



*“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

*December 2013*

### INCARNATING TRUTH ...

A farmer sows wheat and, granted that the soil is fertile, his harvest will be only what the seed was, allowing for the slight natural retrogression that usually follows each careless planting. Is it not plain that the quality of the seed is what matters most? Would it not be folly for the farmer to grow more and more and poorer and poorer wheat? Let him look to his seed if he would improve his harvest.

Should someone object that the seed is the Word and that since the Word remains always the same it will produce the same effect wherever and by whomsoever it is preached, I would reply that the first is true but not the second. Verily God's Word is ever the same, but what it will do at any time in any place depends largely upon the moral purity, wisdom and spiritual power of those who preach it. There is nothing automatic about the truth. To do its' most effective work it must be incarnated in the church.

Look at Acts 18 and 19. Apollos, a man mighty in the Scriptures, for all his faithfulness to the truth as he understood it, could produce only imperfect converts. Suppose Paul had not arrived when he did. It is not hard to imagine an immature, weak and ineffective church propagating itself in Ephesus.

So vitally important is spiritual quality that it is hardly too much to suggest that attempts to grow larger might well be suspended until we have become better.

A.W. Tozer (1897-1963)

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# Sound the Trumpet!

- Section 1 -

## A WORLD IN CHAOS

We are witnessing the collapse of the world order we have known in our younger days. There is a concerted and successful attempt destroy that old world order. The foundations of society and the nations are crumbling. Already, out of the ashes, the outline of something radically different is arising.

In Revelation 13 there is a glimpse of the coming world which Satan has planned. We see the rise of a group of ten nations on the territory of the old Roman Empire. This entity will be the platform on which Satan's man; Antichrist will emerge to rule the world as an absolute despot. His ultimate goal is to cause the whole world to worship him and ultimately his master, Satan.

We read about the false prophet, who will undoubtedly be the leader of the coming World Church, we see his efforts to bring about this worship in Revelation 13:11-12, *“And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.”*

For some time the events in Europe have revealed the gradual transformation of Europe into this coming kingdom of the beast. Recently Angela Merkel of Germany has stated that those European countries that are not financially responsible should leave the Union. This, along with other indications, would seem to suggest the reduction of the union to ten countries, which would lead and control Europe. In light of the economic earthquake that has hit the EU, this transition could happen rather suddenly.

Both Daniel and John have foretold that a Revived Roman Empire would arise in the last days consisting of ten kings or nations.

John reveals this in Revelation 13:1, *“And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.”*

Daniel foretells the same thing in reference to the Roman Empire. He tells of the rise of Antichrist and of ten kingdoms that will arise out of and on the territory of the old Roman Empire.

*“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”* Daniel 7:24.

Today, the European countries are rapidly losing their sovereignty to the establishment of single powerful state. The foundations of Europe have been destroyed and the stage is being set for rise of the kingdom of the Beast out of ten nations. Already plans are under way to appoint a leader with virtually unlimited powers.

It is not hard to see a master plan and a master planner who is busy tearing down the order on which our world in recent years has operated. Out of the ashes will come Satan's plan to subdue this world under his control.

We see the evil of this one's ultimate objective in Revelation 13:7-8, *“And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.”* Incredible as it may seem that is where our world in headed with lightning speed.

Another area that must be torn down to facilitate the coming kingdom is the economic and monetary order. This is indicated in Revelation 13:16-17, *“And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.”*

The economic and monetary system of the entire world must come under the control of the Beast. There are signs without number that the collapse of the

world economy is imminent. People cannot see what they do not want to see, hence the signs are being ignored.

The US dollar is coming under threat from China. China recently stated that it is time for a world that is free from US economic dominance. This past week China has announced that it will no longer buy US debt. This has the potential of destroying the US dollar and the US economy, but again the warnings are ignored.

Recently the pope has called for a new economic system; indeed it is quite likely that the false prophet will lead in the establishment of the coming new world economic order. The pope has just released a proposal for his new system, that program has been identified as pure socialism. Revelation 13:17 indicates that the coming new world economic system will be socialism. Although it has never been a truly Christian country, America has been in the past, relatively speaking, a force for

liberty, freedom and democracy in which the sovereignty of individual states been promoted. America has, in a very real sense stood solidly as an obstacle of a one world order.

