



*"Blow ye the trumpet in Zion,  
and sound an alarm in my holy  
mountain: let all the inhabitants  
of the land tremble: for the day  
of the LORD cometh, for it is  
nigh at hand;" Joel 2:1*

*July 2012*

## **God is Sovereign**

Oh, how I wish that I could adequately set forth the glory of the One who is worthy to be the object of our worship!

I do believe that if our new converts - the babes in Christ - could be made to see His thousand attributes and even partially comprehend His being, they would become faint with a yearning desire to worship and honor and acknowledge Him, now and forever!

I know that many discouraged Christians do not truly believe in God's sovereignty.

In that case, we are not filling our role as the humble and trusting followers of God and His Christ. And yet, that is why Christ came into our world.

The old theologians called it "theanthropism" - the union of the divine and human natures in Christ. This is a great mystery and I stand in awe before it!

The theanthropy is the mystery of God and man united in one Person-not two persons but two natures. So, the nature of God and the nature of man are united in this One who is our Lord Jesus Christ!

**A.W. Tozer (1897-1963)**

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# *Sound the Trumpet!*

- Section 1 -

## **JUDGEMENT IS NEAR**

For 120 years Noah warned the world around him of the coming judgment of God, because of their sin and wickedness. No doubt, after years of warning, the people around Noah began to deride him. I can almost hear them saying, "Noah you're a crazy old man, we have never even seen a drop of rain. What's a flood?"

Then one day the sky grew dark and the black clouds began to scud across the horizon. Noah doubtless, cried even louder, "Judgment is near." The cries of Noah went unheeded and the rains came down and the floods came up and the judgment of God carried them all to a

watery grave.

The judgment of God has been threatening our world for some time now. The rebellion and sin and wickedness of men have been mushrooming all around the world in recent days. The words of Psalm 2: 1-3 are, in a special sense, being fulfilled right now in our world. "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 break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us."

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### **TODAY THERE IS A UNIQUE AND TREMENDOUS OPEN REBELLION AGAINST GOD AND HIS WORD.**

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Whatever God commands, men rebel against, and whatever God restricts from men, men plunge into with reckless abandon. Today so many are brazenly defiant of God!

What we read about Noah's day, we see in our world today; "And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually" (Genesis 6:5). That is true of the present hour.

Last month we talked about a convergence of perfect storms which give us a warning of disaster on the near horizon. We may sound like a broken record, however, in the light of that which is about to happen to our world the warning needs to be sounded loud and clear and it needs to be sounded over and over again. Judgment is coming. The Day of the Lord is at hand. Jesus is coming.

The Word of God is filled with warnings of this now impending "Day of the Lord." The scripture has long been pointing to this awesome, fearful day. Listen to some of those warnings from scripture.

Matthew 24:21; "For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be."

Jeremiah 30:7; "Alas! For that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble, but he shall be saved out of it."

Zephaniah 1:15; "That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness."

Isaiah 2:19; "And they shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth."

All of history has been pointing to this day. The flood of Noah's day prefigured it and we are now standing on its threshold. John told of the same yet future day in Revelation 6:15-16; "And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb."

The Bible tells us much about this terrible day. Early in the tribulation period one quarter of the earth's population will die in the judgments that fall.

By Revelation 9:15 another one third will be killed which will mean a total of over half of the population dead. After the bowl judgments probably two thirds of the earth's people will be dead. If the Bible teaches that, and it does, do you think we should warn men and women of what lies ahead? The Lord through Ezekiel commanded us to do so; "Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me. When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand" (Ezekiel 3:17-18).

There are those who tell me I keep harping on the same thing month after month; however, like Noah I have one all consuming message: judgment is coming; it's time to repent and be saved. Ezekiel said; "...Blow the trumpet and warn the people."

Jesus said in Matthew 24:22; "And except those days should be shortened,

there should no flesh be saved....." Does that help you to understand this awful soon coming time? Actually seven years after the trumpet sounds and the sheep and the goat judgment takes place, there will not be a living unbeliever alive on the face of the earth. Notice what Paul said comes with the tribulation period, "Then sudden destruction cometh upon them.....and they shall not escape."

