

TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

# WATCH

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*A Blessing to All Nations*



**E**LIZABETH THE SECOND, by the Grace of God,  
of the United Kingdom, Canada and Her  
other Realms and Territories, Queen, Head  
of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith



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Queen Elizabeth II passed away on September 8, 2022 after having served her country longer than any other monarch in its history. She took the throne in 1952 at the age of 25 after her father, King George VI, died suddenly. Some perspective for her reign can be found in the fact that Winston Churchill was Prime Minister at her coronation. She met every American President since Harry Truman save one.

To be Head of State over many of the most influential nations of the world throughout the tumultuous 20th century nearly defies imagination. While most modern Kings and Queens do not have the unilateral decision making powers we associate with them historically, Elizabeth proved the institution is not irrelevant over a lifetime of dedication. She embodied the ideal of a benevolent monarch and was a unifying force throughout the Commonwealth of Nations.



**EIIIR**

In her coronation speech she said, "Throughout all my life and with all my heart I shall strive to be worthy of your trust." She succeeded.

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SMALL CARD  
BIG THANK YOU



# Jacob's Trouble

by Garner Ted Armstrong

One third of the Bible is prophecy. Jesus Christ was the greatest Prophet of all time. His famous Olivet prophecy is the CORNERSTONE of all prophecy for the time of the end the time of the GREAT TRIBULATION, the Day of the Lord, and the Second Coming of Christ to RULE all nations! Read all of Matthew chapters 24 and 25.

As we shall see, the prophesied GREAT TRIBULATION is to come primarily on JACOB! It is the time of Jacob's trouble, meaning the time of great national trauma for England, Canada, Australia, South Africa, and the United States, as well as others of ten-tribed Israel. Remember, EPHRAIM AND MANASSEH were the recipients of the NAME OF ISRAEL! Dying Jacob (Israel) had said, Let MY NAME be named ON THEM! (Genesis 48) Now, let's notice the prophecies of Christ Himself.

A partial understanding of Bible prophecy is possible without the knowledge of the identity of the lost ten tribes. For example, a careful study of Daniel 2, 4, 7, together with Revelation 13, 17, 18, and Christ's Olivet Prophecy gives an overview of world events in the immediate future, but only if one is armed with knowledge of the true meaning of the beast, the image of the beast, and the identity of the false prophet and the antichrist! Even then, one remains ignorant of how those prophecies will affect the United States of America if one is missing the most important KEY to prophecy; the identity of the United States and Britain!

The identity of the beast has never changed. The culmination of the ancient kingdoms was Rome. Its many revivals down through history are documented. A weak revival of the Holy Roman Empire, embodying the same races of the heartland of Europe as the days of the Hapsburgs and Otto the Great, occurred during World War II, under Adolph Hitler and Benito Mussolini, who declared the central European alliance the Holy Roman Empire.

The second beast of Revelation 13 is lamblike,

that is, it masquerades as a Christ-like organization, yet spoke as a dragon, that is, like Satan!

*Bullinger's Companion Bible* includes a comparison between Christ's Olivet Prophecy and the seven seals of Revelation. It can be proved conclusively that the four horsemen of the Apocalypse represent the progressively worsening human condition predicted by Christ in Matthew 24. The white horse indicates false christs, false prophets; the rise of the final false prophet (11 Thess. 2) who will have the power to perform miracles; sit in the temple of God, shewing that he is god, and cause millions to worship the beast and his image. In other words, the white horse of the first seal means the unveiling of the false prophet and antichrist, at the head of the Image of the Beast (the Babylonish mystery religion) in the time just prior to the Great Tribulation.

The red horse is synonymous with Christ's predictions of wars and rumors of wars, of the Olivet prophecy. Bullinger correctly shows the exact parallels between the two prophecies; that the gray horse depicts famine, and the black horse death.

Christ looked beyond His time into ours; foretold the future, the time in which we live; the times just ahead of us! Even if one did not know the identity of the Lost Ten Tribes of Israel, one can be sure we are living in the biblically-prophesied time of the end, like the day of Noah, when all mankind pursues the passions of flesh; heedless of the catastrophes that lie ahead.

Yes, millions know about the prophesied Great Tribulation! But those same millions do not know the tribulation is prophesied to fall upon the peoples of the HOUSE OF ISRAEL FIRST!

Let's see the proof!

Christ said, "For then shall be GREAT TRIBULATION [a time of terrible trouble], such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be" (Matt. 24:21). An unprecedented time, absolutely unique in the horrors it shall bring,

without parallel in all history! That means the Great Tribulation is a time of human suffering that happens ONLY ONCE! There are not TWO such times! Only ONE! Notice what that means!

At the conclusion of the longest prophecy in the Bible, Daniel 11, the archangel Gabriel said to Daniel, “And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people [Israel!]: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book” (Dan. 12:1, 2).

Obviously, this great time of trouble is the SAME as the Great Tribulation predicted by Christ. Now, notice! “Thus speaketh the Eternal God of Israel, saying, Write thee all the words that I have spoken unto thee in a book. For, lo, the days come, saith the Eternal, that I will bring again the captivity [bring back the captives; return them from captivity] of my people Israel AND JUDAH...”

Notice! TWO DIFFERENT GROUPS OF PEOPLE! Israel, meaning ten-tribed Israel; the House of Israel, and Judah, the Jews!

But remember, Israel DISAPPEARED from history! They were NEVER brought back from the land of their captivity between the Black and Caspian Seas, but wandered across Europe, became lost to history in the centuries that passed. Today, the Jewish people have their own nation, Israel.

Now, back to our scripture, “...and I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it. And these are the words that the Eternal spake concerning Israel and concerning Judah.

“For thus saith the Eternal; we have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace. Ask ye now, and see whether a man doth travail with child? Wherefore do I see every man with his hands on his loins, as a woman in travail, and all faces turned into paleness?” Here, Jeremiah sees in vision people so shocked, so terror-stricken, that they are doubled over in pain because of the horrors their disbelieving eyes behold!

“Alas! for that day is GREAT, SO THAT NONE IS LIKE IT...” Note that well! Once again, we read of the SAME TIME; the Great

Tribulation prophesied by Christ; the SAME TIME described by Daniel; a time of trouble SO GREAT that it is absolutely unparalleled in all the earth’s history! AND UPON WHOM IS THAT GREAT TIME OF NATIONAL TRIBULATION TO COME?

“It is even the time of JACOB’S TROUBLE...” (Jer. 30:1-7) And who was Jacob? His name was changed to ISRAEL! As he lay dying, he crossed his hands, as you have read, blessing Ephraim over Manasseh, said, Let MY NAME BE NAMED ON THEM! Among all the tribes of Israel, only Ephraim (Great Britain) and Manasseh (the United States) have the right to be called Jacob, or the House of Israel!

*But remember, Israel  
DISAPPEARED from history!  
They were NEVER brought  
back from the land of their  
captivity...*

So the Great Tribulation spoken of by Christ; the horrifying time of Satan’s WRATH on the earth, is to come PRIMARILY AGAINST THE PEOPLE OF BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES, and incidentally against the remainder of the lost ten tribes of Israel! Now, notice the remainder of this remarkable 30th chapter of Jeremiah:

“...but he shall be saved OUT of it [meaning Jacob; the U.S. and Britain, shall have to go through it, but shall not be completely destroyed; shall be saved out of it!]. For it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Eternal of hosts, that I will break HIS YOKE from off thy neck, and will burst thy bonds, and strangers shall no more serve themselves of him...” (Jer. 30:7, 8).

And what is the time setting of this prophecy about impending national captivity for the House of Jacob; of Israel? “But they shall serve the Eternal their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up unto them!” (Jer. 30:8, 9).

Are the U.S. and Britain serving God, today? Is the nation of Israel, in Palestine, serving God? NO! The time setting of this prophecy is the SAME

*Continued next page*

as that of Matthew 24, Revelation 6, and Daniel 12.

Read Isaiah 10! “And it shall come to pass in that day, that the REMNANT [there will be only about TEN PERCENT LEFT ALIVE (Isaiah 6:13)] of Israel, and such as are escaped of the House of Jacob [Ephraim and Manasseh], shall no more again stay upon him that smote them; but shall stay upon the Eternal, the Holy One of Israel, in truth!” (Isaiah 10:20). This is describing their deliverance at the time of the Second Coming of Christ!

Notice further, “And it shall come to pass in that day, that his burden shall be taken away from off thy shoulder, and HIS YOKE FROM OFF THY NECK, and the YOKE shall be destroyed because of the anointing!” (Isaiah 10:27).

“Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

“Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that they shall no more say, The Lord liveth, which brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt; But, the Lord liveth, which brought up and which led the seed of the house of Israel out of the north country, and from all countries whither I had driven them; and they shall dwell in their own land” (Jeremiah 23:5-8).

Now, see the time setting of Jeremiah 3:17, and succeeding verses: “At that time they shall call

Jerusalem the throne of the Eternal; and all the nations shall be gathered unto it [compare with Zech. 14:16-21], to the name of the Eternal, to Jerusalem: neither shall they walk any more after the imagination of their evil heart.

“In those days the House of Judah shall walk with the House of Israel [NOTICE! TWO SEPARATE HOUSES; TWO DIFFERENT PEOPLES!], and they shall come together out of the land of the north [this never happened in history! Ten-tribed Israel had disappeared, in the main, long before the Babylonian Empire sacked Judah!] to the land that I have given for an inheritance unto your fathers.”

Finally, notice this prophecy: “...And it shall come to pass in that day, that the great trumpet shall be blown [see 1 Cor. 15:50-52], and they shall come which were ready to perish in the LAND OF ASSYRIA and the outcasts in the land of Egypt, AND SHALL WORSHIP THE ETERNAL IN THE HOLY MOUNT AT JERUSALEM” (Isaiah 27:13).

Every time you encounter prophecies concerning ISRAEL and the SECOND COMING OF CHRIST the time setting is OBVIOUS, impossible to ignore!