Those who would establish a one world government must of necessity destroy America as it has existed in the past. The determined attempt to bring America down has been underway for some years now. The attempt has involved many areas; just a few come to mind. The destruction of the morals of North Americans is now complete. This has been mainly accomplished by Hollywood, TV, videos, immoral music and the immersion of the culture in sensuality. Materialism and the lust for things have also had a powerful negative impact on North Americans.

Another major assault has been on the Church of Jesus Christ. It is not the outward attack that has nullified the influence of the Church on the world. It has been the loss of separation from the

world and the love for the things of the world. That in turn has fuelled compromise and apostasy until the church no longer has an impact on the world. The salt has lost its savour and the Church has been trodden under foot by the world and the culture has lost the purifying influence of the Church.

The destruction of the school system has corrupted the nation through the indoctrination of its children, resulting in a change of their values and their world view. In all of this we can see the master plan of the prince of this world at work.

Upon the ashes of our declining society has been imposed the destroyer's tool to finish the job of destroying the old world order, Barack Obama. His objectives are not hard to see, they are to bring America down, destroy the world economic system, break down the existing alliances of nations and destroy Israel. Art Sadlier

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## Finishing the Job

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Political commentator Dinesh D'Souza made some startling predictions about the second term of Barack Obama, predictions which are being fulfilled. D'Souza explains, "One of the predictions was that Obama would spend money promiscuously to raise the debt in virtual indifference to the impact of the debt on American citizens. In fact, Obama has been racking up the debt at the rate of \$1 trillion a year. The national debt has doubled in Obama's 5 years in office." He continues, "Obama's plot is to 'drag' the economy down' and redistribute American wealth to the rest of the world and financially cripple the nation, it involves the transfer of hundreds of billions, in fact trillions of dollars, out of the United States and into other countries."

D'Souza also explains how "Obama wants to shrink the influence of American foreign policy by undermining our allies and ... allowing our adversaries to remain in power." This is exactly what is happening now. Veteran analyst, Caroline Glick assesses Obama's foreign policy in relation to Iran.

She states, [*"The culmination of this long process of delegitimizing Israel as a warmongering, ungrateful ally and its supporters as turncoats who are forcing the US to endanger itself for the benefit of the Jewish state was the administration's hysterical campaign against Israel and its supporters in the lead-up to Saturday's (Nov. 23) signing ceremony in Geneva. Everyone, from the White House to Kerry, accused Israel and its supporters of trying to force the US to fight an unnecessary war.*

*When we consider Obama's decision to wait for a year (without gaining a single concession from Iran) to sign the deal that enables Iran to become a nuclear power, in the context of his main activities over the past year, we understand his foreign policy. His goal is not to prevent Iran from becoming a nuclear power. It isn't even to facilitate a rapprochement between America and Iran. The goal of Obama's foreign policy is to weaken the State of Israel.*"]

John Bolton, former US Ambassador to the UN states, "*The Obama administration feared an Israeli airstrike on Iran more than it feared*

*Iran building a nuclear weapon, and that's why it pushed for a deal to reduce sanctions against Iran"* Bolton writes in The Weekly Standard. "*Obama worked feverishly to prevent Israel from striking Iran, apparently caring nothing that Iran has repeatedly threatened to annihilate Israel.*"

Bolton also writes, "*An Israeli military strike is the only way to avoid Tehran's otherwise inevitable march to nuclear weapons, and the proliferation that will surely follow.*"

In the proposed agreement with Iran, Obama has incredulously invited Iran to take part in the Israel-Palestinian negotiations. The agreement has also promised to elevate Iran to the position of seventh ranked nation in world. He also suggests that Iran have access to all the Mideast issues, including the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. In this process Obama has turned his back on his former allies, the Sunni Muslim nations and Israel. He has made his enemies his friends and his friends his enemies. He is supporting the Shiite drive to subdue the Sunni Arabs.

The JWR reports concerning Obama's Iran agreement, *"We are indeed now facing the unthinkable. Not just that Iran is on the verge of being allowed to proceed to nuclear capability. The really unthinkable reality is that the enemies of the civilized world are not just to be found in Tehran. They are also in London, Brussels and Washington DC."* The whole Mideast is racing to a monumental crisis while Obama plays his strange games.

Saudi princes and officials have often said that if Iran acquires a nuclear weapon or reaches the threshold of this capacity, the oil kingdom will not lag behind.

