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Midnight Call

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Our Mission in the Days of Coronavirus

Chip Under
the Skin?
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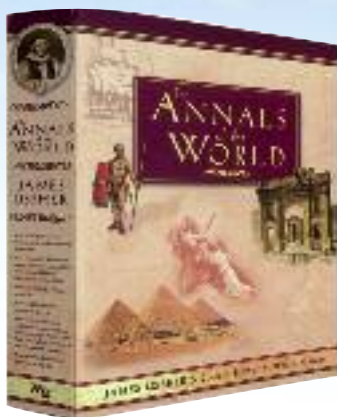
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WORLD FOCUS They Want Your DNA • No Sign of Herd Immunity Stopping Virus • 20 Safest Countries

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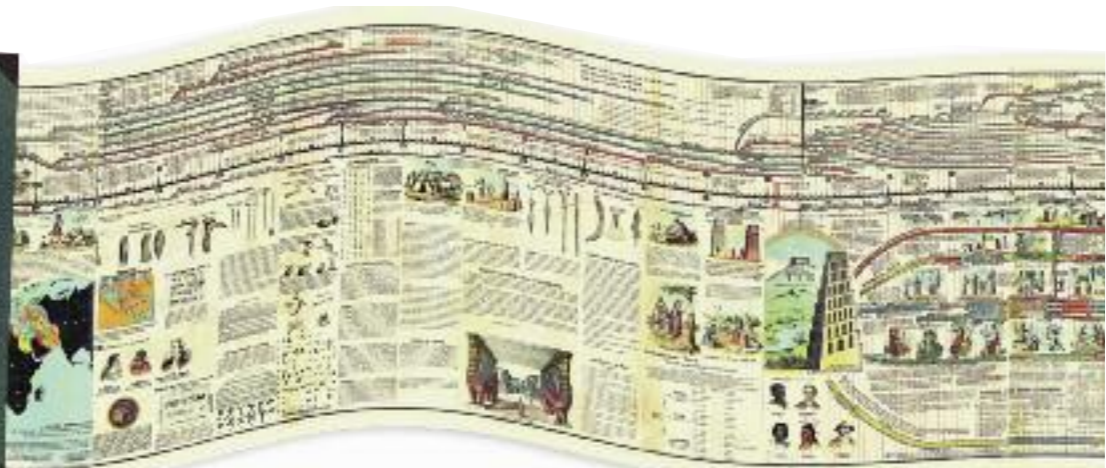
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By Matthias Swart

In some coronavirus sermons today, it's difficult to see where the added value is for Christians in times of crisis. Imagine what the Lord could do if our missionary zeal were focused on the Lord and the gospel, and not on coronavirus investigations.



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“On the Way to Emmaus— Or Back to Jerusalem?”



By Jonathan Malgo

Director of Operations, Midnight Call International

Luke reports that after the crucifixion and resurrection of the Lord Jesus, two disciples went from Jerusalem to Emmaus. They were very dejected, and when the Lord came to them, He asked why they were so sorrowful. They did not recognize Him, and responded indignantly: “Are you the only one who does not know what happened?” And then they described in detail the indisputably terrible events of the last few days, which occupied and upset them so much.

Thereupon our Lord reacted, not gently but rather very firmly and plainly! He said: “Oh [you] fools...” (Luke 24:25). And He explained to them that His Word had to be fulfilled; to put it simply, that everything had to happen correctly. After He had clarified all of it, they sat at the table with Him. Their eyes were then opened to recognize Him and understand the Word, which filled them with joy. The two disciples immediately returned to Jerusalem to proclaim what had truly taken place.

Allow me to use this incident as a picture of our time: Many of us are on the road to Emmaus. We leave the city of God (Jerusalem) to travel to an earthly village (Emmaus). We are disturbed by the undeniably terrible events of our time. We are upset by the corona mandates. We hear, see, and read about the virus. This subject pursues us and doesn't let us rest or relax. The whole thing fills us with indignation. And yes, what's happening is really bad. But perhaps we are getting into a frame of mind like a “doomsday panic,” which we should not allow to take hold of us.

Given everything that is happening—which is also affecting our emotions—we often don't even notice that we are forgetting the Lord is in control. His Word is being fulfilled; He is taking action. We at Midnight Call Ministries wish to strongly proclaim: Everything is pointing to His return! We also offer many resources that target this, and publish messages that shed light on all of it. That is our mission.

EDITOR'S NOTE

I would encourage you not to tarry on the road to Emmaus. Arise—go back to Jerusalem! The city of God is our goal, not the “global village” of this earth. We want to continue with the joyful proclamation, and keep in mind what really matters. The time we invest in YouTube, the media, and reports about the virus is wasted time. The time we invest in His cause, however, has value here and for eternity.

And let us remember that the eyes of the Emmaus disciples were opened when they had fellowship with the Lord. That is what truly matters. We won't gain wisdom when we allow the concerns and fears of this world to define and consume us; only when we have fellowship with Jesus. That is true knowledge, which helps us progress in our Christian journey.

Thus: Maranatha; Jesus is coming soon! (MC)

Note: Part 2 of Wilfred Hahn's message, “Global Debt Oppression Prophesied” will appear in the March issue.

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OUR TASK

Midnight Call Ministries is a nonprofit missionary organization, dedicated to proclaiming the entire Bible as the unfailing and eternal written Word of God, inspired by the Holy Spirit, and the unerring guide for the Christian faith.

The object of Midnight Call is to call people everywhere to Christ, to proclaim the return of Christ, to prepare Christians for His coming, and to uphold the faith and warn of false doctrines. *Midnight Call* magazine is available in twelve languages. All work done through radio, literature and missionaries is supported entirely by the gifts and free will offerings of God's people.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

WE BELIEVE in the divine inspiration of the whole Bible and therefore with the infallibility of the Holy Scripture, which is God's Word, and in the eternal Triune God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

WE BELIEVE Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, lived a sinless life, and shed His blood to save mankind. He died and arose bodily the third day and later ascended into heaven.

WE BELIEVE that the Lord Jesus Christ died in the place of each individual sinner and that all who believe in Him as their personal Savior are justified through His shed blood and have become children of God.

WE BELIEVE that Israel is God's chosen people, and that the restoration of the Jews to their own land is the fulfillment of the Word of God.

WE BELIEVE in the pre-tribulational appearance of Jesus Christ for the Rapture of His Church (all born again believers).

WE BELIEVE in the immortality of our souls and the resurrection of our bodies, and in the resurrection of the just and the unjust, the everlasting blessedness of the saved and the everlasting punishment of the lost.



Our Mission in the Days of Coronavirus

Matthias Swart

“We must obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:29).

“We must obey God...” An important truth: our conscience is bound by God’s Word. But in what context is this phrase from the Apostle Paul mostly circulating these days?

My friend virtually shouts the words at me: “Anyone who hasn’t yet recognized the signs of the times doesn’t want to see them! These times demand that we act!” “Amen!” Let’s go and bring the gospel to some friends while it’s still day! But that isn’t what he means. I’m supposed to watch YouTube videos; that’s what he means. Videos about Bill Gates and vaccines. Sermons about the Christian’s mission to compel the state to safeguard basic democratic rights.

“We must obey God...” An important truth: our conscience is bound by God’s Word. But in what context is this phrase from the Apostle Paul mostly circulating these days? Public health policies, which to some extent severely restrict our civil liberties, are understood to be illegitimate, especially where they also impact our church life. The basis for this interpretation is usually that the assessment of Covid-19’s dangers isn’t shared, or that other measures with lesser economic and social consequences are preferable. That’s why pulpits and YouTube channels are calling for action, ranging from vigilance to resistance. Legal action is being taken against prohibitions on worship services, a confrontational atmosphere prevails, and lines are being drawn in the sand of livestream worship services.

