



*"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

November 2013

IN THE BEGINNING ...

None of us can approach a consideration of the eternal nature and Person of Jesus Christ without sensing and confessing our human inadequacy in the face of the divine revelation.

John, in his gospel, provides a beautiful portrait of the eternal Christ, starting with those stark, incredible words: "In the beginning!"

My brethren; that is where we start with the understanding and the revelation of Christianity! Many others have made a variety of claims but only our Christ is the Christ of God.

Certainly it was not Buddha and not Mohammed; not Joseph Smith, not Mrs. Eddy and not Father Divine! All of these and countless others like them had beginnings - but they all had their endings, too.

What an incredible difference! Our Christian life commences with the eternal Son of God. This is our Lord Jesus Christ: the Word who was with the Father in the beginning; the Word who was God; and the Word who is God!

This is the only one who can assure us: "No man cometh unto the Father, but by Me!"

A.W. Tozer (1897-1963)

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Sound the Trumpet!

- Section 1 -

Meditation vs. Blanking the Mind What is Biblical meditation?

"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" (Romans 12:2).

In this verse we see two options; be **conformed** (to the world) or be **transformed** (into the image of Christ).

The key phrase is, "By the renewing of your mind." It is through our minds that we are influenced and our actions are changed and our life is changed. The mind is a part of the soul and is the gateway to the soul. Blanking the mind lets down the guard and leaves the gate to the soul wide open.

In this world we are bombarded constantly with the information that flows into our minds. Much of this material is an attempt to conform us to the world and it comes through the mind. I repeat; the mind is the gateway to the soul.

The Lord has given us a process by which we can be conformed to the image of Christ. That process is meditation on the Word of God which feeds the things of God into our minds and brings about the transformation of our lives.

We have that process in Joshua 1:8, "This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success."

Meditation as revealed here involves the reading the Word of God, to think upon it constantly and to respond to it in obedience. The result is spiritual prosperity and success. You can't know God apart from His Word, you can know about God by observing His handiwork in creation and handiwork in the lives of His people. But you can't know God apart from His Word.

Let me pause to expand on this a little. Obeying God's Word is the only way to know God. John makes this plain in John 14:26, "Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my

words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him." That is the biblical formula for knowing God. This formula, as found in the above verse, includes the truth that we know God through Jesus Christ. Verse 6, "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." Verse 11 emphasizes this truth, "Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake."

Bible meditation enables men and women to come to know God by the meditation on His Word. In Bible meditation there is a two way communion, we listen to God speak through His Word, we meditate or think upon it and we respond to God in prayer. Bible meditation results in coming to know God better. Bible meditation is not passive it is active.

Our minds are our connection to the world around us. Our social relationships with our family and friends and associates are based on their input into our minds. Our joys and sorrows in this world come to us through input into our minds. Our tensions and anxieties, our guilt and fears are all based on that which is resident in our souls but which entered through our minds. It is our will that makes these things permanent in our lives.

There is a counterfeit meditation which is the opposite of Bible meditation. It brings disastrous results. The result is referred to as, "An altered state of consciousness" which is actually just a blank mind. Simply put, the plug is pulled on the mind and the mind is shut down altering our state of consciousness.

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

John 14:6

When we surrender the control of our mind we leave the gate open, we give opportunity for wandering spirits to enter in. In allowing our minds to go blank we abandon the responsibility for our souls. We are commanded to be in control of our thoughts, "*Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving*" (Colossians 4:2).

There are a number of ways this contemplative meditation is accomplished. Repeating a mantra or a simple word, a breathing exercise is another method. These involve a narrowing of focus which shuts the mind down until all thought process is dormant.

There are a number of potential things that can happen. When the plug is pulled on the mind all tension is relieved, guilt is blotted out; preconceived ideas about how to do things are removed. Now the removal of these things can have a temporary, seemingly positive result.

It can have an effect on the tension filled businessman; it can help the businessman or businesswoman to relieve tension and to enable them to think outside the box that has held him, perhaps enabling some new ideas and new success.