All Riyadh needs to do now, say Debkafle's Middle East sources, is to invoke the agreement signed with Islamabad in 2004, under which Saudi funding was provided for Pakistan's nuclear bomb program in return for some of the bombs or warheads produced to await Saudi Arabia's call for their delivery, complete with the appropriate missiles.

To make the events surrounding the agreement with Iran even more absurd, most Western nuclear experts believe Iran already has the capacity to produce four nuclear bombs.

If there is any doubt of Iran's intentions toward Israel it was dispelled with the announcement by Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on November 20, in which he stated clearly, *"The (Israeli) Zionist regime is a regime whose pillars are extremely shaky and is doomed to collapse. Zionist officials cannot be called humans, they are like animals, some of them,"* Ayatollah Ali Khamenei told commanders of the hard-line Basij militia force in Tehran in remarks broadcast live Wednesday on state TV. *Iran's supreme leader says pressure from economic sanctions will never force the country into unwelcome concessions as nuclear negotiations with world powers resumed."*

Obama is also working hard to bring about Israel's destruction by forcing on her a disastrous peace agreement with the Palestinians that would result in the destruction of the Jewish state. Obama is threatening Israel with dire consequences if she does not yield to the Palestinian demands.

Israel's position is rapidly deteriorating; the UN is again calling for Israel to give

up the Golan Heights to Syria. On Monday the UN passed six more resolutions condemning Israel. It is extremely rare for the UN to condemn any country but Israel. At the same time the EU are threatening devastating, economic sanctions against Israel for not giving up the West Bank.

In another dangerous turn of events Palestinian leader Abbas has quietly entered into an agreement with Syria to send millions of Palestinian refugees from Syria to the Gaza and the process has already begun. This is in anticipation of the Palestinian's demand for the right of return. The goal is to eventually flood Israel with millions of Palestinians who will overwhelm Israel and bring about her demise.

Back in America a retired Army general is calling for the **"forced resignations"** of President Obama, other administration officials and the leadership of Congress for the direction they're taking the nation, his list of grievances including the systematic political purge of hundreds of senior military officers in the U.S. military. Retired Maj. Gen. Paul E. Vallely went on to state *"Our federal government continues down the path of destroying America."*

Senior military analyst Lt. Gen. Thomas G. McInerney sounded a severe warning to America. He listed several dangers.

**One:** The rising Russian and Iranian influence, coupled with America's waning Middle East presence, has put the US in the most dangerous situation it has been in since the 1930s just prior to World War II.

**Two:** McInerney highlighted the danger of US President Barack Obama's handling of long time US ally Egypt, which has recently turned to Russia. Just on Wednesday reports revealed that Egypt signed a \$4 billion arms deal with Russia designed to let Egypt attain parity with the IDF.

**Three:** We are unilaterally disarming the US military, it is very dangerous what's going on. And all of this is coming together at a very critical time in our history.

In the far-East the threat of war involving China, Japan and America is looming on the horizon.

The old world order is rapidly breaking down; this is clearly by design.

In the meantime God is working with His people. The entire world is against Israel. When Israel has once again come to the end of her rope, Israel's God will intervene on her behalf.

Unfortunately Israel will not return to her God at that time, but Jehovah will continue to patiently work with His chosen people until they at last open their eyes to the Lord's mercy and goodness.

We read about that day 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."*

**Also Zechariah 13:1 & 9** *"In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness."* *"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's problem is their blinded eyes and rebellious hearts. Today Israel is still rejecting their Messiah. Paul also tells us about that coming day, *"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 fullness of the Gentiles be come in. 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: For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins"* (Romans 11:25-27).

Perhaps you are a gentile who does not know Christ as your Saviour. Jesus said, *"...I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."* Until and unless you come to Christ in repentance and faith, you do not have a relationship with God.

Art Sadlier.

# Standing on the Threshold

I am not a prophet, I have no new word from the Lord, however as I look at the world and read my Bible I am convinced that we are standing on the threshold of the "Day of the Lord."

As I look at the way the world is plunging into wickedness and a crescendo of rebellion against God. As I see the nations raging as the troubled sea. As I see the intensity of the rage against Israel and the determination to destroy her. As I see the increasing hatred for and increasing martyrdom of the followers of Christ. As I see the rising intensity of violence that is filling the earth. As I see the rising intensity of earthquakes, storms and natural disasters. I am convinced in my soul that we have come down to the very end of the age of grace.

The description of the world prior to the flood has unsettling similarity to our world today.