I wonder, is that our mission? Do we really want to “declare a state of emergency for our faith” over temporary measures that are affecting all parts of the population equally? These are not inherently meant to be political in nature, and are already declining.

An age of persecution, or the gospel? You gain the impression here and there that most Western Christians no longer know what persecution means. Some are now constructing an inflated redemptive-historical significance by placing a general crisis (that doesn’t affect Christians specifically!) in the context of historical Christian persecution. But that’s a frivolous exaggeration of the situation. The precedent cited above for disobedience to the religious authority, is the Apostles’ refusal to be forbidden to preach the gospel of the resurrected Christ—the Christian faith’s core message. I don’t recall being prevented from testifying to the hope that I have anytime recently. The campaign for the book, *Where Is God in a Coronavirus World?* by John Lennox, was extremely well-received in many places. There were evangelistic awakenings in many cities around the world, and many of us have seen colleagues and friends suddenly being open to conversations about God. Wonderful!

Pandemics have always been times when God’s Word could gain ground, because Christians could see opportunities for self-sacrificing service—not rebellion against the state.

I know brothers in India who are the only ones distributing necessary provisions in leper colonies and settlements of stranded migrant workers—places where the coronavirus is now raging and no government official will go. What a testimony—it’s great that they don’t have to be responsible for any YouTube channels, and instead have time for their service! To my dear brothers and sisters with

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Western Christians no longer know what persecution means. Some are now constructing an inflated redemptive-historical significance by placing a general crisis in the context of historical Christian persecution.

coronavirus-themed messages, I'd like to ask a question: Isn't this the age of the gospel? Just where are you getting the time and the calling to preoccupy Christians with third- and fourth-priority issues right now?

Obedient to Nazis? Many preachers and social media proclaimers are currently drawing subtle parallels between the Nazi State and current circumstances. It is usually (but not always!) accompanied by a comment that we aren't there yet, but you can see where it leads when Christians are too subservient to the state. And that's true: the risk of slipping into that kind of situation is at least as great today as it was then. Because we are no better as people, and no more courageous as Christians. In this sense, the coronavirus pandemic can be understood as a wake-up call. Perhaps the measures taken were sensible in this case (I can't be the judge of that), but the shock to our complacent existence remains.

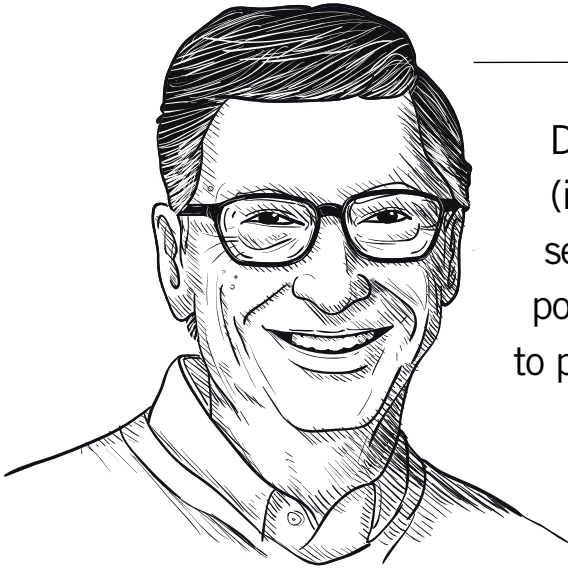
Along with our comfortable, minimally-objectionable, and largely socially-compatible church life, we're resting on freedoms and rights that are far less secure than we'd thought. That's not a bad realization, possibly at the right time. Nevertheless, it must be made very clear that the current circumstances under Covid-19 have nothing to do with the Nazi State's interference in church teaching and practice.

Nobody is swearing by an ungodly "Führer"; nobody is forcing us to adhere to racist church bylaws, or threatening our lives if we confess Jesus as our Lord.

Do we really want to compare the lectures that can be given at any time online and in the real world, no matter how far-fetched, with a sermon by Wilhelm Busch or Paul Schneider during the Nazi era? Sermons that cost these men their freedom, and some their lives? There's no parallel by any stretch of the imagination. When a Wilhelm Busch, a Dietrich Bonhoeffer, or a Paul Schneider risks or gives up his own life while objecting to an insane, dictatorial state ("[I] must obey God rather than men..."), then it's really not a good idea to associate the current situation with theirs. Such grand gestures and fundamental positions wear out if they're wasted on relatively trivial occasions.

Fight for your rights? Peter and the other Apostles don't fight a legal battle over their right to express their opinion. They do what they do, face the consequences, and experience wonderful things. Peter didn't do anything wrong; so when the opportunity to get out of prison presents itself, naturally, he takes it. Why not? He doesn't flee overseas, but heads right back into the streets. In the end, he pays for his preaching with his life. His struggle wasn't for his rights and his freedom; his struggle was for the souls of his fellow men. He went into the streets, into prison, out of prison, and to his death for them. Should I experience times like those, I pray that I can prioritize like Peter did.

Paul is tangled up in several trials, because he was dragged into court. But once he's there, he doesn't discuss state theory and civil liberties. He preaches the



Do preachers need to be talking about Bill Gates (including highly controversial allegations) in a sermon? Just because someone is rich and powerful doesn't mean that Christians are allowed to publicly say unproven things about him.

gospel and testifies to his commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ. Admittedly, this is an eminently political act in a world that is committed to the emperor. And there is indeed a parallel to Wilhelm Busch and the heroes of the Confessing Church, as evident in Busch's lectures on his "encounters with the secret police." [Editor's Note: "The Confessing Church was a movement within German Protestantism during Nazi Germany that arose in opposition to government-sponsored efforts to unify all Protestant churches into a single pro-Nazi Protestant Reich Church" (Wikipedia).] But that's not where Germany is today. Let's not mock the brothers and sisters who were thrown into prison for their beliefs, with careless comparisons!

Identify conspirators? Nor can I find the hawking of speculative theories about the rich and powerful in Paul, Peter, or even our Lord. Why don't the Gospels tell us more about the "entanglement of the Sadducee priesthood with Roman power structures?" Why doesn't Paul explain networks in idol production in Asia Minor, based on "unspecified sources among the Asians?" Or, to put it another way: Do preachers need to be talking about Bill Gates (including highly con-

troversial allegations) in a sermon? Between the state of emergency during the pandemic and the lawless space on the internet, you'd think that some Christians believe themselves released from their obligation to the truth. But that's fatal: Just because someone is rich and powerful doesn't mean that Christians are allowed to publicly say unproven things about him. Christians must not make unchecked claims just because it seems to support their theory.

There's so much at stake. And this standard always applies: "...you shall not bear false witness against your neighbor" (Deut 5:20).

Spreading uncertainty? Fortunately, speculative whispering isn't the New Testament way either. Count the question marks in some sermons these days: "What if we're still not allowed to worship together in a few months? What if there's a vaccine mandate? What if..." That's the style of populism: don't claim anything, just ask and make the hearer feel insecure—a gloomy future, wafting in the mists of the subjunctive! What if the future gets harder than the present? Well, that's not entirely out of the question when you look into the Bible. Hopefully, in the years leading up to it,

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Count the question marks in some sermons these days: “What if we’re still not allowed to worship together in a few months? What if there’s a vaccine mandate? What if...” That’s the style of populism: don’t claim anything, just ask and make the hearer feel insecure.



we’re not just stirring up fearful visions of the future, but rather things that cause “the heart to be strengthened by grace” (Heb 13:9). In some coronavirus sermons today, it’s difficult to see where the added value is for Christians in times of crisis. On the contrary: “You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?” (Matt 7:16). I see the fruit of these sermons as only increasing fear, rampant uncertainty, constant circling around current politics, divisive zeal, and growing hatred. How tragic! Imagine what the Lord could do with these brothers and sisters, if their missionary zeal were focused on the Lord and the gospel, and not on coronavirus investigations.