It can help relieve some tensions that can help in dealing with some sickness. It can also perhaps, help the student to think in new and fresh way.

Ray Yungen says, "When we compare meditation techniques used in stress reduction with the type of meditation used in New Age spirituality, it is easy to see these practices as basically the same. Both methods use either the breathing technique or mantra exercises to still the mind. Unknown to most people, a blank mind (in a meditative state) is all that is necessary for contact with a spirit guide."

John Randolph Price, a leading New Ager states, "Back when I was in the business world, the American Management Association put out a little book on meditation, which indicated that meditation was a way to

attain peace of mind and reduce stress in a corporate environment. So I decided I'd try it...I discovered how to come into a new sphere of consciousness. Consciousness actually shifts, and you move into a realm you may not have known even existed."

One Meditation teacher states: "It is more than a stress reducer. It is the vehicle religions use to impart the esoteric knowledge of their own tradition." This is basic Hinduism, commonly referred to as eastern mysticism which basically brings the participants into the realm of the occult world, the realm of the demonic spirits.

Thus many people have unwittingly become New Agers by simply seeking to improve their physical and mental health through meditation.

This practice has been given many terms. The term most often used in reference to the penetration of the evangelical church is "Contemplative Meditation."

This apostasy has swept into the evangelical church like a flood. Rick Warren, at his Saddleback Church has introduced the people into this type of meditation that can potentially turn them into New Agers or open them up to the forbidden spirit world.

Remember that in the New Age there is no room for the cross of Calvary because the higher self takes the place of a need for a Saviour. Rick Warren is pushing this New Age/New Spirituality agenda.

Some people may think that the term "spirituality" means Christianity, but that is not true. When the term spirituality is used, it is referring to the idea that God is in everyone which is a reference to the so-called "higher self." The New Age and the New Apostolic Reformation teach that God is in you.

Catholic priest and contemplative advocate William Shannon in his book, *Seeds of Peace*, explained the human dilemma as being the following:

"This forgetfulness, of our oneness with God, is not just a personal experience; it is the corporate experience of humanity. Indeed, this is one way to understanding original sin. We are in God, but we don't seem to know it. We are in paradise, but we don't realize it."

Understand that when the mind is shut down the world around is shut out, the Word of God is shut out and the Holy Spirit is shut out, the influences of friends and associates are shut out. The

person has given up control over his thoughts, emotions and his will, (this represents his soul) so his soul is surrendered, leaving the door to the soul wide open for demon spirits to enter in.

Apparently, these demon spirits that intrude act as good guys and even impersonate God. They imply that they are the god within you, your higher self. We read in scripture about Satan transforming himself into an angel of light, this is a part of Satan's program to deceive men.

You cannot come to know God in the silence; you can only come to know God in and through His Word. I repeat that you can come to know about God through His creation, but you can only come to know God through His Word. God gives deception to those who refuse to surrender to His Word. In the silence you will find deception.

The shocking thing about this movement is the extent to which it is sweeping over the world. It is deeply engrained in the Catholic Church, it has swept over the mainline protestant churches and it is rapidly penetrating the Evangelical Church. Contemplative meditation has penetrated most of the Bible Colleges and Seminaries of America and Canada. It has penetrated the corporate world in the guise of stress management. It has penetrated the medical system in the form of wellness therapy. It has long been the thrust of the New Age.

Another area where this movement is making great inroads is in the school system. In a recent article we are informed that the Quebec School Board, which eliminated religion from the school system in 1997, has introduced "Spiritual Animators." These animators lead the students in the practice of meditation. A recent item released by the QMI news agency showed a picture of grade two students practicing meditation.

Satan is now developing this vehicle to influence and lead the world in his program for the religious world system of Antichrist. Meditation is rapidly becoming a common denominator for the people of the world.

It is not an exaggeration to say that the whole world is being readied for the appearance of the harlot church. Remember that Satan's program is a religious program with the ultimate religion being the worship of Satan.

