

Tensions Escalating in the Middle East as Mutual Defense Pack is Signed

“Not even the might of the West can save Israel now.”
“Israel's destruction is imminent according to the will of Allah”

By Tom Kerry

When I read the Beatitudes

by Larry Summerville

A few rhetorical questions: Who was president of the United States in 1972? How old were you in 1972? What was your church affiliation in 1972 and how long were you attending this particular church? Why was the date of January 7, 1972 so important to many of God's people? Where were you on Friday, August 9, 1974?

Why did God arrange the 10 commandments in the order he did?

What have I learned in my personal study on the beatitudes?

Matthew 5:1---“Now when He (Jesus) saw the crowds, Hhe went up on a mountainside and sat down (a rabbi would set and teach) and His disciples came to him.

Matthew 5:2---“And He began to teach them (the disciples, not the crowds) saying.” The “Sermon on the Mount” was not

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It appears the cold war of political rhetoric is giving way to the fact that Israel may have no other choice than to prepare to protect itself. The continued weaknesses of the U.S. and the comments of support by President Obama for Israel are seen as nothing short of an insult to most in Israel.

Vice President Biden's four-day visit mid

March was initially designed to reassure Israeli leaders about the U.S. commitment to curb Iran's nuclear program and to prod Israel and the Palestinians to get talks moving again. Most in Israel feel abandonment by President Obama, who has visited Egypt, Turkey and Saudi Arabia but has yet to come to Israel.

In a major speech in Cairo last June, President Obama raised expectations in the region that he would make Middle East peacemaking a top priority by promising to personally pursue Palestinian statehood "with all the patience and dedication that the task requires." Instead, one year later, Obama is viewed here as having relegated the issue to special envoy George J. Mitchell who announced that Israel and the Palestinians had agreed to indirect talks. In a sign of how fragile the peace process has become, he acknowledged that the structure

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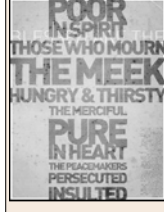


Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khomeini speaks before the people of Iran. Kahomeini announces; “Not even the might of the West can save Israel now”

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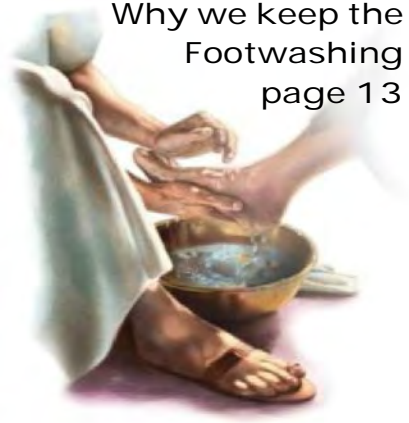
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God's Holy Word tells us that he will do nothing unless He shows His servants the Prophets first. Are we witnessing one of those warnings through the collapse of Greece? Will the U.S. collapse like Greece? It's not a question of if, but rather when? When it happens the Bible says our "bought lovers" will not come to our aid. Coming Next month.



IS IT IN THE "Prove all Things"
BIBLE Did You Know?



Where is the Tomb of Mordechai and Esther?

The Oldest Known Hebrew Inscription Confirms Biblical Record

A pottery shard from the remains of a town dating from the 10th century B.C. has been proven to be written in ancient Hebrew—making it the oldest known Hebrew inscription. Prof. Gershon Galil of the Department of Biblical Studies at the University of Haifa translated the text, proving that the Israel of that time was a major nation—not the backwoods tribe that some biblical scholars say it was.

“It can now be maintained that it was highly reasonable that during the 10th century B. C., during the reign of King David, there were scribes in Israel who were able to write literary texts and complex historiographies such as the books of Judges and Samuel,” said Galil. The shard was discovered in an excavation led by Prof. Yosef Garfinkel inside a fortified town on a hilltop near the valley of Elah, where David battled Goliath. The town has a 30-foot-wide gate, a central fortress, and a wall running 2,300 feet in circumference. These fortifications are too elaborate to have been constructed by the city’s inhabitants, Garfinkel says. They would have required the resources of an organized kingdom, like that of King David. At

the time Garfinkel released his conclusions, Associated Press wrote: “The fortified settlement where the



writing was found contains indications that a powerful Israelite kingdom existed near Jerusalem in David’s time, says Garfinkel” “The fortification required 200,000 tons of stone and probably 10 years to build,” Garfinkel said.

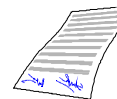
Before the shard was translated, archaeologist Aren Maier said it

would be “one of the most important texts, without a doubt, in the corpus of Hebrew inscriptions,” if it could be proven to be Hebrew.

Galil concluded that the text was indeed Hebrew as it uses verbs found only in the Hebrew language, and it contains material only relevant to an Israelite culture.

“This text is a social statement, relating to slaves, widows and orphans,” he said. “It uses verbs that were characteristic of Hebrew, such as *asah* (did) and *avad* (worked), which were rarely used in other regional languages. Particular words that appear in the text, such as *almana* (widow) are specific to Hebrew and are written differently in other local languages.”

“The content itself was also unfamiliar to all the cultures in the region besides the Hebrew society,” he continued. “The present inscription provides social elements similar to those found in the biblical prophecies and very different from prophecies written by other cultures postulating glorification of the gods and taking care of their physical needs.”



Headline News

Sunday, January 10, 2010 Israel Today Staff

Ancient Hebrew inscription backs up Bible

A researcher at the University of Haifa in northern Israel has managed to decipher an ancient Hebrew inscription, proving that the Bible is as old as it says it is. The inscription, made in ink on a small piece of clay, was found in the Elah Valley south of Jerusalem in 2008. It was quickly dated to the 10th century BC (during the reign of King David), but the language used in the inscription could not be definitively identified at the



time.

But last week, Professor Gershon Galil succeeded in demonstrating that the text is in fact ancient Hebrew. Galil showed how many of the words used in the inscription were and remain unique to Hebrew.

Previously, a wide range of respected academics had insisted that the Bible could not possibly have been written before the 6th century BC due to widespread illiteracy, making most of text hearsay rather than eyewitness accounts.

But the new inscription was found at what was a remote settlement in the 10th century BC, meaning that even small isolated communities had capable scribes.

THE BEATITUDES

Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn,
for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,
for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst
for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful
for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure of heart,
for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted
for righteousness sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:3-10

When I Read The Beatitudes

Cont. from p. 1

really a sermon; it was a talk. Jesus sat and taught His disciples. Others later added the word "sermon."

Matthew 5:3---"God blesses those who are poor (in spirit as some translations read) and realize their need for Him, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs."

What does it mean to be poor in spirit? We tend to think of the poor in terms of finances and possessions. This is a part of it, but there is a spiritual side to it too. Isaiah, chapter 66 and verses 1, 2 and 3 describes people who had been taken into exile. They were, of course, poor, having their lands and possessions ripped away, but they were also afflicted and oppressed, they were powerless and without hope and they were desperate. The physical poverty was intensified by the poverty of their spirit..