Preparing wisely for difficult times. Needless to say, it’s a valid question: How can the church prepare for times when the government will attack the faith? One important method is not to sound false alarms. What Christianity has already suffered from false end-time prophecies; what hysteria has already been triggered by newspaper sensationalism! I’m not saying that Christians shouldn’t observe the signs of the times. Jesus rebukes His contemporaries for their inability to see these signs. However, He doesn’t call for political rebellion, but for repentance and faith, and for using the limited time wisely: “We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work” (John 9:4).

What is the impact of salt? It makes you thirsty! Being salt means a life that generates questions, one that arouses longing for “the hope that is in us.”

“Be faithful in the little things today” is good advice when asked how to prepare for times of decision-making. We should use freedoms faithfully while they exist, instead of lamenting their possible future loss! Far more of this “gospel age” is being lost to laziness, worldliness, social media, and video streaming services than to persecution. Let’s faithfully bear witness to our hope in Jesus whenever someone asks! For us Christians in the West, the reaction of the Chinese believers to Mao’s Cultural Revolution is still remarkable. It was entirely according to the sober, realistic verse, “making the best use of the time, because the days are evil” (Eph 5:16). In light of the doors that were rapidly closing to the gospel, they started an evangelistic campaign with all their strength.

Our mission: to be salt and light. What is my mission in times of crisis? “You are the salt of the earth [...] You are the light of the world” (Matt 5:13-14). What is the impact of salt? It makes you thirsty! Being salt means a life that generates questions, one that arouses longing for “the hope that is in us.” What is the impact of light? It makes things visible. Not the “real” reasons behind various social developments (as if we’d figure them out); these are all just clouds of mist and shades of darkness. This light shows the actual, ultimate reality—the truth, Jesus Christ (John 14:6). This is my prayer: that an otherworldly hope will be visible in me in these times, and that whoever listens to me will learn something from Him who



is the truth. How will you see that hope and truth have entered my life? Certainly not through my spreading messages full of hopelessness, uncertainty, and potential falsehoods! “Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven” (Matt 5:16). Believers in China and India chose the better way.

We are the ones with hope! We are the ones with peace! We are the ones with the truth! I ask, my friend: When we enter into eternity, do we really want to give an account of our time by saying, “I’m the one who almost uncovered the conspiracy behind the coronavirus?” Or, “I’m the one who opened people’s eyes to Bill Gates and forced vaccination?”

But I do know one thing: I have more important things to do, greater things to announce, and my destiny is a higher one.

And yours?

(MR1120/1118)

(This article was first published at gesundheits-gemeinden.de; republished and translated with permission.)

Chip Under the Skin?

Norbert Lieth

We're continually receiving anxious inquiries due to new technologies and rumors about microchips. What are we to make of this?



There's no doubt that we're living in exciting times, and experiencing great changes firsthand. First the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, then the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the wars in the Middle East, and now the global coronavirus pandemic, as well as the "successful" peace efforts in and around Israel. There has been much talk of a turning point and a New World Order, and it's difficult to avoid the impression that the fulfillment of biblical prophecy is accelerating.

As a result of Covid-19, things are becoming possible that would never have been considered feasible nearly a year ago, like compulsory face masks, public temperature-taking via infrared thermometer, and new regulations. There is increasing talk of cashless payments, vaccination certificates, and a chip. For one thing, the speculation and conspiracy theories are getting out of hand. But apart from that, everyone is noticing that something completely new is approaching.

It's entirely possible that we've entered a phase in which humanity—uniformly and globally—is being kindled toward the time described to us in

Revelation. In the end, there will be a worldwide kingdom and two anti-Christian rulers. People will be forced to take a mark, without which they can no longer buy or sell (Rev 13). If cash no longer exists, people who don't bear the mark are without recourse. Through it all, we're noticing how quickly whole societies can be made compliant. The August 21, 2020 issue of the German newspaper *Hannoversche Allgemeine Zeitung* had an article entitled, "The Corona-Crisis Is an Opportunity." In it, Bundestag (parliament) President Wolfgang Schäuble is quoted as saying, "Europe as a whole needs to take on more responsibility, especially in security and defense policy.' [...] At the same time, he describes the Corona crisis as a 'great opportunity' for Europe. 'Resistance to change decreases in a crisis. We're now able to establish the economic and financial union that we haven't achieved politically until now.'"

Having said this, we must soberly state that the "mark" is directly related to worship of the "beast," and has no relation to those who already belong to the Lord Jesus.

We must soberly state that the “mark” is directly related to worship of the “beast,” and has no relation to those who already belong to the Lord Jesus.

“And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six” (Rev 13:14-18).

In our opinion, a chip or vaccination shouldn't be equated with the coming mark...but it could bring us partway there.

The following biblical references make it clear that the mark has no relation to the church of born-again Christians:

- According to 1 Corinthians 6:1-3, the church is destined to judge the world and the angels. Since the time described in the book of Revelation (including chapter 13) is the time of God's judgment on the world, we're assuming that the church is already in glory with Jesus and will judge the world as His body, together with Him as the head. Only when head and body are brought together is fullness reached, fulfilling all in all; at that, the end-time events take their course (cf. Eph 1:23).

- The church of Jesus is sealed with the Holy Spirit (Eph 1:13; 4:30). This means that it can't be sealed with a diabolical, anti-Christian mark at the same time, thereby losing the seal of the Spirit. If the future 144,000 people from the twelve tribes of

Israel—who are sealed by God—cannot be harmed (Rev 7:3), how much more is that true of the body of Christ?

- The Bible clearly tells us that the time of Revelation is the time of God's wrath (Rev 6:16-17), but the church is not appointed to wrath (1 Thess 1:10; 5:9).

Furthermore, the Bible states that only the children of unbelief are destined for this time of God's wrath (Eph 5:6; Col 3:6).

- The Bible teaches the church a clear assurance of salvation in Jesus Christ (cf. 1 Cor 1:30; 2 Cor 5:17; John 14:16; Rom 8:39; 1 John 2:27; 3:9; 4:13, etc.). In addition, it says that those who have the Spirit of God confess Jesus (1 John 4:2). Conversely, this means that they cannot deny Him with an anti-Christian mark. If the church of Jesus had to go through the time of the Antichrist and the mark, it would always have to fear and have no assurance of salvation. In addition, it would beg the question of why, after 2,000 years, only this remnant of the church would have to go through this terrible time of the Great Tribulation.

- The Church Age ends with the full number of believers from every nation. After that, God turns back to Israel (Rom 11:25-26). Revelation shows us the time when God judges Israel, but in the end saves.

- After the church has been removed and the body of Christ has been completed, it is still possible for people to be saved. But these no longer belong to the church as the body of Christ. They are, therefore, again given conditions by which they can be saved (as in the Gospels); namely, faith and works. Paul, however, explicitly writes about the church's redemption, faith without works (Rom 3:28). Thus, Tribulation believers are also admonished not to accept the mark, because then they cannot be saved. (MR1120/1119)



The Message of Jonah – Part 3

Dr. Ron J. Bigalke

Winnie-the-Pooh once remarked, “How lucky am I to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard.” Saying goodbye is never easy, especially when you have developed concern and love for the people to whom you are saying goodbye.

The Apostle Paul lamented the parting of paths with a church he loved. He was burdened with the reality that this assembly of believers would never see his face again (Acts 20:25).

As Paul spoke to the elders of the Ephesian church, he was convinced that God was leading him from his friends for the remainder of his earthly days. Paul was aware from his Damascus Road experience that God sovereignly determines the life direction of His people. Saying goodbye is essential to attaining Christian maturity, and is necessary in relationships with others.

Everyone must say goodbye in various ways and circumstances. College graduation, marriage, the birth of a child, the death of a loved one, the loss of employment, or retirement are events that result in the end of one aspect of life and the beginning of another. Saying goodbye is the recognition that something valued—something essential to the present—is ending.