God commands, “Seek ye the Lord while He may be found, call ye upon him while He is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord” (Isaiah 55:6-8). □

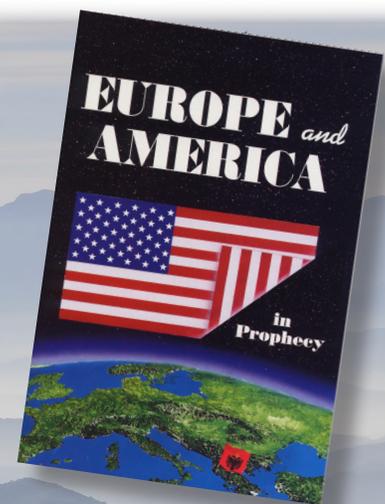
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## *Europe and America In Prophecy*

by Garner Ted Armstrong

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# Fatherless Homes Linked to Mental Illness, Mass Shootings: Author Warren Farrell

by Masooma Haq and Jan Jekielek, *Epoch Times*

Warren Farrell, author of the book “The Boy Crisis: Why Our Boys Are Struggling and What We Can Do About It,” has found that being “dad deprived” is a leading factor in males’ increased mental illness, addiction, and suicide.

He links the mass shootings in 53 developed countries to boys and men who lacked a father figure, and he specifically mentioned six mass shootings that have occurred in the United States in the 21st century.

“All six of those mass school shootings that have killed more than 10 people have been done by boys, and all six of them have been done by boys who have been ‘dad deprived,’ from Sandy Hook right on through to the Texas shooting,” Farrell said during a recent interview for EpochTV’s “American Thought Leaders” program.

Farrell was referring to the 2012 shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, and the May 24, 2022, shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas.

He said that girls are growing up in the same environment as boys, with access to the same media, video games, and guns and dealing with the same mental health issues, but they aren’t committing any of the shootings.

Farrell has made it a part of his mission to educate lawmakers about the importance of fathers in the lives of children, especially young boys. His efforts have resulted in Florida and Kentucky enacting laws that acknowledge the crucial role of the father, especially in the case of divorce.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, a single mother living with her child or children is the second most common living arrangement in the United States, a number that has doubled in the past 50 years.

As of 2020, 21 percent of children, or about 15.3 million, lived with their mother only, compared to 11 percent, or 7.6 million, in 1968.

## STATES TAKING ACTION

The Florida Legislature recently passed HB 7065, which

allocated \$70 million in funding to provide a wide array of family and youth support through the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) and the Department of Children and Families (DCF).

“There are more than 18 million children in our country who live without a father in their home,” said Gov. Ron DeSantis when he signed the bill into law on April 22. “This has a severe impact on children and often leads to dropping out of school, crime, and substance abuse. Incredibly, there are those who diminish the importance of fatherhood and the nuclear family—we will not let that happen in our state. I am proud to say we are doing everything we can to support involved fatherhood in Florida.”

In 2018, Kentucky Gov. Matt Bevin signed a bill into law that automatically presumes both parents will share equal custody of children in the case of divorce, while still providing judges with the discretion to limit shared custody if one of the parents is unfit.

Farrell said it's good that Florida and Kentucky have taken these steps, but that by and large, the crisis of fatherlessness is still being avoided.

Farrell mentioned the work of psychologist Richard Warshak, who found that children who spend time with both mothers and fathers after divorce had better outcomes later in life, and that the presence of the father was more important than economic variables.

Farrell said Warshak's study found that 100 percent of academics agreed that children who were raised without a father had the biggest problems.

Farrell said he served on the board of the National Organization for Woman (NOW) in New York City and has spoken all around the world about women's issues, so he tends to be in

line with Democratic thinking on such issues.

When he went to Iowa during the 2020 presidential election to speak with the Democratic candidates, Farrell said candidates John Hickenlooper and Andrew Yang both agreed with him about the epidemic of fatherlessness.

"Their campaign managers, when they started to see that their candidates were agreeing with me, both of their campaign managers came up to me and said, 'Warren, we can't afford to have our candidates speak out on the importance of boys having fathers and a lot of father involvement, because we're afraid to alienate our feminist base.'"

This was not a surprise to Farrell who, having worked in a leadership role of a feminist organization, had seen this type of

thinking and the marginalizing of fathers before. These organizations do not put the interests of the children first, but rather the mother, Farrell said.

#### AFTER THE DIVORCE

Farrell said children do better after a divorce when they spend an equal amount of time with both the mother and father, and especially when there is communication and balanced input from both parents. Each parent brings strengths to the raising of a child: mothers tend to set boundaries and praise their children while dads enforce boundaries and allow children to take risks, said Farrell.

"In their enforcement of the boundaries, [dads] build the discipline for the child to accomplish the postponed gratification and the focus on the attention to



detail,” he said. “Children raised predominately by dads are far less likely to have ADHD because they’re required to focus on the actual thing that they’re doing.”

The boys that committed these mass shootings at schools suffered from not having a caring, strong male role model. In addition to that, boys are often told their feelings don’t matter, which leads to emotional toxicity, said Farrell.

“Boys who are fatherless, very frequently they are not likely to have that postponed gratification that emanates from boundary enforcement. Therefore they start not doing as well in school,” said Farrell.

He said he’s talked to boys in high school, and the boys said what they learn about in school when it comes to male–female issues is toxic masculinity, without any understanding of the sacrifices that males made that led to that toxicity, as well as the concept of “the patriarchy,” said Farrell.

#### **MODERN FEMINIST IDEOLOGY HURTING BOYS**

Farrell said boys are suffering because they are being told that their masculinity is bad.

“The world was not dominated by a patriarchy. It was dominated by the need to survive, and in order to survive, both males and females were restricted in their roles,” said Farrell, adding that feminism blames men for societal problems and does not take into account the sacrifices they make for their families.

“We are constantly giving boys a negative image of themselves that is leading to a low self-esteem, that is leading to their needing compensations,” he said.

Farrell said that while trying to do good, he also blames himself for being on the board of directors of the NOW for three years, where these detrimental feminist ideas that hurt boys, and ultimately girls, were spread.

*Mothers tend to set boundaries and praise their children while dads enforce boundaries and allow children to take risks, said Farrell.*

Farrell began his work for equal rights of women because he believed in the credo, “I am woman, I am strong,” but now he said he doesn’t support feminism because the feminist movement has changed to, “I am woman, I’ve been wronged.”

This type of thinking is hurting boys, he said, and it needs to change so both boys and girls can benefit from a father’s full input in their lives.

#### **ADVICE FOR SINGLE MOTHERS**

Farrell advises all single mothers to let the biological father know he is very much needed, and he will respond well.

“When you say, ‘I see now what the positive value of your rough-housing, your teasing, your allowing our son or daughter to take a risk of walking into a lake and maybe getting lost,’ and what that does, then, the dad will say,

‘Alright, if I can be appreciated, now I’ll be back,’” said Farrell.

If the biological dad is not able to be involved, Farrell suggests enrolling boys in groups or team sports, where other male role models can help shape their character.

He advises parents to connect with their children, to listen instead of trying to fix their children’s problems, and to have fam-

ily dinner nights free of media so they can practice these listening skills and deepen the relationship.

“Empathetic parents who are only empathetic create children who are self-centered, thinking that only their needs are being paid attention to,” he said. “So you have to both be empathetic and require of your children that they also listen to your perspective.”

Based on his work with counseling couples, Farrell said that listening needs to extend beyond children to the spouse or former spouse so there is respectful, healthy communication.

Co-parenting couples must realize that no parent intends to harm their child, said Farrell.

Adults must “learn how to hear those that we are not initially inclined to hear and to know how to be criticized by the people we love without becoming defensive,” said Farrell. □

# And the WORLD GOES CRAZY

by Mark Armstrong

## Like a Dream

Imagine it's 2035 in California, and the ban on the internal combustion engine cars has gone into effect. Gas powered cars will still be allowed to operate, but will undoubtedly get sideways glances in traffic from all those saving the planet in their electric vehicles. The hotels will have to install charging stations in their parking lots, and not just a few. It's an executive order, so...

The claim is that California has forged ahead, not waiting for the feds to save the planet. In order for this to work, gasoline will have to be made wildly unaffordable. They're working on that. We've just got to transition away from every blessing we have. It was unfair anyway!

Now comes word of solar fires! Amazon warehouses know all about it, though it doesn't seem that the mainstream news does. They're advertising solar installations that will cost you almost nothing after you get your government subsidies. They're saving the planet, you know.



The problem is that the panels might burn your house down. You'll be especially proud that you did your part, as your former home lies a heap of smoldering rubble.

## Trump's Crazy...Again

Just when you think you know what's going on, they march an important agent off the premises. What could this mean? Speculation would be meaningless. We can't even make up what they're about to explain, but of course it will be all by the book. Is the legendary agency about to save itself from what has become almost universal criticism?

There's word of whistle-blowers. Lots of them, who apparently have intimate knowledge of activity behind the scenes. They are purportedly contacting senators and telling tales that indicate bias to the point of criminality. Everybody's waiting for some explanation for the historic, unprecedented raid of Trump's personal quarters. This ought to be good!

It's not easy to get through a mainstream article documenting the animosity that has existed between the intel community and the former president. He apparently didn't give them the respect they so obviously deserved. You remember James Clapper. That tape of Chuck Schumer is playing in my head. Maybe they really do have five ways of getting back at you.

The media cries "dementia!" as Trump calls to either instate the rightful winner of the 2020 election or hold a new one. So the media calls him crazy. But they weren't right the last time they accused him. They've yet to admit the



folly of all the accusations. But it's a new day. Not only is he crazy, but he was intentionally holding on to documents affecting national security, and must have been planning to sell them? It's too ludicrous to say out loud.

But the mainstream isn't embarrassed. The Drudge Report featured a photo-shopped image of Trump in prison garb, and the *New York Times* is soberly discussing why he should be criminally charged. Talk about fear! They just cannot allow him to assume the presidency. He might fire members of corrupt agencies

Aren't things going great? They've got new polls showing exactly that. Mainly, they want support for the pretender's administration, and for the masses to think ill of President Trump. If you remember, everything was going great until Covid 19, when Fauci ruled the world. Then the election. You better not have any questions, lest you be labeled an insurrectionist. By the way, they'll decide what your kids are taught at school without any interference from you terrorist parents.

### **You must call them whatever they say.**

#### **Otherwise...**

"Burke was jailed on Monday, September 5, for defying temporary court orders issued on August 31, that he stay away from his workplace, Wilson's Hospital School in Co Westmeath, and not attempt to teach children there." This teacher is in prison, as the quote from *Irish Central* says.