As I see what is going on in America, Europe, Russia, Iran, China and the Mideast I am certain that we are on the verge of the tribulation period. The hour is very late for this wicked world.

We have a parallel between Jeremiah's day as Israel faced the Old Testament "Day of the Lord" and our own day.

Jeremiah faced the nation of Israel on the brink of disaster. For nearly four hundred years the Lord had been sending prophets to warn Israel to repent. About ninety years before Jeremiah the Lord sent Isaiah who said "judgment is coming." Jeremiah said it is here. Jeremiah said the Babylonians are going to come and slaughter you.

Jeremiah stood on the edge of the holocaust. Jeremiah was the prophet of the end of the glory days of Israel. Isaiah prophesied at 11:00 PM, Jeremiah prophesied at midnight. To those who read this article let me warn you it is midnight for our world. Joel spoke of our day in Joel 1:15, "Alas for the day! for the day of the LORD is at hand, and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come." Again he said in 2:1 "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."

For 42 years Jeremiah warned of coming judgment, for 42 years Judah refused to repent. Finally the Lord said

to Jeremiah, Judah has crossed the line! Their fate is sealed, judgment is now inevitable. "But this people hath a revolting and a rebellious heart; they are revolted and gone" (Jeremiah 5:23). The Lord repeated His warning in chapter 7:16, "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. And in Jeremiah 8:20, "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved"

It is with a heavy heart that I say "I am absolutely convinced that our world has crossed the line and now the judgment of God is both inevitable and imminent". I believe that it is now reaping time for our world.

Remember what the people of our world have sown:

- ⇒ One billion abortions. When Cain slew Abel the Lord was angry with Cain and said to him, "The voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground." Our generation has slain a billion babies in their mother's wombs and our generation will pay for that crime.
- ⇒ Every child in the education system of the western world has been told, thousands of times, the evolutionary myth that there is no God, things just happened by chance. Our generation will reap for sowing such blasphemy.
- ⇒ Gods' children are being martyred in increasing numbers all around the world and violence is filling the earth as in the days prior to the flood. It is harvest time.
- ⇒ Sensuality, immorality and homosexuality have been accepted and promoted and are flooding over the world. The world has become a moral cesspool.
- ⇒ Those that question these violations of God's Word are attacked and persecuted.

## IT IS HARVEST TIME!

Now it is true that these things have always been in the world. However we are seeing a last days crescendo of evil spoken of by our Lord in Matthew 24:37, "But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be."

The world will enter into this time of judgment after the church is raptured, at which time the tribulation period will begin.

There is also a warning to pseudo evangelicals, the last day's church, the church of the Laodiceans. The warning indicates that the Laodicean church is largely unregenerate and will be spewed out of the Lord's mouth and into the coming time of judgement at the time of the rapture. The admonition of Paul to all professing believers is crucial in this hour. Paul said, in 2 Corinthians 13:5 "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" (not approved as genuine).

I believe that if we look carefully at America today we should have an uneasy feeling that the judgment on America may precede the rapture of the church. We have said, along with others, that America is not involved in the end time events; she is nowhere to be found.

By contrast America today is dominating the world scene and is actually preventing the end time scenario from unfolding. It would seem to me that America has to be neutralized or removed from the scene altogether before the Biblical end time scenario can unfold.

Today there are dark clouds of disaster forming over America in the form of many potentially disastrous scenarios. America has totally betrayed Israel in recent years and has placed herself in danger of the imminent judgment of God.

What did Jeremiah do as he saw certain doom approaching his beloved country? We read about it in Jeremiah 9:1, "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!"

If we care we will weep and pray and witness. The ship is going down but we can, with the Lord's help, rescue some of the passengers.

## NOAH'S DAY

I can envision Noah in his day as he warned the world of the coming judgment. I can see the crowd gathered

around him as he first sounds the warning. They are interested and curious, tell us more, how do you know judgment is coming? But as time rolls by the interest fades away and indifference takes over; no one responds to the message, but still Noah warns.

I suspect the indifference turned to hostility as the years passed. Noah, you're a silly old fool, you sound like a

broken record, and there is no such thing as rain. I can see Noah as he saw the clouds form on the horizon and as he came nearer to the fateful day. I think he stood a little higher on the hill and his voice was raised to a shout as the tears began to flow from his eyes. My dear friend if you are reading this and you are not saved, don't be like the men and women of Noah's day. The dark clouds are forming on the horizon,

come to the Saviour now. Don't miss heaven, it's a wonderful place and hell is forever. I plead with you as Noah did in his day.