If only the world would realize and understand what awaits it! Believers have the light of God's Word and they have the Holy Spirit to enlighten them. "But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness" (1 Thessalonians 5:4-5). The problem is that unbelievers are in darkness. Verses 6-7 reveal this, "Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night."

The contrast is that the believer is in the light, he is awake and he is sober. The unbeliever is in the dark, he is asleep spiritually and he is as if drunk. That is our world today; that is why it is so hard to get this message through to the unsaved.

Understand what awaits the world after the trumpet sounds. One second after the trumpet sounds there will not be a single believer on earth. No salt to resist corruption, no light to dispel darkness. When the church is raptured out of the world the restraining ministry of the Holy Spirit will be terminated; then evil will be unrestrained.

2 Thessalonians 2:7; "For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he (the Holy Spirit) who now letteth (restraineth) will let, (restrain) until he be taken out of the way." The Holy Spirit will still be in the world to draw men to Christ, but his ministry of restraining evil will be terminated.

If you think evil is bad in the world now, you haven't seen anything yet! This earth will become a living hell when the Day of the Lord begins.

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## WHAT IS GOD'S PURPOSE FOR THE TRIBULATION PERIOD?

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God has a purpose in everything He does. We see at least four major purposes of God in the soon coming

Tribulation Period, also known as the Day of the Lord.

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### I. TO PUNISH SINNERS AND REMOVE THEM FROM THE EARTH

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The flood was a pattern or a type of the Tribulation Period. "But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." All but Noah and the other seven members of his family were removed from the earth; probably several billion people, only those who believed God remained.

We repeat what Isaiah said in Isaiah 13:9; "Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce

anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it." That is what God says; it is pretty clear and quite specific. God hates sin and God hates the sins unbelief and disobedience. Scripture says that "God is angry with the wicked every day." The Psalmist says, "Ye that love the Lord, hate evil..." To love men and women is to warn them of the consequences of their sin.

Isaiah 13:11 further describes that coming day; "And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible." Verse 13 says; "Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the wrath of the LORD of hosts, and in the day of his fierce anger."

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### II. TO BRING ABOUT A WORLD WIDE REVIVAL

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Speaking of the tribulation period Jesus said; "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).

The Lord will raise up 144,000 apostle Paul's who will preach the gospel to the whole world.

- A great multitude will be saved and be martyred. We can look into heaven and see this throng; "After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds,

and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb" (Revelation 7:9-10).

These are a special group of saints, not of the church and not of Israel. We see their eternal reward and their eternal position in verse 15; "Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day

and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them."

- Another great multitude of gentiles will be saved who will survive the tribulation and go into the Millennial Kingdom in their natural bodies to populate the kingdom and reproduce.

These will not be a part of the church or a part of the nation of Israel. Matthew 25:31-34; "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."

Look what happened to the few unsaved gentiles who survived the tribulation, verse 41; "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."

### III. TO REDEEM ISRAEL

During the tribulation period the Lord will separate believing Israel from unbelieving Israel. Today Israel is in unbelief and this process will take place as some Jews are saved and some reject the gospel. Zechariah 13:8-9; "And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein. And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall

call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God."

We read about that wonderful time of Israel's salvation in Zechariah 12:10; "And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn."

God will work on Israel during the tribulation period to bring them to the end of themselves. He will put their backs to the wall and they will behold their Saviour and recognize Him as Messiah. That process has actually already begun and it will consummate with the salvation of every living Jew at the end of the tribulation. Romans 11:26; "And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob."

### IV. TO JUDGE AND DESTROY APOSTATE RELIGION

All down through the church age there has been apostate Christianity, which claims to represent Christ. In fact it is that which opposes and attacks the true church.

Apostate Christianity has always been a problem for the church. When the true church is taken out of the world apostate Christianity will explode in growth and fill the whole earth. At the mid-tribulation point God is going to judge apostate Christianity and destroy it. It is called the harlot church and we see it and its great expansion in Revelation 17:15; "And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues."