The reason he's in prison was that he disobeyed a court order and is charged with contempt of court. The controversy that led to all these serious rulings revolves around his refusal to call a trans person by the preferred pronoun, "They." There may be grammatical reasons not to say "they" about a single individual, but that's not the point. Burke disobeyed a court order that told him to stay away from the school, and he went anyway. He's reportedly been aggressive in his opposition to tranny-friendly policies pushed by the school. Some are calling him a hero. You better call these people whatever they want to be called or you could be dispensing mental anguish. As if they're not in the throes of it already!

### **Good Timing**

It was the day after Rand Paul announced his plans to investigate the little fink and find out once and for all where the Wuhan Corona virus 19 originated. That was the day the haughty little doc decided it was time to announce his retirement, just before the mid-term elections. Well it's about time. He's rich enough now, isn't he? He better find somewhere on earth that nobody's seen his picture or heard his vain babblings. That is, if such a place exists on earth after his desperate quest for publicity. He finally made it. May his career not end just yet.



*Continued next page*



### **It Takes a Genius**

Elon Musk has recently uttered words that are in direct contravention of conventional wisdom. He says oil and gas are necessary for the survival of civilization. It is interesting that this is something that we've known since we were little kids, but that knowledge now disputes the Utopian dream. As if solar power is going to fly planes or power cities. Like every other doctrine of the false religion, it falls flat in reality. But did we really need the world's richest man and undisputed genius to tell us something so basic? No, but the mainstream media did.

The approach is soft. Maybe the transition can be completed, but it's going to take a lot longer than we're being led to believe. Mr. Musk also has the audacity to ask, "Why are nuclear plants not an option?" Engineered correctly, it's the cleanest power on earth. Ask Elon Musk, if you need to. Meanwhile, climate czar John Kerry says the U. S. "absolutely" shouldn't tap traditional means. Whose side is he on? Not ours.



### **Man competes with women in Golf and nobody dares say a word.**

#### **He's a real woman, right?**

How come you never see a trans-man (as if there were such a thing) challenging the men weight lifters or shot putters or swimmers? It's a big mystery. But you won't believe what's happening to women's golf. Yep, some dude decided to play with the girls at golf and no matter what happens, the results will not be good. Let's hope he doesn't break all the records, like in swimming.

We've yet to see a biological female take on the top ranks of men in golf, but that would be entertaining. Unfortunately, a player must make the cut to be in the final rounds. We're pretty sure we'll never see that. All the diversity and inclusivity in the world can't make that work. But a man masquerading as a woman? Just don't show us the legs!

# REAL SMART...

by Melody Armstrong

Smart technology is quickly becoming an everyday staple. These days you'll have a hard time finding someone who doesn't carry a smart phone in their pocket. But increasingly common has become the smart home. Now you can answer your door from your phone, use your TV to surf the web, set the lights with a tap of your screen, or get the food in your fridge extra cold with an app. Simply state your request and your preferred smart speaker will answer your questions, order your dinner or play your favorite songs.

It seems convenient, even fun, to have these tools at your fingertips. But, as they say, if it's too good to be true, it often is. While not a common occurrence (yet), smart technology is ultimately hackable and can be controlled by outside entities, bringing invasion of privacy to levels previously unknown.

Unfortunately, it doesn't have to be a criminal taking over your home.

Over 20,000 Coloradans found themselves helpless when they discovered they were locked out of their thermostats by their electric company

during an August heatwave. The residents had signed up for a voluntary reward program through their electric provider, taking advantage of a \$100 enrollment credit and receiving \$25 yearly for agreeing to give up control of their thermostats during "emergencies." This particular emergency was a power outage in Pueblo and increasing air conditioner usage during an especially hot period.

While in times past residents have been able to override the "emergency" message, this time there was no getting around it. During the hottest part of the day it was over 90 degrees outside. Many customers complained of indoor temperatures reaching somewhere between 78 and 88 degrees.

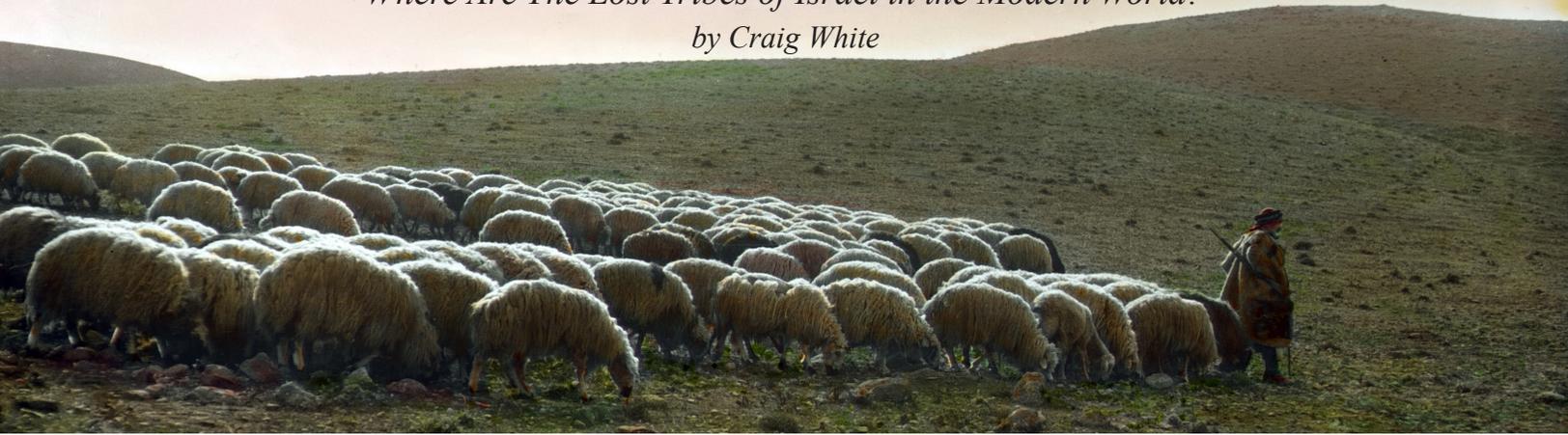
A representative for Xcel Energy, Emmett Romine, stated, "So, it helps everybody for people to participate in these programs. It is a bit uncomfortable for a short period of time, but it's very, very helpful."

Some customers have found this temporary loss of freedom to be an eye-opener. Knowing where and how to draw the technological lines is becoming more important than ever. □



# IS THE THRONE OF DAVID STILL WITH US TODAY?

Excerpt from  
*Where Are The Lost Tribes of Israel in the Modern World?*  
by Craig White



David was a man after God's own heart (I Sam. 13:14). Because he was a man with a tender conscience toward his Creator, God made a separate and distinct covenant with him in addition to the one He had made with Israel. When David wanted to build a house for God, He sent a message to David through the prophet Nathan:

"When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his Father and he shall be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chastise him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men. But My mercy shall not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I removed from before you. And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever" (II Sam. 7:12-16).

This promise is again repeated in Psalm 89:

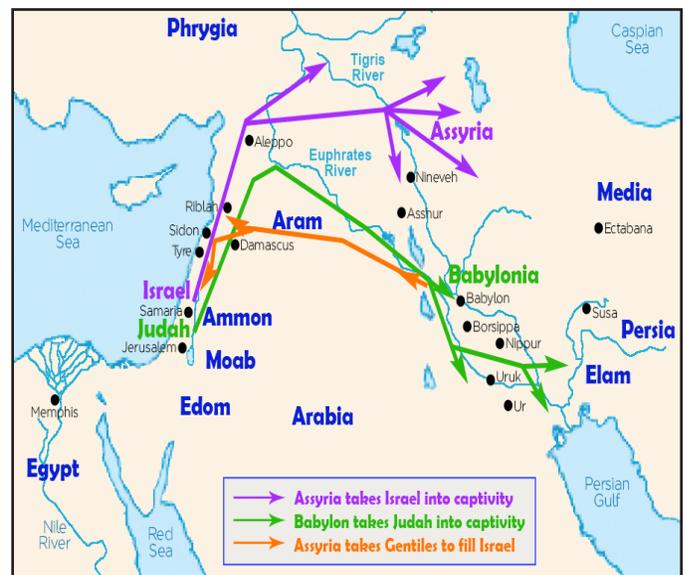
"I have made a covenant with my chosen, I have sworn unto David my servant, Your seed [dynasty – *Moffatt*] will I establish for ever and build up your throne to all generations" (verses 3-4).

So far as the world knows the last king to sit on the throne of David was Zedekiah of Judah when the Babylonians conquered Judah and took them off captive to the land of Babylon about the year 585 BC. The throne of David was never restored when the Jews, a portion of Judah, returned to the land of

Palestine after their captivity.

But God promised to David that his throne would last to all generations or FOREVER. If God has not failed to keep His word we need to look for David's throne (described as the throne of the Eternal in I Chron. 29:23) elsewhere than the land of Palestine where the Jewish state of Israel is today.

When Judah was taken by Babylon into captivity, Nebuchadnezzar killed Zedekiah and all his sons (Jer. 37:1-9), seemingly destroying the royal dynasty. Former King Jeconiah (Jehoiachin) was at that time in the dungeons of Babylon and he had sons to continue David's line and it was through his line of descendants that Jesus Christ was born (Matt. 1:12-16). God decreed the following about Jeconiah:



“Thus saith the Lord, Write ye this man childless, a man that shall not prosper in his days: for no man of his seed shall prosper, sitting upon the throne of David, and ruling any more in Judah”! (Jer. 22:30).

As far as the throne of David was concerned, Jeconiah was childless. God had determined that none of his children would ever occupy the throne thereafter. As a result, God’s commission to the prophet Jeremiah was to be:

“See, I have set you this day over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to break down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.” (Jer. 1:10).