Notice Isaiah 66:2 "This is the one I esteem: he who is humble and contrite in spirit (feeling of deep sorrow or remorse for having sinned or done wrong), and trembles at My word."

The question we must all ask ourselves is: "Are we humble---are we contrite in spirit and do we tremble at God's word?"

People who are "poor in spirit" are those who are humble before God. They realize they have nothing in this life that they can contribute to receiving the kingdom of heaven. Those who are "poor in spirit" have humbled themselves and repented with deep emotions. They have come before the king as helpless and hopeless sinners. There is no arrogance, no self-righteousness, no self-sufficiency. Everyone who

wants to enter into the kingdom must be spiritually poor for salvation is a gift from God.

Matthew 5:4---"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted."

Why do we mourn? What does mourning indicate? To mourn is to feel or express sorrow. It indicates the pain, grief and the anxieties of the soul over some loss, such as the death of a loved one or a close friend. It can also be over the loss of possessions, status or health. People mourn over disaster and tribulation. Everyone experiences sad and tragic losses at some time or another in this life.

The focus here is on the people; in times of mourning they look for hope. It is sad to say but in this world there is little hope. Here in this beatitude we have the promise for the future and that those of us who mourn will be comforted.

Matthew 5:5---"Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth."

Remember the words of the song, "When we all get to heaven what a day of rejoicing that will be, when we all see Jesus we will sing and shout the victory." Contrary to what the song says, scripture says that the meek will inherit the earth.

What does it mean to be meek? The dictionary says that the meek are patient and mild; not inclined to anger or resentment; gentle, courteous, kind; having a mild and patient disposition. I think of the meek as being free from malice and a condescending spirit. The meek do not exploit or oppress others. Meekness and gentleness and goodness are part of the fruits of the spirit---they are produced in the Christian by the Holy Spirit. Read Galatians 5:22---The fruits of the spirit are...love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, and self-control. Here are excellent topics for future messages for those who speak.

Consider the attribute of love. Love is an outgoing concern for others. I, personally, show love toward all the men on the speaking and song leading roster in our local fellowship group. During the year each man speaks the

same number of times and delivers a 30 minute sermon. Each song leader will serve the same number of times in that capacity.

Why do I do this? We all, including yours truly---have a certain amount of what we call human nature. There can be no partiality on my part; expectations for every man who serves is the same.

Allow me to digress a little. Locally, we are not a church; we are a fellowship group; hence the opportunity of more men having the opportunity to serve or to speak. Not many of us here were influenced directly by the WCG. And each year there are fewer of us who were. In writing this article I looked into different sources including all 58 lessons of the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course. I did not find any materials on the fruits of God's Holy Spirit in the correspondences courses.

Long before 1972 the organization (WCG) and its membership's main focus from my viewpoint was on holy day celebrations and how evil secular holidays were; we did not celebrate our children's birthdays; Pentecost would never be celebrated on a Sunday; end time scenarios (an outline for any proposed or planned series of events) were a constant; in church services and in publications. I believe that opposing viewpoints were not always tolerated.

From the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course, Lesson #35, we read the following on page 7:

"The instructions for counting Pentecost are given in the book of Leviticus; the book for the Levites. The Levites were God's priests doing the work of the ministry in the Old Testament. Leviticus is written not so the common lay members of the church could 'second guess' (no debate, no dialogue) God's ministry, but so His ministers could know how Pentecost is to be properly counted. The ministers then were to pass this information on to the whole congregation.

"Almighty God is not the author of confusion (I Cor. 14:33). He has placed specific offices in His True Church today to determine such

Cont. on p. 4

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Blessed are those who hunger and thirst
for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful
for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure of heart,
for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted
for righteousness sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:3-10

When I Read The Beatitudes

But guess what---the last person you want to be if heaven is your destination, is to be meek. The meek do not go to heaven. The meek will inherit the earth.

There is much that I do not understand about the bible. When one is in the autumn years of life this fact becomes undeniable. In the beatitudes it also speaks of the kingdom of heaven. Is heaven or earth to be my home? It really is not something I will argue about; it just doesn't matter to me.

V.6---"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they will be filled."

All too often when people have been members of the church or become involved in a religious organization develop a huge appetite for self-righteousness. People all too often begin to break the first commandment. I think we can begin to understand why God arranged the Ten Commandments the way he did. The first commandment says that "You shall have no other god's before me." No other god's include the self; all too often what people begin to do is to worship themselves; the organi-

marvelous person; he is one of the greatest persons I have ever known." Do you want to be the most popular person in church; in your social meetings; with those you play sports with; perhaps the most popular person in school? Simply learn to be a good listener; that is all you need to do.

Of course we can carry these examples to extreme by looking at II Corinthians chapter 12 where there are so many I's or personal pronouns by the Apostle Paul that people would say you are talking about yourself all the time. Paul says I-I-I at least 43 times in 21 verses; he also uses the pronoun me a few times.

But, honestly how many people thirst after righteousness like desiring a cold glass of water after they have been without water for some time such as in fasting or traveling?

Psalm 119:172---"All thy commandments are righteousness." So study the commandments. What's wrong with a any one of them?

Think about this: If we were to take the Ten Commandments and ponder

them---just muse on them, what would the whole world be like if people recognized and worshipped the one whom we Christians believe is divine; remember Genesis 1:3---"And God said, Let there be light; and there was Light" instead of Allah or Buddha or some other religion? There would be no Muslims; no religion of Islam; no terrorism of Arab against

Cont. from p. 3

things as how to count Pentecost (Eph. 4:11-13). Pentecost ALWAYS FALLS ON A SUNDAY. THERE IS NO OTHER DAY ACCEPTABLE IN GOD'S SIGHT." When reading literature from many years ago we would often read the quote, "This is what God say's." Question: Have we ever spoken for God?

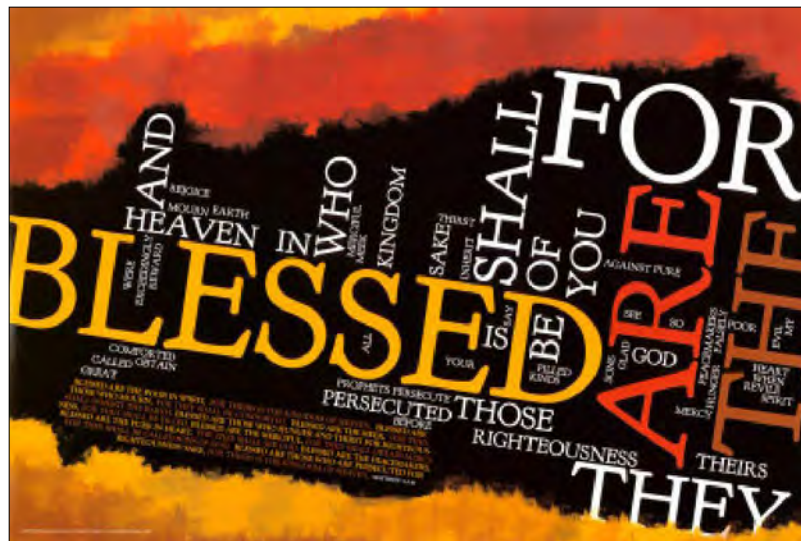
We knew exactly what God expected. Apparently there was no dialogue; no input from outside a chosen few.

