from "It's a Wonderful Life." For a second, I had hope, but deep down inside of me, I knew life was never that easy. When she finished, I packed her back in the car, and we hurried back

home. I was late for work. I kissed them all goodbye and headed for the door.

I was at work for only an hour when my wife called. "She can't breathe!" she screamed into the phone and hung up. I quickly dialed her back. It rang a few times and she yelled, "We're on our way to the hospital!" I mumbled, "I'll be there," then the phone went dead again. My legs gave out beneath me. I grabbed the counter to keep from falling. This couldn't be happening again. We already lost one kid. I scrambled to my feet and burst back into the blizzard. I arrived just in time to see them rolling my baby down the hall. My wife was running next to her. The medics were pushing and pulling. They all seemed scared. My daughter was grey as the sky outside with tubes dangling all around her. I grasped her cold weak hand and said, "Everything will be alright." They tucked her into bed, and we all went outside to talk. There I learned a new word - Asthma! She was alive for now, but no one seemed too sure about her future.

As I sat with my wife and talked, I could see she was rattled and that scared me even more. She was the real parent here. I was just along for the ride. I tried to man up and act like an adult, but it wasn't long before I was tested again. I heard a faint scream from down the hall, then another, and another. I ran to my daughter. She lay there terrified and bleeding and the nurse kept stabbing her with a needle. My daughter begged me over and over to make them stop. I was determined to act calm and reassured her it would all be over soon. After five or six more

attempts, it became clear to me even if you paid her, this person could not get blood from a mosquito's ass. My daughter cried out, "Why don't you make it stop daddy?" That was all I needed to hear. I saw red. The next thing I knew, I was being escorted from the hospital and threatened with jail time. It was not very mature, but it was fatherly. I was on the right road at last.

After a few more months of flurries, we went in for a final consultation. The Doc checked our daughter, then calmly informed us we had two choices. We could keep her on enough meds to kill a horse or we could move somewhere more conducive for recovery. "Where?" we asked. "Out west" he said. "Where?" we asked again. He said, "You know, out west, like New Mexico or Southern California." Like all good immigrants, we said, "Oh" and left.

After a few more weeks of delirious behavior we couldn't take it anymore. We loaded up my wife's 76 Corolla with holes in the floorboard and headed west. It was Easter! It was Spring! We were getting away from our parents! We had no idea where we were going! It took a week to make Albuquerque. It took fifteen minutes to leave. We tried Flagstaff, but it was too cold. As we came down I-17, it grew hotter and hotter, and we grew quieter and quieter. The air seemed to stick to the roof our mouths. But there was something, something in the air, the warmth, the sun, the stillness, that gave me hope and there we stayed. In time my daughter's health improved. We even had another son.

Sadly, the marriage didn't make it. Sometimes, the road is just a bit too long. Nevertheless, we all still love each other, and they are as beautiful as the August rains.

Will Work for Food

(03.03.24)

In 1988, the Valley was a ghost town. Everything was for sale, and no one was hiring. Somehow, I managed to stay sober until I didn't. Eventually, I met a guy who knew another guy that needed a cook for a bar and grill. I called, and the owner told me to meet him there at seven.

I arrived on time. The bartender informed me that the owner was running late and asked me to wait. One hour turned into two, two into three, and three into four. Finally, I gave up and had a drink. By midnight, I was in blackout mode. I only remember flashes.

First, I was at a Circle K yelling at people. Then at another Circle K, crashing my car into dissenters. Then another Circle K and then another. The last thing I remember is speeding down a lonely dark highway, sparks flying everywhere and then nothing.

As I slowly gained consciousness, I looked down. My shoes were gone. I looked to the side. The seat was covered in broken glass. I looked up. The windshield was gone. I looked around. All the windows were missing. I looked out. A strange mist and a red glow enveloped the car. I stepped out to refocus. All four

rim were burning like a furnace and melting into the blacktop. I followed the steam upward to another red glow. Slowly, it dawned on me. A Circle K sign! In a split second, I realized two things. First, I was not dead. Second, I was in serious trouble. I ran for my life.

Fast forward six months and I am a full-blown crack addict headed to, you guessed it, Circle K, with a loaded 357. Lucky for me, there was a park next to the store. As I passed by the playground, the children all started to scream. I spun around to look for the assailant, then realized it was me! I can tolerate a lot of things, but a man who terrorizes women and children isn't one of them. I died instantly. Without breaking a step, I marched straight to the store, dropped the gun in the garbage, and walked home to my wife.

I could barely talk, and that was probably a good thing. She said I couldn't stay unless I got help. She had a list with three names on it. She called the first one, Teen Challenge. A few hours later, they picked me up and took me to Phoenix. I told them my story, and they asked me if I was willing to turn myself in. I agreed. They drove me back to Mesa to the Police Station.

I told the officer at the front desk I wanted to turn myself in. He told me to wait. Fifteen minutes later, he comes back and says there are no outstanding warrants, and I was free to leave. We arrive back at Phoenix, and we discuss sending me to a camp in Idaho for two years. I agree. That night I couldn't sleep, so I

went outside to look for a butt. Somehow, I ended up at the Phoenix Bus Terminal. I asked one of the drivers about Mesa. He said get in. I said I didn't have any money. He said don't worry about it.

An hour later, I was knocking on my wife's door again. She took out her list and called the second number, a marriage counselor, Eldon Post. He agreed to see us, and she let me stay. A few weeks later, I received a court date in the mail. I was charged with 9 hit-and-runs. Three months later, we went to court. The DA offered me a plea bargain, 3 hit-and-runs, 9 years in prison, and a \$10,000 fine. I declined. The judge scolded me for not having a lawyer and gave me 2 hit-and-runs, 15-days work release, and no fine.

Open Windows

(03.17.24)

On December 1, 1991, I delivered my first prophecy. I called the leaders to the stage, told each of them their sins, and asked them to repent. They denied everything. Within hours, reports of dreams and visions surfaced, accusing me and my wife of everything from witchcraft to possession. The next time we came to church, the entire congregation moved to the other side. A few days later, I was banned.

On January 1, 1992, at work, I came across a badly deformed tree. I made a few cuts, but nothing helped. I asked God what to do. Instantly, a loud voice boomed down from heaven, "Cut it down!" The force of it knocked me to the ground. Needless to say, I obeyed. The next day, the church closed its doors. A few of us banded together and we started a home church.

On July 1, 1995, after 500 sermons. God unlocked the Book of Revelation. Within days, we were decimated, scattered to the wind, our meeting place burned to the ground. But it was too late. Our job was done.

On December 25, 1995, we presented our findings. To date, there has been no positive feedback.

From Rags to Riches

(03.27.11)

I groan as we strain under the weight of the heavy cart. "Just a little further," I exclaim. "Ok, dad," he mumbles. His weary eyes peek out from the rags that wrap his head. Suddenly, I hear a loud blare. "Get down!" I yell, and we both hit the dirt. The noise grows louder and louder. Slowly, I begin to recognize the sound. It is my alarm clock. Thank God! What a relief! My name is not Vigo, and the world did not just end! It is 5:30 am – time to train. I quickly find my pants, shirt, sweater, socks, shoes, and jacket. Then I find my wallet, keys, and phone, and I'm out the door. I start the car, hit the lights, turn on the heat, and off I go. As I drive, I pray. By the time I get to Quick Trip, I'm finished. I buy some gas, a donut, and a drink.

I arrive at my ex's house at 5:54. I ring the doorbell. I can hear the dog shuffle and the alarm code deactivate. She opens the door. We both say "Hi." I climb up the stairway to my son's room. I turn on the light, tap him on the shoulder, and say, "Good morning, son." He grunts, "Why, dad?" and rolls over. "Get up, son," I yell. He pulls the covers over his head and mumbles, "I hate you, dad." I say, "Of course you do, son." Then I pull the covers off the bed. "Go away," he yells. "Don't make me get the

water," I say. That seems to work, and he starts to move. I tell him, "I'll be downstairs waiting," and leave the room. I go outside and wait in the car. A few minutes later, he comes out, and we leave. As we drive to the track, we share the donut and the drink. "Not too much now," I warn. "I know, dad," he says.

We arrive at the school at 6:09. We can hear the delivery truck unloading the lunch food at the back of the school. We take one last sip of our drink and head for the track. It is 44 degrees and no moon. As we walk, I give him the details for today's workout. He reminds me that he hates me, and we laugh. We reach the starting line, and I tell him to start when he is ready. Click goes the stopwatch, and off he goes into the darkness. I drag my crippled leg across the field to the other side, where I can just make out his form as it rounds the curve. As he passes, I read off his time and give him a few instructions. I walk back to the start and do it again. We repeat the process three more times, and we're done. He asks for his time, and I tell him, "Not bad." I say. "Thanks," he says. We walk another lap to cool off. We talk about his temperature, his pulse, and his clothing. We discuss aerobics and what's next for the rest of the week. As we walk back to the car, the sun comes up. He asks if we can go to McDonald's. I agree. "Big Breakfast?" he asks. "Big Breakfast," I say. We laugh.

We arrive back at his house at 6:54. He eats the hotcakes and hash browns. I eat the eggs and biscuit. We split the sausage with the dog. We turn on the T.V. and check out Robin Meade

for a while. "Nice," I grunt. "Oh yeah," he says. We laugh. He gets lost in his phone. I watch the rest of "Married with Children." The irony is not lost on me. Around 7:30, he takes a shower, and I make his lunch. By 7:45, it's time to leave.

We arrive at his school at 7:50. "Fly check," I say. "Check," he says. We laugh. "Pray for me," he says. "God bless you, son," I say. "I love you, dad," he says. "I love you too, son," I say. Then he pulls out the biggest backpack I ever saw and heads for class. I watch him go inside, and then I leave.

I arrive back home at 8:00. I check the mail, do a load of laundry, wash the dishes, and take out the trash. Then I head to A.A. The meeting starts at 8:30. Someone receives a 9-month chip. We applaud. I put my dollar in the basket. When it is my turn, I say, "Hi, my name is Mike. I am an alcoholic and an addict." I pass. The meeting ends at 9:30. We say a prayer. As I leave, I remind myself, "One day at a time Mike, one day at a time."

Sojourner

(04.03.11)

Recently, I gathered with my family to celebrate my 50th birthday. It was the first time in 20 years we were all together. We rented a cabin in Prescott and got snowed in for a week. Since I had a captive audience, I decided to ask them what they called "home" and write about it.

One of them said home was a boyfriend. Another said home was a secure business. Others said home is family. Some called home happiness. Some called their house home. I was struck by how different their views were from my own. To me, home is not a place I have been to. Home is a place I am going to. Although I have never been to my home, I know many of the people who live there. My grandfather and grandmother are there, my uncle and cousin too. If I look hard enough, I can see them waiting with open arms and tears of joy.

My home has many rooms and one of them is mine. It was made just for me and it is just the way I like it. My room is almost finished now. I can see it when I dream. It is always 75 degrees in my room and a cool breeze always blows through it. The only furniture is a small cot in the corner made of white

linen and tan wood. There are no lights because it is always daytime.

Through my window, I can see a light in the distance. It is more than a mile, but less than two. It is set on a hill, three maybe four hundred feet high. It shines like a green Aurora in every direction. In the center is a throne and the light comes from the one who sits on it. To his right is another throne where a plain man sits quietly. In front of them stand seven angels facing outward. They are the seven eyes of God. Across from them sit twenty-four elders dressed in white. Gold crowns litter the floor. Behind them are endless fields of green grass. In front, an endless lake of still blue water.

There is always a great commotion around the throne, but it has little effect on me. I spend most of my time resting, watching, and praying. Like my room, my life is as I want it. I visit with friends from time to time, but mostly I just rest. There are still a few things I want to do, but they can wait until later. The quiet man comes first. Until he gets what he deserves, my desires mean nothing. He is the reason I have a home. He is my home.

How do I know all this? I began to see when I was five years old, and the closer I get to the end, the clearer the picture becomes. Heaven is where my heart is. Heaven is where my home is. I can see the future. I can see the past. What do you see when you look up?

The Fruit of Peace



(Worldview)

The Nature of Things

(07.13.14)

This essay answers the age-old question, "Where do fundamentalists go when they retire?" Apparently, they go to an Evangelical University. Here is what I've learned so far. First, a worldview matters. Second, a worldview must be correct to be effective. Third, Christianity has some serious problems. Most of our teachings are not based on scripture or sound judgment. They are based on Greek philosophy, Catholic tradition, and European colonialism. Make no mistake about it, the Gospel does not succeed because it is appealing. The Gospel succeeds because it tells the truth. Therefore, the future of Christianity depends on us finding new models based on humility and common sense. The first millennium gave us the Bible. The second millennium translated it. Our job, the job of the third millennium, will be to explain it. Here are some issues that need to be dealt with.

First, the idea that the universe is eternal is misleading. Hebrews 11:3 says, "The worlds were framed by the word of God." Therefore, the universe has a beginning. 2 Corinthians 4:18 says, "The things which are seen are temporary." Therefore, the universe has an end. 2 Corinthians 12:2 says,

Paul was "caught up to the third heaven." Therefore, we live in a multiverse.

Second, the idea mankind evolved is misleading. When God said, "Let there be light," creation rushed forward to produce life (Genesis 1:3). This is confirmed by every theory from the Big Bang to the Survival of the Fittest. Is Evolution more than a blueprint in the mind of God and man? No. The name and age of each Patriarch says otherwise. Simply put, the chicken came before the egg.

Third, the idea we are born slaves to sin is misleading. Consider the following.

Pelagius, born in 354 AD, wrote: "I believe that Adam's sin injured only himself, and not the human race. That the law, no less than the gospel, leads us to the kingdom. That newborn infants are in the same condition that Adam was before he fell. That, on the one hand, the entire human race does not die owing to Adam's death and transgression; nor, on the other hand, does the whole human race rise again through the resurrection of Christ. That infants, even if they die unbaptized, have eternal life. That rich men, even if they are baptized, unless they renounce and give up all, have, whatever good they may

seem to have done, nothing of it reckoned to them; neither shall they possess the kingdom of heaven."¹

Charles Finney, born in 1792 AD, wrote: "But perhaps you say in excuse, 'I cannot change my own heart.' Cannot? Suppose Adam had made this excuse when God called him to repent after his first sin. 'Make you a new heart and a right spirit,' said the Lord to him. 'I cannot change my own heart myself,' replies Adam. Indeed, responds his Maker, how long is it since you changed your heart yourself? You changed it a few hours ago from holiness to sin, and will you tell your Creator that you can't change it from sin to holiness? The sinner should consider that the change of heart is a voluntary thing. You must do it for yourself or it is never done. True, there is a sense in which God changes the heart, but it is only this: God influences the sinner to change, and then the sinner does it. The change is the sinner's own voluntary act."²

1 Schaff, Phillip. Saint Augustine's Anti-Pelagian Writings. Christian Classics Ethereal Library, 1886.

2 Finney, Charles. Sermons On Gospel Themes. Classics Ethereal Library, 1836.

Nationalism

(07.20.14)

Must Christians obey the law? The answer is not as easy as it sounds. On the one hand, we are told to obey all authority. On the other hand, our leaders, the apostles and prophets, often clashed with those in power. What are we to think? One thing is clear: All authority is established by God (Romans 13:1). It is a fundamental principle of scripture. Clearly, we have no right to disobey authority without permission from a higher authority. In other words, obey the King, but fear God!

Should Christians hide the Jews if the state calls it a crime? Should Christians kill the Nazis because the state declares war on them? At some point, each one of us must decide for ourselves just how far we are willing to go to please the state. As for me, I will obey every authority. I will cooperate with every authority. I will not resist any authority. On the flip side, I will not worship them or their gods. I will not let them mark my body. I will not kill for them. I will not serve in their military. I will not own a gun. I will not harm another person even if they harm me.

All things considered, Christians have a higher calling than the rest of the world. We are not called to give ten percent. We are called to give one hundred. We are not called to be soldiers. We

are called to be priests. We are not called to dispense justice eye for an eye. We are called to turn the other cheek. We are not called to kill evildoers. We are called to love our enemies. We are not called to die for our country. Our Kingdom is not even of this world. Therefore, let us love as Christ loves (John 15:12). Let us be perfect as He is perfect (Matthew 5:48). Let us lay down our life, not take life. Let us follow the example of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego who said, ""If our God, the one we serve, is able to rescue us from the furnace of flaming fire and from your power, Your Majesty, then let him rescue us. But if he doesn't, know this for certain, Your Majesty: we will never serve your gods or worship the gold statue you've set up" (Daniel 3:16-18).