#### WHERE ARE THE ‘LOST’ TRIBES OF ISRAEL IN THE MODERN WORLD? AN INTRODUCTION

God would use him to help keep the royal line alive and plant it in another land. Nebuchadnezzar did not kill King Zedekiah’s daughters who escaped with Jeremiah (Jer. 43:5-7; Is. 37:32-33). It would be through one of the daughters of Zedekiah that God would keep the throne of David alive. What land did God lead them to? In Ezekiel 17 God says:

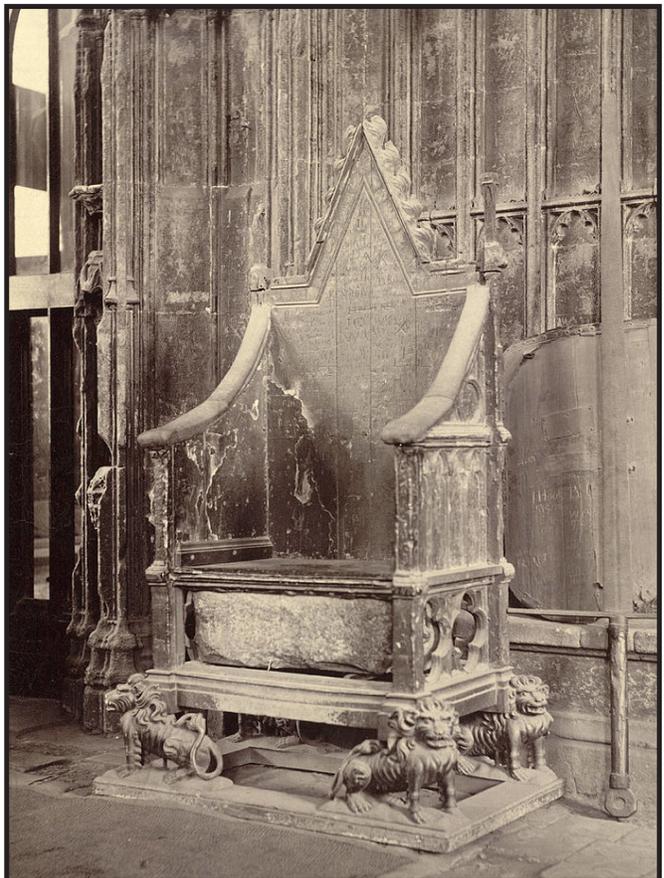
“I will also take of the highest branch of the high cedar, and will set it; I will crop it from the top of his young twigs a tender one [a daughter] and will plant it upon a high mountain and eminent. In the mountain of the height of Israel will I plant it and it shall bring forth boughs, and bear fruit” (verses 22-23).

God directed them to northwest Europe (Is. 49:12) to where the House of Israel had migrated to.

Another work well worth studying and proving the above is Professor Megalommitis’ paper “Elizabeth II on the Throne of David and Solomon”, published in *Origin of Nations* magazine (details at the end of this article).

When Christ returns He shall take over the throne of David that God has continued to preserve since the days of His promise to King David (Luke 1:32; Gen. 49:10) and all contention will cease. □

*Reprinted with permission from FriendsOfSabbath.org. Visit their website for the full text of Where Are The Lost Tribes of Israel in the Modern World?*



The Coronation Chair, pictured right with the Stone of Scone, was constructed for King Edward I in 1296 and has been used in every coronation since.



# Seasonally Appropriate

by Michael Armstrong

You can feel it in the air. The weather begins to cool, the days become noticeably shorter. If we were occupied in a traditional manner, growing and storing our own food, it would be a very busy time. A time of plenty, a time to harvest the bounty of the earth and preserve it for the long winter ahead. For this reason it has always been a time of celebration.

These traditions persist in many ways. The store shelves are full of decor in fall colors with pumpkins as far as the eye can see and all the accouterments of festivity. The world's favorite harvest themed holidays are right around the corner. It is both a logical and a reasonable time to celebrate, but there are certain special Holidays that go largely unnoticed year after year.

Fall, like spring, contains a number of God's Holy Days. Our Creator and Provider often receives less credit than He is due. His calendar, with its sequence of commanded observances, not only commemorates past events but illuminates much about His plan for the future. Not only that, it provides some of the much needed variety that keeps life interesting and enjoyable. Think

about it: God commands you to celebrate!

The upcoming fall Holy Days are the Feast of Trumpets, the Day of Atonement, the Feast of Tabernacles and the Last Great Day. With the exception of the somber Day of Atonement they are occasions to rejoice! Have you ever been to a Feast? In addition to being meaningful and educational it is a time to eat, drink and be merry!

It is possible to get into a sort of a spiritual rut where we only think of God in a "thou shalt not" kind of way. His Holy Days are a great reminder of His many positive commandments. They are a reminder of His coming glorious kingdom as well as the bounty and blessings we currently enjoy.

This year's Feast of Trumpets is on September 26. This "memorial of blowing of trumpets" (Leviticus 23:24) is a reminder of how God led His people through the wilderness (Numbers 10) and called them to Mount Sinai (Exodus 19). It also looks forward to the return of Christ and the resurrection of the dead.

"And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of

the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And He shall send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other." (Matthew 24:30-31)

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

The Day of Atonement will be on October 5. It is the only day of the year God commands you to fast, meaning to go without food or water for a full 24 hours (Jonah 3:7). You can read about the elaborate rituals performed by the priesthood in Leviticus 16. The need to be reconciled to God, to be purified from our sins and transgressions in His sight, is obvious. What was formerly accomplished in symbol has been brought to pass through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

"Now when these things were thus ordained, the priests went always into the first tabernacle, accomplishing the service of God. But into the second went the high priest alone once every

year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people: The Holy Ghost this signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing: Which was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience; Which stood only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed on them until the time of reformation. But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God.” (Hebrews 9:6-14)

The Feast of Tabernacles and the Last Great Day go together though they are distinct from one another. The Feast begins on October 10 and the Last Great Day is October 17. This is the great harvest festival of the year, God says, “thou shalt surely rejoice!” (Deuteronomy 16:13-

15) It is a reminder of how God’s people dwelt in booths before He led them into the promised land (Leviticus 23:43). Symbolically, this flesh is a temporary dwelling, a tabernacle, while our hope is in a brighter and more permanent future.

“For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a build-

ing of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life.” (2 Corinthians 5:1-4)

These Holy Days and their springtime counterparts are rich with meaning and relevance both physically and symbolically. They are the backdrop of the Biblical narrative and yet they are so ignored that many would be shocked to learn they were a regular part of the lives of Jesus Christ, His disciples and even the Apostle Paul!

John 7 is all about Jesus teaching in the temple during the Feast of Tabernacles. “In the last

day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink” (John 7:37). The Holy Days are repeatedly mentioned in Paul’s writings. That he wanted to be in Jerusalem for Pentecost is stated in Acts 20:16. In 1 Corinthians 16 he mentions staying in Ephesus until after that day. Referring to Atonement he points

*God’s Holy Days are a reminder of His coming glorious kingdom as well as the bounty and blessings we currently enjoy.*

out “the fast” was already past in Acts 27:9. His entire analogy in 1 Corinthians 5 only makes sense in the context that he is writing to a group currently keeping the Days of Unleavened Bread.

Very few take the time to acknowledge God’s Holy Days any longer. These observances have been overshadowed, often by practices with unsavory histories. They were nevertheless adopted by the Roman church in an effort to make conversion less of a change for pagan proselytes. Those traditions are still going strong despite God’s warning not to copy them (Jeremiah 10:2). Take the time this year to research God’s Holy Days for yourself. They were part of Christ’s sinless life and they will be a part of His kingdom (Zechariah 14:16-18). Why wait for that day? Start celebrating God’s amazing plan for mankind now!



## BIBLE STUDY

by Dr. James &amp; Natalie Ricks



# The Legalism Paradox

## IS THERE A RIGHT AND WRONG USE OF GOD'S LAW?

The author of the New Testament, Paul's very words are essential in clarifying these issues. Based on the writings of the Apostle Paul in the New Testament, the answer is a resounding, "Yes!"

1 Timothy 1:6-8, "From which some, having strayed, have turned aside to idle talk, desiring to be teachers of the law, understanding neither what they say nor the things which they affirm. But we know that the law is good if one uses it lawfully."

Paul is saying that in order to correctly use the law, one has to understand God's purpose for His law. Many unqualified teachers with questionable motives use it in an unlawful manner. Some wish to abuse power. Not surprisingly, many of the Judaizers were also legalistic in an unlawful manner. They perceived only the "Letter of the Law" and often misunderstood God's purpose completely. Note Mark 2:23-27 for a Sabbath example. The Apostle is saying there is an illegitimate use of the law and a legitimate use of what

God has given us.

1 Timothy 1:9-10, "Knowing this: that the law is not made for a righteous person, but for the lawless and insubordinate, for the ungodly and for sinners, for the unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, for fornicators, for sodomites, for kidnappers, for liars, for perjurers, and if there is any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine."

What is the Apostle saying to believers? Is he saying the law does not exist for good people? Yes, truly spiritual actions move one in the opposite direction from a law breaker. But the law is still in place in case we do stray into law breaking, which is sin. The definition of legalism is one who interprets the law only by the letter. Legalism is the strict adherence to the law with a lack of understanding God. This is not the appropriate approach to the law according to Jesus himself.

Matthew 5:21-22, "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.' But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment..."

Jesus is saying the law against murder is fine but a true believer must go beyond the physical

## BIBLE STUDY

act of not murdering, not even desiring to murder in our hearts. Christ is bringing the law closer to our inner being. He is putting lawful Godly thinking into our hearts and minds. This is the goal of the New Covenant. See Hebrews Chapter 8 and 10. Jesus continues:

Matthew 5:27-28, “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”

Many of the legalistic may have thought if they did not act on an evil thought they had not really broken the law. Our Lord says that this is an improper use of the law. At another extreme, some may think that the law only applies to evil people and since they are not so inclined, the law doesn’t apply to them.

Romans 3:9-11, “What then? Are we better than they? Not at all. For we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin. As it is written: ‘There is none righteous, no, not one; There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God.’”

The author of the New Testament writes that though we may not be thieves etc., all mankind is guilty of some sin. Everyone needs the pardon and grace of Jesus. No one is fully righteous. We all have some sort of weakness. The true purpose of the law is to define good and bad behavior. It is to guide mankind like a light to see the correct pathway of life and to avoid the pitfalls.

Psalms 119:104-105, “Through Your precepts I get understanding; Therefore I hate every false way... Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”

The Laws of God help us LIVE A FULFILLING life.