"Now Moses was a very humble man, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth." (Numbers 12:3) Moses was meek.

Moses was the meekness man in all the earth and yet look at how angry he became (Exodus 32:19-20) when he came down from the mountain and saw the huge orgy underway and the people cavorting around in front of the little golden idols. Moses took the Ten Commandments written with the finger of God, cast them to the ground and smashed them into pieces.

But sometimes the meek get angry and when they do---look out, because meek doesn't mean weak---it means meek and not easily angered. Moses was not easily angered; he was a meek person but a meek person CAN become very angry. For proof look no further than Moses. "Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth?"

Everyone talks about going to heaven.



zation will sometimes become a god to many.

So often we hear the following: "I think—I have always thought---my favorite choice was—I remember when—I used to drive." Our conversation all too often is I-I-I. Would you like to be a popular person; would you like to hear people say that "I think Henry is such a

Jew, Christian or American; unlikely to have an attack on American soil like September 11 when thousands of people died.

David said that the commandments of God were his meditation all the day. Now the average person is not going to take one of the commandments---"Thou shall not steal," for exam-

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have the responsibility of raising children; worrying about whether we have enough money to pay the rent; in a poor economy will we have a job next week; instead, our life is one of memories; of reflections upon the past.

For example, when I hear Bing Crosby sing "I'm dreaming of a white Christmas" I no longer think of dirty rotten pagan Christmas as many of us did so many years ago; we just had to tell people how sinful it was to keep Christmas. I attended the Methodist Church as a young man. I just had to tell the members how wrong it was to observe Christmas. Today the songs associated with Christmas simply brings back memories.

What happened in 1972? Do we even remember? In 1972 Richard Nixon was President of the United States, On Friday, August 9, 1974, he resigned as



President of the United States. I, and other members of the church believed that we would be living elsewhere in 1974. We knew where we would be. Nobody could tell us differently. Do we remember what the church taught about the year 1972? We actually believed we were superior; we had knowledge that others did not have. We knew definitely what was going to happen.

There was little that was outstanding or noteworthy in our nation in 1972: Hurricane Agnes caused considerable damage in Pennsylvania; there was the

Watergate scandal; antiwar demonstrations draw 100,000 demonstrators in American cities; Governor George Wallace of Alabama was shot three times leaving him paralyzed; the Dow Jones (stock market) closes above 1,000 for the first time in history.

The average cost of a house was \$27,550.00; average income for the year was \$11,800.00; average monthly rent was \$165.00.

HBO launched the first subscription cable service; Richard Nixon orders the start for the space shuttle program; Apollo 16 lands on the moon and men walk on the moon.

Popular TV programs were "Here's Lucy"-"Sesame Street"-and "The Brady Bunch."

What do we personally remember about 1972? What was happening in the WCG in 1972? Do we remember what was to be our destiny as church members in 1972? WE knew; the world did not know. For some reason God had revealed this knowledge to us---WCG members; we were someone special; a select few God had called and revealed His truth;--- and not the world.

1972 was to be the beginning of the Great Tribulation and a select few; members of the WCG would go to Petra and live there until Christ's return in 1975. Petra was one of the most important cities in the Middle East 2,000 years ago. Petra is located in Jordan near the Dead Sea.

Why was 1972 chosen as the year when church members would flee to Petra? I asked the question at the beginning of this article why January 7, 1972 was an important date for the church? This was the date the church membership was to flee to Petra and the start of the Great Tribulation.

This is why I love the study of history. We cannot understand the present; we cannot answer the question of why 1972 was chosen as the year God's people would flee to Petra unless we know about Dr. Herman L. Hoeh and a book entitled "A True History of the True Church."

Before quoting from Mr. Hoeh's book, "A True History of the True Church" allow me to say

Cont. on p. 6

Cont. from p. 4 ple, and meditate on it all the day long.

However, think of what the world would be like if no one ever took a thing that did not belong to them; if there were no Bernie Madoff's; some industries would simply disappear; insurance, for example. We would close down the jails. Law enforcement agencies would disappear The world would save millions or billions of dollars if just one commandment---"you shall not steal"--- were obeyed universally by the human race.

Reflections of the Past

Three rhetorical questions: How old were you in 1972; were you a member of the WCG and, if so, how long were you a member? I was 34 years of age in 1972. I remember reading "Plain Truth" articles and remembering the content of various magazines relating to bible prophecies since 1955 when I was 17 years old. What happened in the WCG in 1972? I believe an organization can become self-righteous; members within the organization can become self-righteous. Allow me to explain. Righteous means doing what is right; good, excellent, satisfying or pleasant. Self-righteousness means filled with or showing one's innermost thoughts of being morally superior or more righteous than others; knowing more than others; do we ever know more than others?

When we are in our 20s-30s-40s-50s we are consumed with the here and now; what is happening now in the world. In our 60s and especially 70s we are in the autumn years of our lives; life for the average senior citizen is one of memories; of reflection. We no longer

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The following quotes are from Dr. Hoeh's book "A True History of the True Church," 1959 edition: That gave us the misunderstanding of Christ return and place of safety.

Today's Church Prophesied!

that I see the 1960s as the beginning of change within the church. The broadcast of the "World Tomorrow" on radio Luxembourg on Jan 7, 1953, led Herbert Armstrong, I believe, to view his ministry in the context of a prophetic interpretation that set the date of Christ's return at 1975, with the Great Tribulation beginning in 1972.

It is my belief that Herbert Armstrong assumed that his ministry would usher in the "World Tomorrow." Is there a feeling of self-importance here? We who believed this are also guilty of a degree of self-righteousness because God has chosen ME—us—yours truly to usher in the "World Tomorrow" or God's government on earth.

This interpretation produced by Herbert Armstrong and Ambassador College graduate Herman L. Hoeh would eventually lead to the publication of a booklet entitled "1975 in Prophecy." For Mr. Armstrong, I believe, his ministry and the work of the church would finally usher in the "World Tomorrow." This vision of his ministry had an impact on others as well—especially we the members. We viewed ourselves as someone who was very important in the work of God. We became self-righteous. God was using ME.

