

DO YOU WANT LOVE AND LIGHT, OR ROD AND WRATH? : PART 1

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Lack Of Respect For Authority, Decadent Roman Empire, Apostle Paul's Description Of Ungodly Society Of The Endtime, Personal Observations Regarding My Childhood And Modern Times, General Rebellion Against Authority, Corrupt And Abusive Governments, Be Subject Unto The Higher Powers, Leaders Rule Only By God's Divine Will And Permission, God's Vessels Of Wrath And Rods Of Chastisement, In His Mercy God Bestows His Blessings Upon The Evil And The Good, God Patiently Waits For Repentance, Loving Chastisements, Wheat And Tares, Sheep And The Goats, Authority Over Our Lives From Birth, Pregnancy And Tragedy Of Abortion, Child Rearing And Discipline, Other Authority Figures: School And Teachers, Adult Life: Bosses Government Agencies Landlords Utilities Etc., Complex Pyramidal System Of Monetary Control, Treasures In Heaven, Beware Of The Snare Of Riches, Apostles' Warnings About Materialism, Love Of Money Is Root Of All Evil

One problem which seems to be fairly common amongst people who have rejected the Lord in their lives, is their refusal to recognize and submit to authority. In fact, in this day and age, this lack of respect for authority is a very common trait amongst many people, even with some people who do know the Lord. This situation is nothing new. In describing the decadent Roman society of almost two thousand years ago, the Apostle Paul could just as easily have been describing our current society. In the first chapter of his Epistle to the Romans, Paul writes in part:

"And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:"
Romans 1:28-31, KJV

In his second Epistle to Timothy, rather than focusing on the hedonistic Roman society which ruled his own time, Paul turns his prophetic camera to the future, and offers us a startling comparison by describing the godless, unbridled society of the Last Days, which doesn't sound any different from the excesses of Rome. Consider the following verses:

"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures

more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away."
2 Timothy 3:1-5, KJV

Everything Paul says in the above verses is a perfect match for our modern society. It is unbelievable how he is so on the mark with his description of the society of the Endtime. Selfishness. Covetousness. Pride. Blasphemy against God. Kids being disobedient to their parents. Not being thankful for the things that we have. Unholy. Unloving towards each other. Lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God. Please notice how Paul uses some of the very same descriptive words in his Epistle to Timothy that he uses in his Epistle to the brethren at Rome. Truly amazing! I discuss some of these very same things in the article called "Selfishness: A Prophesied Sign of the Endtime".

In comparing our current time with my own childhood, if there is one thing which stands out in my mind, it is the level of blatant, in-your-face sexuality, and the unprecedented level of obscenities which now pervade the entertainment industry. Trust me; when I was a young boy, and even a teenager, such behavior, and such language, was never ever seen or heard in a movie or in a television program. The way that actors today drop the "f" bomb every other sentence is disgraceful. It is nice to occasionally come across a movie that stands on its own merit, without the need for baring so much flesh, or the intentional "f" bomb explosions; and, I might add, the need for so much over-the-top violence. A good story simply does not need all of this dressing in order to engage an audience. But, of course, there is the profit factor.

Returning to our previous topic, even if we were to remove God and the Bible from the equation for a moment, this would not change the situation, because this rebellion is not just against God's Authority over our lives, it is in fact against authority in general; that is, manmade authority. Of course, some people will argue that some of this rebellion is in fact warranted, and quite justified, because there are quite a few dictatorial governments in the world today which have clearly overreached their powers, and which are corrupt, abusive and oppressive. As the oft-quoted adage says, power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely. However, at the same time, we need to be mindful of the fact that, as the Apostle Paul writes, most governments are in place for our own protection and benefit, as we see by these verses:

"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. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake. For for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing. Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute

is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour. Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law."
Romans 13:1-8, KJV

The Old Testament offers us some similar thoughts concerning this matter, and informs us that every human leader can only rule by God's Divine Will and Permission, even when they are the most vile person upon the face of the Earth. Consider the following verses:

"Lift not up your horn on high: speak not with a stiff neck. For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another."
Psalms 75:5-7, KJV

"Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding."
Daniel 2:20-21, KJV

"This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men."
Daniel 4:17, KJV

"The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will."
Proverbs 21:1, KJV

"For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king. And Saul said unto Samuel, I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD, and thy words: because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice. Now therefore, I pray thee, pardon my sin, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD. And Samuel said unto Saul, I will not return with thee: for thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD hath rejected thee from being king over Israel."
1 Samuel 15:23-26, KJV

As I explain in other articles, while it may be difficult for some people to accept, even oppressive tyrants have a place in God's Plan for humanity. For example, when the Assyrian armies invaded the Northern Kingdom of Israel, it was by God's Design. When the armies of Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar destroyed the city of Jerusalem and Solomon's Temple, it was likewise by the Will of God. Over six hundred and fifty years later when the Roman General Titus again destroyed Jerusalem and the Second Temple, this too was with God's Permission. As I point out in such articles as "The Fruits of Disobedience", God uses these secular powers as His "Rods of Chastisement", and His "Vessels of Wrath" against His rebellious children, in order to get them back in line. As the Apostle Paul writes in his Epistle to the Romans:

"What if God, willing to shew his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction:"

Romans 9:22, KJV

So God will sometimes use these Vessels of Wrath in order to accomplish some purpose which may only be known to Him, and then He will turn around and destroy them. We see this time and time again in the pages of the Old Testament. It is also important that we understand that just because God allows a certain leader or government to rule, does not necessarily mean that He approves of them. As Paul writes above, it may be that God is simply enduring them, or tolerating them, so that they will fulfill His Divine Purpose.

Along the same vein, just because a particular nation is rich and powerful should not always be interpreted as a clear sign of the Lord's approval. As Jesus informs us in the Gospels, in His great Love and Mercy, God patiently bestows His blessings upon nations and peoples -- both good and evil -- in the hope that they will repent of their wicked ways, and acknowledge Him and His Son. Furthermore, when God is forced to deal with us, and lowers the Rod of Correction, it is not because He truly desires to destroy us, rather, it is because He wants to bring about a state of repentance. He wants to heal us and to make us whole again. Consider the following verses:

"That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust."

Matthew 5:45, KJV

"And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem, And sent messengers before his face: and they went, and entered into a village of the Samaritans, to make ready for him. And they did not receive him, because his face was as though he would go to Jerusalem. And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did? But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them. And they went to another village."

Luke 9:51-56, KJV

"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

2 Peter 3:9, KJV

"Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?"

Ezekiel 33:11, KJV

"For the Lord will not cast off for ever: But though he cause grief, yet will he have compassion according to the multitude of his mercies. For he doth not afflict willingly nor grieve

the children of men."
Lamentations 3:31-33, KJV

I will be discussing this issue more at length in part two.

If we stop and think about it, there are quite a few nations in the world which are rich and powerful, and yet they reject the Christian faith, and embrace Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, atheism, etc. Even though they may have an abundance, are we really to believe that their Christ-rejecting belief systems are approved by God? Hardly. I am reminded of Jesus' Parable regarding the wheat and the tares. In His Mercy, God allows them to grow together until the End, and then the sifting is going to occur. The wheat shall be separated from the tares, and the sheep from the goats. Consider the following verses:

"Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field: But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way. But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also. So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares? He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up? But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn."

Matthew 13:24-30, KJV

"When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it

not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal."

Matthew 25:31-46, KJV

Leaving behind the previous issues, whether for good or for evil, the fact of the matter remains that whether we like it or not, from the moment that we are conceived, someone has authority over our lives. Even the act of conception itself is a decision of authority that is made by two consenting adults. During her pregnancy, the habits that a mother keeps exerts authority and control over a baby's destiny. If she drinks, or does drugs, or does anything else to abuse herself in any way, this will affect the baby in a detrimental way even before it is born, and possibly for the rest of its life.

As I explain in the in-depth series "Abortion: Slaughter of the Innocent", even the power of life and death is in the hands of the parents, and they can decide to have an unborn child's life terminated if they believe that it is in their best interest. The unborn child has no voice, and no choice in the matter whatsoever. Truly, this silent murder of God's precious creatures is one of the greatest tragedies of our modern day.

Once a baby is born and arrives home, the parents retain authority over that child until he or she reaches the legal age, whatever it may happen to be in that area of the world where they live. Naturally, we hope that the parents of that child will be God-fearing parents. We hope that they will be loving parents. And, as that child grows older and begins to form his own opinions, we especially hope that they will be fair and just parents who are able to reason with their child. In short, we hope that they will follow the precepts that are found in the Bible, and that there will be a balance of love, discipline and mutual respect in that child's life, as we see in the following verses:

"The proverbs of Solomon. A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother."
Proverbs 10:1, KJV

"A wise son heareth his father's instruction: but a scorner heareth not rebuke."
Proverbs 13:1, KJV

"A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish man despiseth his mother."
Proverbs 15:20, KJV

"Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying."
Proverbs 19:18, KJV

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it . . . Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him."
Proverbs 22:6, 15, KJV

"Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die. Thou shalt beat him with

the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell."
Proverbs 23:13-14, KJV

"The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame . . . Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul."
Proverbs 29:15, 17, KJV

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."
Ephesians 6:1-4, KJV

"Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord. Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged."
Colossians 3:20-21, KJV

"Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity;"
1 Timothy 3:3-4, KJV

As that child continues to grow, he begins to realize that there are other authorities in his life besides his parents, such as his teachers, guidance counselors, etc. Later, when he enters the workforce, he encounters more authority in his life in the form of a supervisor or boss. Once he is out on his own, possibly raising his own family, he discovers that he has his local, state and federal governments to answer to in the form of taxes and other rules and regulations. Plus he has rent to pay, groceries to purchase, utilities to pay, and a multitude of other expenses which will present themselves during the course of his life.

In a realistic sense, all of these people in these different areas of his life exercise authority over him. If he doesn't have money, or else a good line of credit, he simply cannot acquire the goods and services that these various entities can provide him with. Worse yet, if for whatever the reasons he is irresponsible and goes into debt, he will realize even more how much his life is really controlled by these various entities. Collections agencies will make sure of it!