**THE OBJECTIVE OF THE LAW IS  
CREATING A PURE HEART AND  
AGAPE LOVE**

Some legalistic leaders thought that it did not matter how dark their hearts had become as long as they obeyed the letter of the law. Jesus says the heart really matters as well. Evil thinking eventually leads to law breaking actions. God needs for us to learn to obey the law in both spirit and in deed. Believers need both.

1 Timothy 1:4-5, “Nor give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which cause disputes rather than godly edification which is in faith. Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith.”

Matthew 22:36-40, “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said to him, You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

The law helps us actualize loving, Godly behavior and as long as the negative aspects of human nature exist, the law is needed. Further, Satan—while here—will always influence men in an ungodly, unloving direction. Some, like the Pharisees, took an approach of trying to prove to others and themselves that they deserved salvation by the zealous law keeping accompanied by a self-righteous attitude.

Luke 18:9-12, “Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.”

Needless to say, this attitude is not how one develops love for our fellow man or appreciation for God’s grace and love of us all.

## BIBLE STUDY

### KEEPING OF THE LAW CANNOT EARN SALVATION

No one can live without some level of sin and guilt. No one can obligate God to save them because of their goodness and lawfulness. That is not the purpose of the Law. However, a true believer must demonstrate a repentant spirit. This means believers desire to please God and obey His wonderful laws of liberty and LOVE.

Romans 2:13, “For not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified;”

Romans 2:23, “You who make your boast in the law, do you dishonor God through breaking the law?”

God is not going to justify anyone who defiantly decides to break His laws. The grace of God goes to the obedient. When one slips and falls into sin, we must repent and ask for more grace, which we all need from time to time.

Romans 3:10, “As it is written: There is

none righteous, no, not one;”

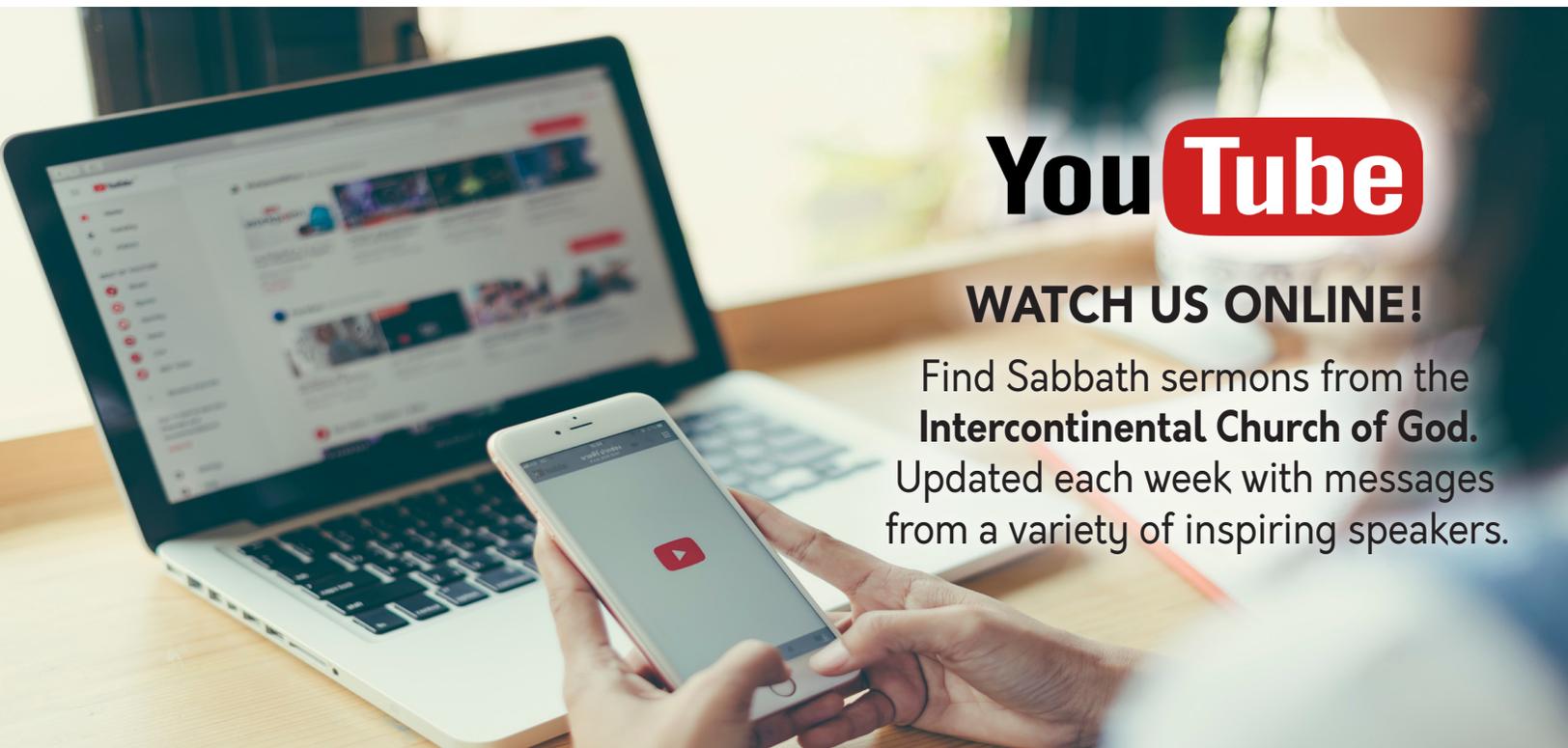
Romans 3:20, “Therefore, by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.”

We cannot achieve salvation on our own, no matter how many rules and laws one keeps. God requires a repentant, obedient approach TO RECEIVE GRACE. The law defines sin but does not erase any past guilt; it highlights our past sins. Clearly one is saved by the sacrifice of Jesus—period! We must try not to give in to our sinful nature. Believers should become dead to sin!

Romans 6:1-2, “What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?”

Romans 6:15, “What then? Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? Certainly not!”

Remember, the purpose of the law, when used properly, is to direct one into loving behavior. God’s Laws define love. Legalism, however, can lead one into a self-righteous attitude that God despises. ☐



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# WORLD NEWS BRIEF

## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

### **Abusing an Abusive System**

China appears to be using its restrictive health regulations for more than they were intended. They use a three color system, green, yellow and red, where red means you have been directly exposed and must quarantine for weeks. Every citizen has the health application on their cell phone, so they can display their status, and also must scan a QR code at every business they visit. If you have a red code you are refused most services and blocked from travel. The potential for abuse of this system is obvious.

In April, a number of banks, with an estimated \$6 billion in deposits, stopped letting customers make cash withdrawals. Fast forward to June and the situation was critical for many depositors. The initial excuse of “technological upgrades” was far-fetched and no timeline for resolution had been put forward. Over 1 million individuals were affected. A protest was planned to demand answers and recover the lost funds. Hundreds have shared the fact that en route to the protest, their health code suddenly turned red. How many more were afraid to speak out? Not only were they unable to resolve their situation, some even had difficulty traveling back home.

### **Supply Chain Pirates?**

Indonesia has been actively asserting its sovereignty around the Singapore Strait. It has ramped up enforcement against ships anchoring inside its territorial waters. The Strait is extremely busy, with around 2,000 ships passing through every day. It flows between the Republic of Singapore

and Indonesia. The exact maritime boundary between the two nations has been changeable, particularly on either side of the Strait, and is still the subject of negotiations. Many ships, to avoid port and docking fees, will anchor in International Waters outside of the Strait while they wait for cargo.

With the boundaries in flux this has not resulted in much savings. Indonesia has been capitalizing on the confusion. Ships can be charged a \$14,000 fine for anchoring in their waters without a permit, a pittance compared to the months of lost revenue while cases are adjudicated. There have also been reports of Indonesian officers trying to extort payments of hundreds of thousands of dollars in return for simply letting the ships go. Sadly, it is the cheaper option. Hiring vessels of that size costs tens of thousands of dollars a day. The Indonesian Navy denies any such piracy is taking place, and says that if it is, the perpetrators will be brought to justice.

### **Undiscovered?**

The Pope’s apology tour of indigenous schools in Canada has focused attention on an old and unpopular point of church doctrine. Dating from the 1400’s, the Discovery Doctrine granted Papal authority to claim land and conquer all non-Christians. It was applied first to Portugal, then Spain, followed by the other major European powers. It was the legal justification for the colonial era and consequently the Papacy was often called upon to settle disputes and rival claims.

While its relevance is largely historical, doctrines don’t expire. Nor is it an easy thing for

*Continued next page*

Francis to change. Tradition is an integral part of Catholicism and to assert the fallibility of a predecessor is dangerous ground. How he will cope or if the demands for repudiation will fade as the public turns its attention elsewhere remains to be seen. Perhaps pivoting to a more nuanced interpretation, like Islam did with Jihad, would be in order.

### **Iranian Spy Satellite**

The launch of a new Iranian surveillance satellite has been accomplished thanks to Russia. Carried by a Soyuz rocket from a base in Kazakhstan, the “Khayyam” satellite will significantly boost Iran’s capabilities in digital imagery and missile guidance. Additionally, many have expressed fears that the satellite would be used to bolster Russian intelligence in Ukraine. Iran denies it is intended for anything other than peaceful purposes.

### **Getting Around Sanctions**

Western sanctions have attempted to cripple Russian oil and gas revenues since their invasion of Ukraine. Companies are forbidden to transport what they produce. Domestic Russian tanker ships are used instead. They are registered through subsidiary companies in other countries and flagged accordingly. They are denied certification of seaworthiness as well as insurance on account of sanctions. Indian certification and insurance services readily meet this new need. Yes, it is more complicated and expensive, but they are not being cut out of the world market in the way that is intended.

Countries such as Cuba and India are happy to purchase Russian products. In order to get around using the Dollar to do so, there have been large exchanges for Asian currencies to facilitate the transactions. Saudi Arabia is also purchasing Russian oil. They burn it to generate electricity, thereby freeing up their own domestic production for export at a premium. With prices so high, also on account of sanctions, it could hardly fail to be profitable.