Jonah needed to say goodbye to many things. The first and most obvious—the fish—would be easy, yet that would result in other changes. He was a prophet of God in the Northern Kingdom of Israel (2 Kgs 14:25), but would now minister for the Lord

in Nineveh. Jonah also needed to say goodbye to his attitude of anger, hatred, and prejudice.

A SECOND CHANCE

(Jonah 3:1-10) The final two chapters of Jonah record the prophet's obedience to the Lord subsequent to his initial disobedience (chs. 1—2). However, Jonah was obedient in action, yet his attitude was still defiant. In chapter 2, Jonah prayed that he would offer sacrifices to the Lord in Jerusalem in thankfulness for God sparing his life. God did not want sacrifices from Jonah. He wanted obedience, and reminded the prophet that an uncompleted task remained for him to accomplish.

The lesson Jonah needed to learn is important because, frequently, obedience to God's will is contrary to one's own desires. Spiritual maturity can never be attained by neglecting the revealed will of the Lord. Many believers want to be used by God, yet they are not willing to accomplish the plain and simple tasks that God has revealed in His Word. God reminded Jonah that he would make no progress until he did what God asked him to do.

"Second time" are the crucial words that begin Jonah 3. Jonah would be given a second chance, which is not something everyone in the Bible receives. Lot's wife did not (Gen 19:26). King Saul was permanently removed from his office because of his sinful rebellion (1 Sam 13:9, 13-14). God judged Ananias and Sapphira immediately for their deceit (Acts 5:1-11).

God is not obliged to provide a second chance; thus, never presume upon the Lord's grace. Nevertheless, God does welcome prodigals (Luke 15:11-32), and He did forgive and restore Peter (John 21:15-25). The encouraging truth in Jonah 3 is that the prophet's initial disobedience did not negate the Lord's calling upon his life. This likely proves that God cares more for the worker than the work to be done. If the Lord were only concerned for Nineveh, it would have been possible to send another prophet. God wanted Jonah to confront his sinful attitude, and thereby learn something of the great love that the Lord has for the world.

Just as He sovereignly sent "a great storm on the sea" (Jon 1:4) and "appointed a great fish to swallow Jonah" (v. 17), so did God sovereignly choose Jonah for His mission. Another indication of God's sovereignty is the

command to Jonah that he proclaim the Lord's precise word. Even today, God's ambassadors are to convey the Lord's words, not their own ideas. Divine grace is always sufficient—wherever the will of the Lord may lead—because God will empower His servant.

As a foremost city of one of the most powerful nations in the world at that time, Nineveh was "great" indeed (3:2-3; 4:11), having been established by Nimrod in the time of the Patriarchs (Gen 10:10-12). Nineveh was the oldest and most populous city of the Assyrian Empire, the rival of Israel. Located east of the Tigris River, Nineveh was the royal residence of the Assyrian kings. The national history of Assyria has been preserved with inscriptions and pictures of military battles and campaigns. Nineveh was legendary for its savagery in plundering cities.

The history is bloodcurdling and gory. The Assyrians were proficient in torturing conquered nations. Captives were often skinned alive. The Assyrians gouged the eyes of many troops. They would burn their captives, take a sword to body parts, and were even known to burn adolescent boys and girls. The methods by which the Assyrians punished their captives would frighten most not to resist.

Not only was Nineveh ferocious, but also the city was exceedingly religious. They had an entire pantheon of gods, many of whom were incorporated from Babylon. The priests of Nineveh were not opposed to war, and were even considered relentless fomenters of war. Much of their support came from the spoils of conquest, and they delighted at the sight of armies departing and returning with plunder. Nineveh was an exceedingly wicked city, which is why God wanted Jonah to preach to them.

Normally, a prophet would be delighted to declare God's message to a wicked city, since He had demonstrated that a nation would be destroyed for its wickedness. The Assyrians had not yet conquered Israel, but they had come near. The expansion of Israel's borders, which was the fulfillment of a prophecy from Jonah, was made possible because the Assyrians had already captured or killed surrounding peoples. Jonah would have feared the Assyrians and wanted nothing to do with the bloody, cruel city. God, however, was concerned for the city, meaning it was definitely significant to Him. *God*

The Message of Jonah – Part 3

God declared His intentions toward a guilty people, and stated the punishment they would receive because of their culpability. Yet He always intended to demonstrate mercy once the people “turned from their wicked way.”

cares for the great cities of the world, as should His people.

Jonah learned that he must fulfill the Lord’s commission, so he arose and traveled east to Nineveh (Jon 3:3; cf. 1:3). God’s character is unchanging, so the message remained the same (cf. v. 2). Jonah, however, experienced transformation, and this time he was obedient to the word of the Lord.

Jonah’s message to the Ninevites was quite simple: “Yet forty days, and Nineveh will be overthrown” (3:4). The message was an announcement of impending doom, yet the forty-day period of grace was intended to provoke repentance, which it did. “Then the people of Nineveh believed in God” (v. 5a). Nineveh had many gods and was known as a religious city with temples to those idols. Yet the people renounced their national and personal gods, and turned to the God who created the heavens and the earth. They recognized the power of God, and believed He could and would do exactly as Jonah proclaimed.

The citizens of Nineveh demonstrated their belief with tangible actions (cf. 2 Sam 3:31, 35; 1 Kgs 21:27; Neh 9:1-2; Isa 15:3; 58:5; Dan 9:3; Joel 1:13-14). “They called a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them” (v. 5b). Both actions involved self-affliction as a demonstration of humility. “When the word reached the king of Nineveh, he arose from his throne [a gesture of grave intent], laid his robe from him [an act of humility], covered *himself* with sackcloth [an indication of mourning], and sat on the ashes [a demonstration of repentance]” (v. 6). The king then “issued a proclamation,” decreeing a time of fasting and prayer (vv. 7-8). As he said, “Who knows, God may turn and relent, and withdraw His burning anger so that we will not perish” (v. 9; cf. Isa 55:6-7). Obviously, the Ninevites understood the impending doom was in response to their own conduct. The people believed correctly that God might be merciful if they abandoned their wickedness.

An indication of spiritual maturity is responding to God in humility as opposed to arrogance and pride. First Peter 5:5b-6 reads, “Clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for GOD IS OP-

POSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE. Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time.” Jonah was arrogant and proud toward the Ninevites because he hated them. Yet the king of Assyria did respond in humility, and not only saved himself but also his people.

Humility extends beyond self to one’s sphere of influence. Salvation is by God’s grace through faith, “not as a result of works, so that no one may boast” (Eph 2:9). Being a recipient of God’s grace means being gracious to others. The gift of God’s grace is not for boasting; rather, it is for the benefit of others (cf. Rom 12:6; Eph 3:2, 7; 4:7; 1 Pet 4:10).

God saw the genuineness of the Ninevites’ repentance in their deeds (Jon 3:10). They bore “fruit in keeping with repentance” (Matt 3:8; cf. 2 Cor 7:10). In response, God withheld the judgment that He would have administered if they had not “turned from their wicked way” (Jon 3:10). What is amazing is how an entire city was brought to repentance and faith, through the preaching of a man who did not love the people to whom he ministered.

“God relented,” which means He is free to change. God declared His intentions toward a guilty people, and stated the punishment they would receive because of their culpability. Yet He always intended to demonstrate mercy once the people “turned from their wicked way.” God threatened judgment, which the people certainly deserved, yet would pardon them once they turned to Him.

The most important fact is that no one but God anticipated such prayer and repentance. God was at work in the wicked city prior to Jonah’s preaching. He prepared Nineveh for this moment, and the people of that generation responded. Perhaps our nation is under judgment at this moment, and we do not realize it; or, perhaps we are closer to a revival greater than any could imagine.