Art Sadlier

"And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light."

2 Corinthians 11:14

THE SONS OF GOD AND THE SONS OF MEN

In the early chapters of Genesis we have an intriguing picture of the pre-flood world. There are indications from the genealogical records that the world before the flood had a population of up to one billion people. There is also biblical evidence that the culture was more advanced than we generally recognize.

In that pre-flood world there were two separate groups of men and women running counter to each other.

The one group is made up of children of Cain, which was a godless branch of the civilization. Cain had rejected God's remedy for sin. Cain brought the wrong offering to God and refused to be corrected by God. He murdered his brother as a further act of rebellion against God. We read in chapter four, *"And Cain went out from the presence of the Lord."*

The descendants of Cain were godless and their line continued down to the flood. Methuselah apparently died in the flood as one who was the line of Cain and one who rebelled against God. Lamech, the son of Methuselah, was a man who continued to lead the Cainites in open rebellion against God. Lamech slew a man and threatened violence against any who opposed him. He also instigated bigamy in open rebellion against God's will.

When Adam sinned in his rebellion against God he became the possessor of a fallen sin nature. This nature he passed on to his sons and they in turn, ultimately passed it on until it infected every member of Adam's race.

Though all were sinners, some men and women repented of their sin and became partakers of the grace of God. Others continued on in their rebellion against God.

In Genesis 6:2 we see these two distinct groups identified. One is referred to as, *"The sons of God"* and the other is referred to as, *"The daughters (sons) of men."*

The one group were worshippers of God and the other was in rebellion against God. There were seven generations that appeared on the scene prior to the flood. As time passed the *"sons of men"* grew in numbers and the *"sons of God"* greatly diminished in numbers.

By the time God commanded Noah to build the ark, Noah was the only righteous man left on the earth. *"...Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God"* (Genesis 6:9).

In sharp contrast to the line of Cain we read that Eve bore another son, Seth, whom she identified as a replacement for the godly Abel. Seth bore a son whom he called Enos. We read that when Enos was born, *"Then men began to call upon the name of the Lord"*

One of the men born into that godly line was Enoch of who we read, *"Enoch walked with God...three hundred years...and he was not; for God took him."*

Here we have the godly line of men that the scripture calls *"The sons of God."* This is a term used in both the Old and New Testament in reference to God's people.

Again we say that the world of that day was made up of two groups of people, the ungodly line of Cain and the godly line of Seth.

The godly line was living in separation from the ungodly line. That is a basic principle of scripture, whether it is Israel or the church, God's people are to live in separation from the people of the world.

Abraham was an example of that God ordained pattern. God called Abraham to separate himself from the pagans around him. He was called to go to the Promised Land where he would practice the separation God calls all of His people too. In that land where the Canaanites still dwelt Abraham had two symbols of separation.

The first was the tent; it was symbol that Abraham was not a part of the society of that land. He pitched his tent far away from the pagans around him.

The second symbol was the altar; as the smoke of his altar rose in the still desert air, the pagans in the distance could see that Abraham was worshipping his God. Abraham was called out of the world around him to worship Jehovah.

In those pre-flood days something tragic happened that destroyed the separation of the worshippers of God.

We read about it in Genesis 6:1-2, *"And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, that the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose."*

In the New Testament we have a warning against marriage with an unsaved person, *"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness?"* (2 Corinthians 6:14).

That abandonment of separation brought tragedy to the world. Whenever the righteous mingle with the unrighteous it is always the righteous that suffer. If you roll a mud ball in a white sheet, which one changes? The mud ball is the same, but the white sheet it contaminated. It is always that way when the people of God lose their separation.

We have a promise concerning separation in 2 Corinthians 6:17, *"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you."* Separation is the purpose of salvation and the natural fruit of salvation.