A Role Model

(07.27.14)

Martin Luther King Jr., a Baptist preacher from Atlanta, Georgia, will long be remembered for translating his Christian worldview into action. King served the Church by promoting Civil Rights. King served the world by promoting Human Rights. King served God by promoting nonviolent resistance. As King said, "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."³ King's emphasis on social issues and the nature of God made him one of the most influential role models of our time.

King believed, "God is the Father of us all" (1 Corinthians 8:6). According to King, "A voice out of Bethlehem 2000 years ago said that all men are equal."⁴

King believed in "true religion" (James 1:27). According to Lewis Baldwin, "Martin Luther King Jr. urged the Church to 'make the Gospel relevant' to 'the economic life of man' while using its

3 King, Martin. "I Have A Dream." *Reconstructionist* 29, no. 11 (1963): 22.

4 King, Martin Luther Jr. The American Dream. Speech at Lincoln University, Pennsylvania, June 6, 1961.

own vast resources to help improve the quality of life for millions who 'are undernourished, ill-housed, and shabbily clad."⁵

King believed in the "Golden Rule" (Matthew 7:12). According to King, "Love is the key to the solution of the problems which we confront in the world today – love, even for enemies."⁶

In conclusion, Martin Luther King Jr. practiced what he preached. He was a servant because he saw a need and filled it. He was a prophet because he said, "Naive and unsophisticated though we may be, the poor and despised of the twentieth century will revolutionize this era."⁷ Looking back now, I can still see my mother crying when Bobby Kennedy died, but no one cried for King. They never even mentioned his name. It was not until years later that I found out who King was and what he stood for. Overall, Martin Luther King Jr. taught me Christianity is more than going to Church. Christianity is following God directly. And for that, I will always be grateful.

5 Baldwin, Lewis. *Revisioning The Church: Martin Luther King, Jr. As A Model For Reflection*. *Theology Today* 65, no. 1 (2008): 28.

6 King, Martin. "Love Your Enemies." *Journal of Religious Thought* 27, no. 2 (1970): 31.

7 King, Martin Luther, Jr. *Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community?* Beacon Press, 1967.

A Christian Worldview

(08.03.14)

It is important that we understand our worldview because our belief system affects every area of our life. It determines where we live, where we go to school, where we work, and how we treat each other. A Christian worldview makes certain assumptions: First, God exists. Second, God created mankind. Third, God communicates with mankind. As John 14:26 says, "The Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things."

Who is God and what are His characteristics? The term "god" refers to angels, demons, and humans because all three have a measure of power over creation. The term "God" refers to the Creator, the Father, the Most High God. As Daniel 4:25 says, "The Most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will." Now, Psalm 110:1 says, "The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool." Therefore, the Father gave the Son all authority over mankind.

What is a human being and what happens when one dies? It has been my experience that humans are created for one reason – to serve Christ. We are given a conscience, free will,

and the ability to reason, and we will be held accountable for our actions. Those who acknowledge the Son and act accordingly will be rewarded. Those who do not will be punished. As Jude 1:14-15 says, "The Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him."

How do you know what is true? To discuss truth, we must agree on a framework. First, truth exists. Second, we can know the truth. Third, we can understand the truth. According to Solomon, truth is screaming from the rooftops (Proverbs 1:20). In other words, truth is obvious. He also compared it to hidden treasure (Proverbs 2:20). In other words, truth is hidden. What does it all mean? It means we are so arrogant we have to dig deep just to find common sense. No wonder Christ told us to "Turn the other cheek." How else could we get saved?

What is right and wrong? Now that we can find the truth, the question becomes, "How do we obey it?" Step One is Psalm 110:10, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; sound understanding belongs to those who practice it." Step Two is there is no step two.

Is life pointless or is there purpose? According to Jesus, "This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent" (John 6:29). In other words, listen to Him. What does He say?

"Love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. Love thy neighbor as thyself." (Matthew 22:37, 39). Either way, the meaning of life is service.

What about Science? Reconciling science and religion is problematic. Religion opposed every major scientific breakthrough. Science regards Religion, History, and Literature as inferior. Religion must learn to respect the world's best and brightest. Science must concede three things. First, the Bible is the most accurate historical document of its kind. Second, the Bible is the most scrutinized piece of literature ever written. Third, the Bible contains verifiable prophecies which classifies it as physics (time travel).

In conclusion, Mark Cosgrove wrote, "A sound worldview agrees with science, is consistent, and is livable." As far as consistency, my worldview demands integrity. As far as livability, my worldview demands love. Neither is negotiable. Science and Religion search for the truth." Therefore, science should verify religion and religion should verify science. If not, something is missing, or someone is mistaken.

The Fruit of Patience



(Old Testament)

A Sinful Heritage

(09.07.14)

The history of mankind is a trail of men and women looking to rid themselves of God. First, there was Adam who wanted to be like God. When that failed, he tried to cover his shame with fig leaf religion (Genesis 3:7). Next, there was Cain with his system of good works that ultimately led to murder (Genesis 4:8). By the seventh generation, God was so displeased He removed Enoch from the earth entirely (Genesis 5:22). By the tenth generation, the sons of Seth were marrying the daughters of Cain causing God to issue one final warning. One hundred and twenty years later, God destroyed them all except for Noah and his family (Genesis 6:3). Within one generation, one of sixteen, was cursed again (Genesis 9:25). Within four generations they were building a tower to heaven to take things into their own hands (Genesis 10:25). And God scattered them to the four corners of the earth (Genesis 11:8). Any way you look at it, the entire prehistory of mankind is filled with sin which set the stage for the Abrahamic Covenant.

To understand our need for a Savior, we first need to understand the nature of sin. Paul Jewett wrote, "Since

Augustine, sin is pride; since Spurgeon, sin is unbelief.⁸ Personally, I disagree with both observations. In my opinion, sin is rebellion, nothing more and nothing less. Pride may come before the fall and unbelief may come after, but rebellion is the point of no return. Like the Garden of Eden, our way is blocked forever, and no one can see God again until they are holy, and holiness requires a sacrifice, a pardon, and true repentance to be had. Therefore, the sin lay not in the temptation to eat the fruit, nor in the eating of it. The sin lay in the decision to be free of God's constraints.

In conclusion, man may free himself from other men and man may even free himself from the confines of earth, but as long as there is a throne in Heaven, man is subject to the One who sits on it. Therefore, man is not condemned because he does not know the truth. Man is condemned because he hates the truth (John 3:14-21). Rather than have his deeds wrought in God or subject to God's approval, man pursues a different course – complete autonomy. In the end, sin is nothing more than rebellion and salvation is nothing more than submission.

8 Jewett, Paul. "Original Sin And The Fall Of Man." *Southwestern Journal of Theology* 19, no. 1, (1976): 22.

The Abrahamic Covenant

(09.14.14)

The Abrahamic Covenant gave the nation of Israel all the lands between the Nile and the Euphrates, established regional customs like marriage and primogeniture, and gave us concepts like the voice of God, the call of God, the covenant of God, altars, sacrifices, tithing, circumcision, the laying on of hands, dreams, visions, prophecy, angelic visitations, and the promise of a Messiah. Keith Essex wrote, "The Abrahamic Covenant undergirds the totality of the biblical revelation."⁹ It fulfills the Old Testament by establishing a messianic lineage (Genesis 3:15). It fulfills the New Testament by showing "not all Israelites are true Israelites" (Romans 9:6-8). In other words, "The just shall live by faith" (Hebrews 10:38).

By faith, Abraham moved his father's household from Ur to Haran (Acts 7:4). By faith, Abraham moved his own household from Haran to Canaan (Genesis 12:5). By faith, Abraham moved from Canaan to Egypt knowing full well he would lose his wife Sara (Genesis 12:13). By faith, Abraham let Lot leave and then

⁹ Essex, Keith. "The Abrahamic Covenant." Master's Seminary Journal 10, no. 2, (1999): 212.

rescued him by defeating four kingdoms with three hundred and eighteen men (Genesis 14:14). By faith, Abraham waited fifteen years for the birth of his son Ishmael and then sent him into the desert with a bottle of water and some bread (Genesis 21:9-21). By faith, Abraham waited twenty-five years for the promise of Isaac and then offered him up to be sacrificed (Genesis 22:1-14). By faith, Abraham circumcised and blessed Isaac who by faith did the same for Jacob (Genesis 27:1-29).

By faith, Jacob worked fourteen years to marry his wife Rachel (Genesis 29:1-30). By faith, Jacob wrestled with an angel to get the blessing (Genesis 32:24-32). By faith, Jacob raised seventy descendants and then led them into Egypt when he was one hundred and thirty years old (Genesis 46:26). By faith, Joseph followed his dreams and was sold into slavery for it (Genesis 37:1-36). By faith, Joseph served his master faithfully and was imprisoned for it (Genesis 39:1-23). By faith, Joseph rose to the second highest position on earth (Genesis 41:1-46). By faith, Joseph saved his family and the entire Middle East from the Seven Year Famine (Genesis 47:1-27). By faith, Joseph promised his brothers they would return to Canaan and made them swear to bury his bones there (Genesis 50:24-26).

In conclusion, the Abrahamic Covenant was an agreement between God and Abraham and both parties voluntarily agreed to fulfill certain vows irrespective of the other's actions. In essence, they joined forces. John Walvoord wrote, "There may be delays, postponements, chastisements, and blessings apart

from these promises, but the ultimate purpose of God will be fulfilled only by the accomplishment of the promises."¹⁰ As Genesis 22:16-18 says, "By myself have I sworn, saith the Lord, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice."

10 Walvoord, John. "The Fulfillment Of The Abrahamic Covenant." *Bibliotheca Sacra* 102, no. 405 (1945): 27.

The Nation of Israel

(09.21.14)

According to Exodus 1:7, "The children of Israel were fruitful, and increased abundantly, and multiplied, and waxed exceeding mighty; and the land was filled with them."¹¹ In 430 years, the Hebrews grew from 55 men to 600,000 (Exodus 12:37). To put it into perspective, in 400 years, the Pilgrims grew from 73 men to five million. All things considered, Pharaoh's fears were justified. Sadly, he resorted to genocide, torture, and slavery to solve his problems, and that set the stage for the greatest display of God's power in history: the Exodus.

The Ten Plagues include turning water into blood, frogs, lice, flies, cow disease, boils, hail, locusts, darkness, and the death of the firstborn. Even after Pharaoh was forced to free the slaves, he could not resist the temptation to hunt them down again. Of course, God used the opportunity to destroy the only thing Pharaoh had left: his soldiers. In only a few short months, God completely decimated the most powerful kingdom on earth. In a few short months, God showed the world that He, not

11 Rice, Doyle. "Was One Of Your Ancestors On The Mayflower? You Can Find Out Now." USA Today. June 13, 2018.

Pharaoh, was God, and that Israel, not Egypt, was the apple of his eye. The entire region would have to think twice before attacking Israel.

The Crossing of the Red Sea includes a pillar of fire by night, a cloud by day, the parting of the Red Sea, the destruction of Egyptian forces, the healing of the waters of Marah, Manna and quail, water from a rock, and the defeat of Amalekites. Clearly, Israel belonged to God. All that was left was to make it legal.

The Sinai Covenant includes God's agreement with the descendants of Jacob. According to Exodus 19:5, "If ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people." Three days later, the nation of Israel was born. It was a nation unlike any other. God would be their King, and they would be His people.

The Mosaic Law includes new rules to govern the new kingdom. First, the Decalogue or Ten Commandments dealt with moral issues (do not lie, do not covet), rules of worship (make no graven images, remember the Sabbath, have no other Gods before me), and family (honor your father and mother, do not commit adultery). Second, the Code of Laws dealt with everything else from restitution to hospitality to witchcraft. God left no room for confusion.

Instructions for the Tabernacle include specifications for the Ark of the Covenant, the Tabernacle or Tent of Meeting, its furniture and utensils, and the priestly garments and priestly

duties. Israel was now ready to enter the Promised Land. Unfortunately, their hearts were not ready, and it cost them another forty years.

In conclusion, the making of a nation is a complex process. For the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, it was even more difficult because they were a nation of slaves. They not only had to free themselves from bondage, but they also had to conquer the lands they wanted to live in. Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy bridge the gap between those two worlds.

The Judges

(09.28.14)

The Judges of Israel played a major role in the development of the nation. The settlement phase was a lot like the pioneering days of our own wild west. The land was wide open, and before any kind of centralized government could be formed, it needed to be tamed. According to Eugene Merrill, the rule of law was largely dependent on local tribal leaders or regional heroes.¹² Israel had eleven such heroes: Othniel, Ehud, Barak, Gideon, Tola, Jair, Jephthah, Ibzan, Elon, Abdon, and Samson. Each man was different. Some were leaders, some were wise men, some were warriors.

According to Judges 2:10, the generation after Joshua "knew not the Lord." As a result, they were unable to finish the conquest of Canaan. The remaining enemies became a thorn in their side. One by one, they oppressed Israel, and one by one, God sent a deliverer to deal with them. After each Judge died, the country sank back into chaos until a new Judge arose. Without these lone warriors, the nation of Israel would not exist.

12 Merrill, Eugene. *A Historical Survey Of The Old Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1991.

They stood in the gap between the Law and the Prophets. Considering what was at stake, what was available, and what was accomplished, the Judges must be considered the greatest servants of the Old Testament.

In conclusion, the Book of Judges reveals two principles. First, God uses everyday men and women to accomplish His goals. Second, these chosen ones know what to do and how to do it. Unlike the old, they can spring into action. Unlike the young, they can see clearly. Unlike everyone else, they have no choice. The stark contrast between good and evil compels them to act. Like Phinehas, son of Eleazar, son of Aaron, they see the danger, rise up, attack it, and save their people (Numbers 25:1-16). Lee Martin wrote, "The indispensable Pentecostal testimony is that God never ceases to be intensely active; that is, he continues to speak and work through and among his people for the sake of his kingdom in the world."¹³

13 Martin, Lee. "Where Are All His Wonders?: The Exodus Motif In The Book Of Judges." *Journal Of Biblical And Pneumatological Research* 2 (2010): 107.

Judges of Israel

0		Moses	40
40	0	Joshua	55
95	55	Othniel	40
135	95	Ehud	80
215	175	Barak	40
255	215	Gideon	40
295	255	Tola	23
318	278	Jair	22
340	300	Jephthah	6
346		Ibzan	7
353		Elon	10
363		Abdon	8
371		Samson	20
391		Anarchy	5
396		Saul	40
436		David	40
476		Solomon	4
480		Temple	7
487		Palace	13
500		Dedication	-

David and Solomon

(10.05.14)

'The Great Literary Works of Solomon' refer to the songs and sayings compiled during the reign of Solomon. According to 1 Kings 4:32, "He spake three thousand proverbs: and his songs were a thousand and five." For whatever the reason, few writings have survived. They include Psalms, Proverbs, Song of Solomon, and Ecclesiastes.

Psalms has 150 chapters. Proverbs has 30 chapters. Half of the Psalms are attributed to David, a shepherd warrior king. Most of the Proverbs are attributed to Solomon, a complex scholarly prince. Psalms are songs. Therefore, they are also prayers. Proverbs is a book of wise sayings. Psalms is robust and passionate. Proverbs is cold and calculating. Psalms records the trials and tribulations of one man. Proverbs reads like a handbook in humility.

Despite their differences, David and Solomon agreed on one thing. Wisdom depends on humility, a revolutionary concept in a world dominated by Egyptian superstition and Greek logic. Under the Mosaic Law, crime, punishment, and redemption were not a mystery. Everyone knew the truth, and everyone was held accountable. All that was needed was obedience. Psalm

111:10 says, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth forever." Proverbs 1:7 says, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction."