(1122)



 **CHINA**

They Want Your DNA

“We need to further harmonize policies and standards and establish ‘fast tracks’ to facilitate the orderly flow of personnel,” said Chinese ruler Xi Jinping to the virtual G20 Leaders’ Summit. “China has proposed a global mechanism on the mutual recognition of health certificates based on nucleic acid test results in the form of internationally accepted QR codes. We hope more countries will join this mechanism.”

 Already, the Chinese embassy in Canada has announced that China-bound passengers must have a QR code with a mark denoting either Chinese citizen or foreigner. The code is a replacement for the current requirement that passengers present COVID-19 test results prior to boarding.

The Chinese embassies in South Korea, France and the U.S. have similar requirements. Travelers from Singapore will be able to enter China with a green QR code.

There are, of course, hard-to-solve privacy concerns with a mandatory QR code. Who is going to trust any national government with information about health and travel information?

And who would administer such a system? Raina MacIntyre of the University of New South Wales, in the words of CNN, “suggested that a central database of information managed by the World Health Organization or a United Nations agency might be the least controversial way of creating a COVID tracking app.”

Beijing is building its massive DNA database in many ways. For instance, it is conducting

Phase 3 trials of its coronavirus vaccine outside China.

In Morocco, Chinese officials strong-armed the government to test China’s vaccine on its people. Beijing gets the test data, which includes the DNA of Moroccans. China is also trying to impose coercive terms—its officials privately say countries not participating in such trials will not get access to the vaccine—on Nigeria and much of the rest of Africa.

China is also getting the DNA of Americans by buying American companies. China’s BGI Group may now have the largest database on Americans after acquiring Complete Genomics in 2013. This year, GNC, which holds customer profiles, was sold to a Chinese entity, Harbin Pharmaceutical Group.

-www.newsweek.com, 30 November 2020

Commentary: Just a few decades ago, this was absolutely unthinkable. Communist China was in desperate need of Western science and technology, and its economy was not great to say the least. However, all this has changed. Chinese news sources proudly proclaim that they have already become the world’s number one economy. Markets have developed at phenomenal speed. When it comes to the number of motor vehicles, China is the undisputed leader of the world.

What may be the reason for China’s virtually mind-boggling success, while remaining a communist country? One word: change. That simply means adapting to the present global market situation—making full use of communism, socialism, and capitalism.

VisualCapitalist.com claims that the world debt is \$69 trillion. The United



Chinese President Xi Jinping
© Kevin Frayer/Getty Images

States leads the world with \$21 trillion of government debt. That equals 31% of global debt, followed by Japan with 17% and China at 9.8%. In plain words, the world is operating its economy on debt.

Where will it end? The Bible makes it crystal clear that the entire world will experience a complete and unprecedented collapse. Revelation declares: “For in one hour so great riches is come to nought. And every shipmaster, and all the company in ships, and sailors, and as many as trade by sea, stood afar off” (Revelation 18:17).

But there is more. China’s suggestion on pooling global health data is just one more step toward total registration of all people on planet earth. With China’s immense foreign currency reserves, they are “getting the DNA of Americans by buying American companies.” In other words, no



one is exempt. The process of globalization, once led by the US, now seems to be in the hands of communist China.

7396

(See *Exposing Mystery Babylon Part 2*, Item #1080, \$4.50.)

EUROPE

Lagarde Sees Digital Currency Coming

European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde signaled that her institution could create a digital currency within years in what would be a dramatic change to the euro zone's financial sector.

“My hunch is that it will come,” Lagarde said during a virtual panel discussion hosted by the ECB. “If it's cheaper, faster, more secure for the users then we should explore it. If it's going to contribute to a better monetary sovereignty, a better autonomy for the euro area, I think we should explore it.”

The president said it might be two to four years before the project could be launched as it addresses concerns over money laundering, privacy, and the technology involved.

That's still fast compared to its peers. On the same panel, Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell and Bank of England Governor Andrew Bailey reiterated their caution. Powell said the Fed will “carefully and thoughtfully” review the issue, and Bailey said there's a “lot of hard work to think through the implications.”

Policy makers intend to decide around mid-2021 whether to initiate a full-fledged project and prepare for a possible launch.

China is also advancing with plans for a central-bank digital currency.

“We're not racing to be first,” Lagarde said. “We are moving ahead diligently, not incautiously. We will be prudent.”

-www.bloomberg.com, 12 November 2020

Commentary: There is little doubt that digital currency is safer in many ways. As ECB President Lagarde says, it will contribute toward the fight against international money laundering crimes. All this



Christine Lagarde Photographer: Thomas Lohnes/Getty Images

is just one step closer to total financial control. The world has progressed from bartering to hard currency, and later paper money. BankNoteWorld.com reports that paper money originated in China during the Tang Dynasty. It was the famous traveler, Marco Polo, who visited China sometime in 1275 and discovered Chinese paper money.

Today, the whole world uses this system, although much more sophisticated and technologically advanced ones exist. It's still just a piece of paper; or, in Australia, plastic. In actual fact, it's intrinsically worthless; you can't eat it, you can't put it in your fuel tank, but people the world over have faith in their currency. Subsequently, it became the powerhouse that drives the world economy.

Digital currency is just the next logical step. But it is being worked on in conjunction with personal identity—for example, a credit card. When one opens an account with a company, the number becomes the decisive identity. From that point on, the possessor of the card can go shopping. This reminds us of Revelation



13:17: “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.”

7389

(See Revelation 13: Satan's Last Victory, Item #1067, \$11.95.)

SWEDEN

No Sign of Herd Immunity Stopping Virus

“The issue of herd immunity is difficult,” Anders Tegnell said at a briefing in Stockholm. “We see no signs of immunity in the population that are slowing down the infection right now.”

Swedes have been more exposed to the virus than their neighbors elsewhere in the Nordic region, and every third Stockholmer tested has antibodies, according to figures published. That's after the country famously opted against a lockdown, relying instead on voluntary measures.

In a recent OECD study, Sweden consistently ranked among the hardest hit nations in Europe, as measured by relative Covid mortality and infection rates. It was also the slowest at containing transmission.

Sweden was recently forced to recalibrate its approach against the virus, as the daily case rate topped 7,000. In what Prime Minister Stefan Lofven called an “unprecedented” step, Swedes will no longer be free to gather in public in groups larger than eight. The sale of alcohol is now also banned after 10 p.m.

The new restrictions come amid warnings that Sweden's intensive care beds are quickly filling up. Meanwhile, authorities in the country are warning against placing too much weight on a ... vaccine.

-www.msn.com, 24 November 2020

Commentary: Sweden mostly disregarded the warnings of the World Health Organization, and was doing rather well at the beginning of the pandemic. But this laissez faire approach—similar to the US, Brazil, and others—proved to be a fatal mistake. Sweden's neighbors had to close their borders.

All Europeans are welcome in Sweden these days, but it's not reciprocal.

(continued next page)

Herd Immunity (continued from page 18)

Denmark, Norway and Finland are all keeping their borders closed to Sweden for now, with only a few exceptions.

-www.euronews.com, 15 June 2020

Johns Hopkins University and Medicine reports 83.31 coronavirus-related deaths per 100,000 in Sweden (US, 103.48; Brazil, 91.99; Canada, 41.52; Israel, 37.06). Clearly, the body count corresponds to the lack of enforcement in several countries, where the virus was not taken seriously.

7401

(See *Misquoted*, Item #2360, \$14.99.)

WORLD

20 Safest Countries

The Global Peace Index is a ranking of the safest countries in the world.

 This report is published annually by the Institute for Economics and Peace, “an independent, non-partisan, non-profit organization dedicated to shifting the world’s focus to peace as a positive, achievable and tangible measure of human wellbeing and progress.” The report researches countries to determine which are the safest, while also ranking the most dangerous.