*"For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit" (1 Peter 3:18). Art Sadler*

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## Three Comings of Christ

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Christ came the first time to the manger in Bethlehem. There is a tremendous contrast with His first coming as compared with His other comings.

He was born in a cattle shed. Only those who have around cattle can understand what a lowly birth this was. The smell of cattle permeates your clothes and your nostrils until you just want to escape it. Nothing could be more humiliating. He was laid in a cattle manger and wrapped in rags. Remember, this is the creator of all things, never has there been such a demonstration of humility.

The religious leaders of Israel couldn't trouble themselves to walk the few miles to Bethlehem where they knew He was to be born and from whence came to them the announcement of His birth.

By contrast God sent a star to proclaim His birth; to the shepherds He sent a multitude of angels. Then God sent from the east wise, wealthy men who were probably of nobility, men with rich gifts, who came to worship Him.

Such a contrast still exists today and has existed for two thousand years. To the believer He is the Lord of his life, the altogether lovely one. He is the preeminent one of his life; he bows before Him and worships Him. Multitudes over the last two thousand years have gladly laid down their lives for Him. This God-man is by far the most loved man that has ever lived.

To the world Christ is the most hated man that has ever lived. That hatred has persisted in every generation since that day. Herod sought to kill Him as a child. The Jews and the Romans crucified Him on a cross. Today that hatred has not subsided one iota, He is

still the most hated man who has ever lived. Such hatred was foretold in His own words. There is no greater proof that Jesus Christ is who He said He was, because, people have for 2000 years treated Him the way He said they would. *"If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you" (John 15:18).*

His **FIRST** coming was to die on the cross to pay the price of man's sin and redeem men. Our appreciation, as believers, for that act will find us praising Him for all of eternity.

His **SECOND** coming will not be to the earth but to the clouds of the sky to catch up or rapture His bride the church and take them to heaven. There are two wonderful things about that prospect.

We will then be with Him forever. And we will share in His eternal glory; we will actually be made like Him. *"...we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is" (1 John 3:2b).*

His **THIRD** coming will be to defeat Israel's enemies and set up the Millennial Kingdom.

Before that kingdom of righteous can begin some preparations must be made. Satan must be bound, we read about that binding in Revelation 20:1-3, *"And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, and cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season."*

Notice the emphasis on this setting Satan aside, it is a complete incarceration. Just note some of the words used, "bound" - *"bottomless pit" - "shut up" - "set a seal."*

Then notice the reason: *"that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled."*

The overall purpose of Satan's binding is to change the atmosphere of the millennial age, to change the moral, spiritual and ecological environment. Satan is the corrupter of men and destroyer of the earth. Not only will Satan be bound but Christ will reign in righteousness. What a profound transformation of the world!

For the first time since the fall, men will live in a perfect environment.

Throughout the ages men have sought to make the world a better place to live. The liberal philosophy says, if you create an ideal environment men will respond and be good. Change man's environment and you will change men. Governments today operate on that principal.

In Revelation 20 we have the millennial test. During that 1000 years God proves the lie to this idea. Man's problem is not his environment it is his unregenerate heart. *"Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be" (Romans 8:7).*

After many years (up to nearly a thousand in some cases) of living in the perfect environment a great multitude of unregenerate men and women fail the test. Revelation 20:7-9, *"And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, and shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog, and Magog, to gather them*

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## THREE COMINGS OF CHRIST

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together to battle: *the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.*"

Notice, the Millennial age is now over and after many hundreds of years of the benevolence of Christ and living in a perfect environment of righteousness, these unregenerate people, who have heard and rejected the gospel will fail the test.

"*And they went up on the breadth of the earth,*" apparently the overwhelming majority of the people of that millennial age, billions who lived under the gracious provision of Christ proceed to go to war against Him. "*The breadth of the earth,*" this is an army that covers the whole earth.

They set about to kill Christ and His followers. Billions who were in the kingdom but the kingdom was never in them. They appeared for hundreds of years to be something they were not. Billions who went through the motions of the worship of Christ but never had Christ in their hearts.

Back in the 1960's in our youth group we saw over 100 teens come to Christ. It was a time of great excitement. That was fifty years ago, today as we look back we realize that a great majority of people have gone back to the world.