"Notice the amazing description of the next event in the history of God's people. John writes to the Church at Philadelphia: 'I know thy works; behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength and hast kept my word and hast not denied my name.'" (Rev. 3:8)

"This verse pictures a Church which is carrying the gospel just prior to the last great time of trouble that will engulf all the world. This is the Church of God today."



The Gospel Goes to All the World.

"Jesus chose Paul, who was highly educated, for spreading the gospel to the Gentiles. He later raised up Peter Waldo, a successful businessman, to keep His truth alive during the Middle

Ages. In these last days when the gospel must go around the world, Jesus chose a man amply trained in the advertising and business fields to shoulder the mission---Herbert W. Armstrong."

Mr. Hoeh goes on to talk about Mrs. Armstrong's conversion and the falling away in doctrinal teachings of the Church of God in Oregon.

"Most of the congregations," writes Dr. Hoeh, "succumbed to spiritual death. The age of the Church of Sardis was over. The church period of Philadelphia was to begin."

A Door Opens

"The time had come for the gospel to go around the world. God opened before Mr. Armstrong the marvelous door of radio and the printing press to carry forth the gospel. From a small beginning in Oregon in 1934, the work of God spread to cover much of North America in 19 years. In 1953 it leaped to Europe and the world. THIS IS

VERY SIGNIFICANT.

"God gave the apostolic church just two nineteen-year time cycles to carry the gospel to the old world. He opened a door to the Apostle Paul at the beginning of the second nineteen-year cycle by which the gospel went to Europe.

"So now, just before the second coming of Jesus Christ, God has given His church--THIS church--just

two nineteen-year cycles in which to carry the gospel to the world."

(End of Quotes)

A name very familiar to most of us wrote the following in an article in the "Plain Truth" magazine in June, 1953: "Yes it seems that God is allowing

America No Longer That Shining City on a Hill

Walesa's Warning

The champion of Polish freedom tells America it's no longer that shining city on a hill. As it slouches toward socialism, he warns, those yearning to breathe free in the world can no longer look to the U.S. for help.

They were the giants of their age. Together, President Ronald Reagan, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, Pope John Paul II and a little known shipyard worker named Lech Walesa stood up to Soviet communism and brought freedom to the captive nations of Europe... Arguably the father of Polish democracy, Walesa knows a little bit about tyranny, socialism and the slippery path to both, and came to warn us about the path we've been on... He no longer thinks we are the last best hope for mankind.

"The United States is only one superpower. Today they lead the world. Nobody has doubts about it, militarily," the Polish leader said. "They also lead economically, but they're getting weak. "But they don't lead morally and politically anymore. The

world has no leadership. The United States was always the last resort and hope for all other nations. There was the hope, whenever something was going wrong, one could count on the United States. Today, we lost that hope."

Walesa led the Solidarity movement in Poland. He was in a sense a community organizer, but not in the mold of a Saul Alinsky. He sought to liberate his people, not control them.

The marches and protests that led to Polish freedom were a precursor to America's tea party movement that likewise seeks to throw off the chains of a command-and-control society and restore genuine economic and political freedom.

The Soviet empire had its commissars. Our government has its czars, and Walesa definitely feels the America that was his friend is moving in the wrong direction. He sees our quest for redistribution of income as not different from the Marxist credo — from each according to his ability, to each according to his need.

In a video-taped interview, Walesa saw a hint of socialism creeping into Amer-

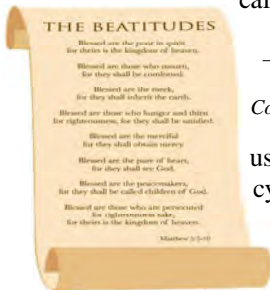
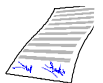
ica's domestic policies. He spoke of "the issue with the banks" and how "the government wastes all the money ... building a bureaucracy — just for itself."

Indeed, it seems the only growth sector in the U.S. is its government and the unions that exist not for the prosperity and freedom of their members, but for the power and influence of their leaders.

Poland had Lech Walesa. We have the SEIU's Andy Stern, who says that if those who disagree with command-and-control government do not bow to the power of persuasion, they will bow to the persuasion of power.

It has been a long journey for Walesa from the Gdansk Lenin Shipyards to Chicago's Back of the Yards. He's the man who turned an illegal independent trade union into a force for freedom in communist Poland. He served as Poland's president from 1990 to 1995.

He has witnessed a lot of history and knows when people refuse to learn from it. In Walesa's view, something needs to be done to restore America's strength and leadership.



Cont. from p. 6

us another 19 year cycle to complete the carrying out of his gospel of the kingdom to this sick and dying world. There is a tremendous job to be done in the very short period that lies ahead of us."

The organization taught the return of Christ in the 1970s. We, the members, deeply believed that we would be living in a place of safety in the early 1970s. We, us, yours truly, knew when Christ would return. I would be on a plane heading for Petra on January 7, 1972. Remember what I said above that the "World Tomorrow" radio broadcast went on the air on Radio Luxembourg in Europe on January 7, 1953; a 19 year time cycle later is January 7, 1972.

That is what I refer to as a church cul-

ture; a certain belief; a set of doctrines which supposedly are biblically based. Every church has such a culture; Protestant, Catholic, and the Churches of God. What happens all too often is that this culture doesn't allow for dialogue; if one disagrees with church policy then he/she is against God. There is, I believe, in every church a certain amount of self-righteousness; IN the organization and IN the members as well. This is why God arranged the Ten Commandments in the order he did; "You shall have no other god's before me," All too often we, ourselves, the members become a god whom we worship.

What is evident to me when I now read the beatitudes? I see baptized members of the Churches of God, including yours truly, who are not always humble, and not always contrite in spirit, and members who fail to tremble at the word of God. I leave you with this thought:

Even though we are baptized members of the body of Jesus Christ we still harbor a certain amount of a carnal human nature which rebels against the teachings of our Savior that we read about in the "Sermon on the Mount." It is often difficult for us to accept personal responsibility for our shortcomings. Instead of seeking the righteousness of God we often become self-righteous and fail to accept responsibility for our actions. I do not believe that anyone of us reading this article or any one of us who are members of the Churches of God can reach the level of perfection that Jesus alludes to---or teaches His disciples---in his "Sermon on the Mount."

We must never forget Isaiah 66:2- "This is the one I esteem; he who is humble and contrite in spirit (feeling of deep sorrow or remorse for having sinned or done wrong) and trembles at my word."



New Congregation Starts up in Front Royal, Virginia

Editor's Note: When Glenn and Kathy began this personal Evangelistic outreach, we had less than 25 people on the mailing list. All were over a hundred miles away. On their recent service they had 18 people. Many had not been in the church in the past. We believe this success is possibility for new churches is possible all over the country.

If you would like to see about running a campaign in your area and "God Willing," be blessed to start a congregation, please let us know, we'll be delighted to help.