As can be seen, this complex pyramidal system of control is built upon one layer of authority on top of another, and the higher the level, the more far-reaching and absolute is that power and authority. This entire system is founded upon the concept of money, and people's dependence upon it to secure their needs. Money has become such a necessary part of our lives, that some people will go to any length to obtain more of it. Sadly, this includes relying upon less than honorable means such as robbery, embezzlement, drug-trafficking, unfair price-gouging, prostitution, human-trafficking, gambling and other unscrupulous methods. This unhealthy desire to become excessively rich is totally contrary to the Lord's teachings in the Gospels, as we see by the following verses:

"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."
Matthew 6:19-21, KJV

". . . Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven. And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God."
Matthew 19:23-24, KJV

"For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"
Mark 8:36-37, KJV

". . . Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God!"
Mark 10:24b, KJV

"And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God. And he said unto his disciples, Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat; neither for the body, what ye shall put on. The life is more than meat, and the body is more than raiment. Consider the ravens: for they neither sow nor reap; which neither have storehouse nor barn; and God feedeth them: how much more are ye better than the fowls? And which of you with taking thought can add to his stature one cubit? If ye then be not able to do that thing which is least, why take ye thought for the rest? Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. If then God so clothe the grass, which is to day in the field, and to morrow is cast into the oven; how much more will he clothe you, O ye of little faith? And seek not ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, neither be ye of doubtful mind. For all these things do the nations of the world seek after: and your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things. But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you. Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."
Luke 12:16-34, KJV

"Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed."
John 6:27, KJV

The Apostles James, John and Paul also offer us a variety of warnings regarding the dangers of lusting after the temporal things of this current world. They advise us to be content with what we have, to beware of the materialistic enticements of the false god of this world -- Satan -- and to build upon the right foundation. The Apostle Paul very bluntly informs us that the love of money is the root of all evil. Consider the following verses:

"Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire."

1 Corinthians 3:13-15, KJV

"And they that use this world, as not abusing it: for the fashion of this world passeth away."

1 Corinthians 7:31, KJV

"Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content."

Philippians 4:11, KJV

"But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."

1 Timothy 6:6-10, KJV

"Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."

Hebrews 13:5, KJV

"Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are motheaten. Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days. Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth. Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter. Ye have condemned and killed the just; and he doth not resist you. Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for

it, until he receive the early and latter rain."
James 5:1-7, KJV

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."

1 John 2:15-17, KJV

"And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it."

Luke 4:5-6, KJV

"In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."

2 Corinthians 4:4, KJV

"Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices."

2 Corinthians 2:11, KJV

Please go to part two for the continuation of this series.

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DO YOU WANT LOVE AND LIGHT, OR ROD AND WRATH? : PART 2

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Global Financial System Is Decrepit And On The Verge Of Total Collapse, Intentional Conspiracy To Phase Out Current Global Financial System, Global Crisis To Usher In Mark Of The Beast Credit And Identification System, Beast And His False Prophet Will Persecute God's True Children, One Rotten Apple, Decline Of United States Government, Rich Versus Poor, Global Lure Of American Materialism, Human Power Structure Versus The Divine Power Structure, The Great Seal Of The United States, Jesus Assumed Lowest Position, Jesus Gave His Life As A Ransom For Many, Jesus Is The Cornerstone Of Our Faith, Jesus The Rock Will Crush Worldly Governments And Rule With A Rod Of Iron, Overzealous Fire And Brimstone Preachers, God's Full Divine Nature, Divine Chastisements Are A Means To An End Not The

End, Preach A Balanced Gospel, God's Public Relations Men,
The Jews Repeatedly Worshipped False Gods, Why Will Ye Die?

As I point out in some of my other articles, despite efforts by the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and other financial institutions, and despite the difficult decisions that are being made by the leaders in various countries, the world's current financial system has become old and decrepit, is falling apart at the seams, and is on the verge of total collapse. The European economy is seriously faltering. The American economy still hasn't recovered. The Japanese economy is a wreck. And on and on it goes. While there are a number of factors which have contributed to the dismal condition of the world's economy, two of them are no doubt greed and irresponsible risk-taking. The rich just never seem to have enough, and the only way in which they can get more, is by stealing it from the poor in one way or another.

On the other hand, within certain conspiracy theory circles, as well as amongst certain Christian circles, it is commonly believed that the current global financial situation is not just the result of bad decision-making. Neither is it really out of control as people have been led to believe. There is the belief that in reality, the current precarious nature of the world's economy is an intentional situation that has been created, controlled and manipulated by the powers-that-be, in order to achieve a certain objective. That goal is to phase out the current financial system, in order to usher in a tighter, and more restrictive, computerized identification and credit system, which will be managed and controlled by the powerful global elite of International Bankers.

According to this theory, a global crisis of some kind must be created, so that people will be more willing to embrace the new system, even if it means surrendering some of their personal liberties. Even now, there are signs indicating that this new global identification and credit system will do away with hard currency, resulting in a totally Cashless Society, in which everyone will become faceless numbers in a computer. As many students of the Bible already realize, the advent of just such a system appears to be indicated in the following verses that are found in the thirteenth chapter of the Book of Revelation, and which describe the mandatory Mark of the Beast:

"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."
Revelation 13:16-18, KJV

Under the new financial system -- which some people believe may soon be fully implemented by the globalists of the New World Order -- an individual will either be a Controller or a Technocrat, or else he will be a pawn and a slave. If you are the latter -- as most people will be -- if you attempt to rebel against the ironclad authority and control of the

globalists and their leader -- the Beast -- you will find yourself accused of being unpatriotic, you will be branded a troublemaker and a societal misfit in need of professional help, and you will be forced to live as an outcast.

Assuming that this is the correct interpretation of the Holy Scriptures, in the years ahead, it appears that everyone is going to have to make a conscious choice to either go along with the devilish financial system of the Beast, or else to rebel against it. Those people who choose to follow the Lord will experience hardship, serious persecution and possibly even death, as the Beast and the False Prophet wage a vicious war against them, as we see by the following verses:

"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 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."

Revelation 13:7, 15, KJV

That this should occur should not really come as a surprise to us. After all, as I point out in such articles as "Civil Disobedience and Christian Persecution", the Bible reveals that since the days when man first walked upon this Earth, God's true children have been persecuted by the children of the world, just as Cain slew his brother Abel. Furthermore, Jesus and His Apostles warned us that if we follow in the ways of the Lord, we will be persecuted, as we see by the following sample verses:

"But before all these, they shall lay their hands on you, and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues, and into prisons, being brought before kings and rulers for my name's sake. And it shall turn to you for a testimony. Settle it therefore in your hearts, not to meditate before what ye shall answer: For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist. And ye shall be betrayed both by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolks, and friends; and some of you shall they cause to be put to death. And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake. But there shall not an hair of your head perish. In your patience possess ye your souls."

Luke 21:12-19, KJV

"If the world hate 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 not 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 name's sake, because they know not him that sent me."

John 15:18-21, KJV

"Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."

2 Timothy 3:12, KJV

While some people may doubt this bleak picture I have painted of a possibly soon-coming, global, totalitarian state, I urge you to not discount these things as a mere fabrication. Do not question what despicable things desperate men in power may do in order to protect their wealth and to preserve their system. According to the Scriptures, these events will occur in God's time. All it requires is one rotten apple in the barrel, and before long, the entire barrel has become contaminated, and is no longer fit for consumption. In similar fashion, I believe that such a dark evil can quickly overcome the world, if the conditions are right. And they may be, following some kind of global crisis, economic or otherwise. People will accept and do things which they may not have been willing to do prior to the crisis occurring.

A good example which demonstrates how little time is required before a power can become corrupt is the United States. It is commonly believed -- perhaps naively so -- that when the USA was first founded as a nation over two hundred years ago, the Federal Government was considerably more benevolent than it is today. It actually represented the will of the people, and was not nearly as authoritarian in its powers. This is based upon the belief that the men who crafted the Constitution of the United States were for the most part God-fearing men who understood their obligations to God, and to their fellow man.

Sadly, over the past few centuries, the American Government has undergone a drastic change, so that it is no longer truly "of the people, by the people, for the people". It has slowly eroded to the point that it is now comprised of politicians who are largely motivated by greed, power and self-interest. To make matters worse, many politicians no longer stand on the higher moral ground, have compromised their convictions, and have willingly allowed themselves to become the pawns of powerful interest groups and lobbies such as the gas and oil industry, the pharmaceutical industry, the tobacco industry, and the automobile industry.

Then, of course, there is Wall Street and the Federal Reserve -- which is not even a federal agency -- AIPAC, and other powerful lobbyist groups who control the votes of Washington politicians. Meanwhile, the rich grow richer and receive more tax breaks, while the poor grow poorer, and can barely make ends meet with their meager wages, which in many cases is not even a real living wage.

As the United States has expanded her power and her sphere of influence, and has promoted herself to the world as a model of freedom, democracy and economic opportunity, other nations of the world have sought to emulate her in every way. Many people have become enamored with the American way of life in all of its aspects, and have been willing to risk everything, in order to seek opportunities in the USA. Such people have been deceived into believing that materialism equates with happiness. Only too late do many of them realize that all of the glamour and glory was just a smokescreen for the truth; and that is that many of them will end up in situations not much better than their situation at home, working at a low paying job in substandard conditions, possibly as an illegal alien. They will remain poor, while their boss will continue to grow richer on their cheap wages. Such are the selfish ways of the world.

It is interesting to note how man's pyramidal power structure is in sharp contrast to the power structure of the Kingdom of God which Jesus established during His time on the Earth. As we have seen, with man's system, all power is concentrated at the apex of the pyramid; that is, at the acme, the summit, or the capstone. This is precisely what we see in the Great Seal that is located on the back of the US one dollar bill. As you may know, there is a mystery surrounding the cryptic symbolism that is incorporated in the design of the Great Seal. While I personally don't pay much attention to such things, there are some conspiracy theorists who insist that the Great Seal has ties to the nation of Israel. Others theorize that the Great Seal is related to the Freemasons and the Illuminati, while yet others believe that the all-seeing eye in the capstone represents God Himself overlooking the United States. I don't really know which of these is true, if any of them at all.