In conclusion, Psalms and Proverbs are the fruit David's labor. Solomon may have been the smartest man alive, but no one had more experience than David. He knew both the perils of war and the temptation of peace. James Mays wrote, "The David in the psalms is the king of the Lord, the servant of the Lord, the chosen one, the anointed one (messiah), with whom the Lord has made covenant by solemn oath that his dynasty will last forever. The future of all those related to God through David is based on God's sworn promise to David."¹⁴

14 Mays, James. "The David Of The Psalms." Interpretation 40, no. 2 (1986): 153.

Isaiah and Jeremiah

(10.12.14)

According to Zacharias, the father of John the Baptist, "God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets...since the world began" (Luke 1:67-75). This reveals two things. First, God speaks to mankind. Second, God speaks to mankind through people. Who are these spokesmen for God? The two most famous prophets are Isaiah and Jeremiah. What was their message? According to 2 Kings 17:13, "The Lord testified against Israel, and against Judah, by all the prophets, and by all the seers, saying, 'Turn ye from your evil ways, and keep my commandments and my statutes, according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you by my servants the prophets.'"

So, prophets do more than just deliver the law. They enforce it. Isaiah and Jeremiah were more than just teachers. They were ministers of repentance. They delivered indictments, pronounced judgments, and offered redemption. On the one hand, they called for change. On the other hand, they called for justice.

According to Merrill, Isaiah came from the upper echelons of society and was well educated.¹⁵ James Sanders wrote, "Five hundred and ninety references, explicit or otherwise, from sixty-three chapters of Isaiah are found in twenty-three New Testament books."¹⁶ Jeremiah rose through the ranks of the monastic priesthood (Jeremiah 1:1). Louis Stulman wrote, "The book of Jeremiah unmasks illusions of power and reveals God's solidarity with exiles of old and exiles today."¹⁷

Unlike the shepherd prophets before them and the fishermen prophets after, Isaiah and Jeremiah were not afraid or in awe of the ruling class. Like Christ, they understood the times they lived in. It is one thing to call for repentance. It is quite another to dismantle a whole nation with your words. The Twelve Tribes of Jacob were on trial for their life and Isaiah and Jeremiah were there to get results. In other words, the prosecution of Israel and Judea took time, effort, and precision.

God v Israel.

According to 2 Kings 17:21-23, God rejected Israel because they allowed Jeroboam to rebel against the House of David. Isaiah prophesied, "The riches of Damascus and the spoil of Samaria

15 Merrill, Eugene. *A Historical Survey Of The Old Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1991.

16 Sanders, James. "Isaiah In Luke." *Interpretation* 36, no. 2 (1982): 144.

17 Stulman, Louis. "Jeremiah As A Messenger Of Hope In Crisis." *Interpretation* 62, no. 1 (2008): 20.

shall be taken away before the king of Assyria" (Isaiah 8:4). The prophecy was fulfilled when Shalmaneser, King of Assyria, conquered Hoshea, King of Israel (2 Kings 17:1-6).

Nevertheless, God kept His promise and Israel became the home of the Messiah. For it is written, "The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light" (Isaiah 9:1-2).

God v Judea.

According to 2 Kings 21:1-15, God rejected Judah because they allowed Manasseh to desecrate the temple. Jeremiah prophesied, "I will make Jerusalem heaps, and a den of dragons; and I will make the cities of Judah desolate, without an inhabitant" (Jeremiah 9:11). The prophecy was fulfilled when Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, conquered Jehoiachin, King of Judah (2 Chronicles 36:8-10). Nevertheless, God kept His promise and Judea became the home of the King. For it is written, "I will raise unto David a righteous Branch" (Jeremiah 23:5).

In conclusion, words alone do not produce divine intervention. Judgment and revival are the result of obedience. Isaiah and Jeremiah were not chosen because they could write or speak well. They were chosen because they could follow orders. Who better to send to the disobedient, then the obedient? Who better to lead, then one who can follow?

The Restoration

(10.19.14)

The restoration of Israel is yet another story of how God separates or makes holy His people. It is a story of independence from Babylon and dependence upon God. The Decree of Cyrus, King of Persia, reads as follows: "The Lord God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to build him a house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah" (Ezra 1:2). According to Ezra 2:64, forty-two thousand Jews returned home to rebuild the temple.

Phase One fell to Ezra and Nehemiah. When they arrived, Israel was still suffering from a weak central government, a weak priesthood, a weak civil code, and a weak foreign policy. Ezra and Nehemiah took immediate action. Ezra reformed the priesthood and religious life. Nehemiah reformed the government and community life. Ezra called for the expulsion of all foreigners (Ezra 10:10). Nehemiah rebuilt the city walls in fifty-two days (Nehemiah 6:15). Martin Leeseberg wrote, "The sequence of events would be as follows: Nehemiah arrived first, built the wall, governed for twelve years, and returned to the king. During this time, it is quite likely that he enforced no great changes in the religious life of the people. All the notices of

religious reform in the text occur after he came to Jerusalem the second time. Ezra arrived in the period of Nehemiah's absence and was faced immediately with the necessity of reforming the spiritual life of the people, particularly in the area of marriages with foreign women.¹⁸

Phase Two fell to Joshua and Zerubbabel. They rebuilt the altar and made burnt offerings. Once again, Zion called upon the God of Abraham. According to Merrill, they appeared sixteen years after the work began and the temple was finished six years later.¹⁹ To put it into perspective, Solomon had a million men at his disposal, and it took him seven years to build the first temple (1 Chronicles 21:5). According to Haggai 2:3, when construction began, Zerubbabel had no hope of recreating Solomon's glory. According to Zechariah 4:7, by the time the cornerstone was laid, Zerubbabel had enough faith to just say the word "grace," and the temple was finished. According to Zechariah 4:9, Zerubbabel started the work, and Zerubbabel finished it. According to Haggai 2:9, the second temple was even greater than the first. According to Zechariah 4:6, the temple was built "not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit,

18 Leeseberg, Martin. "Ezra And Nehemiah: A Review Of The Return And Reform." Concordia Theological Monthly 33, no. 2 (1962): 85.

19 Merrill, Eugene. A Historical Survey Of The Old Testament. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1991.

saith the Lord of hosts." Once again, the God of Abraham blessed Zion.

Prophetically speaking, Christianity mirrors Judaism. There are two captivities. First, we are delivered from the slavery of sin (Egypt). Second, we are delivered from the bondage of false doctrine (Babylon). How did we backslide? Steven Lawson wrote, "The basic reason for this gloomy condition is obvious. That which imparts the glory has been taken away from the center of so much of our modern preaching and placed on the periphery. The Word of God has been denied the throne and given a subordinate place."²⁰

In conclusion, it is not the world's fault. It is not the devil's fault. The guilt lies with us. Therefore, let us return to the God of Israel. Therefore, let us prepare our hearts to seek the Lord. Therefore, let us seek the Law of the Lord. Therefore, let us do the Law of the Lord. Therefore, let us teach the Law of the Lord (Ezra 7:10). For it is written, "And now, O ye priests, this commandment is for you. If ye will not hear, and if ye will not lay it to heart, to give glory unto my name, saith the Lord of hosts, I will even send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings: yea, I have cursed them already because ye do not lay it to heart" (Malachi 2:1-2).

20 Lawson, Steven. "The Pattern Of Biblical Preaching: An Expository Study Of Ezra 7:10 And Nehemiah 8:1-18." *Bibliotheca Sacra* 158, no. 632 (2001): 452.

The Fruit of Kindness



(New Testament)

Political Background

(10.26.14)

The Babylonian Captivity and subsequent release created an uneasy environment for Israel. Long-standing traditions were shattered and replaced with new models. The Mosaic Law was now open for discussion and interpretation. The Priests and Scribes now shared power with the Sadducees and Pharisees. The Sanhedrin, modeled after the Greeks, was now the center of power. When it comes to this time period, I must defer to the experts.

Louis Finkelstein wrote, "The Sadducees were a political party, the party of the Hasmonaeans, the priests, and the reigning nobility. They stood strongly for Jewish independence and were the bitterest opponents of Herod and the Romans. The Pharisees, on the other hand, could hardly be called a political party, for they did not believe in political action. As a religious sect, their loyalty was given first to the law and secondly to the nation."²¹

21 Finkelstein, Louis. "The Pharisees: Their Origin And Their Philosophy." Harvard Theological Review 22, no. 3 (1929): 186.

Donald Carson wrote, "Two recent discussions of the Sanhedrin summarize the evidence and conclude, rightly, that the Sanhedrin was made up of Pharisees (most of whom were scribes), Sadducees (most of whom were priests), and elders. The 'elders' were not distinguished so much by theological position as by social position: They were respected community leaders, 'nobility,' and normally neither priests nor scribes but 'laymen' (though some priests may have used this designation as well). The best evidence, however, seems to indicate that the leadership of the Sanhedrin lay with the chief priests (and therefore with the Sadducees) but that within this context, the Pharisees were very influential members."²²

Isaac Kalimi wrote, "The Sadducees were predominant for many generations and exerted great influence on the Temple and its cult. Josephus Flavius and Rabbinic sources all describe high priests as belonging to the Sadducees."²³

Like all politicians, Israel's leaders, wanted to stay in power. This meant having to deal with extremists. On one side, anarchists wanted to leave everything behind and start over someplace else. On the other side, nationalists wanted to overthrow Rome

22 Carson, Donald. "The Jewish Leaders In Matthew's Gospel: A Reappraisal." *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 25, no. 2 (1982): 166.

23 Kalimi, Isaac. "The Day Of Atonement In The Late Second Temple Period: Sadducees' High Priests, Pharisees' Norms, And Qumranites' Calendars." *Review of Rabbinic Judaism* 14, no. 1 (2011): 73.

altogether. This brings us to the real problem: Rome! Unlike the Greeks, the Romans were here to stay. The rise of both Augustus and Herod left Israel with no hope of independence. Their once great nation was now reduced to a vassal state. The Hellenization process was complete. The solidification of the Roman Empire marked the fullness of times, the end of Israel, and the start of the Church.

In conclusion, by rejecting the Messiah, the Priests lost their Temple, the Sadducees lost their power, the Pharisees lost their chance to lead, and the Zealots missed the greatest revolution in history. Within forty years, the nation of Israel and with it the Church were scattered to the four corners of the globe.

The Kingdom of God

(11.02.14)

According to Daniel 2:36-45, five kingdoms will rule the earth: Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome, and the Kingdom of God.

According to Luke 3:1, the Kingdom of God started in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar when Christ was baptized. According to Revelation 20:4, the Kingdom of God is fully established at the first resurrection when Christ returns. So, the Kingdom of God begins with the Anointing of Christ and ends with the Coronation of Christ.

The message of the Kingdom of God is just as simple. John the Baptist preached, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 3:1-2). Jesus preached, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 4:17). The Twelve Apostles preached, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Mark 6:12). No wonder they had three thousand converts the first day. They had the right message. Douglas Petersen wrote, "The Holy Spirit baptism and empowerment, available to all believers after the Day of Pentecost, equipped the disciples

and the entire community of believers to do and teach all that Jesus did and taught."²⁴ Imagine the possibilities!

To better understand the Kingdom of God, let us examine three stories from the life of Christ. The first story is when Jesus cleansed the temple (Matthew 21:12-13). Angered by the selling of wares, Jesus drove out the merchants with a whip. The message was clear. There wasn't going to be an economic recovery. The second story is when Jesus silenced the leaders with a simple question, "If David called the Messiah his Lord, how can the Messiah be a son of King David?" (Matthew 22:41-46). Again, the message was clear. There wasn't going to be a religious reformation. The third story is when Jesus was arrested and tortured (Mark 14-15). Each crack of the whip, each beating, each insult, sent a clear message. There wasn't going to be a political revolution. Within hours, they traded Him for a murderer. Every sign, wonder, and teaching was specifically designed to reach a target audience, inform them of their guilt, and offer them a way out. In the end, Israel was left with nothing but their conscience. In other words, they killed the Messiah because they could no longer bear to look at themselves.

The Kingdom of God does more than offer salvation. It also brings judgment. Privately, Christ gave credit where credit was

24 Petersen, Douglas. "Kingdom Rules: Upside-Down Discipleship." *Asian Journal of Pentecostal Studies* 16, no. 1 (2013): 48.

due, like the Centurion with the sick servant (Luke 7:1-10) and the Canaanite woman with the possessed daughter (Matthew 15:21-28). Publicly, Jesus spoke in parables to confuse and confound the establishment (Matthew 13:13). He appeared and disappeared at will to keep them off balance. The point is, Jesus controlled the battlefield. His goal was to tear down principalities and spiritual wickedness in high places long enough and legally enough to bring down the nation. The Church does the same thing. We continue the process, one nation at a time, until the Fifth Kingdom, the Kingdom of God, replaces the Fourth Kingdom, the Kingdom of the Antichrist. As such, the end can only come when the last martyr is killed.

The Kingdom of God is more than just a realm. The Church has the keys to Heaven and Hell. Their shadow fills the air with power. Their hands heal the sick. Their words bring deliverance. Their prayers are answered, their desires met. Those who honor them will be given a place of honor. Those who try to harm them are already judged because they ignored their only hope of salvation. Robert Recker wrote,

“To enter the kingdom therefore is not to enter a realm but to submit to and to recognize a relationship in which God and Christ have an authoritative claim over us. It is to take the posture of obedience, to capitulate to a reality which can no longer be rejected, to recognize valid claims which can no longer be denied. Those who do thus are the great in the

kingdom of heaven; such are the responsive subjects of the King."²⁵

In conclusion, the Kingdom of God is many things to many people. Richard Mayhue calls it "the unifying theme of Scripture."²⁶ The Kingdom of God is also a two-edged sword. One side brings salvation. The other brings judgment. It is good news for the poor, but bad news for the rich. It is good news for those who suffer, but bad news for those at ease (Matthew 5-7). It is good news for those in prison, but bad news for those who are free. In the end, the Kingdom of God is the Church, and our sacrifices establish justice.

25 Recker, Robert. "The Redemptive Focus Of The Kingdom Of God." *Calvin Theological Journal* 14, no. 2 (1979): 168.

26 Mayhue, Richard. "The Kingdom Of God: An Introduction." *Master's Seminary Journal* 23, no. 2 (2012): 167.

The Four Gospels

(11.09.14)

The Life of Christ

Jesus was born during a worldwide tax, when Herod was King of Judea, Cyrenius was governor of Syria, and Augustus was Emperor of Rome (Matthew 2:1, Luke 2:1).

Jesus began preaching at age thirty, when Tiberius was Emperor of Rome, Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod, Philip, and Lysanias were tetrarchs, Annas and Caiaphas were high priests, and John the Baptist was a prophet (Luke 3:1, 23).

The Ministry of Christ

Jesus preached four years (Luke 13:6-9).

Jesus was the King of Israel (Luke 1:69)

Jesus was the Lamb of God (John 1:29)

Jesus sanctioned the Apostles (Mark 6:7).

Jesus blessed the Church (Matthew 16:18).

The Teachings of Christ

Beware the hypocrisy of the scribes and Pharisees (Matthew 5:20).

Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged (Matthew 7:1).

Whatever you wish that they would do to you, do also to them (Matthew 7:12).

The Audience of Christ

The message to the public is the Sermon on the Mount, found in Matthew 5-7.

The message to the religious leaders is the Seven Woes found in Matthew 23:13-39.

The message to the disciples is the Olivet discourse found in Matthew 24:1-25:46 and the Farewell Discourse found in John 14-17.

The Followers of Christ

We believe Jesus was God (John 1:1).

We believe Jesus was human (John 1:14).

We believe we are lost (John 3:3).

We believe we are found (John 14:23).

The Tenets of Christ

Humility (John 15:6).

Love (John 15:12-13).

Perseverance (John 15:20).

Wisdom (John 16:13).

Faith (John 16:28).

Good Versus Evil

(11.16.14)

According to Joel Green, Rome "systematically eradicated" public threats with public executions.²⁷ Therefore, crucifixion was a statement set at the crossroads that read, "Troublemakers will be dealt with!"

Green also says torture and execution are institutional norms for large, organized social structures, especially political and religious groups that "actively work to perpetuate a worldview."