By Glenn and Cathy Williams

I don't know if we should redo the title with a question mark or not as we sure hope God is working with us to build a

Church in this area. I can tell you that on March 13th there were 18 people visiting at the Samuels public library. We can also say that three people who never stepped foot in the Church of God have met with us. The work in this area is just over 4 months old so here is a great opportunity for you to see how it started and God willing will continue.

The last Festival of Tabernacles was fantastic. Such a great Feast can cause you to get charged up and want to do something. That probably happens with a lot of people but sometimes someone extinguishes that flame or this old world kicks in. But after this last Feast, the fun, the fellow-



ship, the baptisms we decided we would give it an extra push and an extra try. We started by getting an

ad on the Public TV access channel in Ashburn, Va. It actually continues to run today. We then held a seminar at the Ashburn library using the Financial Meltdown sermon as the draw. Mike Gladden (COGMI Minister) was the guest speaker and I introduced the video message. We passed out some cards and shared a special announcement on the public television access.

Our first attempt in Ashburn brought family, but no new visitors. Ashburn is in Loudoun county of Virginia, the richest county in America and to this date we have had no responses in this area. I guess you can read into that what you will or maybe this makes you think of when Paul was,

"forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word" in certain areas.

My family is from Front Royal and it is an area that is much more rural and laid back if you will, so my sister suggested we meet at the new Front Royal library. We figured you have to go where people want you and so we did. The general population of Front Royal is not that much, with some of the surrounding areas, perhaps being 35,000 or so. Being smaller it gave us the idea of making up some brochures and passing them out door to door with a post-card insert offering a COGMI DVD. We also found a local free paper that we advertise in. We advertise pretty much each Sabbath we meet and list the topic. So far the cards have gotten about 7 responses, one called us directly, the free ad paper has yielded three people actually visiting with us, and one other call. It should go without mentioning that we are thrilled to no end and we thank God for the blessings we have been given. When you can bring families and people together to eat and speak the spiritual foods of Christ and you are surrounded by God's spirit then you have all the nourishment you'll ever need.



So do we have a Church here? We sure hope so. We hope that you will pray for us. If the results are real and long lasting then maybe we can exclaim with more confidence an answer to the question, "does God want you to start a Church?" I don't know, but I know that Jesus said to pray for workers and that the fields are ready. We are asking God to use us, we are ready workers and our hands are ready to do a work. Maybe we have a chance to be used for a Godly work and a Godly purpose, maybe we all do if we give our hearts and minds over to the Almighty.



A New Worship Place for the Tallahassee COGMI Congregation

Our Lord has blessed us with a new home for our church family, and I must first say that we are so thankful to Him for this opportunity to provide new shelter for our flock.

January 2, 2010 was an exciting date for the members of the Tallahassee COGMI Congregation; it was our first Sabbath in our brand new location in Monticello, Florida! Our group has been patiently saving for, searching for, and praying for a new building in which to worship, as we had outgrown the little breakfast room at the Best Western.

We looked at several properties throughout the Tallahassee

amount of our monthly budget. We took a peak at it nonetheless, and of course it was perfect for



us. Why wouldn't it be at that price, right? Knowing there was no way for us to afford it, we amused the realtor by stating that we loved it and we'd take it if the owner would come down to our

agreed to our ridiculous offer.

Prayers ensued that night, and lo and behold the realtor called back the next day to let us know that the owner agreed! Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

We are now the happy tenants of 1240 N. Jefferson Street in the quaint little town of Monticello, located about 25 minutes from the heart of Tallahassee. The property we are leasing is a 2500 square foot storefront located on the main street in Monticello, and it not only very comfortably accommodates our church family but also allows ample room for our beloved visitors. We have a sepa-



area these past couple of years, focusing initially on purchasing. During our most recent search, however, a realtor had shown us five properties for lease. The first four were within our local budget, all small places but manageable. The last building she showed us we initially thought was a hopeless case, as the owner was asking for almost four times the

budget (which is coming off \$1800 per month!). Of course, that would never happen, right? As we got into our cars, we had told the realtor that it would be only an act of God if the owner

rate room with surround sound for worship, a kitchen behind it, an area for our "pot lucks," a Sabbath school room for the children, and even a nursery for the babies!

We look forward to many,

many Sabbaths of serving our local brethren and all of our visiting brothers and sisters from all over!





Tensions Escalating in the Middle East

Cont. from p. 1
and scope of the talks had not even been agreed upon

as yet.. To regain support from the regions, President Obama sent Vice-President Biden, who is thought of as a long time supporter of Israel to begin "indirect talks with Israel and the Palestinians. That attempt backfired as Israel announced their plans to continue to build in the occupied territory last taken following the 1967 war. Israel has repeatedly stated that these building projects are not new, but have been in the works for many years.

What stunned every one was Joe Biden's' statement: "I condemn the decision by the government of Israel to advance planning for new housing units in East Jerusalem," Biden said, calling it "precisely the kind of step that undermines the trust we need right now." He went on to say, the he sees no other choice but to remove the U.S. Ambassador from Israel.

But before Biden, the highest-level Obama administration official to visit Israel yet, even embarked on this tour, one Israeli official signaled Biden never could have fixed their problems anyway. Danny Danon, the deputy speaker of Israel's parliament, was quoted in The Washington Post saying, "We see it as nothing short of an insult that President Obama himself is not coming."

After so many years of direct talks that wrestled with the core issues of the future of Jerusalem, borders, security and Palestinian refugees, Mitchell's announcement felt to some observers more like a

setback with .Iran escalating the Aggression

New Fears from Admiral Mike Mullen about Tension in the Middle East

Admiral Mike Mullen, Chief of Staff came home as one person put it, "with Sweaty Palms" from his trip to Israel in mid February. He was worried about Israel's position. Israel has repeatedly stated they will not accept Iran with nuclear capabilities.

This is especially worrying, because Mullen has had considerable experience in putting the brakes on such Israeli plans in the past. This time, he appears convinced that the Israeli leaders did not take his earlier warnings seriously — notwithstanding the unusually strong language he put into play.