In contrast to the power that is concentrated in the capstone of the pyramid that is found in the Great Seal of the United States, as I explain in such articles as "So You Really Think You Are So Humble?", the Scriptures inform us that Jesus was willing to leave behind His Royal Heritage and become, not the capstone, but rather the cornerstone -- or the foundation stone -- of our Faith. Jesus assumed the lowest place and the lowest position possible. He came not to be served, but rather to serve. He took upon Himself the form of a servant who came to give His life as a ransom for many, as we learn from these verses:

"But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."
Matthew 20:25-28, KJV

"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."
1 Corinthians 6:19-20, KJV

"Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men."
1 Corinthians 7:23, KJV

"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time."
1 Timothy 2:5-6, KJV

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name

of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."
Philippians 2:5-11, KJV

"Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;"
Hebrews 5:8, KJV

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."
Matthew 11:28-30, KJV

"Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;"
Ephesians 2:19-20, KJV

"To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed."
1 Peter 2:4-8, KJV

In the previous verses, the words "corner stone" are derived from the Greek words "akrogoniaios" and "lithos". The former does not mean the capstone; it means the corner foundation stone; that is, the stone at the base or bottom, and not at the summit. The word "lithos" simply means stone. Peter is actually quoting from a prophecy which the Lord gave to the Prophet Isaiah, which states the following:

"Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste."
Isaiah 28:16, KJV

In this case, these same phrases are translated from the three Hebrew words "pinnah", "yacad" and "muwcad" which have the same meanings as their Greek equivalents. It is because Jesus was willing to leave behind His Royal Estate and assume the form of a lowly servant, that someday He will also return in Power and great Glory; not at the bottom of the pyramid as He was two thousand years ago, but at the top. At that time, those people who now proudly and falsely occupy the position of the capstone of worldly governments -- including the New

World Order of the Beast and the False Prophet -- will be crushed, subdued and ruled with a rod of iron, as we see by the following verses:

"Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces . . . And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever. Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure"
Daniel 2:34, 44-45, KJV

"And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder."
Matthew 21:44, KJV

"I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."
Psalms 2:7-9, KJV

"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."
Revelation 2:27, KJV

"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."
Revelation 12:5, KJV

"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."
Revelation 19:15, KJV

Considering that Jesus revealed His tremendous love for us by being willing to become the lowliest of the low, and to suffer so much in weak human flesh in order that we might be saved and inherit Everlasting Life, it really saddens me when some people are left with a very lopsided impression of His, and the Father's, Divine Nature. This is due in part to some heavy-handed, overly-zealous preachers who preach nothing but fire and brimstone for the unrepentant sinner. They seem to enjoy trying to scare people into Heaven, instead of trying to love them into the same.

While there is definitely a time and a place for preaching God's Wrath -- Jesus, John the Baptist, John, Peter, Paul and other Apostles did it as well -- we also need to demonstrate to the lost that our God is not just some kind of a merciless monster who stands over us with a club, just waiting to beat

us in the head when we break one of His Rules. As we learned in part one, God's true desire is for healing and repentance to occur; and His Divine Chastisements are simply a means to an end, and not the end in themselves. Preaching hellfire and God's Wrath alone is not conveying an accurate picture of the Divine Nature that we discover in both the Old Testament and the New Testament. To only show people God's angry face is creating a false balance in their minds, and the Scriptures inform us that this is an abomination to the Lord, as we see here:

"A false balance is abomination to the LORD: but a just weight is his delight."
Proverbs 11:1, KJV

So the point is, that as the public relations men of the Most High, we all need to make sure that we are really preaching a balanced Gospel and not a lopsided Gospel. Depending on the situation, we need to preach the Wrath, as well as the Love.

Think about this on a personal level for a moment. How would you feel if a new neighbor moved into a house on your street, and someone you knew went to gossip with them? Suppose that during their conversation, your friend told the new neighbor everything that he did not like about you? Perhaps you are basically a great person who is easy to get along with under most circumstances, but like the rest of us, you have a few weaknesses which occasionally pop up now and then. Would this person be painting a very fair picture of you if they only shared the darker side of your nature? Of course not! By the same token, as God's public relations men, we must not allow our pride or our personal zeal to get in the way, so that we convey a lopsided picture of the Lord.

While it is indeed true that the Lord exercised a very firm hand with the Israelites in the Old Testament, we need to be honest with ourselves and recognize that the reason why this occurred is because they were a very stiff-necked, rebellious people who repeatedly backslid from the Lord. As I explain in such articles as "The Fruits of Disobedience", "The Children of God and Politics", and "Revelation's Babylon the Great", their rebellion was such that they mimicked the pagan worship of the heathen nations which surrounded them. They forsook the one true God, and even sacrificed their very own children to the false god Molech. Consider the following verses which clearly reveal the depth of their sin and rebellion against the Lord:

"And thou shalt not let any of thy seed pass through the fire to Molech, neither shalt thou profane the name of thy God: I am the LORD."
Leviticus 18:21, KJV

"Again, thou shalt say to the children of Israel, Whosoever he be of the children of Israel, or of the strangers that sojourn in Israel, that giveth any of his seed unto Molech; he shall surely be put to death: the people of the land shall stone him with stones. And I will set my face against that man, and will cut him off from among his people; because he hath given of his seed unto Molech, to defile my sanctuary, and to profane my holy name. And if the people of the land do any ways hide their eyes from the man, when he giveth of his

seed unto Molech, and kill him not: Then I will set my face against that man, and against his family, and will cut him off, and all that go a whoring after him, to commit whoredom with Molech, from among their people."
Leviticus 20:2-5, KJV

"Ye shall not go after other gods, of the gods of the people which are round about you;"
Deuteronomy 6:14, KJV

"And the LORD said unto Moses, Behold, thou shalt sleep with thy fathers; and this people will rise up, and go a whoring after the gods of the strangers of the land, whither they go to be among them, and will forsake me, and break my covenant which I have made with them."
Deuteronomy 31:16, KJV

"And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served Baalim: And they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, which brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods, of the gods of the people that were round about them, and bowed themselves unto them, and provoked the LORD to anger. And they forsook the LORD, and served Baal and Ashtaroth. And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel, and he delivered them into the hands of spoilers that spoiled them, and he sold them into the hands of their enemies round about, so that they could not any longer stand before their enemies. Whithersoever they went out, the hand of the LORD was against them for evil, as the LORD had said, and as the LORD had sworn unto them: and they were greatly distressed. Nevertheless the LORD raised up judges, which delivered them out of the hand of those that spoiled them. And yet they would not hearken unto their judges, but they went a whoring after other gods, and bowed themselves unto them: they turned quickly out of the way which their fathers walked in, obeying the commandments of the LORD; but they did not so. And when the LORD raised them up judges, then the LORD was with the judge, and delivered them out of the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge: for it repented the LORD because of their groanings by reason of them that oppressed them and vexed them. And it came to pass, when the judge was dead, that they returned, and corrupted themselves more than their fathers, in following other gods to serve them, and to bow down unto them; they ceased not from their own doings, nor from their stubborn way. And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel; and he said, Because that this people hath transgressed my covenant which I commanded their fathers, and have not hearkened unto my voice; I also will not henceforth drive out any from before them of the nations which Joshua left when he died: That through them I may prove Israel, whether they will keep the way of the LORD to walk therein, as their fathers did keep it, or not. Therefore the LORD left those nations, without driving them out hastily; neither delivered he them into the hand of Joshua."
Judges 2:10-23, KJV

"And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the LORD, and served Baalim, and Ashtaroth, and the gods of Syria, and the gods of Zidon, and the gods of Moab, and the gods of the children of Ammon, and the gods of the

Philistines, and forsook the LORD, and served not him."
Judges 10:6, KJV

"For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father. For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. And Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and went not fully after the LORD, as did David his father. Then did Solomon build an high place for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, in the hill that is before Jerusalem, and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon. And likewise did he for all his strange wives, which burnt incense and sacrificed unto their gods. And the LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the LORD God of Israel, which had appeared unto him twice, And had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods: but he kept not that which the LORD commanded."
1 Kings 11:4-10, KJV

"And they transgressed against the God of their fathers, and went a whoring after the gods of the people of the land, whom God destroyed before them."
1 Chronicles 5:25, KJV

"For all the gods of the people are idols: but the LORD made the heavens."
1 Chronicles 16:26, KJV

"Now it came to pass, after that Amaziah was come from the slaughter of the Edomites, that he brought the gods of the children of Seir, and set them up to be his gods, and bowed down himself before them, and burned incense unto them. Wherefore the anger of the LORD was kindled against Amaziah, and he sent unto him a prophet, which said unto him, Why hast thou sought after the gods of the people, which could not deliver their own people out of thine hand?
2 Chronicles 25:14-15, KJV

"For he sacrificed unto the gods of Damascus, which smote him: and he said, Because the gods of the kings of Syria help them, therefore will I sacrifice to them, that they may help me. But they were the ruin of him, and of all Israel."
2 Chronicles 28:23, KJV

"For the children of Israel and the children of Judah have only done evil before me from their youth: for the children of Israel have only provoked me to anger with the work of their hands, saith the LORD. For this city hath been to me as a provocation of mine anger and of my fury from the day that they built it even unto this day; that I should remove it from before my face, Because of all the evil of the children of Israel and of the children of Judah, which they have done to provoke me to anger, they, their kings, their princes, their priests, and their prophets, and the men of Judah, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem. And they have turned unto me the back, and not the face: though I taught them, rising up early and teaching them, yet they have not hearkened to receive instruction. But they set their abominations in the house, which is called by my name, to defile it. And they built the high places of Baal, which are in the valley of the

son of Hinnom, to cause their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire unto Molech; which I commanded them not, neither came it into my mind, that they should do this abomination, to cause Judah to sin."
Jeremiah 32:30-35, KJV

Thus, because of their gross sins against Him, God really had no choice but to deal with the Israelites in a very firm way; not because He wanted to actually destroy them, but rather to bring about repentance so that He could heal them. That is the purpose of His Rod and His Wrath. In fact, as I explain in the article entitled "Oh Israel, Why Will Ye Die?", before the Lord actually destroyed Jerusalem and Solomon's Temple, and had many thousands of Israelites enslaved in Babylon, He pleaded with them repeatedly to repent, and asked them "Why will ye die?".