In verses 16-17 we see God using antichrist to utterly destroy counterfeit Christianity at the mid-tribulation point; "And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire. For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and

give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled."

Satan has been rebelling against God for 6,000 years. Every time he strikes a blow at God, he discovers God turns it to His own glory and to His own purpose.

All of the prospects of the coming tribulation period ought to help us to gain a right perspective.

- 1) On the poor unsaved around us.
- 2) On God's hatred for sin.
- 3) On God's grand and glorious purposes that are soon to unfold.

During WW11 a US aircraft ditched in the Pacific Ocean, many of the crew drowned, but five managed to scramble onto a life raft. They drifted for twelve days in the burning sun, their skin was scorched by the sun and their rations were exhausted. Their lips were cracked, their tongues were swollen and they shrank into living skeletons. Two went mad and leaped overboard.

Another died quietly in the night and they rolled his body overboard.

There were two left, when the rescue vessel found the raft only one was alive. The survivor wept as he told the story of his companion's death. He said, "The night before you found me it rained, the raft caught a pail of fresh water. I tried to give some to my buddy; it would have saved his life. He fought me; he thought I was trying to poison him with sea water."

My unsaved friend that is a picture of your condition, Christ died to save you and He is desperately reaching out to you. He is offering you salvation full and free but you think He is trying to poison you. You are turning away from the water of life and you will die and go to hell forever. Come to Christ in repentance and faith right now before it is forever too late.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

Art Sadlier

## ISRAEL'S POSITION DETERIORATES FURTHER

For several years now we have been reporting on Israel's deteriorating situation. Each time we thought the situation for Israel was as desperate as it could get. No sooner had we suggested that, than the situation did get worse. Again today we say that Israel's situation seems to have reached an all time low with regard to

her apparent survival, at least from a human perspective. The sudden rise to power of the Muslim Brotherhood in the Mideast is the reason for this concern.

Apparently both Russia and Israel share this concern about the advancement of radical fundamentalist states in the Mideast.

The following is a quote from a Debkafile news report on this subject.

"The Russian and Israeli leaders will find common ground: Both are concerned, to put it mildly, by the chain of Muslim Brotherhood governments rolling out along Middle East shores – Libya, last year; Egypt, yesterday; and Syria tomorrow. In their view, this



process is a menace to regional stability which rivals even that of a nuclear-armed Iran." The additional fear is that Jordan will soon succumb to the Muslim Brotherhood as well.

The report continues: "Putin counts US President Barack Obama's sponsorship of Muslim Brotherhood power as a strategic threat to Russian national security because it could be the match which lights the flame of radical Islam in the Caucasus and among the Russian Muslim populations of the Volga River valleys." That is why Putin is supporting Bashar Assad in Syria; he fears a militant Islamic state in Syria. Apparently, Iran has agreed not to export radical Islam to Russia.

Debkafle continues: "In the past year, since a new regime took power in Tripoli, the strategic peninsula has been transformed into a major smuggling Eden for the distribution of contraband arms and infiltrating Islamist terrorists, including Muslim Brotherhood adherents, into the Hamas-ruled the Gaza Strip and onward to other countries in the region.

For Putin the math is simple: If Libyan Islamists can travel 1,360 kilometers to reach Israel's borders without anyone

stopping them, why not 2,558 kilometers to the Russian Caucasian?"

It seems Israel is now about to have another Islamic fundamentalist state like Iran in Egypt, possibly another in Syria and another in Jordan. It is not hard to see a mastermind behind these developments; the same Satan that hates Israel and has long sought to destroy her.

Obama and his administration have worked openly and effectively to bring the Muslim Brotherhood to power in Egypt, knowing full well that it could mean the demise of Israel.

When it was announced that Muslim Brotherhood candidate Mohamed Morsi had been elected President, his campaign manager announced that: "Our capital shall not be Cairo, Mecca or Medina, it shall be Jerusalem." This was a repeat of a statement Morsi had made during the campaign.