We see the reaction of God in verse 3 to this loss of separation, the Lord is greatly displeased. *"My Spirit shall not always strive with man..."* It was out of that anger that the Lord brought judgment upon the world at that time. We read in Genesis 6:7, *"And the Lord said, I will destroy man ...from off the face of the earth..."*

I need to emphasize and re-emphasize that loss of separation for the believer is a total disaster for the believer and for the world around him. Both in the

"Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."

Matthew 7:14

Old Testament and in the church age, loss of separation always brings total disaster to God's people.

In Noah's day it was loss of separation of the godly from the ungodly around them that brought on such an incredible catastrophe.

We have a parallel in our own day. In the late 1940's a group of men who called themselves fundamentalists deliberately decided to abandon the practice of separation.

The leader of this new movement, which took on the name of New Evangelicalism, was a man named Harold Ockenga. Ockenga stated about the initial launch of this new movement, "*The ringing call for a repudiation of separatism and the summons to social involvement received a hearty response from many evangelicals.*" The driving force behind this new movement was the age old carnal desire to abandon separation from the world.

The second aspect of this new movement was complimentary to the first, "*New Evangelicalism was determined to find acceptance by the world.*"

That movement in the intervening years, through its destruction of separation has destroyed the Evangelical Church and many who call themselves fundamentalists. The ultimate result of that movement is found in that which is about to take place and is recorded in Revelation 3:16, "*So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.*" They will be spewed out into the tribulation period which is parallel with the flood.

This is a striking parallel with what happened in Genesis 6:1-2 when the godly line of Seth began to mingle with the ungodly line of Cain and the separation of the Sons of God was abandoned. In a few short years the godly line gradually disappeared until Noah was the only godly man left on the earth.

The disaster of loss of separation not only destroyed the godly line but it brought destruction to an estimated billion men and women in the resulting flood.

Today many professing Christians have lost all sense of what God requires in the area of separation from the world and the things of the world.

The other night I awoke from my sleep and as I lay there my spirit was troubled. I thought upon the issues surrounding the life of the Christian. I thought about the lack of separation from error and apostasy, I thought about the lack of separation from the world and from worldliness. I thought about the loss of separation from the music of the world and separation from the pleasures of the world and the loss of separation from the entertainment of the world. The things of the world have become the things of multitudes of professing Christians. I thought about spiritual decline and the love of the world in the lives of so many professing believers. The contemporary issues of the church and the believer swirled around in my mind. Am I right and so many wrong?

I had a sense of how isolated I was from so many around me, who claim to be believers. I began to cry out to God to give me wisdom and understanding.

***"So likewise,
whosoever he be of
you that forsaketh
not all that he hath,
he cannot be my
disciple"
Luke 14: 33***

Lord, teach me your way, help me to discern where I am right and where I might be wrong.

As I lay there, suddenly out of the blue, it seemed; there came to me the words of Jesus. "*Straight is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.*"

I realized afresh that we cannot change the demands of Christ and the words of Christ in order to open the gate to all those who profess to be believers. That renews our confidence on the narrow road we are walking. It also leaves us trembling for the many that seem to be self-deceived into thinking they are believers when they give so little evidence of it.

The Words of Jesus ring out, "*Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy*

name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity" (Matthew 7:21-23).

What an incalculable tragedy to think you are saved and in the end to hear the Lord say, "*Depart from me*".

Peter said, "*Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure...*" (2 Peter 1:10). Make sure you are truly saved.

Paul said, "*Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?"* (2 Corinthians 13:5). Make sure you are truly saved.

Jesus said, "*So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple*" (Luke 14:33). Make sure you are truly saved.

In the days of Noah the godly line was lost in the earth because of the departure from separation. The same thing is happening in our own day, the church has been destroyed by loss of separation. The church has brought the world's music, the world's ways and the world's people into the church. The lives of multitudes of evangelicals have become thoroughly worldly and they are the last ones to realize it. The refusal to respond to the truth of God's Word brings deception from the Lord.