Please go to part three for the continuation of this series.

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End Of File

DO YOU WANT LOVE AND LIGHT, OR ROD AND WRATH? : PART 3

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God Pleads With The Jews: Why Will Ye Die O House Of Israel?, America's Tragic Backslidden Condition And Multiculturalism, Barack Obama Speech: We're No Longer Just A Christian Nation, Roots Of Non-Christian Religions Are Slowly Poisoning America, Millions Of Non-Christian Immigrants, Increasing Restrictions On Christianity In America, Political Correctness, Millions With No Interest In Converting To Christianity, Our Boxed In Christianity, Our Great Commission: Let Your Light So Shine, God's Instructions To Moses And Joshua, Thorns Snare Traps, No Practical Solution To Cleanse America Of Multiculturalism, American Work Ethic Negatively Affected By Multiculturalism, Greedy Corporate America And US Public Assistance Programs, Abuse Of Foreign Workers In USA, Corporate America's Foreign Sweat Shops, Apple's Tim Cook And China's Foxconn Factories, Why US Corporations Refuse To Bring Their Factories To USA, "Convert Or Leave" Initiative Would Be Extremely Unpopular, Ancient Israelites Put Away Their Foreign Wives And Children, Apostle Paul's Advice To Couples, Satan's Strategy To Pollute Our Christian Heritage, Test Of Faith For Ancient Israelites

As I concluded in part two, in the article entitled "Oh Israel, Why Will Ye Die?", I explain that before the Lord actually destroyed Jerusalem and Solomon's Temple -- which

resulted in many thousands of Israelites being transported to and enslaved in Babylon -- He repeatedly pleaded with the stubborn Jews to repent, and asked them "Why will ye die?". Consider the following verses:

"Why will ye die, thou and thy people, by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence, as the LORD hath spoken against the nation that will not serve the king of Babylon?"
Jeremiah 27:13, KJV

"Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit: for why will ye die, O house of Israel?"
Ezekiel 18:31, KJV

"Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?"
Ezekiel 33:11, KJV

I wrote "Oh Israel, Why Will Ye Die?" in March of 1998. Now, fourteen years later, I feel motivated to ask the very same question of the people of the United States. In part two, I discussed the political corruption, the financial corruption and the materialism and greed which have plagued the nation. However, just like Israel of old, America's problems really run much deeper than that. In the previous verses, the Lord did not just fault the politicians or the religionists of Israel; He also accused the common people as well. In other words, the scope of their sins stretched from the very top echelons of Israeli society, to the lowest social strata. Many people were in fact worshipping the false heathen gods.

Ancient Israel was plagued by a serious disease which was not limited by social status, age or any other factor. Sadly, the very same insidious disease plagues the United States today. I first mentioned this disease fourteen years ago in "The Gay and Lesbian Agenda: To the Point!", and then again in my 2001 article entitled "When Sin is No Longer a Sin". While times have changed, the symptoms of the disease have not. The modern name for this destructive disease is multiculturalism. Just as it did with backslidden ancient Israel, this vile disease is weakening, rotting and destroying the United States from within. Just as ancient Israel worshipped heathen gods, the United States today is likewise literally full of all kinds of pagan belief systems and demonic practices.

The seed of Christian America has been polluted and diluted, just as the seed of ancient Israel was likewise polluted and diluted. To our own shame, many Americans -- including many Christian Americans -- have allowed themselves to be deceived by Satan's ruse. They have swallowed the treacherous lie that claims that we must respect the belief systems of others and accommodate them, even when their beliefs outright oppose and contradict our Christian heritage. Tragically, even America's current wayward president -- Barack Hussein Obama -- publicly acknowledges that the United States is no longer a Christian nation, but rather a multicultural nation. In a speech that he delivered in June of 2007, Obama -- who was then still an Illinois senator -- stated the following:

----- Begin Quote -----

"Whatever we once were, we're no longer a Christian nation. At least not just. We are also a Jewish nation, a Muslim nation, and a Buddhist nation, and a Hindu nation, and a nation of nonbelievers."

----- End Quote -----

Later, when asked to clarify some of his remarks regarding the Christian Right, Senator Obama wrote the following in an email message to David Brody, who at that time was the senior national correspondent for the Christian Broadcast Network, and who is now the Chief Political Correspondent for CBN:

----- Begin Quote -----

". . . Whatever we once were, we're no longer just a Christian nation; we are also a Jewish nation, a Muslim nation, a Buddhist nation, a Hindu nation, and a nation of nonbelievers."

"We should acknowledge this and realize that when we're formulating policies from the state house to the Senate floor to the White House, we've got to work to translate our reasoning into values that are accessible to every one of our citizens, not just members of our own faith community."

----- End Quote -----

Sadly, what the president states is correct. While we would all like to continue believing that the United States is a strictly Christian nation, even though the vast majority of her citizens may still embrace one form of Christianity or another, the truth of the matter is that many other faiths have now taken root in the nation. These roots are slowly but surely spreading, and poisoning the populace, just as occurred with Israel. If you are interested, you can watch a very short YouTube flash video in which Senator Obama makes this statement at the following URL:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tmC3IevZiik>

But let us be clear here. This disease did not just suddenly spring up during the Obama administration. The real truth of the matter is that America knowingly invited this disease to her shores with her call of "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free". Yes, they did indeed come, by the millions, many with their non-Christian beliefs: Jews, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, atheists and more, and thus began America's decay from within. America received boatloads of cheap labor; that is, people who were willing to work extremely hard for meager wages; as long as they were given an opportunity to start a new life in America. Massive waves of immigrants arrived from Europe and elsewhere, and America was built upon their sweat and hard labor. My own great grandparents were among them.

But look at us now. Just like ancient Israel, we have aliens and strangers within our midst who do not believe in or love our God. While their beliefs and practices are protected and are even taught in the American public school system, it is

no secret that with each passing year, the Christian faith is trampled upon and restricted more and more. We can put "God" on our money and in the Pledge of Allegiance, but to speak of Christ openly in the public avenue, or to place a monument of the Ten Commandments on government property, or a Nativity Scene in a public place, is frowned upon and sometimes even prohibited. As many of you will know, many merchants now rely upon laws regarding loitering and solicitation as a means to prevent Christians from witnessing and passing out tracts on their properties. This has been occurring for decades.

The tragedy is that America is increasingly less and less of a Christian-friendly nation. The attitude seems to be "Sorry God, but we are now a multicultural nation, so we have to be politically correct. We don't want to go out of our way and purposely offend people of other non-Christian faiths, so we have no choice but to tone down our witness. We need to hide our light under a bushel. Move over God. We need to make some room for all of these other gods, lest someone accuse us of not being fair."

Some people will no doubt argue that perhaps in His Wisdom, God brought all of these non-believers to our shores, so that we could be a witness to them. This is undoubtedly true in a lot of cases, and we should be very thankful for those people who do come to Christ; but let us speak the plain truth here. Many of these people -- millions of them in fact -- have zero interest in converting to Christianity. They are quite happy being Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist or whatever religion they happen to embrace. As I noted earlier, the main reason why most of these immigrants came to the United States was for financial opportunity and nothing more. Now we are stuck with them. Some people will probably claim that this is what the American melting pot is all about; but that pot is full of spiritual poison; that is, false religion which refuses to acknowledge Jesus Christ as the Son of God and the Savior of the world.

Another argument which is sometimes put forth -- even by some Christian leaders -- is that if we start placing restrictions on other non-Christian religions, we might be next. So many people have already been deceived by this lie. Folks, it is time for you to wake up! As I have already made clear, our faith has already been restricted to services in a concrete box on weekends. As long as we keep our faith in church, and out of public life, few people will complain. Out of sight, and out of mind, and that is what many non-believers want. But just endeavor to be an active, faithful witness of your faith, and see what happens. The wolves will attack sooner or later! Just ask some of the brave street evangelists who are willing to confront the enemy face-to-face everyday.

Is that what Jesus instructed us to do? Did He instruct us to hide our spiritual light under a bushel lest -- God forbid -- we offend someone? If you honestly believe that your faith is supposed to be restricted to what occurs behind closed church doors on weekends, then I admonish you to carefully study the following verses:

"Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light

unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."
Matthew 5:14-16, KJV

"No man, when he hath lighted a candle, putteth it in a secret place, neither under a bushel, but on a candlestick, that they which come in may see the light. The light of the body is the eye: therefore when thine eye is single, thy whole body also is full of light; but when thine eye is evil, thy body also is full of darkness. Take heed therefore that the light which is in thee be not darkness. If thy whole body therefore be full of light, having no part dark, the whole shall be full of light, as when the bright shining of a candle doth give thee light."
Luke 11:33-36, KJV

"That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;"
Philippians 2:15, KJV

"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."
Matthew 24:14, KJV

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:"
Matthew 28:19, KJV

"And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."
Luke 24:46-47, KJV

"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."
Mark 16:15, KJV

"Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you."
John 15:16, KJV

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."
Acts 1:8, KJV

"And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publickly, and from house to house . . . Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears."
Acts 20:20, 31, KJV

"How then shall they call on him in whom they have not

believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things . . . So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

Romans 10:14-15, 17, KJV

"For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!"

1 Corinthians 9:16, KJV

"And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also."

2 Timothy 2:2, KJV

"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine."

2 Timothy 4:2, KJV

Granted, not everyone is called to be, or can be, a foreign missionary or a flaming preacher of God's Word. However, I do believe that if we keep our eyes open, God does provide each of us with opportunities to be witnesses of our faith in small ways. We just have to be sensitive to His Spirit, so that we can recognize when those opportunities arise. Even people who are home-bound, disabled, or whatever, can find opportunities online to share their faith with others. I have been doing it everyday for many years now.