In a Chilling Speech after his election, "The Egyptian President promises to ignore the Egyptian constitution for the sake of sharia." He stated, "Mohammed is our leader and the Koran is our constitution. Jihad is our path; death for the sake of Allah is our most glorious aspiration. Above all Allah is our God. Regardless of the text of the

constitution, the text will truly reflect the sharia".

It seems obvious that Egypt is on its way to becoming like Khomeini's Iran.

After the election results were announced Obama was one of the first to phone Morsi and congratulate him. At the same time, Hamas in Gaza were wildly celebrating the Brotherhood's victory; this is the same Brotherhood that established Hamas in the first place. They established Hamas for the sole purpose of destroying Israel. Now Hamas will have a powerful supporting ally in the new Egypt.

Obama has worked effectively to prevent an Israeli attack on Iran. Obama has also worked to make Saudi Arabia vulnerable to the Arab spring and its resulting destabilization. This would mean another Iran like Islamic Fundamentalist state. The Saudi's are now well aware of this betrayal by Obama.

In a recent meeting between Putin and Netanyahu both men seem to be looking for a way out of Washington's move to shape the Mideast into one large Islamic Fundamentalist block. It would be ironic if Israel had to look to Moscow to help blunt American Mideast policy.

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#### SEVERAL THINGS SEEM TO BE CERTAIN:

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**First.** The idea of an Islamic democracy is an impossibility Islam and democracy are a contradiction. Only those who are blinded or have an ulterior motive would suggest such nonsense. Yet this is the suggested motive behind America's actions, White House press secretary Jay Carney in a statement called the Islamist's election a "milestone" in Egyptians' transition to democracy. The whole western media has expressed jubilation over the prospect of democracy in Mideast Arab states.

**Second.** The idea that Islamic Fundamentalism will somehow be the friend of America is also absurd. Look at what happened in Iran after America aided the Islamic revolution. Islam hates America; it stands in the way of a world-wide Islamic Caliphate. Islamic fundamentalists have always called America the great Satan.

Is the present leader of America just foolish or does he have a desire to build Islam at Israel's expense and at America's expense. It is becoming increasingly obvious that we have a Muslim in the White House? I believe

we can see the hand of Satan masterminding events in the Mideast. Meanwhile the Israeli Prime Minister keeps on smiling to Obama while grinding his teeth over the security avalanche Obama has set in motion at Israel's front and back doors and wracking his brains for a plan of cooperation with Moscow to arrest the slide.

Israel has already had a foretaste of the trouble to come from Cairo. It bounced all the way from Libya's Islamist regime to land this month with a sinister bang across the Egyptian Sinai border with southern Israel.

We have long believed that Israel's God is working to put Israel's back to the wall to ultimately bring her to himself. In each of Israel's previous three major modern day wars it is apparent that the Lord of Israel has placed Israel in hard places only to rescue her and say to her, Israel, I am your God, Israel, I love you and I will protect and bless you if only you will turn to me, believe me and trust me. It

is only God that can and will ultimately deliver Israel.

We can see the prophetic plan of God unfolding but only the God of Israel knows the timing of the Day of the Lord. We can see that it is near, even at the doors. Judgment is near at hand!

Blindness and deception seem to be the watch words of the hour. Blindness and deception clouds the present world of politics and diplomacy. Blindness and deception clouds the present economic and monetary crisis our world is facing. Blindness and deception clouds the religious scene today and it also clouds much of the evangelical church. Jeremiah 5:21 describes the present hour; "Hear now this, O foolish people, and without **understanding**; which have eyes, and see not; which have ears, and hear not."

The gods of our society are **things, pleasure and sensuality**. The Psalmist described our society when he said; "...there is no fear of God before his eyes." They can defy God and trample on His Word and never give it a second thought. The smell of sulphur

is permeating this wicked society as the fire of God's wrath hangs over it. My heart cries out with Jeremiah when he said; "Oh that my head were waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people!" The man that warns and weeps is the man who cares.