Now, absolute power corrupts absolutely. Therefore, in time, the Church and State become similar. The State comes to see torture and execution as divine rights. The Church begins to see them as civic duties. That is why even bitter enemies like the Jews and Romans could agree to kill the Christ. From Rome's point of view, Christ was dangerous. Morality undermined their system of patronage. Christ also elevated the role of the servant and rewarded unrestrained giving. Neither did Rome any favors. Clearly, Israel had problems with Christ. According

27 Green, Joel. "The Death Of Jesus And The Ways Of God: Jesus And The Gospels On Messianic Status And Shameful Suffering." *Interpretation* 52, no. 1 (1998): 27.

to Green, Luke 23:2 shows the leaders thought Jesus was trying to pervert the nation, opposed taxation, and claimed to be King.

In conclusion, murderers base their actions on invented lies. The conflict between Jesus and His enemies was not ideological. It was a matter of good versus evil. The Jews did not kill Christ because He claimed to be God. They killed Him because He said they were not God. The Romans did not kill Jesus because He was a threat. They killed Him because He was not threatened by them. The point is martyrdom is not a political conflict or a theological debate. It is a reminder good and evil are at war, and the war is won by those who lay down their lives. Zorodzai Dube wrote, "As a cultural trauma story, the retelling of the story about the death and resurrection of Jesus was a shocking reminder of their own experiences, yet a strong identity marker that through suffering they were truly a community of Jesus."²⁸

28 Dube, Zorodzai. "Jesus' Death And Resurrection As Cultural Trauma." *Neotestamentica* 47, no. 1 (2013): 120.

The Missionary

(11.23.14)

The works of Paul secured the future of the Church. Bruce Metzger wrote, "Paul's confidence in the fulfillment of this daring dream is grounded in the eternal and enabling will of God."²⁹ In other words, Paul knew God. Kenneth Berding wrote, "The fruit of ministry is determined by the power of the Holy Spirit and the conviction and character of the one ministering."³⁰ In other words, God knew Paul.

Saul, born in Tarsus of Cilicia (Acts 22:3), a Roman citizen (Acts 22:28), a Jew (Acts 22:3), a Pharisee (Philippians 3:5), a student of Gamaliel (Acts 22:3), a willing participant in the stoning of Stephen (Acts 8:1), a violent persecutor of the Church (Acts 8:3), was also known as Paul, a Prophet of the Church of Antioch (Acts 13:1) and an Apostle of Jesus Christ (Galatians 1:1).

Paul led three missionary journeys and authored six congregational letters which established Christianity in Turkey,

29 Metzger, Bruce. "Paul's Vision Of The Church: A Study Of The Ephesian Letter." *Theology Today* 6, no. 1 (1949): 63.

30 Berding, Kenneth. "At The Intersection Of Mission And Spiritual Formation In The Letters Of Paul." *Journal of Spiritual Formation & Soul Care* 6, no. 1 (2013): 22.

Greece, and Italy.³¹ Richard Oster wrote, "The Apostle Paul attempted to build his churches upon the twin pillars of the unalterable truth of the Gospel and the unlimited freedom of the Gospel."³²

Paul's First Journey (47-48 AD), recorded in Acts 13:1-14:28, included Barnabas and John Mark, covered 1400 miles, with stops in Antioch (Syria), Seleucia, Salamis (Cyprus), Paphos (Cyprus), Perga, Antioch (Pisidia), Iconium, Lystra, Derbe, Lystra, Iconium, Antioch (Pisidia), Perga (Pamphylia), Attalia, and Antioch (Syria).

In Paphos, Paul blinded a false prophet named Elymas. In Antioch (Pisidia), Paul converted a deputy named Sergio Paulus and was persecuted and expelled. In Iconium, Paul escaped an assassination attempt. In Lystra, Paul healed a man born with crippled feet, was stoned to death, and resurrected by the brethren. On his return trip, Paul strengthened the believers and ordained elders in each city.

Paul's Second Journey (49-53 AD), recorded in Acts 15:36-18:22, included Silas, Timothy, Priscilla, Aquila, and Luke, covered 2800 miles, with stops in Syria, Cilicia, Derbe, Lystra, Galatia, Phrygia, Troas, Samothracia, Neapolis, Philippi,

31 Niswonger, Richard. *New Testament History*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1992.

32 Oster, Richard. "Congregations Of The Gentiles" (Rom 16:4): A Culture-Based Ecclesiology In The Letters Of Paul." *Restoration Quarterly* 40, no. 1 (1998): 52.

Amphipolis, Apollonia, Thessalonica, Berea, Athens, Corinth, Cenchrea, Ephesus, and Antioch (Syria).

In Lystra, Paul added Timothy. In Troas, Paul had a vision telling him to go to Greece. In Corinth, Paul had a vision telling him to stay there. In Philippi, Paul baptized the house of Lydia, delivered a woman soothsayer, was arrested, tortured, imprisoned, freed by an act of God, and converted the jailor. In Thessalonica, Paul was persecuted and escaped.

Paul also spent eighteen months in Corinth where he wrote Galatians (50 AD), 1 Thessalonians (51 AD), and 2 Thessalonians (52 AD). Galatians reminds us we are free in Christ, First Thessalonians is a letter to new believers, and Second Thessalonians tells us to persevere until Christ returns.

Paul's Third Journey (53-57 AD), recorded in Acts 18:23-21:16, included Timothy, Luke, and others, covered 2700 miles, with stops in Galatia, Phrygia, Ephesus, Macedonia, Achaia, Macedonia, Philippi, Troas, Assos, Mitylene, Samos, Trogyllium, Miletus, Cos, Rhodes, Patara, Tyre, Ptolemais, Caesarea, and Jerusalem.

In Ephesus, Paul's touch filled twelve disciples with the Holy Ghost, his handkerchiefs healed the sick and cast out devils, a riot was quelled, and magic books were burned. In Troas, Paul resurrected Eutychus. In Jerusalem, Paul was arrested and sent to Rome.

Paul also spent two years in Ephesus where he wrote 1 Corinthians (54 AD) and 2 Corinthians (55 AD) and Romans (56 AD). First Corinthians addresses Church life, Second Corinthians warns against false teachers, and Romans is a systematic look at salvation.

In conclusion, the Acts of Paul are more than dates and places and the Letters of Paul are more than rules and regulations. All of his work is an expression of his relationship with God. On the one side, we have Paul's extraordinary record of service. 2 Corinthians 12:24-28 says, "Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness." On the other side, we have God's extraordinary commitment to Paul. Acts 19:11 says, "God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul," and 2 Corinthians 12:4 says he "heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter." Together, God and Paul convey a clear message to the Church that faith works by love and love never fails.

The General Epistles

(11.30.14)

Scholars classify non-Pauline Letters addressed to the general public as General Epistles. They do not include letters to a specific congregation like Corinthians. They do not include letters to individuals like Timothy. Some letters provide the author's name like Peter 1, 2, James, Jude, and Revelation. Some do not, like John 1, 2, 3, and Hebrews.

First Peter begins, "To the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia" (1 Peter 1:1). Therefore, First and Second Peter were written after the Fall of Jerusalem in 70 AD. First Peter concludes, "The church that is at Babylon, elected together with you, saluteth you" (1 Peter 5:13). Therefore, Peter was in Rome when he wrote the letters (Revelation 17:9).

Scholars debate the author of Hebrews. Consider the following: The author was in Italy (Hebrews 13:24). The author was waiting for Timothy (Hebrews 13:23). The author had no love for Judaizers (Hebrews 13:9). The author mentioned faith a record thirty-four times. Clearly, Paul was the author.

Scholars debate the identity of James and Jude. Here is one version: Two Apostles were named James (Acts 1:13). The first James was the brother of John, the son of Zebedee (Matthew 4:21). He was killed by Herod (Acts 12:1-2). The second James was the brother of Judas, the son of Alphaeus (Acts 1:13). He was the Lord's brother (Galatians 1:18-19). Matthew 13:55 says Jesus had four brothers: James, Joses, Simon, and Judas. To summarize, James and Jude were apostles, James and Jude were brothers, James and Jude were the sons of Alphaeus, and James and Jude were the brothers of Christ. Quite a family.

Scholars debate the purpose of James. Some argue James was written to counter Paul's faith message. Roy Ward wrote, "Since the time of Martin Luther, no one has been able to write on the Epistle of James without considering its relationship to Paul."³³ Here is another point of view: James wrote, "Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness" (James 2:23). Paul wrote, "Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness" (Romans 4:3). Not much controversy there.

First John is the Gospel of Jesus Christ: "This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and

33 Ward, Roy. "James And Paul: Critical Review." *Restoration Quarterly* 7, no. 3 (1963): 159.

do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:5-7).

Second John is a friendly reminder: "If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house" (2 John 1:10).

Third John simplifies things even more: "He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God" (3 John 1:11).

John also wrote, "The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass" (Revelation 1:1). So much for the no man can know theory. Just for the record, Revelation 17:10 says, "And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space." Therefore, Revelation was written during the reign of Titus between 69 AD and 79 AD.

Kings of Rome

1	Julian	Augustus	27 BC – 14 AD
2		Tiberius	14 AD – 37 AD
3		Caligula	37 AD – 41 AD
4		Claudius	41 AD – 54 AD
5		Nero	54 AD – 68 AD
6	Flavian	Vespasian	69 AD – 79 AD
7		Titus	79 AD – 81 AD
8		Domitian	81 AD – 96 AD

The Fruit of Goodness



(Ethics)

The Greeks

(01.11.15)

The question "Why be moral?" has been asked since the Garden of Eden, but by the time of Plato, the question no longer had much meaning. Greece seemed content with the status quo, a kind of paternal capitalism which allowed them the luxury of discussing everything under the sun except how to save the gadfly of Athens, Socrates. Enter Plato, a student of Socrates who created play-like versions of the Socratic Method to show us right from wrong.

Plato believed humans have three parts. We have the rational part, which loves the truth and rules over the other two; the spirited part, which loves honor and victory; and the appetitive part, which loves food and sex.

Plato believed society has three classes. There is the ruling class, which seeks justice for all; the military class, which fights heroically to enforce justice; and the working class, which supports the physical needs of a just society.

Plato believed morality has three components. James Duerlinger wrote, "The pursuit of the divine life, then, essentially consists of three paths: the path of moral training, which is

traversed with the help of the practical wisdom of the community leader; the path of dialectic, which is traversed with the help of the theoretical wisdom of the accomplished philosopher; and the path of contemplation, which is traversed with the help of one's own innate love of God."³⁴

According to Plato, morality is achieved when a majority of the people do their job well. In other words, morality is a social construct, not a divine construct. The truth is, morality is both. It is a social construct because we have a common creator. It is a divine construct because we are only stewards.

In conclusion, like all good teachers, Plato believed we can be more than we are, but he was confused about how to get us there. From Plato's point of view, a balanced social structure and a good education should produce right-minded individuals. He failed to understand that goodness is not a product of the mind, but of the heart. When it comes to spirit, Plato imagined the courage and honor of soldiers. He mistook spirited emotion for spirituality. That is not to say courage and honor are not spiritual. It is to say emotion is secondary to the spirit or will. It was the will of Adam that chose to defy God, and it was the will of Adam that had to change direction to be pardoned. That is

34 Duerlinger, James. "Ethics and the divine life in Plato's philosophy." *Journal of Religious Ethics* 13, no. 2 (1985): 321.

not to say the heart cannot be educated. It is to say a spiritual education is more like boot camp than college.

Nonresistance

(01.18.15)

The article entitled “Nonresistance and Litigation” was written by Paul Erb and published in the April 1939 edition of the Mennonite Quarterly Review. The premise of the article is ethical behavior is not a social, economic, or political pursuit. It is a way of life for Christians. The ethic of nonresistance dictates we abstain from every kind of evil like coarse behavior, anger, litigation, and war. The ethic of nonresistance compels us to reconcile our differences and to pursue peaceful solutions. Paul Erb wrote, “If I am nonresistant at all, I must be nonresistant in all.”³⁵

Erb’s first point was God is love and as representatives, we should display that love. Litigation may be legal, but it is also unseemly. Therefore, except for criminal cases, litigation should be avoided.

35 Erb, Paul. “Nonresistance and litigation.” Mennonite Quarterly Review 13, no 2 (1939): 75.

Erb's second point was taken from 1 Corinthians 6:1-8 which says litigation is an in-house affair. In other words, we should display the wisdom of God by resolving our issues privately.

Erb's third point was we are ministers of reconciliation. Therefore, we should lay down our lives for peace rather than conflict, for good relations rather than the collection of debts.

Now, by arguing successfully against bad behavior and litigation, Erb also demonstrates Christians have a moral obligation to abstain from military service and war. Here are four reasons why.

First, war is a product of disobedience. Under the Mosaic Law, the Blessing brings peace and the Curse brings war (Leviticus 26:6). Shaul Bar wrote, "Death in war was unnatural, hence it was considered a punishment."³⁶

Second, our battle is with Satan, not mankind. Madison Pierce wrote, "Christians have been given much more efficient weapons than swords or guns."³⁷ And Ephesians 6:12 says, "We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

36 Bar, Shaul. "The Curse of Death in War." *Jewish Bible Quarterly* 40, no. 4 (2012): 231-237.

37 Pierce, Madison. "War: Fighting the Enemies of God, not Man." *Biblical Theology Bulletin* 43, no. 2 (2013): 81.

Third, Christ told His disciples to follow Him and let the dead bury the dead (Matthew 8:21-23). In other words, Christians have a higher calling.

Now, I have heard it said pacifism leaves the dirty work to others. In truth, Christians are no different than other first responders. They follow orders. Besides, even the military knows Romans 13:1-2, "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation."

Fourth, false leaders lie (2 Peter 2:1). Rather than end slavery, they legitimized it. Rather than end torture, they endorsed it. Rather than end war, they lead the charge. As David Barker wrote, "Christians view the international interests of the United States as divinely inspired, and the hawkish pursuit of those interests as not only justified but perhaps demanded by God."³⁸ These false prophets love to point to Old Testament warriors like Joshua and David and to the New Testament Return of Christ. Yet, these clouds without water somehow forget Christ was here once before and He came not as a conquering hero, but as homeless felon nailed to a tree. That He did not fight the Roman Empire. He was led to the slaughter like a lamb. That He

38 Barker, David. "Of Crusades And Culture Wars: "Messianic" Militarism And Political Conflict In The United States." *The Journal of Politics* no. 2 (2008): 307.

did not hunt for evildoers. He searched for the lost. That He did not legislate morality. He lived a life worth following. That He did not endorse candidates. He washed feet.

In conclusion, nonresistance is an extension of love and love does not prosecute its own or others. Christ did not come to imprison, torture, and kill, but to be imprisoned, tortured, and killed. Therefore, let us make peace because Christ descended. Therefore, let us make peace because Christ ascended. Therefore, let us make peace because Christ shall come again.

Church and State

(01.25.15)

My field of study is Christian Studies. My vocation is a non-ordained minister. My guide is the American Association of Christian Counselors Code of Ethics. The subject at hand is the separation of Church and State. Clearly, government has no right to interfere with religion, but does religion have a right to interfere with government? Should Christians be involved in politics or not?

Legally speaking, the answer is simple. Nothing in the Constitution compels us to participate in democracy.

Philosophically speaking, tyranny has many forms. On the one hand, we have the tyranny of majority rule over the minorities, whereby voting is an act of oppression. On the other hand, we have the tyranny of silence, whereby inaction creates a conspiracy of violence. Both arguments are valid.

Morally speaking, Christ said, "In everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets" (Matthew 7:12). The problem is, some people want us to participate in politics and some do not, and some want us to help them win and not the other guy. Immigration is

a good example. So is abortion. Ultimately, the question is, "What is love?" Paul wrote, "All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any" (1 Corinthians 6:12). Therefore, freedom alone does not dictate our actions. Christ said, "The rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you" (Matthew 20:25-26). Therefore, we are not called to dominate anyone, let alone an entire political system, and for good reasons. The church cannot afford to not pay taxes and legislate morality upon those who do.