A total of 163 countries are featured in the report. There are 23 different indicators used to determine how safe or how dangerous a country is. These factors are broken into these categories:

- Ongoing International and Domestic Conflict
- Societal Safety and Security
- Militarization

The factors used to compile this report include:

- Number of internal and external violent conflicts
- Level of distrust
- Political instability
- Potential for terrorist acts

- Number of homicides
- Military expenditures as a percentage of GDP

Based on these factors, a score is calculated for each of the 163 nations featured in the report. The lower the score, the higher the nation is ranked in terms of safety.

A majority of the top 25 safest countries are European countries. Europe is the only continent to have not seen a decline in safety since 2009. The second-most-common region in the top 25 is Asia. Both regions have a homicide rate of about 3 per 100,000 inhabitants.

Most notable are the Nordic countries of Europe. Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Iceland, and Finland are all in the top 25 safest countries, which is why this region is considered to be the safest in the world. The homicide rate in this region is 0.8 incidences per 100,000 inhabitants. These five Nordic countries are all in the top 10 happiest countries in the world as well.

The top 10 safest countries in the world are as follows:

1. Iceland
2. New Zealand
3. Portugal
4. Austria
5. Denmark
6. Canada
7. Singapore
8. Czech Republic
9. Japan
10. Switzerland

[And, according to the World Economic Forum]

55. China
56. USA

-worldpopulationreview.com,
Global Peace Index 2020

Commentary: It is noteworthy that Europe—the continent with the most wars and diversity—has become the continent of peace, prosperity, and security.

Europe is represented by Rome, and Rome, according to

Scripture, is the last Gentile superpower. We may rightly call three continents Roman: Europe, America (North and South), and Australia. Yet Roman influence is not limited to these, but is global. Europeans sailed around the world, conquered territory, and established sovereign countries, of which many still exist today. Africa was colonized by many European countries (except Ethiopia, and that is debatable). The major European colonizers were Portugal, Spain, the Netherlands, France, Great Britain; and finally, Germany, Italy, and Belgium. Only a handful of countries were not colonized: Turkey, Iran, China, and Japan. But, doubtless, these too were greatly influenced by the European colonizers.

Now, instead of military adventures, conquering and subduing nations, world peace seems to be the spirit of the day. Daniel 7:23 describes this last world empire: “...The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces.” We are also reminded of what is written in Daniel 11:21: “And in his estate shall stand up a vile person, to whom they shall not give the honour of the kingdom: but he shall come in peaceably, and obtain the kingdom by flatteries.” Note the words “peaceably” and “flatteries.” That’s precisely our modern Greek-Roman democracy.

7402

(See *Daniel's Prophecies Made Easy*, Item #1057, \$12.)

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“He shall cause them that come of Jacob to take root: Israel shall blossom and bud, and fill the face of the world with fruit” (Isaiah 27:6).

BY ARNO FROESE

It is of interest that the name Jacob is mentioned first. We recall Jacob’s meeting with the angel of God, and his name was changed, “...Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel...” (Genesis 32:28). Yet, when reading through the Scriptures, we notice that the name Jacob continues to appear several hundred times—even in the New Testament 27 times. When we ask why, the answer that Jacob—the old nature, the flesh and blood, the cunning businessman, the smart deceiver—is still there. The same applies to the believer; we receive His Spirit at the rebirth, but our flesh and blood person remains unaltered.

We may rightly say, there is a physical blessing and a spiritual blessing. Long before Jacob received the new name, God revealed Himself to him in a dream and stated: “in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed” (Genesis 28:14b). We know that this is spiritual, for salvation is of the Jew. Yet, there is also an earthly, physical, practical reason.

Israel’s Agency for International Development, the Mashav, was created in 1957. Although still considered a developing country itself, Israel has provided humanitarian assistance to countries in Asia, Africa, South America, Oceania, and Central Europe.

Between 1985 and 2015, Israel sent 24 delegations of the IDF Search and Rescue Unit to 22 countries.

When it comes to agriculture, computer science, high-tech medical science, and especially defense, Israel indeed is second to none.

Thus, it is not surprising that a number of Arab countries are seeking friendship with Israel. It seems that these formerly hostile countries see the benefit on the one hand, and the need for Israel’s assistance on the other. Particularly North African countries are in dire need of Israel’s agricultural technology, for they too suffer from a lack of water. According to UnitedWithIsrael.org:

Israeli researchers, working hand in hand with local farmers, developed new meth-

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

ods that not only save water, but also improve the quality of the produce.

The agricultural needs of growing crops account for the highest percentage of water usage across the globe. But what if we could learn how to grow more food using less water?

Scientists in Israel have done just that!

Using fascinating technology and cutting-edge techniques, Israel is helping to solve the world's hunger crisis.

But there is more to come. As the last verse of Isaiah 27 proclaims: “And it shall come to pass in that day, that the great trumpet shall be blown, and they shall come which were ready to perish in the land of Assyria, and the outcasts in the land of Egypt, and shall worship the Lord in the holy mount at Jerusalem.” That is God's aim, “they...shall worship

the Lord in the holy mount at Jerusalem.”

We who believe have already experienced this blessing. Our eyes are open to understand what Isaiah 28:16 declares: “Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.” The last two verses of chapter 29 read: “But when he seeth his children, the work of mine hands, in the midst of him, they shall sanctify my name, and sanctify the Holy One of Jacob, and shall fear the God of Israel. They also that erred in spirit shall come to understanding, and they that murmured shall learn doctrine” (verses 23-24). That's future, that's prophecy, and that will be fulfilled in due time. (MC)

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for Israel**



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MC0221

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 **BRAZIL**



Absurd Laws and Cessation of Tract Distribution

A strange sanction plunges our mission team in São Paulo into a great deal of trouble.

BY ERNST KRAFT

We've passed one of our bookstores on to a couple of pastors. Unfortunately, we have to inform you that we received another fine in August for distributing tracts, and it was double that of the previous two. We've pulled out all the stops and brought in new lawyers. The Bible Society informed us that they had also received a fine and failed to be acquitted. They had to pay it.

The fine is for tracts found in the street. The problem is that it isn't the person distributing the tracts who is fined, but the manufacturer. This deprives us of all options, and holds us responsible for tracts being distributed or found on the ground. Millions of tracts are circulating in São Paulo, which could result in more penalties.

The absurd thing is that the fine for a piece of paper measuring 7 x 14 cm (3.25



“The fine is for tracts found in the street. The problem is that it isn’t the person distributing the tracts who is fined, but the manufacturer.”

x 5.5 in.) is \$2,000. For comparison, we recently heard about a boat accident on the news in which seven people died. The guilty party had to pay a fine of \$1,800. That’s what the laws are like here.

We have to stop distributing tracts in São Paulo. Pray with us that we won’t receive any additional fines during the transition. We’re grateful to everyone who is praying for us in this difficult situation.



GUATEMALA

Economic Devastation from Coronavirus

BY ANDRÉ AND INGRID BEITZE

Economically, the coronavirus pandemic hit Guatemala just as hard as many other countries. The restrictions were very severe, not even letting people drive between provinces without a special permit. Public transport is now slowly coming back again.

A married couple recently told us, “It cost us a lot to get to you from our town; you can’t even imagine.” The two of them took two big sacks full of tracts with them, because they didn’t know when they’d be able to return. During this time, many families lost their livelihoods, and people (mostly mothers with children) stand here and there flying white flags to symbolize that they are destitute.

(MR1120)



“To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever” (Jude 25).

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A Request for Prayer

By David Phillips *Project Manager*



The dictionary defines prayer as “a devout petition to God or an object of worship.” Another definition, among many, is “a spiritual communion with God...as in supplication, thanksgiving, adoration, or confession.”

But, what does prayer actually mean? If we simply go to a dictionary, it will never show where the word “prayer” was used in the first languages spoken on earth; the language in which the Bible was written.

In the biblical definition of prayer, prayer has its object as God the Father and no one else. We will see this in a minute. This means, biblically speaking, any prayers offered to idols or other objects of worship, are an offense to the true and living God. Why? Because the living God of Israel has commanded us to pray only to Him.