Upon arrival in Jerusalem on

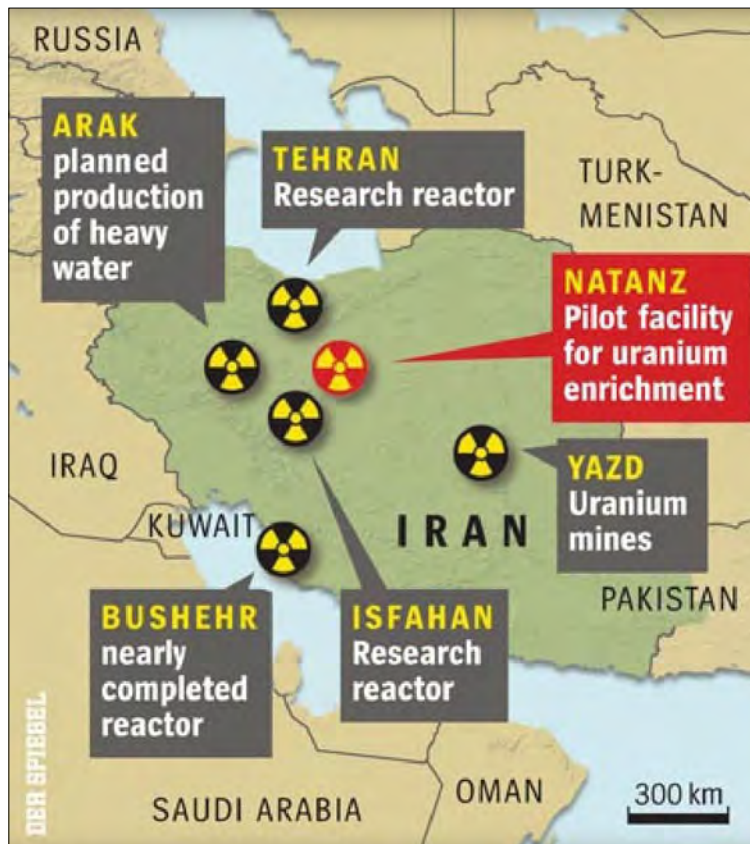
Feb.14, Mullen wasted no time in making clear why he had come. He insisted publicly that an attack on Iran would be "a big, big, big problem for all of us, and I worry a great deal about the unintended consequences."



Iran steps up Nuclear Aggression

Despite warnings from many countries around the world, Iran continues its path to nuclear capability. On Sunday Feb 7, 2010 Iran announced that it plan to up its Uranium enrichment from the present 3.5 percent to 20 percent, and to build another 10 nuclear plants. This moves them one step closer to the

needed enrichment to produce a nuclear bomb. On Feb 16, just nine days following the announcement of the increased enrichment program, Iran's president says his country is installing more advanced centrifuges at its main uranium enrichment facility, a step certain to add to international concern over Tehran's accelerating nuclear program. On the same day that Iran announced it would begin enriching its



Known locations of Iran's nuclear facilities. Iran announced on Feb 7, 2010 that they plan to build ten more facilities

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Tensions Escalating in the Middle East



Cont. from p. 10
uranium
stockpile;
Iranian Su-
preme Leader
Ayatollah

Khomeini declared "that not even the might of the West can save Israel now."

Iranian media cited Khomeini as telling the head of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad movement on Sunday that Israel's destruction is imminent according to the will of Allah, and that the support of America and certain European nations could do nothing to thwart the Jewish state's downfall.

The move was seen as a rejection of a Western diplomatic deal whereby Iran's uranium would be enriched abroad to ensure it did not reach weapons grade. WE and European leaders said they were becoming fed up with Iran's defi-

ance, though they have proved in the past that such threats have no teeth.

The looming threat is escalating the likelihood that Israel will be forced to intervene militarily to at least set back Iran's nuclear program, lest it face a very real existential threat.



But Iran is nearly prepared to repel an Israeli air raid thanks to an expected delivery of advanced Russian-made anti-aircraft missile batteries. Iranian and Russian officials last Thursday confirmed that Mos-

cow, despite Israeli objections, will honor its contract to deliver the S-300 missile systems to the Islamic Republic very soon.

Iran announced a week ago that it was enriching uranium to a higher level for use in fueling a reactor that produces medical isotopes. The new enrichment work is of major concern to the U.S. and its allies because at higher levels the material can be used in nuclear warheads.

President Mahmud Ahmadinejad told a news conference the new centrifuges are not yet operational but are five times more efficient than an earlier model at its Natanz enrichment plant. Iran says its nuclear work is only for peaceful purposes, which absolutely no

Cont. on p. 12



TEHRAN, March 4 (Reuters) - Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said on Thursday Western powers were trying to widen differences between Sunni and Shi'ite Muslims to divert attention from the Israel-Palestinian conflict. "The enemies of Islam and Muslims want to create discord among Muslims in the world ... so having unity is the most important need of the Islamic world," he said in a meeting with state officials on the occasion of the Prophet Mohammad's birthday.

Iran is at odds with the West over its nuclear program which Washington and its allies fear could allow it to acquire atomic weapons, something Tehran says it does not intend to do.

Iran's Sunni Muslim neighbors, many of which, like Saudi Arabia, have strong ties with the United States, are also wary about Iran's nuclear ambitions. Khamenei said the West had a deliberate policy of sowing distrust among Muslim nations.

"Unfortunately, despite agreement on the need of defending occupied Islamic territories, the Islamic world has been influenced by the American and British propaganda and plots to create

discord among Shi'ites and Sunnis," he said.

"Bullying powers, America and Britain are fully aware that disunity and discord among Muslim can deviate the Muslims' public opinion from the important issue of Palestine."

Opposition to Israel, which sees Iran's nuclear program as a threat to its existence, has been a cornerstone of the Islamic republic since 1979 and Iran backs Palestinian and Lebanese militant groups opposed to peace with the Jewish state.

"The occupation of the holy land of Palestine and the endless brutality of the Zionist regime towards innocent Palestinian people is a big wound in the body of the Islamic world," Khamenei said, calling Israel a "dangerous and fatal cancer". Parts of the speech were carried on state television.

Israel has not ruled out military action if diplomacy fails to resolve the nuclear row. Iran, the world's fifth-largest crude exporter, has vowed retaliation for any attack.

Shi'ite Iran sees itself as a leader of the Muslim world, competing for influence with Saudi Arabia, which considers itself as more qualified due to its mainstream Sunni Islam and housing of Islam's holiest sites.





Tensions Escalating in the Middle East



Cont. from p. 11

one believes.

The moment is fast approaching

when Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israel Prime Minister, may have to make the most difficult decision of his career – whether to launch a military strike against Iran’s nuclear facilities and risk a triggering conflagration that could spread across the Middle East. Israeli experts believe the point of no return may be only six months away when Iran’s nuclear program will have, if they haven’t already, metastasized into a multitude of smaller, more difficult to trace facilities in the deserts and mountains, while its main reactor at Bushehr will have come online and bombing would send radioactive clouds over the Gulf nations.

Mr. Netanyahu has consistently called Iran the most serious threat that Israel faces. President Ahmadinejad of Iran has called for Israel to

be obliterated and his revolutionary Guards supply training, money and weapons to both Hezbollah, on Israel’s northern border, and to Hamas in the Gaza strip, whose missiles are believed to be capable of reaching Tel Aviv.

Iran’s new Mutual Defense Pack

To make matters even more complicated, Iran, Syria, Hezbollah, and Hamas have all just entered into

Israel, all will fight together to defend each other.