Ethically speaking, AACC says ministers have a duty to defend the code, the law, the government, the church, the clients, the community, and our family. The truth is we are governed by our conscience. Not surprisingly, the Code makes provision for that too. Section 5-210 says, "Christian counselors support their right to elect nonadherence to those ethics and rules that offend the way of Christ." Therefore, I respectfully disagree with those who teach Christians to participate in politics. In my opinion, it's inappropriate for us to influence candidates or policies. Think of it this way. Can you imagine Martin Luther King Jr. opposing individual rights based on sexual preference? Can you imagine Mother Teresa picking up a gun to defend her country? Can you imagine Jesus Christ voting for the death penalty?

In conclusion, let us shun the unseemly business of politics and let us return to the glorious ministry of reconciliation. The

official confession of faith of the Southern Baptist Convention, *Baptist Faith and Message*, says, "The Church should not resort to the civil power to carry on its work. The Gospel of Christ contemplates spiritual means alone for the pursuit of its ends."³⁹ Bravo, Baptists!

39 Gaskins, Mark. "Cracks in the wall?: changing attitudes toward the separation of Church and state among Southern Baptists." *Baptist History and Heritage* 43, no. 3 (2008): 96.

Polarization

(02.01.15)

Liberalism emphasizes the teachings of Christ, while conservatism emphasizes the narratives of Christ. Liberalism argues that reason does not demand a God, while conservatism argues that God does not demand reason. Neither thought is very enlightened.

Liberalism is right because it teaches us to love mankind. Kenneth Grasso wrote, "Indeed, Christians must acknowledge that as far as the injustice and bankruptcy of the ancient régime and the social and political implications of the sacredness of the human person are concerned, the proponents of liberalism often displayed a vision and courage that they lacked."⁴⁰

Liberalism is wrong because it does not rely on a God in heaven (Father), a sacrifice on earth (Son), miracles (The Holy Spirit), or the scriptures (Fivefold).

In truth, liberalism cannot defend its doctrines without taking a conservative stance. Therefore, it cannot lead.

40 Grasso, Kenneth. "Christianity, Enlightenment Liberalism, and the Quest for Freedom." *Modern Age* 48, no. 4 (2006): 301.

Conservatism is right because it teaches Biblical Inerrancy.

Conservatism is wrong because it is built upon the liberal Nicene Creed rather than the conservative teachings of the Apostles. Jerry Weinberger wrote, "Ben Franklin, the most widely read in theology of all the Founders, said the following about the doctrines of his Presbyterian neighbors: The doctrine of original sin was an absurd 'bugbear set up by Priests (whether Popish or Presbyterian I know not) to fright and scare an unthinking populace out of their senses, and inspire them with terror, to answer the little selfish ends of the inventors and propagators.' The idea that one person can be subject to punishment for the guilt of another was monstrous, said Franklin, and made God cruel, arbitrary, and unjust. The doctrines of justification by faith alone and salvation by means of the merits and satisfactions of Christ were antinomian, said Franklin, and comprised 'the most impious doctrine that was ever broached... [with] a natural tendency to make men act as if Christ came into the world to patronize vice, and allow men to live as they please.'"⁴¹

In truth, conservatism cannot defend its doctrines without taking a liberal stance. Therefore, it cannot lead.

41 Weinberger, Jerry. "Benjamin Franklin: Philosopher of Progress." *Good Society* Journal 17, no. 1 (2008): 20.

In conclusion, conservatism believes in inspired revelation, and liberalism believes in inspired interpretation, and one without the other is useless. In the words of Christ, "they be blind leaders of the blind" (Matthew 15:13-14).

Outline for Recovery

(02.08.15)

James I – Patience

- a. You will fall into temptations.
- b. When you fall, ask for help.
- c. Be thankful for the suffering.
- d. You fell because you were arrogant.

James II – Love

- a. This time do not show favoritism.
- b. This time love your neighbor.
- c. This time do good works.
- d. Abraham believed God!

James III – Self-Control

- a. The tongue controls everything.
- b. It can be used for good or evil.
- c. This time control your tongue.
- d. This time use it to make peace.

James IV – Humility

- a. The chaos was caused by adultery.
- b. Don't you know God is jealous?
- c. Cling to God and the chaos ends.
- d. This time let God be the judge.

James V – Prayer

- a. Remember, there will be justice.
- b. Judgement is already nearby.
- c. This time pray for each other.
- d. Prayer will prevent temptation.

The Fruit of Faithfulness



(History)

The Early Church

(03.01.15)

When did the Church start? When did God invent the plan of salvation? (John 3:16). When did Christ accept the plan? (Philippians 2:7). When did the Holy Spirit carry out the plan? (Luke 1:35). Was it the birth of Christ (Matthew 1:25), the baptism of Christ (Matthew 3:16), the betrayal of Christ (John 13:2), the death of Christ (Matthew 27:50), the Resurrection of Christ (Matthew 28:1-9), or the ascension of Christ? (Luke 24:51). Was it the first miracle, the first message, the first disciple? Was it the first convert or the last? Some say the Church began with the words, "Upon this rock..." (Matthew 16:18).

Officially, the Church began on the Day of Pentecost. Acts 2:1-4 says, "When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly, a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them." When Peter preached, three thousand people were converted (Acts 2:41). When Peter

prayed, two thousand more were added (Acts 4:4). By the time Ananias and Sapphira dropped dead, people were lining the streets just to touch Peter's shadow (Acts 5:15). Truly, the Church was "built upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets" (Ephesians 2:20).

Unofficially, the Church began the day Stephen was stoned at the feet of Paul (Acts 7:57-60). What I mean is this: before Paul, the Church had no real identity. It was just another Jewish sect (Acts 5:34-40). Paul single-handedly established the Gentile Church we all know today (Romans 11:13). Even the term Christian came from Paul's base in Antioch (Acts 11:26). It was Paul, not the Twelve, who turned away from the synagogues (Acts 18:6). It was Paul, not the Twelve, who called for an end to the Mosaic Law (Acts 15:2). It was Paul, not the Twelve, who developed the concept of faith (Romans 10:8-10). It was Paul, not the Twelve, who explained the resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:52). There have been many outpourings of the Holy Spirit, but none shone brighter than the light which blinded Paul's eyes (Acts 9:3). Truly, "strength is made perfect in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9).

Like Christ, the Church had three enemies: the Priesthood, Herod, and Rome, otherwise known as the local, state, and federal government. It was not long before the Pharisees arrested believers in other cities (Acts 8:1, 9:1). Within a decade, Herod killed James (Acts 12:1). Within a generation, the Romans were feeding Christians to the lions. The Church had

other problems as well. According to 2 Corinthians 12:24-28, they were attacked by bandits, local merchants, and religious groups. To make matters even worse, there was a worldwide famine (Acts 11:28). The famine not only caused great poverty, it led to more persecution because the Christians refused to participate in the political and religious efforts to appease the Gods. The last straw was the Jewish rebellion. Rome's response paid little attention to the doctrinal differences between Jews and Christians. To the Romans, all Jews were a threat and that included the Early Church. Mark Noll wrote, "The Apostles Peter and Paul were probably martyred in Rome under the emperor Nero about the time that Titus and Vespasian were advancing on Jerusalem."⁴²

In conclusion, God used the Fall of Jerusalem to cut the apron strings. In one swift blow, Judaism was fragmented, the Gentile Church took center stage, and Christianity spread throughout the empire. In hindsight, Paul's hurried efforts to establish the Church outside of Israel were justified even divine.

42 Noll, Mark. *Turning Points: Decisive Moments In The History Of Christianity*. Grand Rapids MI: Baker Academic, 2012.

The Holy Scriptures

(03.08.15)

The Bible has sixty-six books, forty authors, and was written from 1421 BC to 79 AD. When was the Old Testament completed? One theory, the Ezra Legend, says it was completed sometime after the Decree of Cyrus in 453 BC. When was the New Testament completed? The first King James Bible without the Apocrypha was published in 1666. According to Bruce Shelley, the writings were chosen for three reasons: they were transformational, they were well known to the Early Church, or they were somehow related to the Apostles.⁴³

The canonization process also excluded unorthodox writings like the Acts of Paul and the Epistle of Barnabas, orthodox writings like Didache and Shepherd of Hermas, the writings of the Apostolic Fathers like Clement, Ignatius, and Polycarp, the Greek Fathers like Irenaeus, Origen, and Athanasius, and the Latin Fathers like Tertullian, Cyprian, and Ambrose. By 100, the writings were popular; by 200, the writings were considered

43 Shelley, Bruce. Church History In Plain Language. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2013.

divine; by 300, the list was widely agreed upon, and by 400, the list was well-established.

The first step was the creation of the writings. Paul began the process by writing letters to the Gentile Churches. Eventually, other leaders followed suit. Some wrote letters. Some wrote Gospels. As the Church spread, so did writings.

The second step was the confirmation of the writings. The letters confirmed the members and the leaders. The Gospels revealed the calling of the Apostles. The Book of Acts chronicled the ministry of the Apostles. Paul's letters confirmed the leadership of Peter, James, John, and Jude. John's letters elevated the status of the Seven Churches. Peter's letter endorsed Paul's teachings, etc.

The third step was the acknowledgment of the writings. As the Apostles died off, their writings took center stage. Members began to copy, share, and recite the writings during meetings. The Early Church Fathers began using the writings in their sermons. In 150, Polycarp referred to at least eight letters of Paul. In 160, Justin Martyr referred to the memoirs of Paul. In 180, Irenaeus called the Gospels fourfold.

The fourth step was the organization of the writings. Church leaders began to group the writings into lists. In 140, Marcion canonized ten letters of Paul and a version of Luke (Gospel of Marcion). The oldest list is from the Muratorian Fragment written in 190. It contained the names of twenty-two books

currently found in the New Testament. The first completed list is from Bishop Athanasius of Alexandria in 367. This same list was also used by the Council of Hippo in 393 and the council of Carthage in 397. The first formal declaration was made by the Second Council of Trullan in 692.

In conclusion, canonization was a two-edged sword. On the one hand, it preserved the Old Testament, the teachings of Christ, and the authority of the Apostles. On the other hand, it weakened the authority of prophecy, the Gifts of the Spirit, and the Fivefold Ministry. According to Tertullian, "The Holy Spirit was chased into a book." All things considered, the canonization process was a reaction against Marcionism which dismissed the Father, Gnosticism which dismissed the Holy Spirit, and Montanism which dismissed the Son. In other words, it was compiled to silence free speech. Nevertheless, what man meant for evil, God used for good.

The Papacy

(03.15.15)

In 380, Emperor Theodosius, while in Milan, ordered the death of five thousand rioters in Greece. In response, Ambrose, the Bishop of Milan, refused to give him communion unless he did penance for the massacre. Eventually, Theodosius complied, which established the idea that the Church has power over political institutions.

A generation later, Pope Leo the Great used these newfound powers to negotiate with Attila the Hun and Gaiseric the Vandal when they attacked Rome.

Next came Gregory the Great, a former prefect of Rome, who created monasteries across Europe, which added new properties and new converts. It also centralized power in Rome because monks, unlike priests, had no allegiance to the bishops.

The papacy reached its zenith on Christmas morning 800 when Pope Leo III crowned Charlemagne Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire (not to be confused with the Roman Emperor, the title used in Constantinople). Charlemagne united the Germanic peoples, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and Germany,

reformed the Church, and converted the captives to Christianity. This marriage of Church and State sparked the Carolingian Renaissance.

By 1054, we have the Great Schism. By Christmas night 1075, Pope Gregory VII was kidnapped. Upon his release, he excommunicated Henry IV, Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire. The controversy was over who would control the appointment of Bishops because they controlled who would be Pope. In the end, Gregory VII won the battle but lost the war. From that point forward, Papal powers declined.

By 1302, Pope Boniface VIII issued a final writing, *Unam Sanctam* (one holy), which declared, "it is absolutely necessary for salvation that every human creature be subject to the Roman Pontiff." Philip IV, King of France, responded by having Boniface beaten and locked up for three days. He later became ill and never recovered, and neither did the Papal powers.

The Reformation

(03.22.15)

The term Reformation is misleading. The Catholic Church was not reformed. Battle lines were drawn, blood was shed, and thousands were persecuted and killed. More than anything else, the Protestant Reformation was a product of modernization. The Gutenberg Press was invented around 1455. The first book printed in English was in 1475. By the end of the century, twenty million books were printed, setting the stage for the Reformation.

On October 31, 1517, the German reformer Martin Luther delivered his 95 grievances. In 1518, Pope Leo X asked Luther to retract 41 of them. Luther responded by rejecting the authority of the Papacy completely. In 1520, Emperor Charles V offered Luther one last chance to change his mind at the Diet (Assembly) of Worms, Germany. Luther responded by writing "To the Christian Nobility of the German Nation," "Prelude on the Babylonian Captivity of the Church," and "Freedom of a Christian." Soon after, Luther was denounced by Henry VIII and excommunicated by Pope Leo X.

In 1522, Luther translated the New Testament into German. In 1526, William Tyndale translated the New Testament into

English. In 1529, Luther met with Swiss Reformer Ulrich Zwingli and agreed to fifteen of his sixteen tenets. Luther refused to give up on transubstantiation, the Catholic notion that during Mass bread and wine become the literal body and blood of Christ. In 1530, Emperor Charles V asked the Lutherans to provide a formal summary of their beliefs, which is now known as the Augsburg Confession. In 1531, Ulrich Zwingli died.

In 1533, Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury, also defied the Papacy by voiding the marriage of Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon, so Henry could marry Anne Boleyn. On July 11, 1533, Pope Clement VII excommunicated the King and the Archbishop. In 1534, Parliament passed the Acts of Supremacy, making Henry VIII the Head of the Church of England. Shortly thereafter, Henry VIII executed Thomas More and William Tyndale for opposing the Church of England. The Papacy countered with the Jesuit Order: priests dedicated to reclaiming Protestant converts.

In 1536, French reformer John Calvin created a systematic theology for the Reformation called "The Institutes of the Christian Religion." In 1546, Martin Luther died. In 1547, Henry VIII died. In 1564, John Calvin died. In 1572, Scottish reformer John Knox died. In 1590, the Geneva Bible was published. In 1611, the King James Version was published.

To summarize, the Reformation included justification by faith, the priesthood of all believers, the authority of the Word, the

nature of the sacraments, the separation of Church and State, ecclesiastical continuity, and the Great Commission. The main point of contention was the sale of indulgences. The Papacy offered salvation for acts of loyalty, acts of contrition, and money. The Protestants attacked the problem in three ways.

First, they argued scripture has more authority than the Pope. The truth is if a minister is called by God, his words are equal to scripture. Like it or not, that includes the Pope. The idea that Apostolic writings carry more weight than the Apostles themselves is foolishness. Is the Pope a Fivefold Minister? It would depend on the Pope, wouldn't it?

Second, they argued that men are saved by faith, not by works. The truth is sanctification is not the result of justification. Justification is the result of sanctification. For it is written, "I will not justify the wicked" (Exodus 23:7).

Third, they disavowed the sacraments. The problem is, it is hypocritical to disavow the sacraments but keep Baptism and Communion. Sacraments, by their very nature, are rituals, and rituals fall under the Law. Therefore, Baptism and Communion are no different than Circumcision. Say Amen or Ohme.

The Fruit of Gentleness



(Theology)

God the Father

(02.14.16)

If a Creator does exist, He could only prove His existence in a limited number of ways. He could come down here Himself and explain things to us. He already did that. He could suspend natural laws and perform miracles. He already did that. He could traverse time and space and tell us the future. He already did that. He could send His Son to prove He cares. He already did that. He could document all this information for future generations. He already did that. Need more proof? Alexander the Great was born in 356 BC. Julius Caesar was born in 100 BC. Daniel predicted the rise of both empires in 520 BC (Daniel 2:39-40). Need more proof? Columbus discovered the earth was round in 1492 AD. Isaiah wrote God "sits above the circle of the earth" in 650 BC (Isaiah 40:22). Need more proof? Wasaburo Ooishi discovered the four jet streams in the 1920's. In 70 AD, John wrote, "After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth to prevent any wind from blowing on the land or on the sea or on any tree" (Revelation 7:1). So, the question is not, "Does God exist?" but "Who is like God?"