A dear and good pastor recently shared with me his experience. He said that some years ago his pastor told him to write down on a piece of paper the names of 20 Christians he knew and watch what happens to them. He shared with me that there are only three names left of that list, the others have gone back.

As I look at the Evangelical/Fundamental Church my heart is fearful that multitudes are in the Church but Christ is not in them. They appear to be in the kingdom but the kingdom is not in them.

There is a profound lesson here; you cannot force righteousness on the human heart. The answer is not environmental. The ideal environment of the millennial age or even the environment of heaven would not change man's sinful nature and his sinful heart. This is why there has to be

a hell to prevent the contamination of sin and to isolate the sinner. "*And there shall in no wise enter into it (heaven) anything that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life*" (Revelation 21:27).

There is a great hope today that has captured the hearts of millions, including the world's leaders. The hope and belief is that mankind will come together in good will and begin to solve the world's problems, problems which threaten not only quality of life but man's very existence. This will be the agenda of the coming world church, and the lie which will be received with great enthusiasm.

Man's need is not a change of environment, nor a renewed commitment to cooperation, nor a re-organized political agenda; **man's need is a new heart, a new nature.** "*Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust*" (2 Peter 1:4). "*Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God*" (John 3:3).

**LISTEN CAREFULLY** - Satan is not to blame for man's sin. Satan will not be present during the 1000 years when these men and women will be tested. They will fail the test without his help.

Each man is to blame for his own sin. "*But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed*" (James 1:14). Satan is not to blame for our sin. Satan simply draws out of our hearts the things which are already there. We need to lay hold of this truth. The problem of sin is found in the human, unregenerate heart. Satan is simply God's instrument to reveal what is in the unregenerate heart.

"*The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?*" (Jeremiah 17:9). Notice, "*The heart is deceitful above all things.*"

The most deceitful thing, according to this verse, is the human heart. There is nothing anywhere more deceitful than the human heart. It is "*desperately wicked,*" there is nothing anywhere in the universe more wicked than the

human heart, including Satan, who is no more wicked than our unregenerate hearts. Do you understand our need for salvation?

Man is without any hope of doing the right thing in God's eyes, he is lost in sin without hope. Praise the Lord; this is why Christ came to die for our sins, to redeem us and to make us partakers of a new nature, the divine nature.

Jesus stated so simply how we can have that new nature, "*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).

We not only need to be saved and regenerated, we need to be rescued from our resident, old unregenerate nature to enable us to live a life pleasing to God.

Herein lies the second great lesson. With the sin nature that still lives in us, we have the potential to practice the most unimaginable sin.

As believers our problem is found in Galatians 5:17, "*For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.*" Verses 19 to 21 present a list of the sins every believer has the potential to be involved in if he walks in the flesh.

The wonderful and simple remedy is found in verse 16, "*This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.*" God's plan for victorious living is simple and certain; we need not be defeated by our own flesh nature nor by the wiles of the devil:

! Yield your life to Christ's control,  
! Seek to know His will as found in His word,

! Put out of your life those things that are contrary to His Word and you will be filled with the Spirit.

The fruit of the Spirit filled life is described in verses 22-24, "*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.*" The believer who does not "*Walk in the Spirit*" walks on the edge of disastrous sin. Art Sadlier



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# Calvinism

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The most important issue in the Bible is the gospel, indeed it is the most important issue in the whole world, at least as far as men are concerned. No matter what a man may do or say if he destroys the gospel the curse of God is upon him. *"As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed"* (Galatians 1:9).

Calvinism is another gospel; it is not good news but rather the bad news that God has already decided your eternal fate. You are only a puppet on a string. What kind of love is it that God would arbitrarily consign some men to hell?

Some of the men leading the promotion of Calvinism in recent years have been identified as, J.I. Packer, R.C. Sproul, John MacArthur and John Piper.

The Calvinist cannot quote John 3:16, *"That whosoever believeth in Him should not perish"* He cannot sing, *"There is room at the cross for you."* Is it **whosoever will** or **whosoever is predetermined**?

Calvinism has, in the last few decades, swept over Evangelicalism and is now making great inroads into what remains of Fundamentalism.

H.A. Ironside stated the following: *"Turn to your Bible and read for yourself, in the only two chapters in which this word predestinate or predestinated is found. The first is Romans 8:29-30, the other chapter is Ephesians 1:5 and 11. You will note that there is no reference in these four verses to either heaven or hell but to Christ-likeness eventually. Nowhere are we told in scripture that God predestinated one man to be saved and another to be lost. Men are to be saved or lost eternally because of their attitude towards the Lord Jesus Christ. Predestination means that someday all the redeemed shall become just like the Lord Jesus"*.