God is a God of great love and great mercy and He is longsuffering but He hates sin and disobedience and rebellion, His mercy has a limit. When the line of the limit of God's mercy and longsuffering is crossed His judgment falls. Israel had crossed that line in Jeremiah's day and the Lord said to Jeremiah; "Therefore pray not thou for this people, neither lift up cry nor

*prayer for them, neither make intercession to me: for I will not hear thee" (Jeremiah 7:16).*

Today our society is near that line, when that line is crossed the judgment of God will fall and the Day of the Lord will begin. Art Sadlier

## BEHOLD THE BRIDEGROOM COMETH

In the upper room Jesus had been warning His disciples of His pending death and departure. They understood enough of what He said to cause them to despair. In a few hours He would be dead on a cross, and the disciples despair would be complete.

In order to calm their troubled hearts Jesus made some promises to them. "Let not your heart be troubled: ye

*believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also" (John 14:1-3).*

It was a promise to all believers. It has been ringing in the ears and hearts of

all believers down over the long centuries. We in our 21st century culture do not catch the significance of these three verses.

In verse three Jesus was making an analogy with the Jewish marriage custom of that day. In order to fully understand these verses we need to understand Jewish marriage customs of the time.

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### STEP #1 – THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MARRIAGE COVENANT

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There was first the betrothal, also called the espousal or engagement. The groom would leave his father's house and travel to the home of his prospective bride. The groom would negotiate with the bride's father concerning two matters.

**A** – He would ask her hand in marriage. She would be consulted by her father and a decision would be made.

**B** – The purchase price of the bride would be negotiated. Jewish young men had to buy their wives. The money would normally be held by the father in case anything happened to the marriage. It would be a fund to guarantee her future. The payment of the purchase price would establish the Marriage Covenant and obtain the young lady as his wife. Now they would be regarded as husband and wife.

We have an analogy in 1 Peter 1:18-19; "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot." The Jewish bride was a picture of the bride of Christ.

Redeemed means purchased, we have been purchased as the bride of Christ.

When the price was paid and the covenant established, the bride and groom would take a cup of wine and drink from it. Once they had partaken of that cup the bride was officially

sanctified. This meant that she was now set apart as belonging to her groom and no other. No other young man could lay claim to this young woman.

Again we have an analogy of the bride of Christ; "Would to God ye could bear with me a little in my folly: and indeed bear with me. For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ" (2 Corinthians 11:1-2).

Paul pictures salvation as being espoused to Christ as His bride. The relationship of the Christian to Christ is a love relationship based on the price that was paid. Ephesians 5:25; "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it."

The believer receives the righteousness of Christ as his or her garment. The poet says.

The bride eyes not her garment,  
But her dear bridegrooms face,  
I will not gaze at glory,  
But on my king of grace;  
Not at the crown He giveth,  
But on His pierced hand,  
The lamb is all the glory  
of Emmanuel's land.

May I respectfully ask you, is your heart burning with love for Christ? Or have you lost your burning white hot love for Christ?

Paul Said; "Let a man examine himself to see if he be in the faith?" That's the other possibility, if your heart does not burn with love for Christ, perhaps you have never truly been saved?

After the Marriage Covenant had been established and the ritual completed the bride and groom did not begin to live together at this point. The groom would leave and return to the father's house. They would remain separated from each other for approximately one year.

During that year of separation the groom would be busily engaged in his father's house preparing an apartment to which he could bring his bride.

Remember the words of Jesus; "I go to prepare a place for you." We as believers today are living in the time of separation. The bride groom is now preparing a place for us in the Father's house.

At the end of the year of espousal (engagement) on an unannounced night, unknown to the bride, the groom would call to himself his best man and his friends. Those young men would begin a torch light procession through the streets of the city. This procession would be from the father's house to the home of the bride. He was coming to take his bride to be with him in the father's house.

As the procession weaved through the streets bystanders would realize what was happening. They would begin to

follow and shout over and over again, "Behold the bridegroom comes." Eventually the shouts would be heard at the bride's home. The purpose of the

shouts was to warn the bride that she had better get herself ready in a hurry. Her groom was on his way and tonight was the night her marriage would be

completed. Actually she would be living in a state of constant readiness.

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MY FRIEND I AM TELLING YOU THAT THE BRIDEGROOM IS COMING! THE COMING OF THE LORD IS NEAR!