Returning to the issue concerning non-believers in our midst, by passing laws to protect the beliefs of non-Christians, are we actually shooting ourselves in the foot? Is this what God told the ancient Israelites to do? Did the Lord tell them to live and let live? Did the Lord say "As long as they do not infringe on your beliefs, leave them alone"? Absolutely not! The Lord clearly instructed Moses, Joshua and Caleb to drive out the heathen from the land of Canaan. Sadly, as we have already seen, because they did not completely obey the Lord's command, and allowed some of them to remain in the land, it wasn't before long that those heathen became a thorn in their side, and a spiritual snare as well which led the Israelites into a serious state of apostasy. Consider these verses:

"Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye are passed over Jordan into the land of Canaan; Then ye shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before you, and destroy all their pictures, and destroy all their molten images, and quite pluck down all their high places: And ye shall dispossess the inhabitants of the land, and dwell therein: for I have given you the land to possess it. . . . But if ye will not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you; then it shall come to pass, that those which ye let remain of them shall be pricks in your eyes, and thorns in your sides, and shall vex you in the land wherein ye dwell. Moreover it shall come to pass, that I shall do unto you, as I thought to do unto them."

Numbers 33:51-52, 55-56, KJV

"Take good heed therefore unto yourselves, that ye love the LORD your God. Else if ye do in any wise go back, and cleave unto the remnant of these nations, even these that remain among you, and shall make marriages with them, and go in unto them, and they to you: Know for a certainty that the LORD your God will no more drive out any of these nations from before you; but they shall be snares and traps unto you, and scourges in your sides, and thorns in your eyes, until ye perish from off this good land which the LORD your God hath given you."
Joshua 23:11-13, KJV

And sadly, that is exactly what happened to the Israelites. God repeatedly destroyed them, and removed them from Israel, a number of times down through history: the Assyrians, the Babylonians, the Romans. For nearly two thousand years, the Jews were a minority population in Palestine.

Some of you may be thinking to yourselves "Well, WordWeaver, you certainly seem to have hit the nail on the head. You have certainly identified the problem. But what is the solution? What can we do to rectify this situation?" Quite frankly, I think that it is already too late, and that there really is no practical solution. This disease of multiculturalism has already so polluted the American bloodstream, that to even attempt to eradicate it would destroy the body. America's financial system is now so dependent upon cheap labor from abroad, that it would probably collapse without it.

You see, in addition to the spiritual problems that years of multiculturalism have created, it has also affected America's work ethic. As we have already discussed, one of the primary reasons why American corporations enjoy hiring foreign labor, is because such laborers are willing to work for cheap. This means that greedy corporations pay little, while earning a huge profit. Most Americans are simply not willing to allow themselves to be taken advantage of like that. They want to be paid what they are worth, because they and their families cannot possibly survive on the meager wages that so many of these companies pay. As I mentioned earlier, it is not a real living wage. I honestly don't know what the real living wage is now, but I am certain that it is substantially higher than the minimum wage that most companies pay now.

We hear so much talk about "lazy Americans", and how so many people now receive welfare, WIC, food stamps/SNAP and related public assistance programs. While some people do in fact take advantage of these programs, it is also true that there are a lot of Americans on these programs because corporate America simply refuses to pay them what they are worth. Those greedy people want to pay slave wages, and quite often without even offering health or dental benefits. No doubt you are already familiar with the many stories of foreign workers who are sometimes never even paid, severely mistreated, and forced to live in substandard housing conditions. Two movies which take a look at this issue are 1990's "H-2 Worker" and 2003's "Life and Debt". The truth is that no company can or should expect loyalty or quality work from their workers when they pay them as little as they do, and treat them as poorly as they do.

Now, if any of you reading this doubt anything that I have

stated here, then I want you to consider the major American corporations which operate huge factory complexes in foreign countries such as China. We all know why they do this: cheap labor and huge profits. Just recently I was reading about the poor working conditions which exist in Apple's factories in China; that is, at Foxconn. As a dedicated Macintosh user of more than two decades, I must confess that just reading the articles made me feel rather uncomfortable. Tim Cook -- who is Apple's new CEO -- just paid a visit to China; no doubt to do some damage control ahead of the release of the report by the Fair Labor Association. But my point is, whether at home or abroad, American corporations will pay as little as possible, as long as the job gets done, and they earn a big profit.

As much as I am not fond of President Obama and some of his policies and personal beliefs, I must applaud him for making an effort to rein in some of these US corporations and trying to pressure them into bringing their factories back home to the United States. But will he be successful?

As you may have heard, for their part, these US corporations claim that it is impossible to reverse the current trend of relying upon foreign labor in places such as Foxconn. For one thing, they say that such huge manufacturing facilities which hire hundreds of thousands of people, and which can turn out a new product in a matter of hours or days, simply do not exist in the continental United States. Furthermore, the fact that American workers demand higher wages does not give these greedy corporations any incentive to bring their factories back to American soil. Their profit margin is no doubt more important to them than making sure that working Americans can provide a decent life for their families.

Even if they were to bring their factories back home to the United States, if they were to pay American workers a decent living wage -- which is doubtful -- the immediate effect is that the cost of manufacturing their products would no doubt rise substantially, and they would be forced to pass along the difference to American consumers. Quite frankly, Apple computers are already so expensive as it is, that personally, I couldn't possibly afford to pay more for one, and many Mac users probably feel the same way.

Finally, there is the issue that we are no longer living in the 1930's, 40's or 50's. There is no war effort to support, or to which Americans feel the need to show their loyalty by working long, hard hours in an ammo factory. In fact, many Americans are sick and tired of the U.S. Government's foreign wars. In short, Americans -- particularly young Americans -- are no longer willing to work at extremely tedious, monotonous jobs where they must perform the same boring task hundreds or thousands of times each day. To be honest, I couldn't possibly do it either. It would probably drive me crazy. Even with this ministry, there are certain tasks I must perform which I find monotonous and don't enjoy doing. However, they must be done. China's Foxconn, on the other hand, provides workers such as these by the hundreds of thousands; and for meager wages no less.

Aside from the economic reasons, another reason why I believe that there is no practical way to undo the damage which has

already been done by multiculturalism, is because to try to reverse the current trend would tear apart and destroy many families throughout America. Obviously, we can't just inform non-Christians that they must convert to our faith, or else leave the country. Who would go along with that? Imagine the widespread protests. Imagine what the rest of the world would think of the US Government, which for many years has promoted the image of America being the land of freedom, democracy and religious tolerance.

Furthermore, name me even one current American leader who has the audacity to suggest such a bold initiative. The notion of "convert or leave" would not be acceptable to very many folks other than to some Fundamentalist Christians. As I mention in other articles, it may surprise you to learn though, that in the Old Testament, after the Jews had returned from Babylon with their foreign wives, they did in fact make a vow to put away their foreign wives, and the children which had been born through them. Consider these verses:

"And Shechaniah the son of Jehiel, one of the sons of Elam, answered and said unto Ezra, We have trespassed against our God, and have taken strange wives of the people of the land: yet now there is hope in Israel concerning this thing. Now therefore let us make a covenant with our God to put away all the wives, and such as are born of them, according to the counsel of my lord, and of those that tremble at the commandment of our God; and let it be done according to the law . . . And Ezra the priest stood up, and said unto them, Ye have transgressed, and have taken strange wives, to increase the trespass of Israel. Now therefore make confession unto the LORD God of your fathers, and do his pleasure: and separate yourselves from the people of the land, and from the strange wives. Then all the congregation answered and said with a loud voice, As thou hast said, so must we do . . . And the children of the captivity did so. And Ezra the priest, with certain chief of the fathers, after the house of their fathers, and all of them by their names, were separated, and sat down in the first day of the tenth month to examine the matter. And they made an end with all the men that had taken strange wives by the first day of the first month. And among the sons of the priests there were found that had taken strange wives: namely, of the sons of Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and his brethren; Maaseiah, and Eliezer, and Jarib, and Gedaliah. And they gave their hands that they would put away their wives; and being guilty, they offered a ram of the flock for their trespass . . . All these had taken strange wives: and some of them had wives by whom they had children."
Ezra 10:2-3, 10-12, 16-19, 44, KJV

While the ancient Israelites were willing to make such huge sacrifices in order to please the Lord, about six hundred years later, the Apostle Paul offered some very different advice for Christian believers. In his first Epistle to the brethren at Corinth, Paul offered the following personal counsel:

"But to the rest speak I, not the Lord: If any brother hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away. And the woman which hath an husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell

with her, let her not leave him. For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy. But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases: but God hath called us to peace. For what knowest thou, O wife, whether thou shalt save thy husband? or how knowest thou, O man, whether thou shalt save thy wife?"
1 Corinthians 7:12-16, KJV

Please notice that Paul states clearly that this is only his personal advice. While it is wise advice, it isn't applicable to every situation in the United States. The reason why I say this is simply this: Paul is addressing couples where there is one believer and one non-believer. The situation which we are discussing is rather different, because as I said before, there are people in the US -- immigrants and their descendants -- who embrace Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, etc., who have absolutely no intentions of converting to Christianity. While we can continue to hope that one day they will come to the Light of Jesus Christ, in the meantime, they are having children, and spreading the influence of their faith even further.