### **CANADIAN PASTOR WINS APPEAL**

Artur Pawlowski of Calgary has won his case at the Alberta Court of Appeal. All through the covid restrictions, which were severe across

Canada, Pawlowski refused to close his church. Not only did services continue but attendees ignored many of the health protocols government was trying to enforce and overreach was a regular topic of discussion. Pawlowski was arrested multiple times, at his church as well as at many of the protests that swept the country. He was further charged with contempt for continuing services in spite of his arrest and refusing to preface any statement he made about the pandemic with a disclaimer. The disclaimer was to inform his listeners that whatever followed was contrary to the beliefs of medical professionals and the government. Both the contempt charge and the obligation to state the disclaimer have been overturned. Pawlowski’s court costs will also be reimbursed.

### **Conference on Irony**

The United Nations is demonstrating one of its many endearing absurdities. The Conference on Disarmament may very well have to be renamed. The Presidency of this conference rotates alphabetically every year. One of the downsides to that system is now apparent as North Korea has taken over the Presidency of the Conference on Disarmament. No doubt their first action will be to denounce themselves over the flurry of illicit testing that has taken place this year. Even by UN standards this conundrum is embarrassing, leading many to worry that the credibility of the whole organization is in jeopardy.

### **Food Compass**

A nutritional ranking tool released by Tufts University Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy comes to some interesting conclusions. It scores foods on a scale of 100 with corresponding categories that advise an individual to limit, avoid, or consume certain items regularly. Raw fruits, vegetables, and legumes naturally receive the highest scores. However, the relative merit of certain other items is downright shocking. Many processed breakfast cereals scored near the top of the scale, three times higher than an egg fried in butter (which they categorize as “to be avoided”) and even beating a boiled egg by over 30 points.

Things like ground beef and cheese came in for some of the lowest scores, far below many candies and junk foods like chips. The “policy” aspect may have outweighed nutrition in many of these rankings. Driving consumption away from animal foods is right in line with many government policies in place around the world. This may just be another example of the “science” that is generated to back it up.

### **The World’s Most Exciting Funeral or An Exceedingly Foul Ball**

Archaeologists have made an interesting discovery under the main pyramid in Tonina, a Mayan ruin in Mexico. A tomb was unearthed containing hundreds of individuals’ remains. That fact may be predictable but the state they were found in has led to some interesting speculation. Life after death is a central hope of most religions and the Mayans may have addressed it in a most sportsman-like manner. The human ashes were found mixed with rubber, among other materials. The speculation is that they were formed into balls and used to play games. While not exactly the afterlife most are looking for, and icky to boot, this tradition was undoubtedly a slam dunk in its own day.

### **Chipping Away**

Semiconductor chips have become an important topic in recent years. They are constantly referred to in the news, whether it be a shortage of supply, where they are made, or how they are used. Pretty much every electronic device you use relies on these chips, from your A/C thermostat to screens, speakers, and of course computers. Even your dishwasher, with its various timers and cycles. These processes are regulated by integrated circuits built on a semi-conductive substance such as silicone, which can be manipulated to conduct electricity or insulate against its flow.

As you probably know, Asian countries dominate chip production, particularly Taiwan and China. Companies all over the world have become dependent on that supply. The danger of this arrangement is clear. Steps are being taken mitigate this risk but their effectiveness remains to be seen.

Limitations are being placed on the export of advanced technology and equipment necessary to production.

The complexity of a chip can often be measured in layers, the more layers the more complex. Equipment used for anything more than 128 layers would be disallowed from export. The most advanced chips, slated for production next year, have over 230 layers. They have higher speeds, use less electricity, and are even physically smaller. Other restrictions concerning size are also on the table. Should they come into effect, they would force radical changes that are not possible overnight. A drastic increase in domestic production, currently contributing less than 2% to world supply, would be necessary to facilitate it. Commitment to ending our dependency will have to be measured over time.

### **Tragedy Ignored**

A religiously motivated massacre went largely unnoticed during summer. Atrocities in Africa often do. Over 40 were killed in Nigeria, where a Catholic congregation had met for Pentecost. Islamic extremist attacks are surprisingly common but are inconvenient news for both promoters of Islam and international missions seeking to stabilize the region. Islamic state claims to have perpetrated the attack. Boko Haram also operates nearby. Open Doors, an organization that tracks Christian oppression worldwide, reports over 4,500 individuals killed in Nigeria in 2021.

### **The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam**

Ethiopia has finished its third phase of filling the massive Renaissance Reservoir behind the recently completed dam. The created lake will be nearly 500 ft deep in places and stretch over 153 miles. The hydroelectric generating capacity of the installation will be over 6,000 megawatts. For comparison, that is three times what the Hoover Dam produces and nearly equivalent to the Grand Coulee Dam in Washington, America’s largest.

Though the project has met with resistance, particularly from Egypt, it will transform Ethiopia into the literal powerhouse of a region that constantly struggles with reliability. □

# New Findings at Shiloh Continue to Confirm Biblical Narrative, Archaeologist Says

*Scott Stripling tells All Israel News about new piers found in June that he believes formed a door into the gate complex where the priest Eli may have died*

*by Maayan Hoffman, All Israel News*

Archaeologists working at Tel Shiloh earlier this summer discovered piers that they believe formed a door into a gate complex at the northern edge of the biblical city.

The finding, said Scott Stripling, director of the Tel Shiloh excavations for the Associates for Biblical Research, was surprising but also made sense because the wall was only located about a kilometer from the Shiloh spring. It would be logical for residents to have entered and exited from that side of the city to access water.

“This was either the main gate or another gate,” he told ALL ISRAEL NEWS.

Stripling added that they also discovered a “glacis” – an earthen embankment that surrounds the fortification wall – which terminated at the proposed gate entrance. At that location, there was a symmetrical breach in the wall, which suggests there may have been a gate chamber – a complex through which people had to enter before coming into the city itself.

“This is important because the High Priest, Eli, died in the

gate of Shiloh,” Stripling said. “We discovered what we think is the gate mentioned in 1 Samuel 4.”

“When he mentioned the ark of God, Eli fell backward off his

chair by the side of the gate. His neck was broken and he died, for he was an old man, and he was heavy. He had led Israel 40 years” (1 Samuel 4:18).



**Volunteers working in Area H1 at Tel Shiloh (Photo courtesy Scott Stripling)**

### 43 YEARS OF BIBLICAL DISCOVERY

Stripling carried out his excavations at Tel Shiloh under the auspices of the Civil Administration of Judea and Samaria during May and June, alongside 135 volunteers from 11 nations and 12 different universities. The Associates for Biblical Research has been working in the highlands of Israel for 43 years.

Stripling and his team have been working at Tel Shiloh since 2017, with a two-year hiatus during the COVID-19 pandemic, making this summer their fourth season of excavations.

Before Tel Shiloh, they dug at Khirbet el-Maqtir. Tel

Shiloh is the fourth site they have excavated.

Stripling made headlines this year when he announced that a lead tablet measuring 2 square centimeters – taken from a site on Mount Ebal excavated by Prof. Adam Zertal more than 30 years ago – was believed to be a “curse tablet” dating back to at least the 13th century B.C.

Stripling’s team discovered the tablet in December 2019, but it took two years and new CT technology to be able to decipher the text inside because the amulet was folded in half and the metal was too brittle to unfold.

CT scans performed in Prague revealed an ancient

proto-alphabetic Hebrew inscription consisting of 48 letters, including what is believed to be God’s name.

Stripling told ALL ISRAEL NEWS that he submitted an article on the discovery to the Archaeological and Anthropological Sciences peer-reviewed journal earlier this month and he hopes the paper will be published soon.

### TEL SHILOH IN THE BIBLE

Tel Shiloh is one of the most biblically significant sites where Stripling has worked, he said. The site is first mentioned in the Bible when Joshua erects



Gary Urie photographing an important stone at Tel Shiloh (*Photo courtesy Scott Stripling*)

*Continued next page*

the tabernacle there in the Late Bronze Age. It is believed that the Ark of the Covenant was kept inside the tabernacle.

Findings date the site back to the Middle Bronze II period. It served as the capital of Israel for over 300 years before Jerusalem.

During their four seasons of excavations, Stripling and his team discovered a number of objects that they believe bring the Bible to life and help validate its narrative – although there are those who disagree.

These items include storage rooms that line the northern perimeter of the fortification walls, strategically positioned next to a monumental building which may have served as a platform for the tabernacle.

Stripling said the rooms are “unique in their construction” and inside them were found a number

of collared-rim jars dating to the Iron Age I. Such jars could have been used by people who wanted to store tithes they were bringing.

The platform’s dimensions align with those given in the Bible for the tabernacle. Moreover, a demolished four-horned altar was found nearby, as well as two ceramic pomegranates, typical of the ornaments described in the Bible as hanging from the priest’s robe.

Finally, about a 30-second walk from the platform is a deposit of pottery and bones dated around 1400 to 1300 B.C. The majority of the bones are from the right side of the animals, which were all kosher. Leviticus 7 says that the priest’s portion was the right side of the animal.

“All of this together inductively suggests to us that we are seeing what is found in the Bible,” Stripling said. “There are many

lines of evidence and from it an overarching picture emerges.”

He said the team excavated thousands of more bones this summer. They will now undergo carbon dating and zooarchaeological analysis in hopes of gaining further clarity.