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Jesus said in Matthew 24; "Of that day and that hour knoweth no man." But if you look closely Jesus said in the preceding verse there will be a generation that can, "know that it is near, even at the very doors."

We are that generation and I believe the scriptures make that clear. Are you ready for the trumpet to sound?

When the bridegroom arrived outside the home he would not enter the home. He would wait outside the home until the bride came out and the enlarged group would have a return torchlight procession back to the father's house. The analogy is very clear, verse 3 says; "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

We also see the parallel in 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."

When the wedding party arrived back at the father's house they would find the wedding guests had already assembled there.

In the privacy of the bridal chamber the marriage would be consummated. The

guests would remain there for seven days. We have the parallel in the seven years the church is in heaven after the rapture. "Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God" (Revelation 19:7-9). Are you a part of the bride of Christ? Are you saved? If you are then you are a part of the bride of Christ.

During that seven day period (a type of the seven years the church is in heaven prior to Christ's second coming) the bridegroom would leave the bride hidden in the bridal chamber until the seventh day of the wedding feast.

You cannot help but see the analogy Jesus drew in John 14:1-3. Over 1900 years ago Jesus Christ, the divine bridegroom, left His Father's house and came to earth to pay the price to purchase a bride for Himself. At that time He established a covenant for His bride. That marriage covenant Jesus established is called the New Covenant. Remember what Jesus said that same night, at the first communion service, as he passed the cup of wine to His

disciples; "This is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many."

Jesus was saying, tomorrow when I shed my blood on the cross I will establish the "New Covenant" through which I will obtain my bride, the church. The purchase price was His blood! Paul said in 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; "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."

Just as the Jewish bride and groom drank the cup of wine to unite them together as one, so Christ has given to His bride (the church) the cup of communion as a symbol to remind the bride that she is united to Christ as His bride and she belongs to Him.

Just as the Jewish bride, after drinking the cup was officially declared to be sanctified, set apart to her bridegroom. So the church is set apart officially as being separated only to Christ. Believer you belong to Jesus Christ and to **no one else or nothing else**. "You are not your own, you are bought with a price." No one else and nothing else has rightful claim upon his bride, the church. He alone owns the church, she belongs to totally Him. God help the man who usurps ownership of the church!

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BELIEVER, YOU BELONG TO CHRIST, DON'T GIVE YOUR HEART TO ANYONE OR ANYTHING ELSE.

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The analogy continues: The Jewish bridegroom left his bride after the covenant price had been paid. He then returned to the father's house and left his bride alone in her home. The Lord Jesus, fifty days after He paid the price and established the New Covenant through which He obtained His bride, the church. He also left the home of his bride and returned to His Father's house in heaven. And He has been gone ever since. You and I the bride of Christ of Christ are now living in a period of separation.

The analogy continues: Just as the Jewish bridegroom came at the end of the period of separation and took his

bride back to the father's house to live with him. So also the word of God makes it very clear, that Jesus at the end of the present period of separation in which we are now living will come for His bride. Christ will come to the clouds of the sky and wait for His bride to come out of her earthly home. Then she will accompany Christ the bridegroom to the Father's house.

The analogy continues: Just as the Jewish bridegroom kept his bride hidden for seven days in the bridal chamber; so also for seven years the Lord will keep His bride hidden in heaven from earth's view. She will be hidden while the seven years of

tribulation takes place down here on earth. She will be hidden with Jesus in the Father's house in heaven.

While the true bride of Christ is hidden in heaven, God will be working on earth in three areas.

1. Judging the nations.
2. Judging counterfeit religions.
3. Judging and chastening Israel.

When the seven years are finished, the Lord will bring His bride out of the bridal chamber of heaven for all to see her. This time in His second coming He comes all the way down to the earth to establish God's kingdom rule on the earth.



- *“Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God” (Revelation 19:7-9).*
- *“And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war” verse 11.*
- *“And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean” verse 13-14.*

Now the bride will be put on full display for everyone on planet earth to see. All will see her in her wedding garments, clean and white. All will finally see who the true church is.