This means that if Israel chooses to defend itself by a pre-emptive strike against Iran’s nuclear capability, then they may find themselves at war with all four of them and fighting a war on three fronts.

The consequences of their actions are immense, thus we see the reason

for the sweaty hands of Adm Mike Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for the U.S.

Many people from many nations have varying opinions as how things will shape up as all of this plays itself out. I see it as only one way; the foundation for Biblical fulfillment coming to pass: Luke 21:20 is moving itself in place;



what they call the “Mutual Defense Pack. In short what this says is, if any one of them are attacked by Is-

“And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh.”



JOIN OTHER CHURCH BRETHREN FOR FRIDAY NIGHT BIBLE TRIVIA

Bible Trivia, a fun and great way to begin the Sabbath on Friday evenings, discover how much we don’t know and build our Bible knowledge.

When Harold Decker came to share our home with us, he told how he, his wife Elinor, Maxine Owens and her husband Hallie got together on Friday’s for pizza and a round of “Bible Trivia”; it sounded like a marvelous idea and we began to do it our selves.

Friday evening around 7:00 PM ET (after dinner) we begin. We do not “play the game” but each game card has 7 questions on them. We each take a turn at reading a card and the others must answer, if no one can answer the question, then we must look up the scripture to find the answer.

It started with just the 3 of us for 2 Sabbaths, it has since grown to include the folks in Halifax, Nova Scotia via the speaker phone; and a couple of weeks a sister in Christ,

Virginia, was able to join in. She commented how much more it made the Sabbath for her, and Micheline in Nova Scotia says she doesn’t feel so isolated by being able to participate via the telephone.

After about 3-4 rounds (we let Harold decide how many rounds) of Bible Trivia, Yanick Siqouin and his wife Casandra (in Nova Scotia) put “Bible Jeopardy” on their computer (from the web) and that gives them a chance to be the readers and all of us have to decide the best answer. If we are wrong, the program gives the correct answer and location of the scripture, we must then look it up.

It has been a very enjoyable and social beginning to the Sabbath for us. Anyone interested in joining in are more than welcome...just let us know, our phone number is 231-937-7172 or e-mail us at; kazndaz@charter.net

In God’s Love,
Dave & Kathy Zemaitis

Why we Keep the Foot Washing ?



The Passover marks the beginning of a new cycle of God's festivals and holy days. During the Passover service, before partaking of the symbols of Christ's body and blood, the unleavened bread and the wine, Brethren participate in the [foot-washing](#) ceremony. Though seemingly archaic in our modern world, footwashing provides necessary and important reminders of our duties to each other. In the world of Christ's day, where the roads were primarily unpaved and the people wore sandals, footwashing was a common service provided to guests. A servant, usually the lowest-ranking member of the household staff, would wash the dust off the guests' feet as they entered the home. This both kept the house clean and refreshed the guests. This simple act contains helpful lessons for our Christian lives.

1. When is footwashing performed? [John 13:1-5](#).

During the evening of Nisan 14, Jesus and His disciples ate the Passover, commonly known as the "Last Supper." After the meal was served, Jesus rolled up His sleeves, as it were, tied a towel around His waist and washed His disciples' feet. Later in the evening, after He predicted that one of the disciples would betray Him (verses 21-26), Jesus introduced the symbols of bread and wine as part of the Passover service ([Mark 14:18-24](#)). Following this example, the church places the footwashing ritual first in the annual service.

2. What is its purpose? [John 13:12-16](#).

Because of their incessant bickering about who would be the greatest in the Kingdom ([Luke 22:24-27](#)), Jesus gave the disciples an object lesson designed to show them what their real position was under Him. He tells them, "He who is greatest among you, let him be as the younger, and he who governs as he who serves" (verse 26). He shows them that they must be willing to do whatever

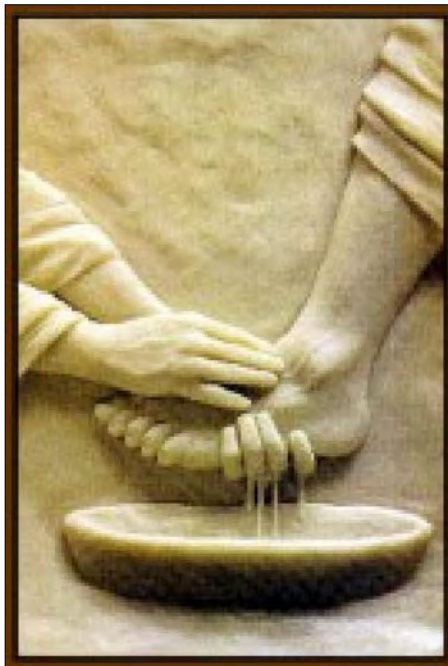
task—even the most menial—that is necessary for the good of their brothers. This should have put them in the proper attitude for the Passover's greater purpose, Christ's sacrifice for our [forgiveness](#) and redemption.

3. What was Jesus' attitude? [Philippians 2:3-7](#).

The attitude Jesus showed in washing His disciples' feet is the same attitude that enabled Him to give up the [power](#) and glory of being like God and become a man. Here we see that our Creator, the Almighty God, is first and foremost a servant. He is willing to serve His own servants! When we come to the point that we are able to do everything in an attitude of service and humility, we are truly following Jesus Christ.

4. What is the significance of having our feet washed? [John 13:10](#).

Christians are "bathed"—made perfectly clean—at [baptism](#) ([Acts 22:16](#); [1 Corinthians 6:11](#); [Revelation 1:5](#)). The footwashing acts as a yearly renewal of our baptism, our commitment to living God's way of life. As Jesus says, we do not need to be fully immersed again to renew our vow—to be recleansed from [sin](#); we need only to have our feet washed to remove the dirt and dust we collect in our walk through life. It was for this reason that Jesus insisted that Peter allow



Him to wash his feet ([John 13:6-9](#)).

5. Does the ritual itself make us clean, or do we play a part in our recleansing? [John 13:10-11](#), 18.

The footwashing ceremony, a symbolic act that outwardly manifests an inward attitude and conviction. Paul writes, "Examine *yourselves* as to whether you are in the [faith](#). Prove *yourselves*" ([II Corinthians 13:5](#)). Isaiah urges, "Wash *yourselves*, make *yourselves* clean; put away the evil of your doings" ([Isaiah 1:16](#)). In his psalm of [repentance](#), on the other hand, David beseeches God, "Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin" ([Psalm 51:2](#)). Thus, we see that this rededication to God at Passover is a shared effort between us and God. We renew our faith in Christ's sacrifice, once again devote ourselves to the New Covenant, repent of our spiritual failings and seek forgiveness, and He forgives us and cleanses us of our sins.

6. Is the footwashing a commanded ceremony for Christians? [John 13:12-15](#).

Indeed it is! It is an object lesson whose meaning we are to inculcate into our lives and practice at every opportunity! As Christ served us, so should we serve others. The apostle John writes in [I John 2:6](#), "He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked."