So while some people will obviously not like to hear this, as I stated before, we need to recognize that this infusion of foreigners on American soil may very well be Satan's attempt to pollute and dilute our Christian heritage, through the centuries-old tactics of divide and conquer. If something is diluted enough, it becomes ineffective. However, at the same time, based on some of the verses that I shared with you in part two, it has occurred to me that this may very well be by God's design. Consider the following verses:

"And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel; and he said, Because that this people hath transgressed my covenant which I commanded their fathers, and have not hearkened unto my voice; I also will not henceforth drive out any from before them of the nations which Joshua left when he died: That through them I may prove Israel, whether they will keep the way of the LORD to walk therein, as their fathers did keep it, or not. Therefore the LORD left those nations, without driving them out hastily; neither delivered he them into the hand of Joshua."
Judges 2:10-23, KJV

"Now these are the nations which the LORD left, to prove Israel by them, even as many of Israel as had not known all the wars of Canaan; Only that the generations of the children of Israel might know, to teach them war, at the least such as before knew nothing thereof; Namely, five lords of the Philistines, and all the Canaanites, and the Sidonians, and the Hivites that dwelt in mount Lebanon, from mount Baalhermon unto the entering in of Hamath. And they were to prove Israel by them, to know whether they would hearken unto the commandments of the LORD, which he commanded their fathers by the hand of Moses."
Judges 3:1-4, KJV

As you can see, we are told that God purposely allowed these heathen to remain in Canaan, for the purpose of proving -- or testing, from the Hebrew word "nacad" -- the Israelites. The

Lord wanted to see if they would remain faithful to Him in spite of the opposition in their midst.

Please go to part four for the continuation of this series.

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DO YOU WANT LOVE AND LIGHT, OR ROD AND WRATH? : PART 4

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Test Of Faith For Ancient Israelites And A Test For American Christians, Tares = Darnel = False Wheat And False Religions, Wherefore By Their Fruits Ye Shall Know Them, Foolishness Of The Gospel, Fiery Destruction Of The Wicked, God's Love Mercy And Patience With False Religionists, Learning From The Past, God's Objective: Correction Repentance And Healing, What Can America Expect?, Rebuke And Chastisement Are A Part Of God's Love, Follow God's House Rules, Greatest Commandments = Love, Love Is The All-Encompassing Royal Law, Sin Is Transgressing God's Laws, Make The Choice To Do What Is Right And Obey God, A Stubborn Teenager Rebelling Against God's Divine Authority, The Endeavors To Pollute And Dilute Our Christian Heritage, Impending Purge And Tribulation, The Lord's Spotless Bride, Rise Of The Beast And The False Prophet, Roman Catholicism, An Islamic Empire, Ecumenical Movement, One World Religion

As I concluded in part three, based on verses that we find in the Book of Judges, it seems that the Lord purposely allowed a small remnant of the heathen nations to remain in Canaan, for the purpose of proving, or testing, the Israelites. God wanted to see if they would remain faithful to Him, in spite of the opposition in their midst. He wanted to see if they were spiritually strong enough to resist the pagan beliefs which those nations embraced. As we have already seen, sadly, they were not, and they fell into deep apostasy again and again.

Are you starting to understand where I am going with this? Is it possible that the Lord may have similar designs with the current situation in the United States? In other words, is it possible that the Lord is also proving American Christians at this time by allowing all of these false religions to thrive within America's borders? As I continued to ponder this issue, I was reminded of one of Jesus' Parables in the Gospels which seems to connect directly to what happened to the Israelites, as well as to what is now happening in the United States. In the thirteenth chapter of the Gospel of Matthew, we find the

following verses:

"Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field: But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way. But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also. So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares? He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up? But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn."

Matthew 13:24-30, KJV

In the previous verses, the word "tares" is derived from the Greek word "zizanon", which Thayer's Greek English Lexicon defines as a kind of darnel, resembling wheat except that the grains are black. The Wikipedia website offers the following interesting and more in-depth explanation regarding darnel:

----- Begin Quote -----

"Darnel usually grows in the same production zones as wheat and is considered a weed. The similarity between these two plants is so extensive that in some regions, cockle is referred to as "false wheat". It bears a close resemblance to wheat until the ear appears. The ears on the real wheat are so heavy it makes the entire plant droop downward, but *L. temulentum*, whose ears are light, stands up straight. The wheat will also appear brown when ripe, whereas the darnel is black. When the *Lolium* matures, the spikelets turn edgewise to the rachis, where the wheat spikelets remain as they grew previously."

----- End Quote -----

Please notice how tares -- or darnel -- is referred to as "false wheat". Until it actually matures and ripens, darnel looks very similar to real wheat. It is very deceptive. It is only in its latter stages of development that the truth is revealed, because the grains are black, and not brown. Now consider Jesus' warning that is found in the seventh chapter of the Gospel of Matthew:

"Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them."

Matthew 7:15-20, KJV

As you can see, it is the final fruit that actually reveals the truth. It is the fruit which tells the whole story, no

matter what prior appearances may have convinced a person to believe. In similar fashion, just as the householder -- or master of the house, from the Greek word "oikodespotes" -- knew that the tares had been sown by the enemy, these false religions -- or tares -- were sown in America by the Devil as well. Because they do not possess the gift of Spiritual Discernment, to many people these false religions seem to be the truth, while the true Gospel of Jesus Christ seems like utter foolishness to them. Consider the following verses:

"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."
1 Corinthians 2:14, KJV

"For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. . . . For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men . . . But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence."
1 Corinthians 1:18, 21, 25, 27-29, KJV

The key point to remember is this: The final fruit of faith in Jesus Christ is Forgiveness, Redemption, Salvation and Life; while the final fruit of all of the false religions is deception, destruction and death. In fact, the deception is so great and so convincing with some of these tares -- or false religions -- that in some cases -- such as with Islam -- adherents are willing to kill and destroy for their false religion, or commit other despicable acts. I discuss this topic more at length in such articles as "Palestinian Suicide Bombers and Middle East Peace" and "Holy Qur'an and Islam: A Doctrine of Devils?". Even if a particular religion does not preach violence, but peace, such as Buddhism for example, it is still a false religion, if it does not point to Christ as God's only form of Redemption and Salvation.

Did the master of the house tell his servants to destroy the tares? No. By way of this Parable, Jesus cautions us to let them grow right along side of the real wheat until the time of the harvest arrives, at which time the tares will be cast into the fire. This theme regarding final destruction by fire is present in a number of Scriptures, beginning with the Parable of the Tares itself. Consider the following verses:

"He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man; The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one; The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels. As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a

furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear."

Matthew 13:37b-43, KJV

"I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire: Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

Matthew 3:11-12, KJV

"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."

Revelation 14:9-11, KJV

"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."

Revelation 19:20-21, KJV

"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 whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."

Revelation 20:10, 15, KJV

"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."

Revelation 21:8, KJV

While these false religions -- or tares -- may be used by the Lord to test American Christians, at the same time, it is a demonstration of God's Love, Mercy and Patience that He does not outright destroy the false religionists from the start. Again, the master of the house ordered his servants to leave the tares alone until the time of the harvest. So it may also be that the Lord is giving the people who embrace those false religions, time to forsake their false beliefs, as well as an opportunity to embrace the truth of Jesus Christ. It is our job as Christians to try to reach them with the Gospel if we possibly can, while at the same time, making sure that we do not become deceived by their false belief systems.

One thing which the Apostle Paul teaches us in his Epistles is that we must learn from the past, as otherwise, we may end up committing the very same mistakes. Consider these verses:

"For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope. Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus:"
Romans 15:4 KJV

"Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come."
1 Corinthians 10:11, KJV

As we have already seen, God does not punish His children for the sake of punishment alone. His ultimate goal is correction, repentance and healing. In fact, in His great Divine Mercy, He withholds Divine Chastisement for as long as possible. As we saw in part one, the Prophet Ezekiel wrote "he doth not afflict willingly". However, if the Lord's children continue in their stiff-necked rebellion, and refuse to come to their senses in a reasonable amount of time, even God's patience will run out, and He will be forced to deal with them in a harsh manner, as happened time and time again with the ancient Israelites.

Now, if, as the Apostle Paul writes, we are to learn from the past, what can we expect for modern America, who still claims to be a Christian nation? Perhaps the American president no longer believes that, but many of her citizens do. If the Lord is consistent in His dealings with humanity, should we really hope or expect to escape His Wrath and Rod of Chastisement? It is evident then that like any human father, He has to keep His children in line. While certain children don't understand this, just because our human father punishes us does not mean that he doesn't love us. Quite to the contrary. If he didn't love us, then he wouldn't punish us when we do something that might be harmful to ourselves or else to others. As we read in the Book of Proverbs:

"Open rebuke is better than secret love."
Proverbs 27:5, KJV

In other words, rebuke and Divine Chastisement are actually a token of God's great Love for us. We find some additional verses in the Epistle to the Hebrews which make an excellent comparison between the discipline which is administered to us by our human father, and the Divine Chastisement which is administered by our Heavenly Father. Consider the following:

"And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and

live? For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby. Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed."
Hebrews 12:5-13, KJV

Much like our human father, God has been around a lot longer than we have. He is aware of the pitfalls and dangers in this life. Just as our human father lays down the rules for our own protection, well-being and benefit, so too, God has given us certain "House Rules" which He expects us to follow. It is not because He is power hungry, it is because He loves us and does not want to see us get hurt, or hurt others. Instead of looking at the Laws and Commandments that are found in God's Word as some form of control, perhaps we should look at them more as a form of Fatherly Guidance from the "Head of the House". Consider the following verse:

"Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;"
Ephesians 2:19, KJV

In His "House Rules", the Lord certainly covered just about everything imaginable. However, when Jesus arrived on Earth and began His public ministry, He summarized all of the Old Testament Laws in the following two Commandments:

". . . Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."
Matthew 22:37b-40, KJV

The Apostle James referred to love as being the Royal Law, as we see by the following verse:

"If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well:"
James 2:8, KJV

And what more could it be? After all, as the Apostle John informs us, God -- who is our Royal Father in Heaven -- is love, as we see by these two verses:

"He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love . . . And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him."
1 John 4:8, 16, KJV

Now, obviously, if we truly love someone, we are not going to steal from them, kill them, try to steal their wife, try to shortchange them in some financial deal, or do anything else that may be unfair or harmful to them. Likewise, if we truly love ourselves, we are going to be mindful of what we eat, make sure that we get enough rest, sufficient exercise, etc.

In short, love is truly the all-encompassing Royal Law.