The end result in Noah's day was the total destruction of men from off the face of the earth with exception of one man and his family. So also today the loss of separation from the world and the things of the world is about to bring the judgement of God down upon the world and upon pseudo disciples in the coming tribulation period.

This is not a side issue; it is a central issue that involves salvation and the eternal destiny of multitudes. It is not that separation saves but those who are truly saved will be separated because that is the fruit of salvation and the purpose of salvation. The believer is a called out one. Jesus said, "*If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you*" (John 15:19).

We also read in 1 John 2:15-16, "*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." Make sure you are truly saved.

Today we are seeing a repeat of the loss of separation that occurred in

Noah's day. This is another sign that the coming of Christ is near at hand. Art Sadlier.

FALLEN ANGELS AND GENESIS 6:2

All the angels were created at the same time, "For *in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed*" (Exodus 20:11).

Everything God created He created in six literal days. Why He should do it that way is not ours to question, we are to just believe His word.

Job 38:6-7 indicates that the angels were the first of God's creation, created as the foundations of earth were laid on the first day. "Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof; When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?"

They are eternal beings, they are an innumerable and each angel was a direct creation of God. They were all created at the same time and their numbers are constant. Angels are spirit beings, they are sexless and they do not procreate, "For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven" (Matthew 22:30). They are not endowed with the capacity to reproduce.

Alfred Thompson states, "That angels are capable of changing their nature, form and order to another order of created beings at will, has no support in the scriptures."

Dr. Lewis Sperry Chafer, "There is no evidence that angels are tempted in the realms of those sins which find expression through the human body - immoral relations, etc. - angelic sin is along the lines of two closely related evils, ambitious pride and untruth, as these may be manifested within the range angelic existence."

The speculation that in Genesis 6:2 that "the Sons of God" were angels taking on human form is totally unfounded.

In the first place the term "Sons of God" would never be used to describe rebellious angels who would violate God's order. The angels who rebelled became sons of their new father, the

devil. The holy angels would never do such a thing.

If the issue was simply demon possession of men at that time it would not alter their offspring.

Angels visiting this earth in the appearance of human form were always holy angels sent of God and given the form by His sovereign power and will, and for His sovereign purpose - to make their presence visible and understandable to man.

Jude 6 is often misrepresented as evidence for angels co-habituating with human women. There is absolutely no scriptural basis for such speculation. "And the angels which kept not their

"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

first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day."

There are two aspects to this verse.

First: when Satan led some angels in rebellion against God they left their estate or original position in heaven and their relationship with God.

Second: there are apparently some of these fallen angels who sinned very grievously against God in some manner and situation of which we are not apprised of in the scriptures. These fallen angels have been cast down into hell and are held there in chains, the word actually means to be bound; they have lost the freedom to carry on the work of Satan. They are waiting the day of God's judgment on angels.

We do have one insight into this scenario in Matthew 8. When Jesus exposed the demons that were tormenting the man of Gadara, those demons were fearful that because of their terrible actions Jesus would send them to the deep or the pit before the time of judgment. Verse 29, "And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? Art thou come hither to torment us before the time?" Or, in other words, to bind us in the abyss before the time of the judgment of angels

If these supposed cross-breeds were the product of angels and human women they would not be partakers of Adam's nature and would not be designated as men as the scriptures designate them.

"There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown" (Genesis 6:4).

Notice the offspring were men, "mighty men." It does not say they were monstrosities or hybrid people. It says, "There were giants in the earth in those days," But it does not say they were the offspring of the sons of God and the daughters of men mentioned in verse 2. The record makes it clear that the giants were in the earth before this took place. There were also giants in the earth after the flood and even in recent generations.

Of the offspring, in verse four it simply says, "The same became mighty men which were of old men of renown." It simply means their offspring were outstanding individuals, perhaps fierce and cruel, but they are called men, not hybrids.

If these demon spirits had merely possessed the men of Noah's day it would not have affected their offspring in the sense of altering their humanness or physical being. It would not make them hybrids, a cross between men and angels.

“Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?”
2 Corinthians 13:5

God did not bring judgment upon the earth because of the sin of angels or because the human race was corrupted by crossbreeds. It was the sin of men that brought the judgment of God on that generation. *“The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth. And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth”* (Verses 11-13). There is no mention of hybrid men or that God judged the world for any other reason than because of man’s sin. You can’t go looking for extra biblical evidence for something the Bible does not teach.

Nephilim is the Hebrew word used for giants in Genesis 6:4, around it has been built-up a myth that these were the offspring of angels and women. Wilson in his Old Testament word studies interprets the word as meaning, “Apostates fallen from true religion, strong, robust and violent leaders of others.” That fits perfectly into the scenario of the mixing of the godly line of Seth and the ungodly line of Cain. The result was the spread of evil which brought the judgment of God upon the world. This sin of compromising with the ungodly was the great issue with Israel and is also the great issue in the

church, especially in this hour.

“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). It was because of the wickedness of man and because the imaginations the hearts of men were only evil continually that God destroyed the earth and men.

Man’s perspective of the men of that day, was that men had created a beautiful society. They had developed the use of brass and iron and life had become enhanced by this advancement. They had also developed musical instruments with all kinds of music. These were men of renown and men admired among the people.

It all looked so good to men but not to God. God said, *“I will destroy man...from the face of the earth...”*

This wrong teaching denies the lesson that God is pressing home on men and the church today, the lesson that the loss of separation is the great catastrophe that destroys God’s people and brings the judgment of God.

The love of the world and the things of the world is curse that destroys men and women.

Lot was separated from the world as long as he was with Abraham, but Lot’s heart was not separated. When he had the chance he pitched his tent toward Sodom and he lost his family and he ended up being defiled himself. This is a classic Old Testament illustration of loss of separation. This is one of the greatest issues in all of scripture.

I believe that the single most important issue in the life of the believer is separation from the world. Remember God brought Israel out of Egypt and separated them to live alone in the Promised Land. All the ill that befell Israel was directly due to lose of separation from those around as they learned the ways of the heathen they associated with.

God said to Israel long ago, *“And ye*

shall make no league (join together) with the inhabitants of this land; ye shall throw down their altars: but ye have not obeyed my voice: why have ye done this?” (Judges 2:2) I believe the Lord is asking the very same question today of those who claim to be a part of the body of Christ.

There has arisen today an erroneous end time scenario out of the misinterpretation and misrepresentation of Genesis 6:2-4. This erroneous teaching is sweeping over evangelicalism. The largest prophecy conferences today are devoted to this issue.

Let me restate this false teaching.

The suggestion is that fallen angels, prior to the flood cohabited with human women and produced a race of hybrid monsters called Nephilim, which is a Hebrew word for giant.

They teach that God destroyed the world and men to judge this hybrid race. They do not recognize that the judgment was because of man’s sin.

They further teach that those giants continued after the flood and that they are the explanation for UFO’s. They are teaching that these so-called Nephilim are going to return to invade the earth in the last days, and that we need to do something about it.

This bizarre science fiction is more in line with Star Wars and New Age teaching and is not related to the scripture. These post-modern Bible teachers cannot sustain their teaching from the Bible so they refer to extra biblical writings and mythology.

We need to hold all Bible teachers to the Words of scripture. The Bible is the only source of absolute truth. *“To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them”* (Isaiah 8:20). Remember the scripture is its own interpreter; we are to compare scripture with scripture, not scripture with extra biblical material or our own ideas. Art Sadlier

“Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little” Isaiah 28: 9-10

ISRAEL, A NATION DIVIDED

After the death of Solomon the nation of Israel was divided. There were ten tribes in the north and Judah and Benjamin in the south.

Israel had 19 kings and everyone was wicked and rebellious against God. Judah had twenty kings and only eight sought to trust and obey the Lord. The history of the twelve tribes is story of disobedience and rebellion against God with the occasional periods of faithfulness and obedience.