7. Is there a blessing given for footwashing? [John 13:17](#).

The word translated *happy* in the King James and New King James Bibles can easily be rendered "blessed," "favored" or "satisfied." There is a reward for following God's marvelous way of life! Not only will we be given eternal life and rulership in His Kingdom, but God will also bestow His blessing and favor upon us until we are completely satisfied!



Questions & Answers

Editor's Note: *Recently I received an email with a list of questions concerning the sermons on the Two Seeds, the Rise of Islam. I thought they were very good questions. I thought that if this person had these questions, others may also have similar questions. I decided to share them here and hope the answers will be helpful to you. In the future if you have questions, please feel free to send them in and we'll do our best to post them here.*

Q 1...HOW CAN THE MOSLEMS BE THE TARES IF MOSLEMS LOOK SO RADICALLY DIFFERENT FROM CHRISTIANS?.

That is precisely the point, they are not the same and they don't look the same. It is our society that tries to tell us they are the same. The point of the parable is to show us they are different, and you can see the difference in basic appearance, and by their fruits. Let's take a look at the parable.

Matt 13:24 *"Another parable put He forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field: **25** But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way. **26** But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also. **27** So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares?"*

To the servants of the field, those who view the field with a trained eye, it was obvious that the wheat and the weeds (tares) are totally different. To a person who is not the servant, who is simply out for a walk in the field, they may appear the same, or at the very least, similar. However, take a closer look at verse 26: *"But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also."* The workers were able to recognize there was a difference, just as God's called out ones today recognize the difference in the religions today.

A more important question is found in the following verse. **27** *So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares? We need to ask, how are the tares getting into the Field?*

Christianity today believes it really doesn't matter how or where you worship, as long as you believe. Christianity today has come to accept that a Muslim worshipping their god is no different than a Christian worshipping his God. After all, we are told, isn't there only one God? Aren't we all going to the same place? Or another way of putting it, even though we may look different, aren't we all the same?

Notice Jesus' words to His disciples; John 10:27 *My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me."* The disciples that follow Jesus voice, His instructions, and His example, will immediately recognize the differences. Jesus also tells us; *"By their fruits you shall know them."* Matt. 7:20

Take a look at the rest of the parable: Matt. 13:**28** *He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up? **29** But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. **30** Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn."*

The real difference will be when the fruit is in full harvest. At that time the differences will be greatly apparent, but by that time it is too late to separate the wheat and the tares without hurting the fruit. The field must bare the weeds (tares) until Christ comes to separate them.

Q2...ARE THERE OTHER SCRIPTURES TO SHOW THAT THE MOSLEM NATION RISING UP AMONGST US WILL BRING ABOUT THE DOWNFALL OF THE U.S.A.?

Yes and no. If a person is looking for specific scriptures that mention Muslims by name, you won't find any; just as you won't find of the United States, or the names of any other modern nation. That being the case, how can we determine that the rising of Muslim will be a vital link to bring down the U.S.?

From scripture, we understand that God is the same, yesterday, today, and always. By looking into the past, God gives us clear warnings that if we follow their path, we will have the same results.

The Bible is filled with the warnings of how Israel was brought down into captivity.

¹⁴ *Let them bring them forth, and show us what shall*



Questions & Answers

happen: let them show the former things, what they be, that we may consider them, and know the latter end of them; or declare us things for to come."

When we look into the Old Testament we see that the primary reason for their going into captivity was the acceptance and worship of foreign Gods.

The United States has always been a melting pot of various peoples and beliefs. But it is only in recent times that the United States has given way to another god, in particular, Mohammed. The current administration has gone out of its way to give credence and acceptance to the Muslim faith, even to the point of stating on numerous occasions that we are no longer a Christian nation. This is the first time America has openly declared other god's equal to or greater than the Eternal.

This open declaration and acceptance of another god, other than the true God, will continue to bring about the curses mentioned in Deut 28, at an even greater pace than we have witnessed in the past few decades. The only result will be that of ancient Israel. We have already begun to see the fulfillment of those curses coming to pass in our nation.

As America continues to turn its back on God, and accept the Muslim faith, the Muslim people will continue to rise in prominence in business, property, and control in America. Our continual reliance on Arab oil will only make us a weaker and more dependant nation. This path is a steady path of weakening our values and beliefs as a God fearing Christian nation. As this weakening continues; the "*sojourner among us will continue to get very high above us*" Deut 28:43. Take a moment, read Deut 28, and see for yourself. Then ask yourself if the wheat and the tares are in the field together.

The final warning for us comes from the example of ancient Israel. Israel was continually weakened over the course of approximately 100 years by turning their backs on God. As each decade went by Israel's glory faded and their strength was diminished, until they were finally at the point of other nations moving in to over take them. God sent the prophets to warn them over and over again: just as God's church has been warning this nation.

Finally, God turned them over to reap the fruits of their labors. Eventually, it was Assyria, the rod of God's wrath, that took them into a final captivity. Through the acceptance

of other god's, the Muslim people will continue to get high above us, weakening the very infrastructure that has protected us since our inception. Just like ancient Israel, the gradual weakening will eventually lead us to a captivity of what the Bible prophesies will be a strong ten-nation combination, possibly headed by modern day Assyria, not the Muslim people. Keep an eye on Europe, and look for the King of the north.

Q3...IS GOD SAYING THAT WHEN PAUL WROTE TO GENTILES, THAT THEY NEEDED TO KNOW HEBREW IN ORDER TO UNDERSTAND WHAT JESUS WAS TEACHING IN THE PARABLES?

The simple answer is, no. In fact, Paul never wrote to them that they needed to know Hebrew at all. However, at some point someone most certainly had to be able to understand Hebrew, or we wouldn't have the translations we have today.

The question brings up an interesting thought to consider. It is commonly understood that the Apostle Paul understood Hebrew and spoke it fluently. Paul, whose earlier Hebrew name was Saul, was "of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee (Phil 3:5). Acts identifies Paul as **being** from the Mediterranean city of Tarsus (in present-day south-central Turkey), well-known for its intellectual environment. Acts also claims Paul said he was "a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee," and one who was taught at the foot of Gamaliel and was required to read and know the Torah.

Paul knew the law, and he understood Hebrew, yet he appeared to go out of his way to show that being a Hebrew outwardly, (knowing Hebrew, wearing certain clothing, appearances, etc) that made one an Israelite or a Jew. Notice Rom 2: **28** *For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly ; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: 29* *But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly ; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.* Paul was clear, that it is what is inside that matters. It is that of the heart.

Finally, in the translations from Hebrew to English, there are certain aspects of the understanding that is lost, or better put, not fully understood. Most of God's people have a concordance of some type; the most popular being Strong's. I



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