This is the beautiful analogy that Jesus was inferring to His disciples that night in the upper room.

But what does this mean to us right now? Does this analogy have anything of practical application to us? Yes it does! In fact this analogy has something to say to both believers and unbelievers.

If you have never personally faced your sins and taken Christ to be your only Saviour from sin, listen to what this analogy has to say to you. Do you understand that every time the gospel is preached to you that Jesus Christ is making a proposal to you? Here is the essence of what Christ is saying to you.

I Jesus want to take you sinner to be a part of my lawfully wedded bride, the church, and I do promise and covenant before God and these witnesses to be your faithful and loving Saviour.”

Just as the Jewish girl could accept or reject the proposal of marriage made to her, so you also, as an unsaved person can either accept or reject the proposal that Christ makes to you through the gospel. If you reject that proposal and you continue to reject to the time of your death, you will pass out of this life without a saviour. You will pass into an eternal hell with no forgiveness of sins. You will be forever conscious that you rejected the eternal life that was freely offered you.

However if you respond in simple faith to the proposition of the gospel, God will grant you full forgiveness of all your sins, past, present and future. Will you respond to God’s invitation to be born again?

This analogy has something significant to say to those who are believers. Sometimes during the year of separation between the bride and groom the bride would become unfaithful. She would enter into a relationship with another man.

The Analogy: There is a warning to believers who have been espoused to Christ, during this time of separation from Christ, while we are waiting for Him to come and take us to be with Him. We are warned not to be unfaithful to the lord Jesus. To be unfaithful is to be guilty of spiritual adultery.

Paul expresses this concern in 2 Corinthians 11:2; *“For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy.....”* Why Paul? *“for I have espoused you to one husband,”* Paul goes on to say that when he came and preached the gospel to them they took Christ and became a part of the bride of Christ. Paul goes on to express his concern for them; *“that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.”*

Now that you are married to Christ keep yourselves spiritually pure until Christ comes. Remain totally devoted to Him. Don’t give yourselves to anyone else or anything else. We need to be pure, spiritual virgins, pleasing to Him when He comes.

*“Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God” (James 4:4).*

Question, would you be satisfied with a wife who is faithful 95% of the time? The Lord requires and desires the same from you. Art Sadler

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## SUMMARY OF THE NEWS

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**USA** – The sharing of intelligence data between the US and Israel is diminishing as the US administration is yielding to pressure from Turkey. The US is bringing Turkey into the loop while Israel is being cut out.

One news commentator stated; “The Obama Administration is making clear that it does not want to be seen as Israel’s partner in regional affairs. Despite Israel’s status as a Major Non-NATO ally, a NATO ‘partner’ country, and a member of NATO’s Mediterranean Dialogue, Turkey is

increasingly insistent that Israel be isolated and cut out.”

The news item continued; *“This surrender to Turkey; which Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan has for years been aggressively making ever more fundamentalist; coincides nicely with the Administration’s increasingly open courtship of Turkey’s Islamist-leaning and virulently anti-Israel Prime Minister and what appears to be the desire of the Administration to enhance security relations in the Arab-Muslim world as it dials back visible cooperation with Israel.”*

The distancing of the US from Israel’s security will raise hopes and expectations that Israel’s enemies will be able to threaten Israel without concern that the US or NATO will intervene on Israel’s behalf. This is just another step away from Israel by Obama.

The above is a foretaste of what lies in store for Israel if Obama is re-elected. Obama will be able to throw caution to the winds.

It is evident that America’s credibility is so low in the Mideast that America is

now finished as factor in Mideast peace negotiations. The scriptures make it clear that it will not be an American leader who negotiates the coming false Mideast peace but rather the coming European dictator.

**EU** - We are watching the struggle in Europe that will ultimately refashion Europe into the ten nation revived Roman Empire. The stage is being set for the appearance of the coming Roman dictator known as antichrist. When he comes upon the stage he will forcefully take control and establish his ten nation confederacy.

**Daniel 7:24;** "And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings."

**Revelation 17:12;** "And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast."

It is breathtaking to realize we are watching the tribulation period being setup before our eyes.