Of course, we all fall short in some of these areas, simply because we are fallible humans who have inherited a sinful nature. This is why we must depend solely upon God's Love and Mercy for our Salvation through our faith in Jesus Christ. So again, as James and John state above, and as I also point out in the article called "The Royal Law: Thou Shalt Love", God's Rules can be encapsulated in just one word: love. Isn't this basically what our parents, our government and other figures in position of authority are supposed to be trying to teach us? The ability to get along in this world rests upon loving each other, and respecting each other's right to live a free, happy, productive life, in accordance with God's Universal Laws.

Sadly, this is where the problem lies. Because of our human imperfections, we often forget, or else we rebelliously and proudly ignore, the "House Rules". This is exactly what is meant by "sin" in the Bible. The Apostle John informs us that sin is breaking -- or transgressing -- God's Laws, as we see by this verse:

"Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law."
1 John 3:4, KJV

For some odd reason, we seem to think that we know better than our Heavenly Father. As we saw earlier, similar to our human father, God is very patient with us. He gives us a lot of leeway, and a lot of time to repent and get back on track. He will try to nudge us and push us by way of the conviction of His Holy Spirit; but ultimately, as I point out in such articles as "Free Will and Personal Choice" and "Beholding The Evil and the Good", we have to make the personal free will decision to do what is right by obeying Him. Of course, sometimes, in His Divine Wisdom, just like our human father, God may allow us to go our own way; even if it means falling flat on our faces. Sometimes experience is the best teacher, but it can also be the hardest one as well.

At this point in time, this is basically where the world is at. Just like a stubborn, rebellious teenager, many people have decided that they want to go their own way. They want to do things their own way. They don't really want to have to submit themselves to any form of authority or control, whether it is Divine Authority, or even human authority. As we discussed earlier in this series, many of the people who control secular governments have likewise chosen this same path. They have deluded themselves into believing that they can do a better job without God looking over their shoulder. They have no respect for Him or His Word, and they want to get rid of both. As King David wrote some three thousand years ago, they wish to throw off God's yoke, as we see by these verses:

"Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us."
Psalms 2:1-3, KJV

So, in order to achieve this objective, in the case of the United States, as we have already seen, they have engaged in a scheme to kick God out of the government, out of the public school system, out of the public avenue, and even in many of the churches, the Gospel has been compromised and perverted. In some instances, true Christianity has been replaced with a counterfeit religion that is replete with pagan beliefs and practices, and secular humanistic ideas. It appears that the only safe place left in which one can truly worship God as he desires, is in the privacy of his own home; and that may very well be what the powers of darkness want.

As we saw earlier, the enemies of our faith want to box us in until our light is totally hidden under a bushel where it can help no one, and where it can offend no one. Short of doing that, they will attempt to pollute and dilute our Christian heritage with so many false religions, and so many false ideas and lies, that people will become totally confused regarding where the real truth lies. The tares will be -- and already are -- so mixed in with the real wheat, that many people have either been deceived by them, left wondering which is the true faith to follow, or else they have rejected all religions in disgust. Either way, they have been denied the Love and Light of God through Jesus Christ.

Returning to an earlier theme of this series, we have seen that whether for good or for evil, governments and leaders can only rule by God's Divine Permission. This includes His Vessels of Wrath and Rods of Chastisement, which He uses to purge and purify His children. Whether on a national level, or on an international level, it does appear that a time of great purging is coming for the world, and for the Lord's Church. Why the Church? Because she is clearly not ready to receive her Bridegroom at this current time. Her garments have been spotted as a result of her compromises with the world. Please note that in the following verses, the word "blameless" is derived from the Greek word "anegkletos", which means to be free from fault and defect or unsullied:

"So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ."

1 Corinthians 1:7-8, KJV

"That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;"

Philippians 2:15, KJV

"Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God. Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without

blemish."

Ephesians 5:21-33, KJV

"I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession; That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ: Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;"

1 Timothy 6:13-15, KJV

"And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

1 Thessalonians 5:23, KJV

"Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless."

2 Peter 3:13-14, KJV

As we discussed earlier, this period of intense tribulation may manifest itself in the form of the oppressive regime of the Beast and the False Prophet. This will occur because so many people have rejected the Light of God's Word, and the Love which He has expressed through the Sacrifice of His own dear Son. We need to remember that, sometimes, God will give people what they ask for; not because it is necessarily good for them, but because that is the only way in which they will learn their lesson. As we read in the Book of Psalms:

"And he gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul."

Psalms 106:15, KJV

Thus, if a large part of the world rejects the one true God, and if they reject the Sacrifice of His dear Son by whom we receive Forgiveness, Redemption and Salvation, then it seems obvious that they have no choice but to accept the false god of this world, who as we saw in part one, is Satan himself.

While we have already discussed the economic aspects of the satanic system which may be on the horizon, let me take a moment to discuss its religious aspects as well. The fact that the Beast will have his very own public relations man in the form of the False Prophet, clearly indicates that there is going to be some religious aspect to his regime. As you may already know, there are a variety of opinions regarding exactly how this will manifest itself. There are quite a few Christians who embrace the view that the Roman Catholic Church will play a major role in the Beast's reign. In fact, they are convinced that a Roman Catholic pope will be the Beast or the False Prophet.

While I have written a few articles where I likewise express my concerns regarding the ecumenical movement which seems to be headed by the Roman Catholic Church -- such as "Modern False Prophets and Worldly Ecumenism" -- nevertheless, I am not convinced at this current time that the aforementioned

view is the proper interpretation of the Scriptures. If we consider the fact that the Scriptures indicate that Endtime prophecy revolves around the State of Israel and the Middle East, it seems to me that an Islamic Empire would better fit the Endtime prophetic picture. This is a topic which I first discussed in my 1997 series entitled "The Seven Heads".

For those of you who may not be familiar with ecumenism, it is a worldwide movement whose goal is to achieve spiritual unity amongst the various religions of the world, regardless of whether or not they are Christian. In my opinion, it is a very dangerous movement, because it is doing exactly what I warned against in previous paragraphs. That is, ecumenism is polluting and diluting our Christian heritage with poisonous beliefs and practices which are derived from false religions which deny the Divinity and Messiahship of Jesus Christ.

Many Christians are convinced that the ecumenical movement -- which is approved and supported by major religious figures around the world, including many prominent American Christian leaders -- amounts to a major step towards the creation of a new One World Religion which will nicely fit into the scheme of the New World Order. As you will know, one of the primary accusations and major complaints that is made by atheists and agnostics and even by people who do embrace some religion -- I include myself in the latter group -- is that so many wars have been fought, and so many millions of people have died, over matters of religion. Ecumenism seeks to resolve this problem by creating a One World Religion which will appeal to, and which will be acceptable to, everyone. In other words, it will be a religion of mutual compromise.

But as you may already realize, there is a major problem with such a hybrid One World Religion; at least for us Christians. The only way that such a deadly mix of world religions could possibly ever work, is if there is no place in it for Jesus Christ; at least not as the only Lord and Savior of all men, as we are clearly taught in the Christian Bible. As I explain in other articles, for a One World Religion to work, as now occurs within the New Age movement, Jesus Christ would have to be demoted to the status of another "avatar" or "ascended master" on the same level as Moses, Confucius, Buddha, etc. He would have to relinquish His title and position as the Son of God and the only Savior of the world. Obviously, that just is not going to happen.

Please go to part five for the conclusion of this series.

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DO YOU WANT LOVE AND LIGHT, OR ROD AND WRATH? : PART 5

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Ecumenism: A Step To Global Power, Satan's Desire To Be God, Blasphemy Of The Beast, Spiritual Darkness Covers The World, From Nimrod And Tower Of Babel To Beast's New World Order, Modern Technology: Precursors To 666 And Mark Of The Beast, Either Submit To God's Authority Or Face Satan's Authority, Damned To The Lake Of Fire And Brimstone, Beast Reigns For 1,260 Days Or 3 1/2 Years, Father Knows Best, Reverential Respect For Our Heavenly Father, Fear And Intimidation Are Ways Of The World, Balance Of Love And Respect, Love Casts Out Fear, God's Desire Is That All Men Be Saved, We Condemn Ourselves When We Reject God's Light And Love, Submit To God's Authority And Choose His Light And Love, John's Vision Of Heavenly City New Jerusalem, Moses Joshua And Jeremiah Confront The Israelites With A Decision, Make Your Decision

While the Beast and the False Prophet may possibly use the ecumenical movement and the concept of a hybrid One World Religion as a mechanism to bring about peace to the world, I suspect that doing so would only be a deception, and a temporary step which they would use to advance their real global agenda. The reason why I say this is simply this: As I explain in such articles as "Satan: His Origin, Purpose and Future", Satan's pride will not allow him to settle for second best. He has considerably higher goals. He does not want to control a hybrid One World Religion. He wants to be the world's one and only religion, as we can determine by the following verses:

"How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High."
Isaiah 14:12-14, KJV

In fact, there are a number of verses that are found in the Bible which reveal that the Satan-inspired Beast will curse and blaspheme against God. This would certainly seem to rule out the notion that he would actually ever be content with just supporting a One World Religion that is headed by the False Prophet. So, again, either he is declared "God", or no one is. Consider the following verses:

"And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time."
Daniel 7:25, KJV

"And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done."

Daniel 11:36, KJV

"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."

Revelation 13:5-6, KJV

"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 . . . And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon."

Revelation 16:13-14, 16, KJV

Some of you will no doubt notice that I did not include the verses that are found in the Apostle Paul's second Epistle to the Thessalonians where the Son of Perdition sits down in the Temple of God and shows that he is "God". The reason for this is quite simple. At this current time, I remain unconvinced that the Son of Perdition and the Beast are one and the same person. For a more detailed explanation, please refer to the article "Who is Who?: Defining Important Endtime Terms" and other articles where I discuss the Jewish false messiah such as "Who is Hindering the Antichrist?".