God the Son

(02.21.16)

The life of Christ is the most famous story ever told. His teachings sparked the Renaissance, the Enlightenment, and the Human Rights Movement. He is the master of the parable, the author of the golden rule. He is the light that shines in the darkness and He was hated for it. His birth marked the slaughter of innocents. His death marked the destruction of a nation. His return marks the apocalypse itself. Those who hate Him ought to be afraid. Those who love Him ought to be like Him. He is the King of Kings, the Lord of Lords. He is our Captain, our Savior, the First Born Raised from the Dead. He is the Head of the Church. The teachings of Christ outline a shift in morality from the Letter of the Law to the Spirit of the Law. With the words "Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us" Jesus made each of us directly responsible for our destiny (Matthew 6:12). There are no more excuses, no more sacrifices, the veil has been removed. "God is a Spirit and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24). In other words, be honest (truth) with yourself (spirit). This is good news for the poor. We no longer need ministers or institutions to save us. Today, everyone can know God for themselves. The point is, Jesus is more than a teacher, more

than a prophet, more than a king. Jesus is an example of a man who obeys God. The Most High gave us many good gifts including His Son, but the greatest gift of all is the power to change. Those who deny power exists to live holy lives, deny Christ Himself.

God the Holy Spirit

(02.28.16)

Revelation and interpretation both require inspiration. The scriptures were written by humans, but the Holy Spirit was the author and only He can explain them. This begs the question, "Exactly how many biblical examples do you need to believe prophets and apostles still exist today?" There were prophets in the Old Testament (Numbers 11:25). There were prophets in the New Testament (Ephesians 4:11). Moses was a prophet (Deuteronomy 34:10). David was a prophet (Acts 2:30). Daniel was a prophet (Matthew 24:15). Jesus was a prophet (Luke 24:18). The Church in Jerusalem had prophets (Acts 11:27). The Church in Antioch had prophets (Acts 13:1). Now, some will argue the creation of the Bible, a book of prophecy written by prophets, somehow makes prophecy and prophets obsolete. That is like saying the Bible, a book written by a nation of ex-slaves, somehow supports slavery. Dear brothers and sisters, the idea God no longer speaks, because God no longer writes, is just plain silly and the idea God still has leaders, just not the kind found in the Bible, is even worse. Think of it this way. John 1:14 calls Jesus "The Word of God." Revelation 19:10 calls Jesus "The Spirit of Prophecy." Therefore, scripture and prophecy are the same thing. Clearly, God is still writing, and

God is still speaking. Therefore, the reader or listener, will need faith to proceed.

Babylon the Great

(03.06.16)

Dare a Protestant still protest? I did not leave Catholicism to become a Protestant. I left to follow Christ. If that means leaving Protestantism behind as well, so be it. As much as it grieves me to say this, without the truth and without the spirit, Protestants are nothing more than left wing Catholics. Perhaps, the 34,000 denominations, 1,200 in the U.S, are the same tree. Consider the following. Both Catholics and Protestants confess the Nicene Creed. Both believe in the Trinity. Both have rituals like communion and baptism. Both perform ceremonies like weddings and funerals. Both hire ordained ministers. Both pay ministers. Both receive tithes. Both are tax exempt. Both own properties. Both sell paraphernalia. Both give less than 10% away. Both meet on Sunday mornings. Both begin their meetings with worship followed by a sermon. Both pay lip service to prophecy. Both ignore the authority of the Fivefold. They do not meet in homes. They do not meet daily. They do not share all things in common. In short, they are a business. In conclusion, Babylon is an evil mixture of political aspirations, traditional values, and religious extremism. Whether deluded by desire or pride, Jesus understood their true nature. "The time is coming when anyone who kills you will think they are offering a

service to God" (John 16:2). What should be our response? "Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues" (Revelation 18:4).

The Body of Christ

(03.13.16)

May I suggest the Church is like Christ? Jesus said, "He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father" (John 14:12). What are the works of Christ? John the Baptist called Jesus, "The Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world." (John 1:29). And Paul wrote, "The Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you" (1Corinthians 11:23-24). Clearly, Christ was a sacrifice. How did Christ pay for the sins of the world? With his body. And who is the body? We are! This is confirmed by Paul who said, "I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church" (Colossians 1:24). So, the Church not only shares the rewards of Christ's sacrifice. We are the sacrifice! As Christ said, "Ye shall drink indeed of my cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with" (Matthew 20:23). As Paul said, "If we be dead with him, we shall also live with him: If we suffer, we shall also reign with him" (2 Timothy 2:11-12).

The Gift of Salvation

(03.20.16)

Salvation begins with revelation that leads to enlightenment and ends with sanctification that leads to perfection and somewhere in the middle, lies the gift of Godly sorrow, that split second when a man changes direction once and for all.

Knowing this fact, God can then forgive and justify the man. Let us begin at the beginning. Clearly, Adam had plenty of grace. If ever a man was predestined for salvation, it was Adam. If ever a man was created in God's image it was Adam. No one had better genes. No one had a better environment. Adam also had free will. In other words, he had a choice. Now, some choices are a matter of taste. Genesis 2:9 says, "Out of the ground made the Lord God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food." Other choices are a matter of life and death. Genesis 2:17 says, "Of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." So, where did Adam go wrong? Adam was not cursed for lying or stealing or murdering. Adam was not cursed because he drank, or smoked, or did drugs. Adam was not cursed because he was a fornicator or an adulterer or a homosexual. Adam was cursed for disobeying a simple command. In conclusion, all the freedom and grace in

the world could not stop Adam from sinning and all the freedom and grace in the world could not save Adam until he surrendered. Rebellion is the disease. Sins are the symptoms. Cure the symptoms, the disease produces more. Cure the disease, the symptoms fade away. In the words of Christ, "First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean" (Matthew 23:26).

The Fruit of Self-Control



(Prophecy)

The Hebrew Timeline

(12.25.95)

Sons of God

Adam

"This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God made he him" (Genesis 5:1).

Therefore, Adam was created in 0001.

Seth

"And Adam lived 130 years, and begat a son in his own likeness, after his image; and called his name Seth" (Genesis 5:3).

Therefore, Seth was born in 0131 ($1+130=131$).

Alias: Sheth.

Enos

"And Seth lived 105 years, and begat Enos" (Genesis 5:6).

Therefore, Enos was born in 0236 ($131+105=236$).

Alias: Enosh.

Cainan

"And Enos lived 90 years, and begat Cainan" (Genesis 5:9).

Therefore, Cainan was born in 0326 ($236+90=326$).

Alias: Kenan.

Mahalaleel

"And Cainan lived 70 years, and begat Mahalaleel" (Genesis 5:12).

Therefore, Mahalaleel was born in 0396 ($326+70=396$).

Alias: Maleleel.

Jared

"And Mahalaleel lived 65 years, and begat Jared" (Genesis 5:15).

Therefore, Jared was born in 0461 ($396+65=461$).

Alias: Jered.

Enoch

"And Jared lived 162 years, and he begat Enoch" (Genesis 5:18).

Therefore, Enoch was born in 0623 ($461+162=623$).

Alias: Henoch.

Methuselah

"And Enoch lived 65, and begat Methuselah" (Genesis 5:21).

Therefore, Methuselah was born in 0688 ($623+65=688$).

Alias: Mathusala.

Lamech

"And Methuselah lived 187 years, and begat Lamech" (Genesis 5:25).

Therefore, Lamech was born in 0875 ($688+187=875$).

Noah

"And Lamech lived 182 years, and begat a son: And he called his name Noah" (Genesis 5:28-29).

Therefore, Noah was born in 1057 ($875+182=1057$).

Alias: Noe.

Flood

"And Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters was upon the earth" (Genesis 7:6).

Therefore, the Flood occurred in 1657 ($1057+600=1657$).

Shem

"And Noah was 600 years old when the flood of waters was upon the earth" (Genesis 7:6).

"These are the generations of Shem: Shem was 100 years old, and begat Arphaxad 2 years after the flood" (Genesis 11:10).

So, Noah lived 600 years before the flood and Shem lived 98 years before the flood.

Therefore, Noah lived 502 years before Shem was born (600-98=502).

Therefore, Shem was born in 1559 (1057+502=1559).

Alias: Sheth, Sem.

Arphaxad

"These are the generations of Shem: Shem was 100 years old, and begat Arphaxad 2 years after the flood" (Genesis 11:10).

Therefore, Arphaxad was born in 1659 (1559+100=1659).

Salah

Arphaxad was born in 1659. And Arphaxad lived 35 years, and begat Salah" (Genesis 11:12).

Therefore, Salah was born in 1694 (1659+35=1694).

Eber

"And Salah lived 30 years, and begat Eber" (Genesis 11:14).

Therefore, Eber was born in 1724 (1694+30=1724).

Alias: Heber.

Peleg

"And Eber lived 34 years, and begat Peleg" (Genesis 11:16).

Therefore, Peleg was born in 1758 (1724+34=1758).

Alias: Phalec.

Reu

"And Peleg lived 30 years, and begat Reu" (Genesis 11:18).

Therefore, Reu was born in 1788 ($1758+30=1788$).

Alias: Ragau.

Serug

"And Reu lived 32 years, and begat Serug" (Genesis 11:20).

Therefore, Serug was born in 1820 ($1788+32=1820$).

Alias: Saruch.

Nahor

"And Serug lived 30 years, and begat Nahor" (Genesis 11:22).

Therefore, Nahor was born in 1850 ($1820+30=1850$).

Alias: Nachor.

Terah

"And Nahor lived 29 years, and begat Terah" (Genesis 11:24).

Therefore, Terah was born in 1879 ($1850+29=1879$).

Alias: Thara.

Abram

"And the days of Terah were 205 years: and Terah died in Haran" (Genesis 11:32).

"So Abram departed, as the Lord had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was 75 years old when he departed out of Haran" (Genesis 12:4).

So, Terah lived 205 years before dying in Haran and Abram lived 75 years before leaving Haran.

Therefore, Terah lived 130 years before Abram was born ($205-75=130$).

Therefore, Abram was born in 2009 ($1879+130=2009$).

Alias: Abraham.

Isaac

"And Abraham was 100 years old, when his son Isaac was born unto him" (Genesis 21:5).

Therefore, Isaac was born in 2109 ($2009+100=2109$).

Jacob

"And after that came his brother out, and his hand took hold on Esau's heel; and his name was called Jacob: and Isaac was 60 years old when she bare them" (Genesis 25:26).

Therefore, Jacob was born in 2169 ($2109+60=2169$).

Alias: Israel.

Enter Egypt

"And Jacob said unto Pharaoh, The days of the years of my pilgrimage are 130 years: few and evil have the days of the years of my life been, and have not attained unto the days of the years of the life of my fathers in the days of their pilgrimage" (Genesis 47:9).

Therefore, Jacob entered Egypt in 2299 ($2169+130=2299$).

Kings of Judah

Exit Egypt

"And it came to pass at the end of the 430 years, even the selfsame day it came to pass, that all the hosts of the Lord went out from the land of Egypt" (Exodus 12:41).

Therefore, Israel exited Egypt in 2729 ($2299+430=2729$).

Solomon

"And it came to pass in the 480th year after the children of Israel were come out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month Zif, which is the second month, that he began to build the house of the Lord" (1 Kings 6:1).

Therefore, Solomon was crowned 476 years after the Exodus ($480-4=476$).

Therefore, Solomon was crowned in 3205 ($2729+476=3205$).

Rehoboam

"And Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel 40 years" (2 Chronicles 9:30).

Therefore, Rehoboam was crowned in 3245 ($3205+40=3245$).

Abijah

"So king Rehoboam strengthened himself in Jerusalem, and reigned: for Rehoboam was 41 years old when he began to reign, and he reigned 17 years in Jerusalem, the city which the Lord had chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, to put his name there. And his mother's name was Naamah an Ammonites" (2 Chronicles 12:13).

Therefore, Abijah was crowned in 3262 ($3245+17=3262$).

Alias: Abijam.

Asa

"Now in the 18th year of king Jeroboam began Abijah to reign over Judah. He reigned 3 years in Jerusalem. His mother's name also was Michaiah the daughter of Uriel of Gibeah. And there was war between Abijah and Jeroboam" (2 Chronicles 13:1-2).

Therefore, Asa was crowned in 3265 ($3262+3=3265$).

Jehoshaphat

"And Asa slept with his fathers, and died in the one and fortieth year of his reign" (2 Chronicles 16:13).

Therefore, Jehoshaphat was crowned in 3306 ($3265+41=3306$).

Jehoram

"And Jehoshaphat reigned over Judah: he was 35 years old when he began to reign, and he reigned 25 years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Azubah the daughter of Shilhi" (2 Chronicles 20:31).

Therefore, Jehoram was crowned in 3331 ($3306+25=3331$).

Ahaziah

"Jehoram was 32 years old when he began to reign, and he reigned 8 years in Jerusalem" (2 Chronicles 21:5).

Therefore, Ahaziah was crowned in 3339 ($3331+8=3339$).

Athaliah

"Forty and two years old was Ahaziah when he began to reign, and he reigned one year in Jerusalem. His mother's name also was Athaliah the daughter of Omri" (2 Chronicles 22:2).

Therefore, Athaliah ruled in 3340 ($3339+1=3340$).

Joash

"But Jehoshabeath, the daughter of the king, took Joash the son of Ahaziah, and stole him from among the king's sons that were slain, and put him and his nurse in a bedchamber. So Jehoshabeath, the daughter of king Jehoram, the wife of Jehoiada the priest, (for she was the sister of Ahaziah,) hid him from Athaliah, so that she slew him not. And he was with them hid in the house of God six years: and Athaliah reigned over the land" (2 Chronicles 22:11-12).

Therefore, Joash was crowned in 3346 ($3340+6=3346$).

Alias: Jehoash.

Amaziah

"Joash was 7 years old when he began to reign, and he reigned 40 years in Jerusalem. His mother's name also was Zibiah of Beersheba" (2 Chronicles 24:1).

Amaziah was crowned in 3386 ($3346+40=3386$).

Uzziah

"Amaziah was 25 years old when he began to reign, and he reigned 29 years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Jehoaddan of Jerusalem" (2 Chronicles 25:1).

Therefore, Uzziah was crowned in 3415 ($3386+29=3415$).

Alias: Azariah.

Jotham

"Sixteen years old was Uzziah when he began to reign, and he reigned 52 years in Jerusalem. His mother's name also was Jecoliah of Jerusalem" (2 Chronicles 26:3).

Therefore, Jotham was crowned in 3467 ($3415+52=3467$).

Ahaz

"Jotham was 25 years old when he began to reign, and he reigned 16 years in Jerusalem. His mother's name also was Jerushah, the daughter of Zadok" (2 Chronicles 27:1).

Therefore, Ahaz was crowned in 3483 ($3467+16=3483$).

Hezekiah

"Ahaz was 20 years old when he began to reign, and he reigned 16 years in Jerusalem: but he did not do what was right in the sight of the Lord, like David his father" (2 Chronicles 28:1).

Therefore, Hezekiah was crowned in 3499 ($3483+16=3499$).

Alias: Ezekias.

Manasseh

"Hezekiah began to reign when he was 25 years old, and he reigned 29 years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Abijah, the daughter of Zechariah" (2 Chronicles 29:1).

Therefore, Manasseh was crowned in 3528 ($3499+29=3528$).

Amon

"Manasseh was 12 years old when he began to reign, and he reigned 55 years in Jerusalem" (2 Chronicles 33:1).

Therefore, Amon was crowned in 3583 ($3528+55=3583$).

Josiah

"Amon was 22 years old when he began to reign, and reigned 2 years in Jerusalem" (2 Chronicles 33:21).

Therefore, Josiah was crowned in 3585 ($3583+2=3585$).

Jehoahaz

"Josiah was 8 years old when he began to reign, and he reigned in Jerusalem 31 years" (2 Chronicles 34:1).

Therefore, Jehoahaz was crowned in 3616 ($3585+31=3616$).

Alias: Shallum.

Jehoiakim

"Jehoahaz was 23 years old when he began to reign, and he reigned 3 months in Jerusalem" (2 Chronicles 36:2).

Therefore, Jehoiakim was crowned in 3616
($3616+90\text{days}=3616$).

Alias: Eliakim.

Jehoiachin

"Jehoiakim was 25 years old when he began to reign, and he reigned 11 years in Jerusalem: and he did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord his God" (2 Chronicles 36:5).