**I**srael - No matter which way you look, the pressure is being increased on Israel. Iran is advancing unchecked toward her goal of obtaining nuclear weapons to burn Israel to a crisp. America has single handily frustrated Israeli determination to stop Iran; it now may be too late.

Fundamentalist states are continuing to encircle Israel even as America, Russia and Iran continue to pour arms into the Israeli neighbouring states.

**Syria, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Jordan** - The situation in Syria looks more and more like civil war with Assad's survival very much in doubt. At the same time the Turkish army is mobilizing on the Syrian border. The Saudi forces are poised to enter into Jordan to protect Jordan's King Abdullah and are assembling on the Syrian border. Russian has sent ships to the Mediterranean coast of Syria to protect her naval base at Tartus. The US and Israel are very concerned that Syria's massive supplies of chemical and biological weapons do not fall into the hands of terrorists such as al Qaeda and others and they are contemplating intervention if necessary.

**Iran** - On July first the EU oil embargo against Iran took effect. It blocks the

sale to European Union members of 1 million, or one third, of Iran's daily output of 3.3 million barrels a day. EU insurance firms, the biggest in the world, henceforth withhold cover from governments and firms operating tankers which carry Iranian oil.

Tehran has repeatedly threatened to treat an oil embargo as an act of war and close the strategic Strait of Hormuz to Gulf shipping in response. Tensions are running high as the US and Gulf States are on alert for actions by Iran. The US arms buildup in the Gulf area has reached gigantic proportions. Some have suggested that if Obama feels the election slipping away he may attack Iran to become a war hero, which Americans have never been able to resist electing.

Two days before the oil embargo went into effect, Saudi Arabia and the UAE activated two extra oil pipelines bypassing Hormuz and providing alternative routes for their oil to continue to flow to export markets if the Straits are blocked.

In a late breaking Debkafile report we are told that Saudi Arabia are purchasing nuclear capable missiles from China and they already have a commitment from Pakistan to purchase nuclear warheads.

In another late report Iran has warned Turkey if they enter Syria it will be to their peril.

The whole Middle East is boiling with potential major conflict.

**O**n the world stage - The collapse of the global economy is being sounded from a thousand different sources. There is a daily drumbeat of warnings from scores of financial analysts, all declaring that an economic collapse is inevitable. They document mountains of evidence to prove their point but no one hears what they do not want to hear. Many believe that this coming collapse has been carefully engineered. The globalists realize that they must tear down the old order before the new world order can be implemented.

At the same time the steady drive toward world government continues. The following is a chapter of a report to the UN titled, Sustainable Development for a New World Order. This was presented in the 1990's and is a part of

an environmental blueprint for a world government.

*["The debate has been prompted by evidence that the survival of the planet is in doubt. The issues are not about if a global politics is necessary. The question is, how do we achieve binding agreements in Law complete with effective programs for applying sanctions against non-compliance that would oblige each nation, regardless of size, to abide by a set of principles that are required to guarantee the survival of life on this earth. Perhaps we will find that there is no other alternative to a system of rigid controls that some would equate to a police state. Unfortunately, in order to save the planet from biocide, there have to be very powerful constraints from doing the 'wrong' things. The constraints must transcend national boundaries, be world-around and enforceable. There would be a need for an agency for preventing eco-vandals from acting unilaterally."] That would be a totalitarian socialist state.*

This is just one of many agencies and groups which are working toward world government from many different perspectives. Some are working with the desire to establish world peace which they believe can come only through world government. Some are working to establish a world economy which they believe will bring prosperity to the whole world; this would be a form of socialism. Some believe that totalitarianism must replace democracy in order to bring a consensus to the new world, everyone must be moving in the same direction. They believe that democratic nation states can never achieve that.

One secular commentator stated the following: "We will either see the end of democracy and total global unification to maintain the status quo sold to us as the only way to return to the previous living standards in the developed world - Or - The entire system collapses taking us back to the dark ages from which will arise very quickly a solution, which will be the end of democracy and total global unification sold for the same reasons as above because European integration won't go far enough to provide long term stability."

Art Sadlier