As I explained in part four, if the world rejects God's Love and Light, then it must be willing to face His Rod and Wrath. This will be revealed in part through Satan's wrath during the coming period of turmoil and tribulation, which is going to cover the world in spiritual darkness when the Beast and the False Prophet reign. Even now, this darkness has already begun to overshadow the world, as these antichrist religions -- the tares -- continue to spread their deception and strong delusion, which they falsely claim to be the light. Some of them -- such as New Age adherents -- even refer to themselves as "lightworkers"! How well the Prophet Isaiah described them when he wrote the following lines:

"Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!"

Isaiah 5:20, KJV

The dark spiritual forces which motivated Nimrod and those who followed him thousands of years ago to construct the Tower of Babel, are the very same forces which are at work today influencing the architects of the New World Order, or the One World Government. Just as the Tower of Babel was an affront to God and challenged His Authority, so too will be the final government of man; that is, the Beast's Kingdom of Darkness. As we saw a moment ago, the Beast will in fact blaspheme against God, and will not accept His Authority.

As a result of their own greed, some of the renegade human governments which currently share the wealth at the pinnacle of Earth's pyramidal power structure, will welcome the Beast with open arms. For years now they have been preparing his

way. As I explain in "Precursors to the 666 and the Mark of the Beast" and related articles, through modern technology such as credit cards, debit cards, smart cards, RFID chips, biometrics and national ID cards, people are slowly being corralled into a situation where they will have no choice but to accept this demon-inspired monster and his absolute system of economic slavery. As we saw earlier, this system will make no distinction between rich and poor. Satan hates mankind, and his ultimate goal is to be god over absolutely everyone, and not just over some people.

As I pointed out earlier, when the bottom falls out of the current global economic system -- possibly through some kind of a global crisis -- the Beast and the False Prophet will be ready to offer their solution, and will implement their own brand of government, which will include the infamous Mark of the Beast, or the 666! As we have seen, people who are strong enough to rebel against this satanic global dictator will face persecution and possibly even death. However, the Bible seems to indicate that the vast majority of Earth's inhabitants will knowingly and willingly accept the Beast's damnable Mark. By so doing, they will seal their fates in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone. By their own rebellious choice, they will have rejected the Word of God through the mouths of His many Prophets.

To reiterate, it is because those rebellious people will have rejected the Authority of the one true God, that they will find themselves under the control and authority of the god of this world -- Satan himself -- and he will be one very cruel taskmaster. Satan has waited a long time for his moment of fame, power and glory when he will have full reign upon the Earth. Thankfully, we know from the Scriptures that his reign will only last for a few short years.

If you are an avid student of prophecy, then you will know that in Daniel and the Book of Revelation, we are told that the Beast stops the Daily Sacrifice in the Temple, sets up the Abomination of Desolation, blasphemes against God, and persecutes the Saints of the Most High God for a period of three and a half Jewish years. For those of you who may not be familiar with it, a Jewish year consists of three hundred and sixty days, and not three hundred and sixty-five days as in our Gregorian Calendar. This period is mentioned in these prophetic books as the following:

1. "forty-two months"
2. "1,260 days"
3. "time and times and the dividing of time" (3 1/2)
4. "time, times, and an half" (3 1/2)

The Prophet Daniel also mentions a 1,290 day period, as well as a 1,335 day period. This latter time span is the same as 44.4 Jewish months at thirty days each, while the 1,290 days equals exactly forty-three Jewish months. Following are the specific verses where these time spans are mentioned in both Daniel and Revelation. I have added a few words in brackets in order to clarify what is being said:

"And he [the Beast] shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into

his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time."
Daniel 7:25, KJV

"And I heard the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and sware by him that liveth for ever that it shall be for a time, times, and an half; and when he [the Beast] shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished."
Daniel 12:7, KJV

"And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days. Blessed is he that waiteth, and cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days."
Daniel 12:11-12, KJV

"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."
Revelation 11:2-3, KJV

"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 . . . 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"
Revelation 12:6, 12, KJV

"And there was given unto him [the Beast] 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."
Revelation 13:5-7, KJV

God could easily stop the events which may soon transpire if He chose to do so, but He won't, at least not at first. As we have already seen, the Lord is waiting for everyone to choose to obey Him out of love, and not out of fear, just as young children should do with their parents. The Lord is waiting for everyone to realize what a mess they are making out of things by their continued insistence on running things their own way, by not acknowledging Him in their lives, and by not yielding themselves to His Authority. The main lesson is simply this: Father knows best, but oh how hard it is for some of us to learn! So it really comes down to whether we want God's Love and Light, or His Rod and Wrath.

While some of the events that I have described in this series sound dreadful, they should not fill us with fear if we love the Lord, and if we are obeying His Word. As I point out in a number of other articles, insofar as His relationship with

His human children is concerned, the kind of fear that our Heavenly Father desires is more like a reverential respect. In contrast, man's entire system is based on intimidation and fear, and it is often used for political purposes, as was the case with the American public being coerced into supporting the foolish and illegal Iraq war. You can learn more about this topic in the series entitled "Obama, McCain and the Bush Legacy".

Most of us have experienced this kind of intimidating fear at one time or another. Allow me to give you a simple example. Even a person who has never committed a crime, or who has never committed any kind of a driving violation, will still feel a tinge of fear or of uncertainty when a police car is in the lane behind them. Why is this? As we saw in part one, the Apostle Paul wrote the following:

"For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil."
Romans 13:3-4, KJV

So as Paul writes, we should not fear the authorities unless we are committing some evil, so why is it that we experience this intimidating fear when we have done nothing wrong? As I said, the children of the world use this to their advantage. Their entire system is based on fear and intimidation, and we can be certain that the Beast and the False Prophet will employ this very same tactic in the years ahead. In fact, as we learned earlier in this series, those people who refuse to accept the Mark of the Beast, and who refuse to worship the image of the Beast, will be persecuted and killed.

In contrast, God desires to have a loving relationship with His creations, and not one that is based on fear. It must be a balanced relationship that combines love and reverential respect. If young children obey their parents simply out of deep fear of retribution, then there is something seriously wrong with that relationship. If this is how some children view their relationship with their parents, or if adults are constantly in fear of their government, is it really any wonder then that so many people view their relationship with God in the very same manner? Sadly, organized religion has done its part to convey this same dreadful image of God. If we truly understand God's deep love for us, then we should have nothing to fear, because His Word tells us that Perfect Love casts out fear, as we see here:

"There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love."
1 John 4:18, KJV

Furthermore, we need to understand that God does not condemn us. As Jesus Himself teaches us in the Gospel of John, we in fact condemn ourselves when we choose to reject His Love, the Light of His Word, and the Forgiveness and Salvation which He freely offers us, as we see by the following verses:

"For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved."

John 3:17-20, KJV

Thus again we see that while God truly desires that all men everywhere be saved, nevertheless, some will reject His Love, and the Light of His Salvation, to the bitter end. They will choose Darkness over the Light; and that is why many people will experience God's Rod and Wrath in the years ahead when the Beast and the False Prophet reign. They will not fully understand God's Love and Mercy, until they have experienced Satan's wrath.

Personally, I think that it is much wiser to submit to God's Authority in our lives, than to face the Wrath to come; but it is a personal decision which each individual must make on their own. In this current age of Grace and Free Will, God will not force anyone to believe if they don't really want to. Looking to the future, we learn that according to the Bible, there will be entire nations living on the surface of the New Earth. There will also be many people living inside the Glorious City of New Jerusalem, which will descend from Heaven to the Earth. This is clearly described in the final chapters of the Bible, as we see by the following verses:

"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 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."

Revelation 21:2, 24-27, KJV

What an inspiring look at the future of God's saved children! You can learn more about this wonderful city in Revelation chapters twenty-one and twenty-two.

If you are one who has not yet repented of your sins, and received Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, I hope that you understand the opportunity that is now before you. In His great Divine Love, God is throwing a lifeline to you; but it is one which will give you real life, Eternal Life. Choosing between God and Satan is the most important decision that you will ever make; because it is not just a temporal decision, but rather an eternal one. In the Book of Deuteronomy, we find the Prophet Moses presenting the children of Israel with the following important decision:

"Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse; A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you this day: And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known."
Deuteronomy 11:26-28, KJV

Many years later, and just prior to his own death, Joshua -- the son of Nun who was Moses' successor -- also brought the children of Israel to a point of decision when he said the following to them:

"Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD. And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."
Joshua 24:14-15, KJV

Clearly, just like Moses before him, Joshua was giving the Israelites a choice. They could either be God's good wheat, or they could become a part of the tares by worshipping the false gods of the heathen nations around them. About eight hundred years later, the Lord used the Prophet Jeremiah to again bring the children of Israel to an important decision when He presented the paths of life and death before them, as we see by this verse:

"And unto this people thou shalt say, Thus saith the LORD; Behold, I set before you the way of life, and the way of death."
Jeremiah 21:8, KJV

As I briefly mentioned in part one, it was during Jeremiah's lifetime that Jerusalem fell to the forces of Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar, and the Temple of Solomon was destroyed. This destruction was repeated again about six hundred and fifty years later, because the Jews still had not learned their lesson. Today, not quite two thousand years later, humanity is also faced with an important decision. Many nations and individuals are reaching a crossroad. They cannot continue business as usual. They are running out of time. God has His own timetable for Planet Earth, and He won't allow it to be delayed due to humanity's foolishness or procrastination.

So which one will you choose? Love, Light and Eternal Life, or the Rod of Chastisement, God's Wrath and the Second Death? I truly hope that you will humble yourself before God, submit to His Authority in your life, and choose Jesus and live, if you haven't already done so. He alone can save you. He alone can change your heart of stone into a heart of flesh and help you to love God and your fellow man as you should. The Lord patiently waits on you to make the right decision. The choice is yours. Please choose God's Love and Light, and not His Rod and Wrath.

With these words I will bring this series to its conclusion. I pray that you have found it informative, and that it has

been a blessing in your life. If you have been blessed by it, I encourage you to share its URL link with all of your online friends. Also, if you have an account with Facebook, Twitter or Google+, I would very much appreciate if you would take the time to click on the corresponding link that is found on this page. Thanks so much, and may God bless you as you obey His Will for your life!

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