For that disobedience God has severely judged His people. God will always judge rebellion and disobedience in His people, whether it be Israel, the church or in my life or in your life. Unless there is a contrite heart chastening will always follow.

For two thousand years the nation was scattered throughout the world in the most severe chastening. The capstone of that chastening was the holocaust when six million Jews died in the Nazi gas chambers.

In spite of that severe chastening God has not cast His people off. *"Therefore say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Although I have cast them far off among the heathen, and although I have scattered them among the countries, yet will I be to them as a little sanctuary in the countries where they shall come. Therefore say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; I will even gather you from the people, and assemble you out of the countries where ye have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel."* (Ezekiel 11:16-17).

In Ezekiel we read in the prophecy of the dry bones of Israel being restored to life in the Promised Land. The Lord said to Ezekiel, *"....Prophecy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD"* (Ezekiel 37:4). The Word of the Lord came in verses 5-6, *"Thus saith the Lord GOD unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live: And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am the LORD"* In verse 11 the Lord said, *"...These dry bones are the whole house of Israel."*

In 1948 that prophecy began to be fulfilled and Israel became a nation once again. Since Israel's revival as a nation the pattern of unbelief and disobedience has not changed.

In three major wars since 1948 God has given Israel miraculous victories in the face of certain defeat. In each case God was saying to Israel, "Israel I am your God, trust Me and obey Me and I will protect you and bless you." Yet each time Israel, knowing that God had intervened, refused to respond in obedience and faith.

In many other ways God has proved Himself to Israel since 1948. He has blessed the nation with unbelievable prosperity and productivity. The world has literally eaten the fruit of the land. God has blessed everything Israel has put her hand to. Now in recent days God has given Israel oil and gas in abundance.

A mere six million people, Israel has one of the most powerful armies in the world.

All of this has transpired in a world that is fanatically determined to destroy Israel, in a world where those who pose as Israel's friends conspire against her and betray her.

No matter how you look at Israel, from whatever angle or perspective, Israel is a modern day miracle that makes the miracles the Old Testament pale by comparison.

You would expect that Israel today would respond to God in obedience and faith. That is not the case. Israel has responded, by and large, in continued disobedience and unbelief as many of her ancestors did.

Would we not expect that at this point God would cast Israel off? Paul answered that question in Romans 11:2, *"God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew...."* God is responding to Israel's disobedience and unbelief by continuing to work toward her salvation. *"For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And*

"God knows the end from the beginning and fulfilled prophecy proves that the Bible is the Word of God."

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" (Romans 11:25-26).

God will continue to work with His people until that coming day when He will bring a remnant into His presence and bless them forever. He will separate the believing from the unbelieving, the faithful from the unfaithful. We read about that process and about that day in 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."*

ISRAEL TODAY

The Israeli government has been arresting Jews for praying to Jehovah on the Temple Mount. No greater wickedness; or affront to God is found in all of the Old Testament record. These leaders are thumbing their nose at God. The anger of God is surely building against these leaders for such a reproach against Him.

The same leaders are releasing murders and cold blooded killers of Jews, killers who will kill Jews again. God is surely writing these sins in His book and He will deal severely with these men.

The leaders of Israel and many of the people of Israel are quite willing to trample on the promises of God and give away Judea, Samaria, East Jerusalem (Biblical Jerusalem) and the Temple Mount. They have already given away the Gaza Strip and the Sinai Peninsula. They are saying by their actions, "We can't trust God to keep His promises to us."

These leaders are not interested in a Theocratic Jewish State. They want European style Democratic Socialism. They would like to rid Israel of the Temple Mount altogether. Like in America, God is only used to garner votes.

Israel's problem is not the Palestinians, it is not the Arabs, it is not Iran and it is not anti-Semitism. Israel's problem is Israel's unbelief and disobedience toward God and God will deal with it.