*"D.L. Moody used to put it very simply, the elect are the 'whosoever wills' the non-elect 'whosoever wont's'. This is exactly what scripture teaches, the invitation is to all, those who accept it are the elect. Remember, we are never told that Christ died for the elect"*.

*"Whosoever means, whosoever."* Only a biased theologian, with an axe to grind,

could ever think that it meant only the elect.

David Hunt stated, *"Giving man the power to make a genuine, independent choice need not diminish God's control over His universe. Being omnipotent and omniscient, God can so arrange circumstances as to keep man's rebellion from frustrating His purposes. In fact, God can and even does use man's free will to help fulfill His own plans and thus be even more glorified."*

Never did Christ or His apostles or the early church attempt to force anyone to believe the gospel. The tolerance the early church had for the ungodly around them was not an acceptance of their errors. It was recognition that no one could be forced against his will into the kingdom of God. They attempted to persuade the heathen to believe the gospel, but never did they attempt to force them to do so – nor did they believe in a God who could or would. The gospel is the good news of God's love in Christ and can only be received *willingly* from the heart. Since Calvinism denies the necessity of choice, it was only natural that its adherents would seek to force their views on all dissenters.

The Bible presents evil as the result of man's free will choosing for self instead of for God. The Calvinist, however, in denying human moral freedom, makes God the cause of all evil, insisting that He *"creates the very thoughts and intents of the soul"* (Reformed Doctrine of Predestination – L. Boettner).

Dr. Jack MacArthur senior said, *"Predestination is simply God's foreknowledge facing the future."*

Dr. John Walvoord stated, *"The plan God chose does not force anyone to be saved or lost, but simply means that He knows in advance what each of us will do."* There are good Bible scholars who can refute Calvinism, so do not let the Calvinist intimidate you with his seemingly intellectual arguments.

God is a sovereign God, but we need to understand what sovereignty is and what it is not. We are indebted to Dan Proctor for much of the following:

**1.** When bad things happen, many times you hear Christians say things like, *"God is in sovereign control," "Our*

*sovereign God is still on the throne," "It's God's sovereign choice," "It must be His sovereign will."*

**2.** These phrases are thrown around and are supposed to bring some measure of comfort to those who mourn and go through tragedy.

**3.** What does the Bible really teach about sovereignty? Let me shock you. The word *"sovereign"* and *"sovereignty"* are not in our King James Bible. The NIV substitutes the word *"sovereign"* for the word *"God"* over 300 times. Instead of *"Lord God"* they use the term *"sovereign Lord."* According to the Oxford English Dictionary the name *"sovereign Lord"* is one of 99 names the Muslims use for their God, Allah.

**4.** The word *sovereign* was introduced into the English language by the French speaking sovereigns who governed England in the 12th century. It was originally a French word. It was almost used exclusively to describe a mortal, political leader, not the transcendent, Almighty God. Webster's Online Dictionary defines *sovereignty* as *"supreme power over a body politic,"* again associating it with governmental authority.

**5.** The word eventually got introduced into theology in certain religious circles and owes its impetus to John Calvin. He was a Frenchman and would naturally use such a word. The word *"sovereign"* encapsulates his French training for the priesthood, his denial of free will, and his teachings merging church and state.

## IS SOVEREIGNTY A BIBLICAL CONCEPT?

Just because the word is not in the Bible does not necessarily mean that it is not a Biblical concept (example: the words *"trinity"* and *"rapture"*).

If the word *"sovereign"* means supreme power, then yes, God is sovereign. Very few would argue with the fact that God holds supreme power. Jesus said in Matthew 28:18, *"All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth."* Yet it is said of the anti-Christ in 2 Thessalonians 2:9 that He is coming after the working of Satan with *"all power"*. So, obviously, Christ holds all power, but hasn't fully exercised it all as of yet.

So the question becomes, "How and when does God exercise His power?" Jesus had the sovereign power to call legions of angels before His crucifixion, but He chose **NOT** to exercise His power. Jesus said in John 18:36, "My kingdom is *not* of this world; if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom *not* from hence."