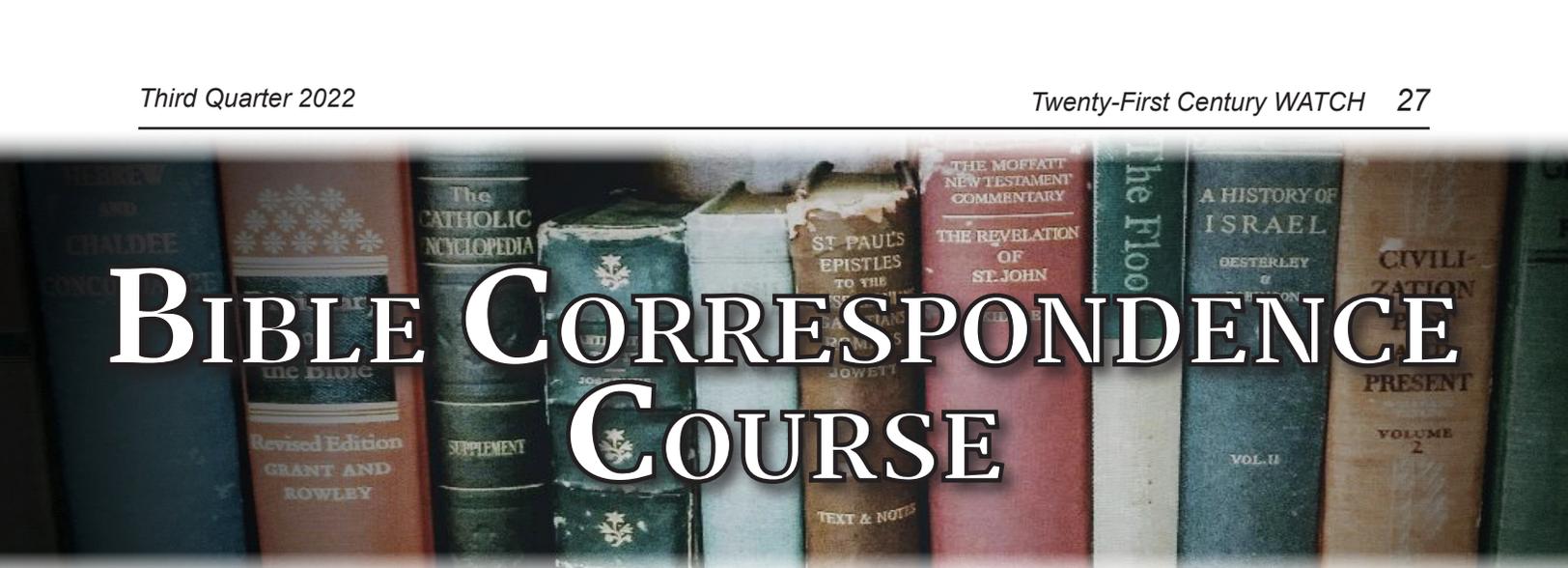
Stripling said if some colleagues do not believe him, that the biblical narrative is accurate and if they have another explanation, “I would love to hear it.”

He added that the team found evidence the site continued to be occupied for many more generations, including during the Second Temple Period (when Jesus lived), and later during the Byzantine, Islamic, Late Roman and Persian periods, too.

However, he said his team is focusing primarily on the transition period between the Bronze and Iron ages. □



**Area D where from which the bone deposit derived (Photo courtesy Scott Stripling)**



# BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE

## LESSON THIRTEEN: REPENTANCE

*Repentance is the act of acknowledging one's sins and resolving to fully obey God. To repent means to change one's overall attitude from wanting to go his own way to wanting to go God's way. It begins when God opens one's mind to see himself in comparison with God and His law. True repentance is the first step toward reconciliation with God, and thereby toward ultimate salvation.*

### DOCTRINAL OVERVIEW:

Repentance signals the start of a changed and godly life. It involves a fully conscious recognition of one's sinful, lawless way of life; a way of life that is antagonistic toward God and His law, accompanied by a firm conviction to make a total change and to begin to live in full accord with God's way of life as described in the Bible.

True repentance can occur only when God Himself opens one's eyes to see his past sinfulness by granting repentance (Acts 11:18; 2 Tim. 2:25). But repentance is much more than a recognition of personal sins. Repentance, rather is the process through which God leads us so that we can become progressively more like Him, thereby proceeding toward salvation as sons and daughters in His divine family which is God's ultimate desire for all humanity. As such, repentance should include the positive, joyful realization of the fact that it is God who grants repentance, that this repentance is "unto life" (Acts 11:18), and that all who are so called shall "come to know the truth" (2 Tim. 2:25).

True repentance is a complex and deeply

personal phenomenon that can only be understood, in the final analysis, by experiencing it. The first component is the realization that there is a vast difference, a great gulf, between God and oneself (e.g. Job 42). The next aspect is an all-consuming desire to close that gap, to become more like God in character, thought and behavior, though the capacity to accomplish this is far beyond human power alone and requires the active involvement of God's Holy Spirit.

One who is coming to repentance must first understand that sin is the transgression of God's law (1 John 3:4), the penalty for which is death (Rom. 6:23). Added to this theoretical definition of sin must be the deep personal realization that one has indeed sinned and that his whole frame of mind and attitude of approach is oriented against God's law (Rom. 8:7). But the deceitfulness of sin blinds one to seeing his sinfulness unless God opens his mind to reality, to recognize that one indeed is a sinner. Genuine repentance, therefore, must come from God Himself, and man cannot claim credit for it, though he has a part in it. His part is to acknowledge the truth about himself which God has shown him and then to act upon it.

*Continued next page*

In the process of seeing himself, a person comes to realize that the human “heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked” (Jer. 17:9). Since sin is ultimately of the mind, he also begins to understand that even his own righteousness, which in an unconverted person is invariably motivated by selfishness, is only a “dirty rag,” as it were, in God’s sight (Is. 64:6). When an individual repents, he must compare his righteousness to God’s righteousness and not to that of other human beings. When man compares himself to God—and with God’s help sees himself as he really is—he is astonished at his own sinfulness and inadequacy.

Confronted with this reality, the person nearing repentance comes to appreciate that man is incapable of leading a godly life without God’s direct help and intervention through His Spirit. “O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps” (Jer. 10:23). While man’s intentions are often the best—he may want to do good—he nevertheless finds himself caught in a struggle between them and his natural inclination toward evil. Romans 7 describes this struggle: “For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I . . . For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not” (vs. 15-18). A person in an attitude of repentance feels a strong need for help in this spiritual dilemma and reaches out to God for aid through His Holy Spirit. Thus, Paul admitted that the only relief from this eternal conflict between the good of God and the evil of our own nature is “through Jesus Christ” (v. 25).

In his natural state without God’s Spirit, man is cut off from God and indeed at enmity with God (Rom. 8:7; Is. 59:1-2). The story of Adam and Eve is an example of how this spiritual enmity has occurred in man (Rom. 5:12). The Genesis account indicates that Adam and

Eve were born morally neutral, with the ability to do good or evil, right or wrong, but without an actual inclination toward either. God nonetheless instructed them in His law and explained to them right from wrong. They had no reason to doubt God or to disobey until Satan, symbolized (and/or materialized) in Genesis 2 as a serpent, tempted them by saying God was both holding back knowledge from them and lying about death as the penalty for disobedience. Adam and Eve chose to obey Satan rather than God and so ate of the forbidden fruit. The effects of this sin cut them off from God as is evidenced by His thrusting them from the garden. It also caused a rationalization of, or a blinding to, the sin, as shown by Adam’s attempt at justifying himself. Likewise, their act of stepping from the realm of moral neutrality to that of sinfulness through the initiation of this one sin caused deep and profound mental changes in Adam and Eve. They were no longer morally neutral but became evilly oriented in much the same way as was—and is—Satan, since Satan’s attitude of mind had now influenced their own.

All human beings are, like Adam and Eve, born morally neutral. Yet living in Satan’s world, surrounded by an ungodly environment, all persons soon sin, as did Adam and Eve. (To ask at what age or to try to discern the demarcation line between moral neutrality and sin is not practical.) Thus, sin has the same consequences in us as it did in Adam and Eve. It cuts us off from God, it blinds us to our own sinfulness and it changes our minds from neutrality to enmity against God (Rom. 8:7).

Viewed in this context, repentance is the bridge between a carnal mind, one that is at enmity against God, and a spiritual mind, one that has God’s Spirit and is obedient and pleasing to the Creator. When one repents, he sees for the first time in his life the ungodly, debilitating, wicked orientation of his natural mind; he asks God for forgiveness and is baptized. He then receives the

Holy Spirit which, working in and through his mind, actually changes or “transforms” it from carnal to spiritual (Rom. 12:2). This transformation is called “conversion.” And repentance is the bridge—the first step—in this process of transformation.

Although repentance involves seeing the sinful side of oneself, thus generating negative personal feelings, it nevertheless has extremely positive aspects. Upon true repentance and baptism, one is forgiven of sin. The psalmist said, “Blessed is the man to whom sin is not imputed” (Ps. 32:2). The sheer joy of having one’s sins forgiven is the sure knowledge of being right and clean before God. King David bore testimony to the positive, uplifting nature of repentance when he prayed, “Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken [as a result of my sin] may rejoice” (Ps. 51:8). One who has repented can rejoice at the impending forgiveness of his sins, joy indeed.

The most profound evocation of real repentance in the Bible must truly be this heartfelt prayer of David in Psalm 51. The occasion was Nathan the prophet’s coming to him about his sin with Bathsheba. The prayer shows the important basic components of godly repentance: an attitude of abject wretchedness and contrite humility before God; a deep recognition of all one’s sins, which are “ever before me”; the conviction that God can and will forgive all one’s iniquities and cleanse him from all his sins; and the sure knowledge that God can and will create in a truly repentant individual “a clean heart” and put “a new and right spirit” in him, restoring “the joy of your salvation.”

“Have mercy on me, O God, according to thy steadfast love; according to thy abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done that which is evil in thy sight, so that

thou art justified in thy sentence and blameless in thy judgment” (Ps. 51:1-4).

“Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence, and take not thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of thy salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit” (Ps. 51:9-12).

Godly repentance must, of course, be accompanied by “godly sorrow.” Godly sorrow reflects a profound awareness that one has sinned



against God. It is a sorrow that is felt because sin hurts others and works against God’s master plan of salvation. It is this “godly sorrow” that produces a repentance that leads to salvation” (2 Cor. 7:9-10).

On the other hand, God also speaks of “worldly sorrow.” Worldly sorrow is not sorrow that one has committed sin, but just a momentary feeling brought on by adverse consequences such as results after one has been caught and is being punished. It is temporary self-pity, in no way involving permanent change from sinning to obedience, and its end is death.

True repentance, conversely, is a deep-seated desire to change one’s whole being. It is a desire to reform and redirect one’s motivational approach to life. It is coming to abhor sin as God does. This type of repentance can come only from God. As we have seen, it is God who must

give and lead one to repentance (Rom. 2:4; 11 Tim. 2:25).