Therefore, Jehoiachin was crowned in 3627 ($3616+11=3627$).

Alias: Jeconiah, Jechoniah, Coniah, Jechonias.

Enter Babylon

"Jehoiachin was 8 years old when he began to reign, and he reigned 3 months and 10 days in Jerusalem: and he did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord. And when the year was expired, king Nebuchadnezzar sent, and brought him to Babylon, with the goodly vessels of the house of the Lord, and made Zedekiah his brother king over Judah and Jerusalem" (2 Chronicles 36:9-10).

Therefore, Israel entered Babylon in 3627
($3627+100\text{days}=3627$).

Exit Babylon

"For thus saith the Lord, That after 70 years be accomplished at Babylon I will visit you, and perform my good word toward you, in causing you to return to this place" (Jeremiah 29:10).

Therefore, Israel exited Babylon in 3697 ($3627+70=3697$).

The Messiah

"Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be 69 weeks" (Daniel 9:25).

Therefore, the Messiah arrived 483 years after the Release ($69 \times 7 = 483$).

Therefore, the Messiah arrived in 4180 ($3697+483=4180$).

Jesus Christ

Luke 3:1-23 says Jesus was baptized in "the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar."

Wikipedia says Tiberius was crowned 09.17.14 AD.

Therefore, the Messiah arrived about 30 AD.

Therefore, 4180 Hebrew is about 30 AD ($15+15=30$).

Therefore, Creation was about 4150 BC ($4180-30=4150$).

Sons of God

0001	Adam Created	130
0131	Seth Born	105
0236	Enos Born	90
0326	Cainan Born	70
0396	Mahalaleel Born	65
0461	Jared Born	162
0623	Enoch Born	65
0688	Methuselah Born	187
0875	Lamech Born	182
1057	Noah Born	502
1559	Shem Born	98
1657	Flood	2
1659	Arphaxad Born	35
1694	Salah Born	30
1724	Eber Born	34
1758	Peleg Born	30
1788	Reu Born	32
1820	Serug Born	30
1850	Nahor Born	29
1879	Terah Born	130
2009	Abram Born	100
2109	Isaac Born	60
2169	Jacob Born	130
2299	Enter Egypt	430

Kings of Judah

2729	Exit Egypt	476
3205	Solomon Crowned	40
3245	Rehoboam Crowned	17
3262	Abijah Crowned	3
3265	Asa Crowned	41
3306	Jehoshaphat Crowned	25
3331	Jehoram Crowned	8
3339	Ahaziah Crowned	1
3340	Athaliah Ruled	6
3346	Joash Crowned	40
3386	Amaziah Crowned	29
3415	Uzziah Crowned	52
3467	Jotham Crowned	16
3483	Ahaz Crowned	16
3499	Hezekiah Crowned	29
3528	Manasseh Crowned	55
3583	Amon Crowned	2
3585	Josiah Crowned	31
3616	Jehoahaz Crowned	90d
3616	Jehoiakim Crowned	11
3627	Jehoiachin Crowned	100d
3627	Enter Babylon	70
3697	Exit Babylon	483
4180	Jesus Baptized	30 AD

Daniel's 70th Week

(12.25.95)

The 360 Day Calendar

The 360 Day Calendar is revealed in Revelation 12:1-17.

Revelation 12:6 says the Woman is protected for 1,260 days.

Revelation 12:14 says the Woman is protected for 3.5 years.

Therefore, 1,260 days equals 3.5 years.

Therefore, 1 year equals 360 days.

The 360 Day Calendar is confirmed in Genesis 8:3-4.

Genesis 8:3 says the flood receded after 150 days.

Genesis 8:4 says the flood receded after 5 months.

Therefore, 150 days equals 5 months.

Therefore, 1 year equals 360 days.

The 7 Year Framework

The 7 Year Framework is revealed in Revelation 11:1-13.

Revelation 11:3–8 says the 2 Witnesses prophesy for 1,260 days, or 3.5 years, before they are killed.

Revelation 11:8–13 says the 2 Witnesses lie dead in the street for 3.5 days, meaning 3.5 years, before they are resurrected.

Hence, 7 years remain.

The 7 Year Framework is confirmed in Daniel 9:24–27.

Verse 24 says the prophecy lasts 490 years.

Verse 25 says the Messiah arrives after 483 years.

Verse 26 says the Messiah is killed.

Verse 27 says 7 years remain.

The prophecy stops when the Christ arrives (Baptism).

The prophecy resumes when the Antichrist arrives (Treaty).

The 7-Fold Pattern

The 7-Fold Pattern is revealed in Joshua 6:3–5.

Verse 3 says Israel marched around Jericho once every day for 6 days.

Verse 4 says, on the 7th day, Israel marched around the city 7 times.

Verse 5 says, on the 7th trip, Israel blew the trumpets, gave a loud shout, and the walls collapsed.

Prophetically speaking, Jericho foreshadows the Return of Christ.

In other words, Jesus conquers the Earth the same way Joshua conquered Jericho.

Consequently, 1 Seal is opened every 360 days, for 7 years.

Now, Revelation 8:1–2 says, “And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour. And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets.”

Therefore, the 7th Seal starts the 7 Trumpets.

Therefore, 1 Trumpet is sounded every 60 days, during the 7th year.

The White Horse

The 1st Seal, or white horse, marks the start of Daniel's 70th Week, the rise of the Beast, and the return of the 2 Witnesses.

Revelation 6:1–2 says, “And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see. And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.”

Clearly, the rider of the white horse is Christ.

This is confirmed by Revelation 19:11, “And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.”

The Last Trump

The 7th Trumpet, or last trump, marks the end of Daniel's 70th Week, the Return of Christ, the First Resurrection of the Saints, and the Start of the Millennium.

Revelation 11:15 says, "And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever."

Clearly, the 7th Trumpet is the rapture.

This is confirmed by 1 Corinthians 15:52, "In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed."

The 7 Plagues

Revelation 11:15–19 says, when the 7th angel sounds, the temple in heaven opens.

Revelation 15:5–6 says, when the temple in heaven opens, the 7 Plagues begin.

Therefore, the 7th Trumpet starts the 7 Plagues.

Now, Revelation 13:5 says the Beast will reign for 42 months.

But Daniel 12:11 says the sacrifices stop for 1,290 days, or 43 months.

Therefore, the 7 Plagues last 30 days.

Therefore, 1 plague is poured out every 5 days, during the 43rd month.

This is confirmed by Zechariah 11:8, “Three shepherds also I cut off in one month; and my soul loathed them, and their soul also abhorred me.”

Namely, Satan, the Antichrist, and the False Prophet.

So, Christ returns at the end of the seventh year, but the Beast is not removed for another thirty days.

The 3 Woes

In conclusion, the 3 Woes confirm the timeline.

Revelation 8:13 says, "And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabiters of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound."

Therefore, the 3 Woes are the 5th, 6th, and 7th Trumpets.

Revelation 9:1–12 says the 5th Trumpet releases locusts that torment humanity for 5 months.

Revelation 9:13–21 says the 6th Trumpet releases 4 angels that kill 33% of the population.

Revelation 11:15–19 says the 7th Trumpet is the 7 Plagues.

Now, there are 2 months between the 5th and 6th Trumpets, 2 months between the 6th and 7th Trumpets, and the 7th Trumpet is the 7 Plagues, which last 1 month.

Therefore, the 3 Woes last exactly 5 months.

Therefore, the timeline is correct.

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Week 70	1		Seal 1		
	2		Seal 2		
	3		Seal 3		
	4		Seal 4		
	(Middle)	0001	666		
	5	0180	Seal 5		
	5	0540	Seal 6		
	7	0900	Seal 7	Trumpet 1	
		0960		Trumpet 2	
		1020		Trumpet 3	
		1080		Trumpet 4	
		1140	Woe 1	Trumpet 5	
		1200	Woe 2	Trumpet 6	
Millennium	Resurrection 1	1260	Woe 3	Trumpet 7	Plague 1
		1265			Plague 2
		1270			Plague 3
		1275			Plague 4
		1280			Plague 5
		1285			Plague 6
		1290			Plague 7

The Seven Spirits of God



The Spirit of the Lord



End Times

(04.15.20)

How should believers view the end times? Let us pray. Father grant us the wisdom to know the truth and the power to obey the answers. My writings indicate five tips for survival. No sin! No politics! No guns! No church! No escape! Clearly, the Rapture, or Last Trump, or 7th Trumpet, is the First Resurrection. Therefore, the Saints will go through the Great Tribulation. And although most of us will be martyred, some of us will still be alive when the Lord appears. Whether alive or dead, all of us will be instantly changed and meet Him in the sky as He returns to earth. Let no one deceive you. These are the facts. Now that we understand the times, let us examine the preparations. It has been said that faith works by love. Therefore, great faith, the kind that saves whole households, requires even greater love. The question is, are you willing to lay down your life to save your family? Are you willing to pick up your cross? Are you willing to be honest with yourself? Just how much do you care about your family? Do you care enough to examine yourself to see whether you are in the faith or not? And if the answer is, you are a liar, you do not love God, you do not love your family, you are a hearer of the word, not a doer, you are deceived, will you change direction? Will you be born

again? Will you follow Christ's example and lay down your callings, your visions, your dreams, your revelations, your gifts, your doctrines, your understandings? Do you care about your family that much or not? Only you can answer these questions. I can tell you one thing. I cannot save my family. Only God can. Therefore, I had better get His approval. You want mercy? You want favor? You want God to save, to heal, to deliver? Then you will need to find a way to please Him, one that doesn't require killing His son twice.

The Spirit of Wisdom



Apocalypse

(05.15.20)

The good news is the religious establishment is disintegrating. Simply put, "The Chiefs won!" The bad news is we are facing an apocalypse. On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the corona virus a pandemic. The death toll is 100,000. Unemployment is 40 million. This might be a good time to reflect. Let's see... Martin Luther King Jr, dead. Billy Graham, dead. Oral Roberts, dead. Kenneth Hagin, dead. Lester Sumrall, dead, Jerry Falwell, dead. W A Criswell, dead. Paul Cain, dead. Bob Jones, dead. John Paul Jackson, dead. David Wilkerson, dead. At best, their teachings were 50% correct and that is being generous. All things considered, it is time that we begin to think for ourselves. Ephesians 4:11-13 says, "Christ Himself gave Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers... until we all reach unity." In other words, when the truth becomes obvious, the fivefold becomes obsolete. Therefore, I say, "Stand up on your own two feet!" Therefore, I say, "Come out of Babylon!" Therefore, I say, "Prepare to meet your maker!" In case you are wondering, that would be 100% truth.

The Spirit of Understanding



Minority Report

(06.15.20)

Even the see nothing prophets can tell you that 2020 stands for 20/20 Vision and that clarity leads to revival. Additionally, Romans 1:20 says, "the invisible things... are understood by the things that are made" Therefore, the natural world mirrors the spiritual world. So, reality is more than current events. Reality is a theater that provides a glimpse into the spirit world. The question is not do black lives matter, but what does the movement represent? Consider the following.

Song of Solomon 1:6 says, "Look not upon me, because I am black, because the sun hath looked upon me: my mother's children were angry with me; they made me the keeper of the vineyards; but mine own vineyard have I not kept." Therefore, black represents the Bride of Christ or true believers.

Matthew 23:27 says, "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whitened sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness." Therefore, white represents hypocrites or false leaders.

What does it all mean? When God gave Israel the law, there was lightning and thunder and trumpets and shaking. Basically, a whole lot of ruckus. The same is true today. Exodus 20:20 says, "Don't be afraid. These powerful manifestations are God's way of instilling awe and fear in you so that you will not sin."

The Spirit of Counsel



Final Thoughts

(07.15.20)

As we gaze steadfastly into the light that is the life of Christ, a number of things become clear. First, good and evil are at war. For it is written, "The Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil" (1 John 3:8). Second, war is serious. Heart alone will not win the battle. It requires thought. Matthew 21:28-32 says,

What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work today in the vineyard.' 'I will not,' he answered, but later he changed his mind and went. Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, 'I will, sir,' but he did not go. Which of the two did what his father wanted? 'The first,' they answered. Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.'

The idea that the Human Rights Movement is not a fruit of Christ's labor is foolishness. We are called to be a light on a hill.

Clearly, we failed. The world picked up the slack. The least we can do is support them. In other words, lead, follow, or get out of the way. The idea that it will succeed is equally foolish. The last book of the Bible is not Star Trek. It is a horror show. There will be a backlash. It will be swift. It will be hideous. And we will shine like the stars in heaven. So then, we are to speak the truth in love. So then, we wait to suffer for it. Come Lord Jesus. Come quickly.

The Spirit of Might



The Joshua Generation

(08.15.20)

The Mount St. Helens eruption on May 18, 1980, was no ordinary event. It marked the start of the Charismatic Movement or Faith Movement or Born-Again Movement. I call it the Moses Generation. Fast forward 40 years to May 18, 2020, and currents events begin to make sense. Clearly, things have changed. I call it the Joshua Generation. Unlike the first generation, which failed to enter into the promises, the second generation will not fail. This includes everyone born after May 18, 1960. The rest of you can go back to watching Fox News.

Now, the Joshua Generation has no political or religious affiliation. They do not have traditional values. They are not bound by the rules of society. They obey the rules of the desert, and the desert does not suffer fools. They are not impressed by planes, boats, cars, or quads. They do not need houses, or lands, or businesses. They do not depend on careers, or unions, or pensions. They know better. They are fearless. They have self-control. They are bound by conscience to the truth and to each other. In fact, it is all they have ever known. The rest is self-evident as I'm sure they will tell you. Whoever they forgive will be forgiven. Whoever they don't will not. To reiterate, "I

indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire" (Luke 3:16-17). Selah.

The Spirit of Knowledge



Reign Man

(09.15.20)

Neither exertion, nor education, saved me. Something else was needed. Luckily, I was autistic. According to the United Brain Association, "People on the autism spectrum will say what accurately reflects their feelings, even if it means responding with brutal honesty. This may partially be due to the fact that many autistic people are unaware of or baffled by others' choice to conceal the truth or hide their real intentions."⁴⁴ Try as I might I could not escape the truth and it was the truth that brought me to my knees. In other words, it was a gift. As Zechariah 4:6 says, "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the Lord Almighty."

Let's do the math, shall we? Jean-Pierre Bourguignon wrote, "During the course of the 20th century, the mathematical community has undergone a major expansion. From a few

44 "The Assets of Autism: An Open Letter to Parents of Children on the Spectrum." The United Brain Association, May 14, 2019.

hundred members in 1900, it has passed to tens of thousands (probably about 80000) members 100 years later."⁴⁵

Now, Toshiko Kaneda wrote, "PRB estimates that by 2050 about 113 billion people will have ever lived on Earth."⁴⁶ For those of you who are not autistic, let me explain. Only 1 out of 100,000 people can even fathom the universe. In other words, Heaven is smaller than San Jose. Require honesty, and Heaven is smaller than Gilligan's Island. Truly, "only a few find it" (Matthew 7:14). Why bother at all? Here are three reasons.

First, there are many galaxies and many stars and many planets. Scientifically speaking, only one planet has life.

Second, life has many levels: kingdom, phylum, classes, order, families, genus, and species. Scientifically speaking, only one species is self-aware.

Third, humanity includes 100 billion members. Scientifically speaking, only one human is you.

No offense, but you may want to raise your expectations. Fear not, I am definitely retiring after this. Definitely.

45 Bourguignon, Jean-Pierre. "Chapter 9: Mathematicians In France And In The World." *L'Explosion Des Mathematiques*. (2002).

46 Kaneda, Toshiko. "How Many People Have Ever Lived On Earth?" 2020.

The Spirit of the Fear of the Lord



Election

(10.15.20)

Who are we kidding? I cannot stop doing good even though I have nothing. You cannot stop doing evil even though you have everything. It's like social media. The first post is last and the last post is first. That leaves Atheists, Asses, Adultery, and Abortion and were done! When it comes to atheists and asses, Abraham had the right idea.

Genesis 22:5-6 says, "Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him. And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you." Clearly, atheists and asses do not participate in the sacrifice. When it comes to adultery and abortion, Christ had the right idea.