Did Jesus have sovereign power that would have delivered Him from the Jews? Absolutely, but at that time He chose not to exercise it. One day Christ **WILL** fight and exercise sovereign power over this earth. This is the meaning of the word "omnipotent" and "Almighty". With only one exception, these two words are used exclusively in the book of Revelation. When Christ returns to this earth, Revelation 11:17 says "Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned". Christ will take to Him His great power and reign. At this time Christ will take "sovereign control" of this earth. cf. Revelation 19:6, 15, 21:22; 1Timothy 6:14-16. God's sovereignty over this earth will be exercised at His Second Coming. At this time, the anti-Christ and false prophet are thrown into the lake of fire (Revelation 19:20), and Satan is bound

in the bottomless pit (Revelation 20:1-2).

At the present time, Satan does have power which he is exercising. Acts 26:18; 1 Corinthians 15:23-24

We also discover in Revelation that God's power is controlled by His character and nature. 15:3, 16:7

People who misunderstand God's sovereignty will sometimes say, "God can do whatever He wants to do. He is sovereign." This is a false notion. God cannot do anything that contradicts His nature and character. Titus 1:2; James 1:13

**ILLUSTRATION:**

Of the tragic killings at Virginia Tech., someone may say, "We have to trust God's sovereign will and plan." This statement leaves you with the idea that God desired and willed that event to occur, that it was part of His "mysterious" plan. This is impossible because it would contradict God's righteous character. Satan is a murderer; senseless, brutal murder is part of Satan's character (John 8:44). Then who do you think planned and instigated and masterminded this event? Jeremiah 19:5 is extremely important to read.

Can God bring good things out of this tragic event? Absolutely yes. God will freely dispense His grace to those in

need who seek Him and turn to Him. But we cannot make God ultimately responsible for the dastardly deeds of sinful man and Satan. They are out of the realm of His righteous nature and character.

God's sovereignty is also controlled and limited by His Word. God has freely and voluntarily limited Himself this way. Numbers 23:19

To summarize - while God is sovereign, there are things He cannot do because they contradict His character or His written Word. Sovereignty is a Biblical concept, but when there is an overemphasis of God's power and a neglect or diminishing of His other attributes (love, mercy, grace, justice, truth, holiness, etc.) the result is false doctrine. God does not exercise His sovereignty in isolation of His other qualities. Over-emphasis on His sovereignty, results in a God who empowers and commissions wicked people to do sinful things that violate His righteous character and loving nature.

Christian, be very careful how you throw around the word "sovereign". God is not up in heaven pushing buttons and pulling levers and making everything that happens happen. Do not lay at His feet the evil and wicked choices of mankind and Satan. Art Sadlier

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## Shifting Alliances

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Our world is shifting sand as alliances crumble and new ones arise. Our world is changing with lightning speed. The long anticipation of America's demise as an influence in the Mideast end time scenario is now unfolding.

Pakistan is aligning with the Sunni camp. They are entering into involvement with Saudi Arabia having made a commitment to provide nuclear weapons and missiles to them. It is suspected that the transfer of these weapons has already begun.

China is withdrawing from its alliance with Iran and aligning with Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and the Gulf States which are the Sunni Muslim nations. China is really replacing America in this adjustment.

On the other side are the Shiite Muslims made up of Iran, Syria and Lebanon, add to that group Russia and

India which is the new arrival to replace China.

The US has now alienated Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the Gulf States. The alliance of the US with Israel may have been damaged beyond repair though Israel would not make that public.

The most significant thing in this scenario is that America is now shut out of the Mideast, though it may not have registered with them as yet. Soon the policeman of the world will be removed altogether.

Meanwhile in the Far East China has declared the East China Sea a defense zone and are requiring all aircraft to file flight plans before entering the air space. This is turning into a confrontation by China with the US and Japan. China has history of not backing down in face saving situations. This has the potential to be a very serious

situation for the US. China and the whole world know that Obama will not go to war, which will embolden China.

The major question now is, "Will Israel Strike Iran?" What will happen if she does?

We cannot say how this will all unfold, but we are seeing the potential for a Mideast and Fareast earthquake. It appears that the stage is possibly being set for climactic events. It is possible that the flames of war could suddenly explode leaving the world on fire with shocking events taking place, allowing the way for the false peacemaker to bring his false peace to the world.

Perhaps there are just a few more days to serve the Lord and please Him and just a few more days to proclaim the gospel. No matter how much time we have, we are to live as if each day were our last here on earth. Art Sadlier