In a more detailed way, repentance includes many things. It involves a profound sense of utter helplessness, realizing that to do what must be done is impossible by one's own willpower. It requires the conscious awareness that God must take an active part in redirecting and reshaping one's life, for only God knows the way to life and only He can solve the problems of mankind. We must come to realize this fact and accept the process by which we can become acceptable to God. We have to change from doing things our own way to acknowledging God, His will and His laws in our lives. This means a desire to change our very hearts and minds. We have to turn from our way of lust, greed, selfishness and self-centeredness to God's way of mercy, generosity, love and outgoing concern for others (Eph. 4:22-24). We can view this as a spiritual "mind transplant." We have to adopt new ways of thinking, new feelings and attitudes (2 Cor. 5:17). Repentance, however, is not designed to create total uniformity of personality, tastes, interests, life styles, etc. among Christians. Such would be an anathema to God, who is creating true sons in His family, not the proverbial "rows of yellow pencils." Repentance, in fact, is the means by which human beings can grow to have the same overall attitudes and character of God. This is the overwhelmingly uplifting result of godly sorrow.

Paul lists seven attributes of this godly



sorrow. "For see what earnestness this godly grief has produced in you, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what zeal, what punishment! At every point you have proved yourselves guiltless in the matter" (2 Cor. 7:11). This type of sorrow generates real repentance which in turn will lead to salvation.

Real repentance is a spiritual gift, and only God can give it. Human remorsefulness, even accompanied by great emotion, is not the repentance that the Bible says is a prerequisite for baptism and salvation. Consequently, an individual desiring to be converted must ask God for a repentant attitude of mind as well as for forgiveness of sins through Jesus Christ. This conscious act of asking God is an essential part of the process.

As is commonly known, true repentance must be followed by water baptism, which results in the forgiveness of one's sins by God and the consequent reception of the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands of the ministry.

Although one's initial act of repentance occurs prior to baptism, repentance is not a one-time event. It must be a continuous lifelong process. The more one learns about God and His way, the more one becomes aware of how far he must go to be like God. As a converted individual seeks God's way and reads God's Word to receive personal correction, so his inner sinful attitudes and motivations are perceived. This continuous process of growth and change is the very essence of the Christian life. As God opens His mind to see more clearly (even more than before baptism) his sinful nature, the Christian repents more and more deeply. His post-conversion repentance is a continuous reaffirmation of his commitment to live God's way as well as being contrite and remorseful for any errors made.

Repentance is not synonymous with perfection. A repentant person is not guaranteed a sinless life for ever after. Even a converted person will sin out of weakness from time to time,

but he need only repent of that sin and confess it before God, acknowledging Christ's atoning sacrifice once again, in order to restore contact with God and to obtain God's full forgiveness which reestablishes the joy of righteousness.

Such a repentant person knows that God shall completely forgive all his sins upon repentance. He knows that God has willed to actually forget all our iniquities once they have been repented of and put under Christ's blood. God can no longer even remember our sins! ". . . as far as the east is from the west, so far does He remove our transgressions from us" (Ps. 103:12). This is the incredible promise of real repentance—real freedom: freedom from guilt and fear, freedom from anxiety and depression, freedom from sins, freedom from eternal death. It is the reason why true repentance is the most encouraging, beneficial gift God can give us. It is with this confidence that the Christian continues to suppress and overcome his human nature with God's help. He asks God to replace his ungodly thoughts with the godly approach of the Holy Spirit; he seeks to diligently understand God's law more and more through the practical experience of obedience.

God does warn—and it should not be taken lightly—that "it is impossible to restore again to repentance those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have

become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the goodness of the Word of God and the powers of the age to come, if they then commit apostasy, since they crucify the Son of God on their own account and hold Him up to contempt" (Heb. 6:4-6). This shows that any who willfully reject God by adamantly refusing to follow His way cannot be coerced into repentance and cannot be forced to receive eternal life. Yet, diametrically contradicting the alien concept of a harsh, vengeful God is the astounding, thrilling, clarion-call truth of the Bible that all who want to repent can repent at any time, for any sin, with the full assurance of God's total and immediate forgiveness through Jesus Christ our Savior. God does not want any human being to perish "but that all should reach repentance" (2 Pet. 3:9).

In summary, repentance involves a change of one's whole way of life and frame of mind from disobedience and antagonism toward God to obedience and love toward God. It is the bridge that takes one from worldliness to godliness, from wickedness to uprightness, from the way of "get" (selfishness, self-concern, vanity) to the way of "give" (selflessness, outgoing concern, service). All this is only possible through God's Holy Spirit. Already working in the lives of thousands, God's gift of repentance is a great miracle that shall eventually work in the lives of billions. □



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**SUMMARY: Read these scriptures in your own Bible:**

- Acts 11:18 – Repentance is unto eternal life.
- 2 Timothy 2:25 - God gives us repentance unto truth.
- 1 John 3:4 - Sin is the transgression of the Law.
- Romans 6:23 - The wages of sin is death, but through God is eternal life.
- Romans 8:7 - The carnal mind is against God and not subject to His Law.
- Jeremiah 17:9 - The heart is abundantly deceitful above all things.
- Isaiah 64:6 - Our righteousness is as dirty rags.
- Jeremiah 10:23 - Man cannot direct his own steps.
- Romans 7 - The struggle between man and his natural inclination toward evil.
- Romans 8:7 - A restatement of Jeremiah 17:9.
- Romans 5:12 - By man, sin entered the world and by sin, death.
- Psalm 32:2 - Blessed is the person whose sins are forgiven.
- Psalm 51 - Prayer of Repentance.
- 2 Corinthians 7:9-10 - Godly sorrow worketh repentance.
- Romans 2:4 - God leads us to repentance.
- 2 Corinthians 5:17 - In repentance we develop a new mind and become a “new creature.”
- Ephesians 4:22-24 - God renews our mind.
- 2 Corinthians 7:11- The seven attributes of repentance.
- Psalm 103:12 - With repentance, God forgives us our sins.
- Hebrews 6:4-6 - If one falls away from the Salvation Process, there is no further repentance.
- 2 Peter 3:9 - God wants all of mankind to come to repentance.

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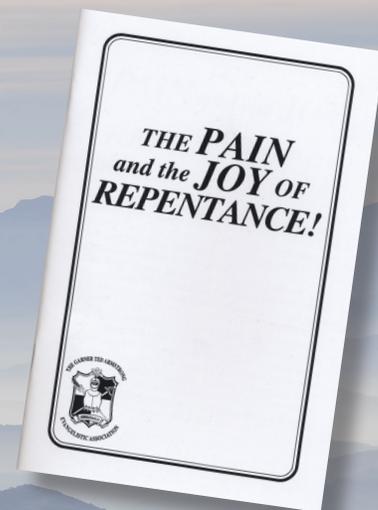
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## ***The Pain and Joy of Repentance***

by Garner Ted Armstrong

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**QUESTIONS (ANSWERS BELOW):**

1. Repentance is...
  - a) acknowledging one's sins
  - b) resolving to obey God
  - c) changing from wanting to do things your way to God's way
  - d) having your mind opened to see yourself in comparison to God and His Law.
  - e) the first step toward reconciliation with God.
  - f) essential for salvation
  - g) all of the above
  
2. In the act of repentance, who takes the first action?
  - a) the sinner
  - b) God
  
3. Repentance is...
  - a) an emotion
  - b) a process
  - c) a conscious act
  
4. Repentance is not possible without the Holy Spirit. True or False?
  
5. The deceitfulness of sins blinds a person from seeing his own sinfulness. True or False?
  
6. Which of the following best demonstrates how repentance works in process.
  - a) man sins; God shows the person his sin; man acknowledges his sin; man acts upon his sin, to overcome it.
  - b) Man sins; God shows person his sin; man seeks and is granted forgiveness; No further action required.
  - c) man sins; man sees his sin; man asks forgiveness; God forgives the sinner; His slate is now clean.
  
7. According to Jeremiah 17:9, the most deceitful thing is \_\_\_\_\_ [what?]
  
8. When a person repents he or she must compare themselves to:
  - a) their better self
  - b) Daniel, Job, Noah and the other biblical saints
  - c) the ministry of the church
  - d) God
  
9. If a person is willing and sincere about doing good, he or she can actually, within themselves, overcome sin and do that good. True or False?

10. Man was created with a natural inclination toward sin. True or False?

11. Sin...

- a) cuts us off from God
- b) blinds us from our own sinfulness
- c) changes our minds from neutrality to enmity against God
- d) a and b
- e) all of the above

12. Conversion is...

- a) God calling a person to repentance
- b) the Holy Spirit transforming our mind from carnal to spiritual
- c) being baptized
- d) being in regular attendance at Sabbath services.

13. Who prayed, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me." In which Psalm do we read this prayer of repentance?

14. Who or what leads us to repentance?

- a) our sins
- b) our conscious
- c) God
- d) the ministry of the church

15. In repentance, we come to realize:

- a) our utter helplessness in fighting the sin process
- b) that what must be done is impossible by our own willpower
- c) that God must redirect and reshape our lives
- d) that we must acknowledge God, His will and His Laws in our lives
- e) c and d
- f) all of the above

16. What verse lists the seven attributes of Godly sorrow?

- a) Romans 12:2
- b) 1 John 3:4
- c) 2 Corinthians 7:11
- d) 2 Timothy 2:25

17. Which chronological sequence is correct?

- a) baptism...repentance...salvation
  - b) salvation...repentance...baptism
  - c) repentance...baptism...salvation
-

18. An essential part of the repentance process is...
- having great human emotion and asking God forgiveness
  - asking God for a repentant attitude of mind and forgiveness
  - showing human remorsefulness and then asking God forgiveness
19. Initial repentance must be followed by baptism and the laying on of hands to receive the Holy Spirit. True or False?
20. Repentance is a one-time event. True or False?
21. When a person repents of sin, he or she knows perfection. True or False?
22. When you repent before God, He promises to forgive your sins but not to forget them. True or False?
23. One of the best ways to come to understand God's laws is through the practical experience of obeying those laws. True or False?
24. If one should fall away from the Salvation Process and reject God, there is no longer a repentance unto salvation. True or False?

**LESSON THIRTEEN — ANSWERS:**

- |             |                       |                      |
|-------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 24. (True)  | 16. (c)               | 8. (d)               |
| 23. (True)  | 15. (f)               | 7. (the human heart) |
| 22. (False) | 14. (c)               | 6. (a)               |
| 21. (False) | 13. (David; Psalm 51) | 5. (True)            |
| 20. (False) | 12. (b)               | 4. (True)            |
| 19. (True)  | 11. (e)               | 3. (b)               |
| 18. (b)     | 10. (False)           | 2. (b)               |
| 17. (c)     | 9. (False)            | 1. (g)               |

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