Matthew 5:27-28 says, "Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart. " Clearly, the Old Testament says, adultery is punishable by death. Clearly,

the New Testament says, everyone is guilty. Why aren't they held accountable? In a word, mercy. Obviously, the same is true for abortion. No? Why not? Abortion is murder!!!! I see. You want to kill women, not men? No? I see. You want to kill mothers and fathers and doctors? No? I see. You want everyone to die? No? I see. How do you feel about immigrants and blacks? Nothing? I see. Can you hear that sound? It's the sound of demons squealing. Be gone Satan. The elect cannot be deceived (Matthew 24:24). I think that about covers everything. I need a shower.

The Twelve Names of God



The Lord Our Provider



Preface

(Revelation 1:1–20)

The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John: Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw. Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand. John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne; And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty. I John, who also am your brother, and

companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet, Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea. And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength. And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death. Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter; The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the

seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.

The Lord Our Provider



Letters

(Revelation 2:1–3:22)

Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks; I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted. Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent. But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitanes, which I also hate. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God. And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive; I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of

Satan. Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death. And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges; I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth. But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication. So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, which thing I hate. Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it. And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass; I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the

first. Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not. Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works. But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden. But that which ye have already hold fast till I come. And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father. And I will give him the morning star. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches. And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God. Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as

a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee. Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy. He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches. And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth; I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name. Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee. Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown. Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches. And unto the

angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

The Lord Our Healer



Intro

(Revelation 4:1–5:14)

After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter. And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne. And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald. And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold. And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God. And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind. And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle. And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy,

Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come. And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever, The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created. And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals. And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof? And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon. And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon. And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof. And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth. And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne. And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints. And they sung a new

song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth. And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.

The Lord Our Banner



Seals

(Revelation 6:1–17)

And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see. And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer. And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see. And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword. And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine. And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see. And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.

And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled. And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

The Lord Who Sanctifies



Saints

(Revelation 7:1–17)

And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel. Of the tribe of Juda were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Reuben were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Gad were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Aser were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Nephthalim were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Manasses were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Simeon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Levi were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Issachar were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Zabulon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Joseph were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Benjamin were sealed twelve thousand. After this I beheld, and,

lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen. And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

The Lord Our Peace



Trumpets

(Revelation 8:1–9:21)

And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour. And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets. And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand. And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth: and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake. And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound. The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up. And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood; And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed. And the third angel sounded, and there fell a

great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters; And the name of the star is called Wormwood: and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter. And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise. And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabiters of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound! And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit. And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit. And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads. And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man. And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and

death shall flee from them. And the shapes of the locusts were like unto horses prepared unto battle; and on their heads were as it were crowns like gold, and their faces were as the faces of men. And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as the teeth of lions. And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle. And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power was to hurt men five months. And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon. One woe is past; and, behold, there come two woes more hereafter. And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates. And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men. And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them. And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone: and the heads of the horses were as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone. By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths. For their power is in their mouth,

and in their tails: for their tails were like unto serpents, and had heads, and with them they do hurt. And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk: Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.

The Lord of Hosts



Last Trump

(Revelation 10:1–11:19)

And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire: And he had in his hand a little book open: and he set his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth, And cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth: and when he had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices. And when the seven thunders had uttered their voices, I was about to write: and I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered, and write them not. And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven, And sware by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer: But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets. And the voice which I heard from heaven spake unto me again, and said, Go and take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel which standeth upon the sea and upon the earth. And I went

unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the little book. And he said unto me, Take it, and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey. And I took the little book out of the angel's hand, and ate it up; and it was in my mouth sweet as honey: and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter. And he said unto me, Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings. And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein. But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months. And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth. These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth. And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed. These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will. And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them. And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. And they of the

people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves. And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth. And after three days and an half the spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them. And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them. And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven. The second woe is past; and, behold, the third woe cometh quickly. And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever. And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God, Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned. And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the

earth. And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.

The Lord Our Shepherd



Recap

(Revelation 12:1–14:13)

And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered. And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born. And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne. And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days. And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is

come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death. Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time. And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child. And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent. And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood. And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth. And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ. And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.

And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast. And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him? And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. If any man have an ear, let him hear. He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints. And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should

make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six. And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth. These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God. And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation,

and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters. And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name. Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus. And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.

The Lord Our Righteousness



Plagues

(Revelation 14:14–16:21)

And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle. And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe. And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped. And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe. And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs. And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God. And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory

over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God. And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints. Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest. And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened: And the seven angels came out of the temple, having the seven plagues, clothed in pure and white linen, and having their breasts girded with golden girdles. And one of the four beasts gave unto the seven angels seven golden vials full of the wrath of God, who liveth for ever and ever. And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power; and no man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled. And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth. And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image. And the second angel poured out his vial upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead man: and every living soul died in the sea. And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood. And I heard the angel of the

waters say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus. For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy. And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments. And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire. And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory. And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain, And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds. And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared. And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame. And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon. And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven,

from the throne, saying, It is done. And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great. And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath. And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.

The Lord Most High



Babylon

(Revelation 17:1–18:24)

And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters: With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication. So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: And upon her forehead was a name written, Mystery, Babylon The Great, The Mother Of Harlots And Abominations Of The Earth. And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration. And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns. The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition:

and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is. And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth. And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space. And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition. And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast. These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful. And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues. And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire. For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled. And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth. And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying,

Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities. Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double. How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow. Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her. And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning, Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come. And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more: The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thyine wood, and

all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble, And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men. And the fruits that thy soul lusted after are departed from thee, and all things which were dainty and goodly are departed from thee, and thou shalt find them no more at all. The merchants of these things, which were made rich by her, shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing, And saying, Alas, alas that great city, that was clothed in fine linen, and purple, and scarlet, and decked with gold, and precious stones, and pearls! For in one hour so great riches is come to nought. And every shipmaster, and all the company in ships, and sailors, and as many as trade by sea, stood afar off, And cried when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, What city is like unto this great city! And they cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and wailing, saying, Alas, alas that great city, wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness! for in one hour is she made desolate. Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her. And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying, Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all. And the voice of harpers, and musicians, and of pipers, and trumpeters, shall be heard no more at all in thee; and no craftsman, of whatsoever craft he be,

shall be found any more in thee; and the sound of a millstone shall be heard no more at all in thee; And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived. And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.

The Lord Who Smites



Judgement

(Revelation 19:1–20:15)

And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God: For true and righteous are his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand. And again they said, Alleluia And her smoke rose up for ever and ever. And the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia. And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great. And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God. And I fell at his feet to worship him.

And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, King Of Kings, And Lord Of Lords. And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great. And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the

mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh. And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season. And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years. And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog, and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. And they went

up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever. And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

The Lord Who is Present



Jerusalem

(Revelation 21:1–22:21)

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death. And there came unto me

one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife. And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal; And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates. And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof. And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal. And he measured the wall thereof, an hundred and forty and four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of the angel. And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass. And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald; The fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolyte; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a

chrysoprasus; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, an amethyst. And the twelve gates were twelve pearls: every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass. And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it. And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there. And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it. And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life. And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever. And he said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew

unto his servants the things which must shortly be done. Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book. And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things. Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God. And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand. He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie. I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star. And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely. For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues

that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

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Maps



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(07.16.97 > 07.27.97)

II – NORA



(09.16.97 > 09.28.97)

III – ALEX



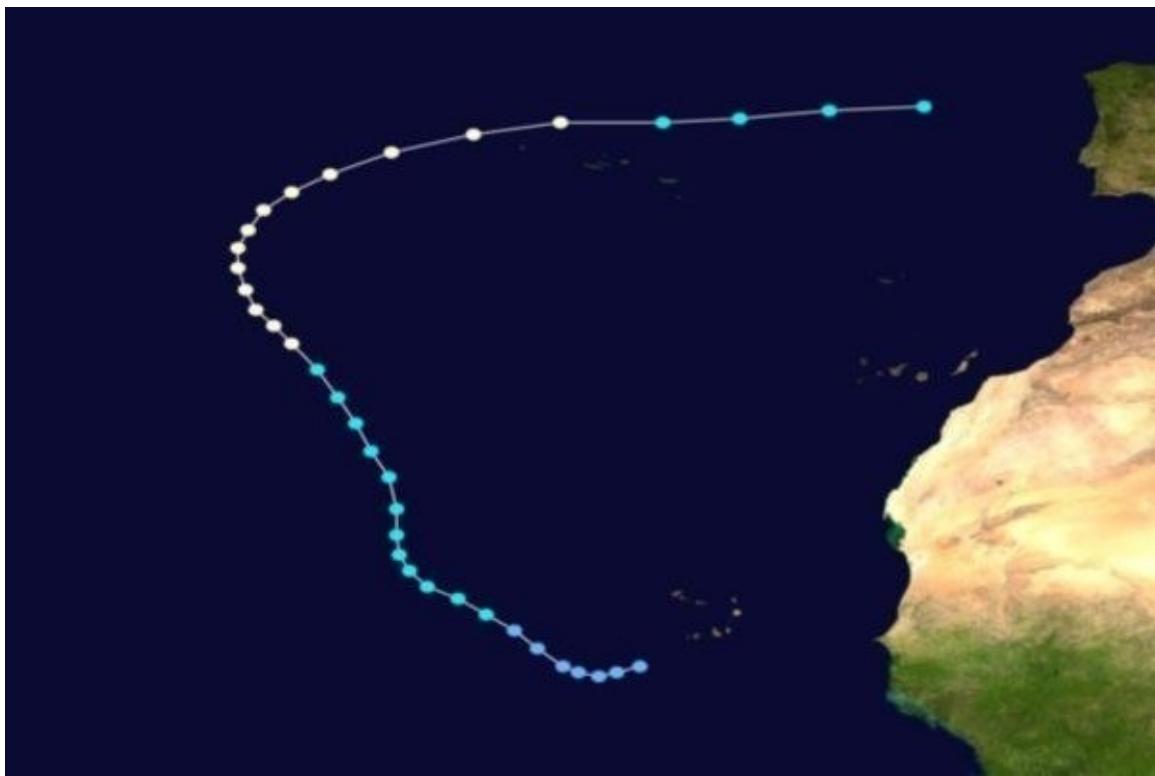
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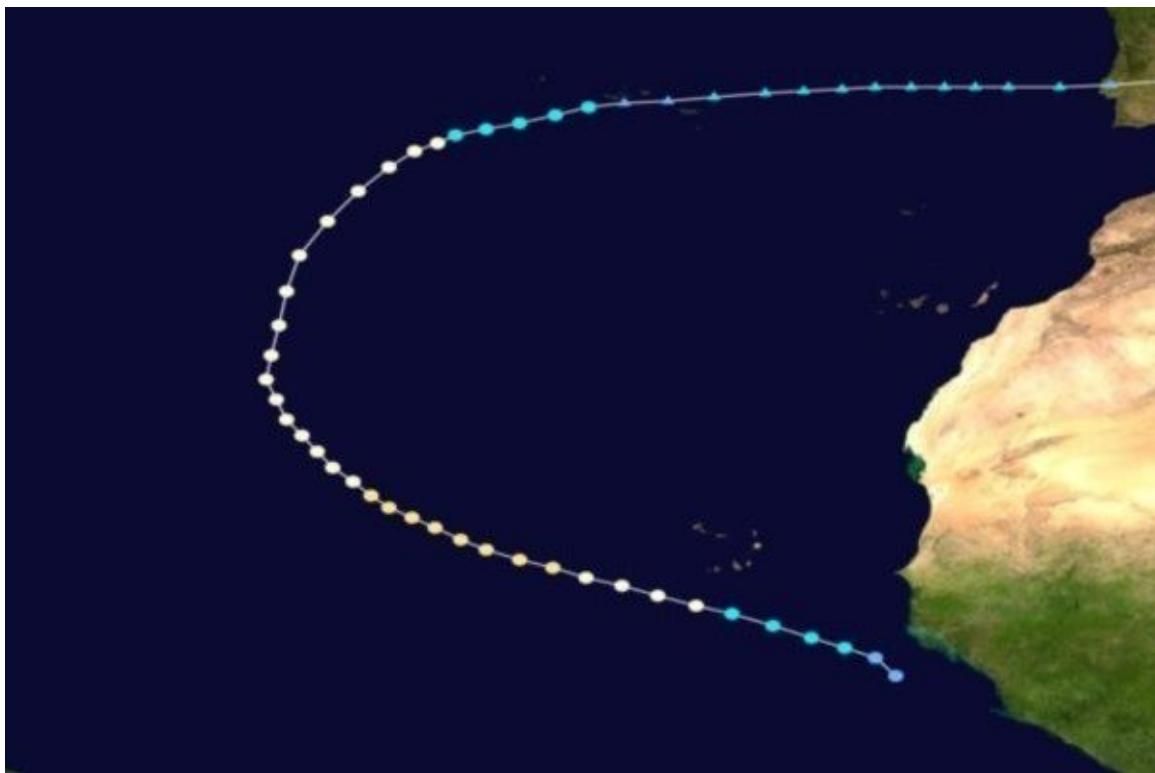
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VIII – DENNIS



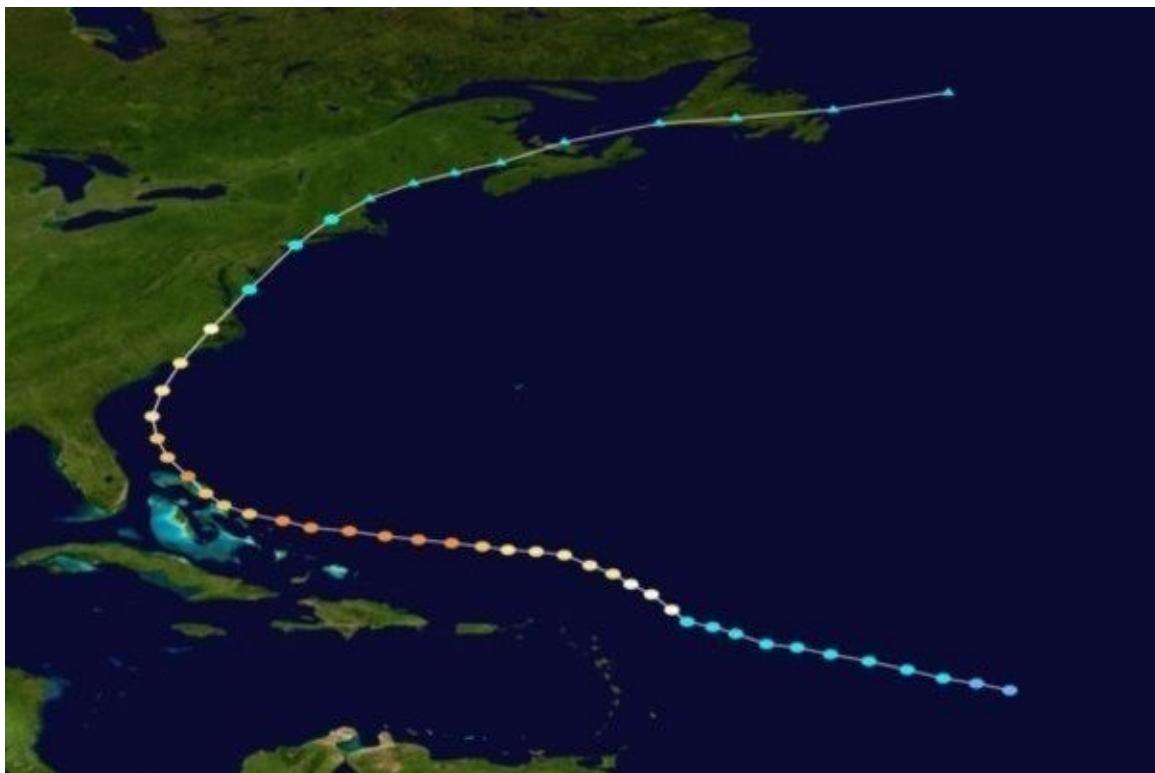
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(09.19.99 > 09.22.99)

XII – IRENE



(10.13.99 > 10.24.99)

Mike Ferrigno