Looking in Scripture, we see the first mention of prayer in Genesis 20:7a, where it says, “Now therefore restore the man his wife; for he is a prophet, and he shall pray for thee, and thou shalt live.” This is when Pharaoh took Sarah, Abraham’s wife. God revealed Himself to Pharaoh and told him that Abraham would pray for him.

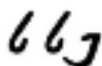
Now, since we see praying to the living God already in the book of Genesis, we want to examine how it was written in the original text. In the Hebrew, it says:

ועתה השב אשת-האיש כי-נביא הוא. ונתפלל
בעדך. ורחמי: ואם-אינה משיב--דע כי-מות תמות,
אשר וקל-אשר-לך.

The word ללפתיו comes from the root word pray (pale; pey, lamed, lamed, or PLL using English letters for the Hebrew equivalent). Hebrew words usually come from a 3-letter root word. Literally, it would be spelled PLL, and this is where it becomes very interesting!

The most ancient Biblical text was not written in Hebrew or Aramaic letters of today, but in a font called Paleo Hebrew, which is the pictorial language of the ancient times that Abraham might have used. I say “might have used,” because there are slight differences until the time of Moses, when the text was written.

Proto-Sinaitic 

Paleo-Hebrew 

The letter pey (P – p) is the symbol of a mouth. Lamed (L – l) symbolized a shepherd’s rod or staff. In Scripture, when something is repeated, whether a letter or word, that letter or word is being emphasized to show its greater importance, which one must pay attention to.

Breaking these letters down even further, we understand that the first letter “pey” symbolized a mouth, and means to speak, talk, or address someone or something. The “lamed” symbolizes a shepherd’s staff, and is doubled (note: Hebrew is read from right to left, as shown in the picture). These rods or staffs were used by the shepherds to lead and guide their flocks with authority. In



other words, when we see the word “pey lamed lamed” (palel—PPL) with the double lamed, it is referring to speaking to the Shepherd who has the ultimate authority; praying to the **One true living God**—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. This is to whom we are to address our requests, thanks, honor, and praises. It makes one realize that it must be done in a respectful way; your mouth is speaking to the ultimate authority in existence!

We know the ultimate authority is the **Father** in heaven. While Yeshua (Jesus) was here on earth, as He walked the streets of Israel, He commanded and taught us how to pray. He taught us to address our prayers to the Heavenly Father and do it in His name. “And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son” (John 14:13).

This is something that we need to take into consideration. If we were to write a letter to someone, we would include an address and signature, because without our signature, it has no power or authority; it would be worthless. No one would know who wrote it. We understand that this is very important. So it is when we pray (Mitpalelim—verb; the root is marked bold) to the Father: we pray in the name of Yeshua, which is like it’s being signed

by Yeshua’s authority. Yeshua taught us to pray, so let’s pray and understand what we are doing! We are speaking to the ultimate authority, God Himself, and through Yeshua we can make everything known to our Heavenly Father.

This is what we would like to do together. As we make our plans known to you, we would like you to join us in humble prayer; in speaking to the ultimate authority—our Heavenly Father—that HE would give HIS approval, wisdom, and knowledge for each step that we must take.

As you know, the past few years we have been planning to build a nursing ward on top of the existing building, which the municipality in Haifa has approved. It would have added a 12-bed nursing floor to our current building, but we have since found that it is not enough to meet the demands. Over the past years of planning and fundraising, we have received a much clearer picture from the changing circumstances, especially amid the global pandemic time of Covid-19 and the financial changes occurring worldwide. We are continuing on with our vision. During this delay that God allowed in starting the building physically, HE gave us time to update our plans; we will share these details with you, so stay tuned.



Note: Donations for the project by check/money order should be made out to Midnight Call, and specify Ebenezer Home in the memo line.

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Note: All letters will be answered by the Executive Editor, Arno Froese.

KJV AND THIRD DAY... NOT FORSAKING ASSEMBLY... TEN TOES OF DANIEL

KJV and Third Day

Sir,

Read Revelation 22:18-19: “For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.”

There is enough in the KJV Bible to get me to heaven. That’s all I care about. Five of the guys who wrote these other versions lost their voice. Also, the guy who wrote the New American Standard Bible repented for writing it.

Also, the NIV was written from the Alexandrian manuscripts, which came from the Vatican.

You also say that Jesus rose on Sunday. In Mark 16:9 it says He appeared to many on the first day, and in Matthew 12:40 that Jesus spent three days and nights in the belly of the earth. So, if He died Wednesday night,

Thursday night is one day, Thursday night to Friday night is two days, and Friday night to Saturday night is three days. So, isn’t it possible He could have rose the night of the Sabbath, which would make three days and nights. And many saw Him on the first day, and He was already risen.

-R. Yates, WA

Answer: Of the New Testament, there are about 5,800 ancient Greek manuscripts, some 10,000 ancient Latin manuscripts, and over 9,300 ancient manuscripts from other translations such as Syriac, Slavic, Gothic, Ethiopic, Coptic, and Armenian. The British government translation, KJV, is from the Latin manuscript. However, other manuscripts are older, and that’s what the NIV is based on.

For all practical purposes, we may call the KJV a “new age” Bible, since the oldest version of it dates back to only 1611. If you tried to read that one, you would not understand much of it. The New Testament is about 2,000 years old.

“Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week”—that’s Sunday. Luke 24 reports of two men who “went that same day,” and testify in verse 21: “to day is the third day since these things were



done." Don't try to get 72 hours; it won't work, and there is a reason for it.

Not Forsaking Assembly

About your article, "We Ought to Obey God Rather Than Men," I have a few questions. What if the government encroaches on religious freedoms? What if they told you to deny Christ? We are disobeying God's spiritual law by following the political law forbidding to assemble. You wrote, "It's not our calling to be pro or con on this issue," but you clearly stand with the government.

-B. Swinehart, OR

Answer: I don't think the government encroaches on the Church, but the opposite is true: the Church is encroaching into government business. The often-used Scripture: "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is" (Hebrews 10:25a), is solved by Jesus' words: "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:20). Surely you can find one believer and have church.

Regarding "We ought to obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29b), this has no relationship to the government, but to the religious authority; in this case, the priests and Sadducees.

Regarding coronavirus, look at Israel; they have 37.06 coronavirus deaths per 100,000 population, while the US has 103.48. An article states:

"Israel more than doubled the fines for not wearing a mask in public. Fines were raised from 200 shekels (\$58) to 500 shekels (\$146), after one government official even proposed raising it to as much as 2,000 shekels (\$583)."

-atlantajewishistimes.timesofisrael.com, 29 June 2020

Ten Toes of Daniel

Dear Sir,

For many years, I believed the Common Market from Europe may be the ten toes of

the image in Daniel 2—the last beast, with the ten horns (Daniel 7:24).

Now I believe the Arab countries making a peace agreement with Israel under President Trump, are the countries of this prophecy. Ten kings are ten countries in present times.

That means the Rapture is at any moment. The Tribulation will begin at the Israel and Arab agreement brought together by the Antichrist. Antichrist will be coming in the world soon. Trump is not the Antichrist.

-W. Croteau, MA

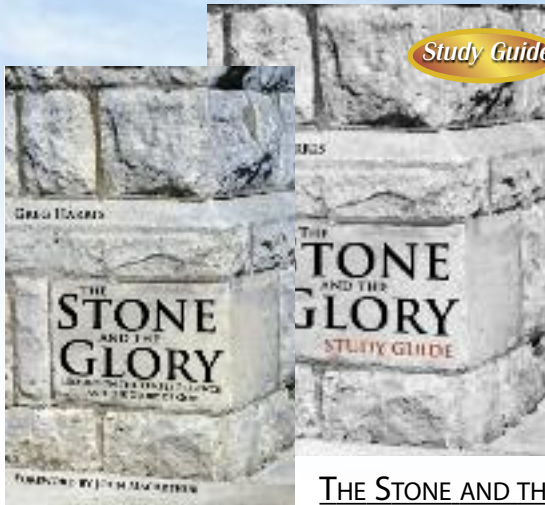
Answer: The Common Market, now the European Union, is one of many political and economic unions seeking to increase their market share. Daniel 7:23-24 speaks of the last world empire and "the whole earth." The ten kings are diabolical entities. How do we know? Revelation 17:14a reads, "These shall make war with the Lamb." No earthly power can do that. Thus, we know it's happening in the invisible world.