We are seeing a new thing happening in Israel in recent days. There is a growing remnant of Jews who are beginning to assert themselves in protest against Israel's unbelief and disobedience. This remnant has been around for some time but it is now beginning to grow in number and assertiveness. Some of these have

moved to the West Bank to establish a Jewish presence in that part of the Promised Land and they have been harassed by their own government. They are now beginning to visit the Temple Mount in greater numbers to establish a Jewish presence there. They are protesting the releasing of terrorists and the willingness of their leaders to surrender large portions of the Promised Land. They are rejecting the "Two State Solution." Some of these men are preparing for the rebuilding of the third Temple.

We are now seeing a dichotomy in Israel and it is approximately one third versus two thirds. Is this the one third that will flee to the mountains at the mid-tribulation point?

Keep in mind that these men, whoever they are, are not saved yet, but we read

about that thrilling day in Zechariah 12:9-10, *"And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. 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."*

As we witness the details of prophecy coming together we can only cry out, **"God knows the end from the beginning and fulfilled prophecy proves that the Bible is the Word of God."** And we cry out, **"The Lord is at hand, even so, come Lord Jesus."** Art Sadlier

THE CURRENT CRISIS IN THE MID-EAST

Obama's betrayal of Israel has been an ongoing process. Israel has been forced to attack and destroy advanced Russian missiles that were being forwarded to from Syria to Hezbollah. The Obama administration has twice leaked that Israel perpetuated these attacks. This has embarrassed Israel and put her at risk of retaliation from Syria. This is an unprecedented betrayal of the alliance that has existed between the US and Israel.

For three or four years now, Obama has been working deviously and diligently to prevent Israel from attacking Iran's nuclear program.

Iran is now apparently closing in on obtaining the bomb. Obama is working through diplomatic channels to allow Iran to succeed in her objective. The Sunni Mideast States have also felt this as a betrayal as they feel very much threatened by Iran.

Israel is now in the position that if she is going to attack Iran it must be soon. In this environment Obama is making his final attempt to stop Israel. He has apparently propositioned Netanyahu that if he makes significant progress in negotiations with the Palestinians he will consider Israel's position on Iran.

This amounts to a linking of the peace negotiations to a promise concerning Iran; however by that time it will be forever too late to stop Iran's nuclear program.

The idea of progress in the peace talks is in an absurdity. The Palestinians are demanding the total surrender of Israel with terms that would actually bring an end to the State of Israel. No matter how many concessions Israel foolishly make the Palestinians demand more. Of course, any observant person can plainly see the clear objective of the Palestinians and the Arabs in general is the elimination of the State of Israel.

After belittling the Israel potential to go it alone against Iran, the CIA has now stated that Israel is capable setting Iran's nuclear program back ten years.

We are facing the real possibility of an attack on Iran by Israel in the near term. How such an event will unfold and what the reaction of Iran will be is unknown. The potential for a major war in the Mideast is very real.

In the meantime Obama is threatening to impose a settlement on Israel if they do not make an agreement with the Palestinians.

Abbas is appealing to some eighty nations to impose a boycott on Israel

unless they surrender to the Palestinian demands. The pressure on Israel is building on all sides. It seems the Arabs intend to bring the issue before the UN in the event of an impasse. The UN is now basically controlled by the Muslim nations who have much support from the Western nations, leaving Israel isolated.

The US has lost all credibility in the Mideast and is rapidly being replaced by the Russians and the Chinese. Egypt, the Saudis and Gulf States have turned to Russia and Turkey is turning to China for military equipment. The only way the Americans can hope to recover is to deliver Israel into Arab hands.

Last month it was Syrian crisis, which is not yet settled. The world stumbles from one crisis to the next. One day, perhaps soon, time will run out.

We stand transfixed as the end time scenario continues to unfold; the hour is late for this sinful, tired, hopeless old world.

The God of Israel will have the last say and Israel will come forth in triumph after she has been severely chastened by Jehovah.

The world will never know real peace until the Prince of Peace comes as the rightful king.