But within these ten diabolical, global power structures, there will come a physical ruler in flesh and blood—the Antichrist, as well as the false prophet.

When reading Daniel 11, it is my understanding that this covenant is the establishment of the temple service in Jerusalem. "He shall come in peaceably, and obtain the kingdom by flatteries" (verse 21b). Then, in verse 28 we read, "and his heart shall be against the holy covenant." Therefore, the peace treaties between the various Arab countries and Israel play no role in it.

In summary, keep in mind that this event is global. There are three distinct groups of people: Gentiles, Jews, and Christians. This world belongs to the god of this world. Why? Because of sin: "He who sins is of the devil." The Church is the spiritual temple, or habitation of God on earth. When that temple is completed, we shall be raptured into His presence. (MC)

Midnight Call's February Resource Guide



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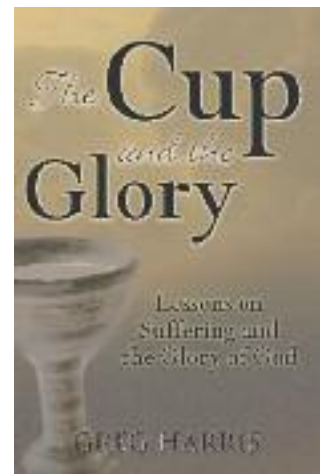
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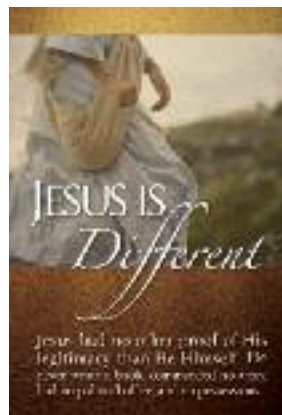
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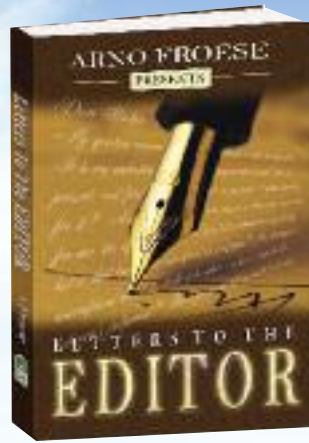


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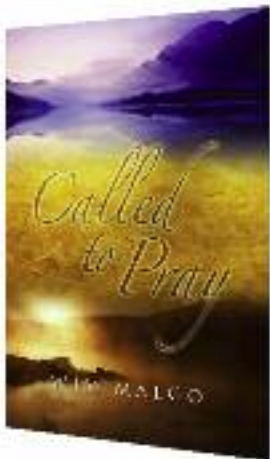


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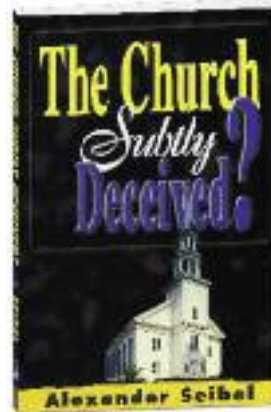


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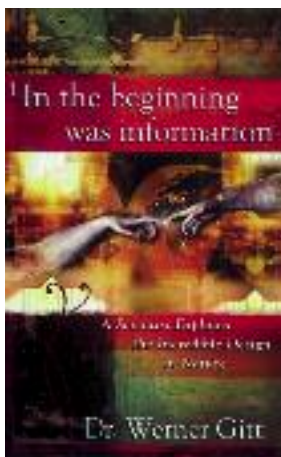


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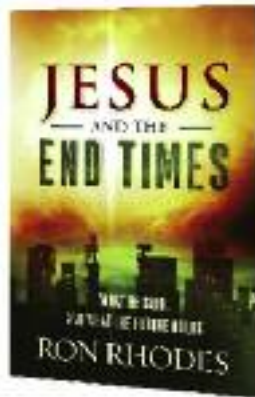
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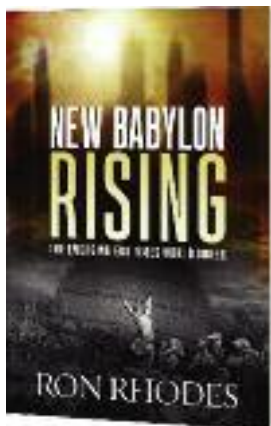
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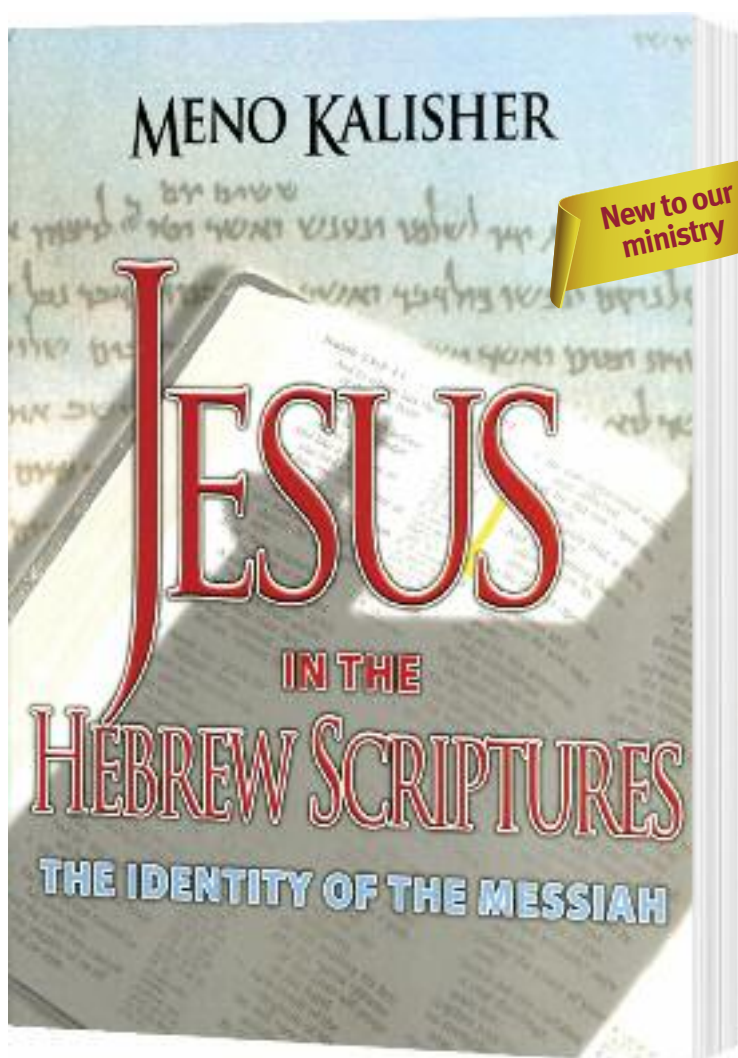
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Author: Meno Kalisher

Meno Kalisher is a native-born Israeli whose father was a Holocaust survivor, and mother a Jew from Iran. Meno's parents were among the first Messianic Jewish believers in Israel. Meno pastors the Jerusalem Assembly House of Redemption, a Messianic congregation in the heart of Jerusalem, composed of both Jewish and Gentile believers.