

# The \_\_\_\_\_ Philadelphia Remnant

March/April 2011



Dedicated to the memory of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong and to the FAITHFUL  
Philadelphia Remnant of The TRUE CHURCH OF GOD Scattered Worldwide



“...I [will] seek out My sheep, and will deliver them out of all places  
where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day.  
I will seek that which was lost, and bring again that which was  
driven away...” Ezekiel 34:12,16 KJV

Photo courtesy <http://phillip.greenspun.com>

# The Philadelphia Remnant

MARCH/APRIL 2011

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**Cover:** The flock of sheep pictured on the cover of this magazine represent the scattered brethren of God's True Church. (*Photo courtesy <http://phillip.greenspun.com>*)

The Church of God Faithful Flock, with headquarters in Valley Springs, California, humbly presents this magazine – *The Philadelphia Remnant*, which continues to provide a conduit for the work Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong spearheaded, the work of reaching out to people worldwide with the message of the soon-coming Kingdom of God through the preserved writings,

recorded telecasts, sermons and Bible study messages that Jesus Christ used him to do in his human ministry!

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# Christ's Last Passover on Earth

By Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong  
Jerusalem Bible Study, Nov. 1, 1980

We had been around the old city yesterday and looked down on the Garden of Gethsemane ... passing at the Place of the Skull, and I wanted to go afterwards to the Garden Tomb ...

Well, I thought I would just read a little about that. Not an ordinary Bible study today at all, but I thought that we would just take it up. It was after, now, they had had the final Passover Jesus had had with His disciples, and He took the Passover at the time they ALWAYS take it.



GARDEN TOMB



MR. HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

## PASSOVER BEGINS AT SUNSET FIRST MONTH, 14TH DAY

Now, He was killed on that same day, but He was killed on a later time of the day. The Romans put Him to death, and they didn't follow and do it at the same exact time. But what Christ did, with the Passover, He did it at the same HOUR of the day that it had always been, right after sunset, but sunset began the Passover (Exodus 12:1-6).



GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

Now the next day was the annual Sabbath day following the Passover. But that didn't begin until after another sunset, a whole 24 hours later. A lot of people are all mixed up on that, and it can't be any other way. Now after the Passover, Jesus spoke to them for quite a while in the 15th chapter of the Book of John, you know, and the 16th chapter, and then the 17th chapter of John records Jesus' final prayer in front of them, and then they all went out to the Garden of Gethsemane.

## THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

Now that was pointed out to us yesterday. It's down, as you go on the road from up around the temple and from our dig, and between there and the Mount of Olives. You look down, way down below, and there are some very beautiful olive trees over across there, and that is the Garden of Gethsemane. And I've been in that garden, and it is still to this day a beautiful place.

And some of those trees were there in the time of Christ because olive trees grow to be just almost the oldest of all trees. I don't know whether they grow older than redwood and sequoia trees or not,

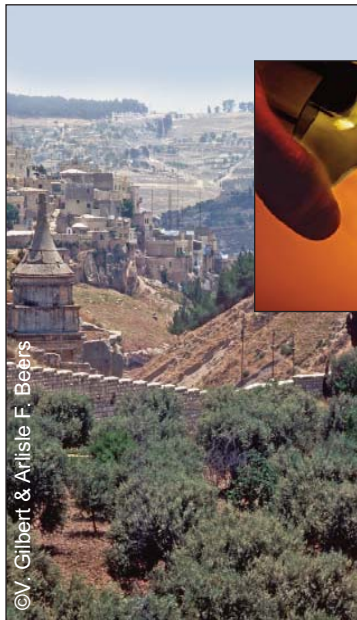
but the redwood and sequoias will grow to be 4,000 years old. But olive trees, the upper branches will finally grow old and rot and fall off, but the roots and everything, and the stem of the trunk, stays there. And a new trunk comes up and new branches. And, time after time, that happens, and they go on living for a long, long time.

So olive trees have a special use. That's another reason that olive oil is often a type of God's Holy Spirit because it comes from the olive tree, which almost has everlasting life. You see it is very, very long life; and God's Spirit is a type of everlasting life.

Well, anyway, while we were in the Garden of Gethsemane, I'm going to pick it up right there at that point. In the 18th chapter of John:

**“When Jesus had spoken these words, He went forth with His disciples over the brook Cedron.”** Now, that's down at the bottom. That's a little stream that runs down there at the bottom between the Mount of Olives and the road that we're on when we are going past the Temple Mount there, **“where was a garden.”**

Now others, Matthew or Mark or Luke will mention that that is the Garden of Gethsemane. And there are some very beautiful olive trees and very ancient olive trees there,



KIDRON VALLEY



**“into which Jesus entered, and His disciples. And Judas also, which betrayed Him, knew the place: for Jesus oft-times resorted thither with his disciples. Judas then, having received a band of men and officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees ...”**

## THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Now remember there, they were the religious men, but they wanted to kill Christ, and I'm going to take just a minute now to explain that. Jesus came preaching the GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD, a gospel where the Kingdom of God is going to rule over all nations of the earth. And all of the governments that are existing on the earth at the time will become ruled by the Kingdom of God and by Christ.

Now the Pharisees, and many of the Sadducees,

had political offices. At that time, the Roman Empire ruled the world, and when Israel originally was in this land and before the 10 tribes were taken out and all of that, that was before even the big empire of Babylon, the first world empire, had even been formed. In other words, that was more than 700 years earlier, but now a lot of things have happened by the time of Christ, and the Roman Empire was now ruling.

Now the Roman Empire set the Pharisees, a religious denomination or sect of Judaism, and set them in offices of government in the lower echelon offices to rule the people. Now they sent a few, they sent a governor, or he was often called a local king, as Herod was, to rule. And they had two or three garrisons of soldiers sent over here in different places, just in case they were needed, but they didn't really ever need to use them, and they, I know they hoped they wouldn't need to use them, and they really never did need to use them.

But they set, in all of the many lower jobs of government, they set these Pharisees and Sadducees. Now, they were



Wikimedia



well-paying jobs, and it gave them high prestige. They not only were spiritual leaders, they were government leaders, and they thought Jesus was preaching the overthrow of Caesar. They thought Jesus, now, was a subversive and teaching the overthrow of Caesar's government.

## JESUS CHRIST RECOGNIZED AS THE PROMISED MESSIAH

They KNEW He was the Christ!  
They KNEW He was the Messiah!  
Actually, the Jews today don't know that.  
They've been taught differently



between then and now, but those Pharisees did know the Messiah was to be born as a baby and grow up, and they knew that Jesus was the Christ, and Nicodemus said that, as you'll find in the third chapter of John.

But they thought He was preaching subversion, and they thought their heads would be lopped off, and they would lose their jobs. They would probably be imprisoned and then killed as subversives and enemies of the government, and that's why they wanted to let the higher up Roman rulers know that they were on the side of Rome and not on the side of Christ, and they wanted to kill Him! They also knew He was human, and that He could be put to death, and so they wanted to kill him.

Now, they had plotted with Judas and paid him 30 pieces of silver to come and identify Jesus. That shows they didn't know what Jesus looked like. He looked like any other Jew of the time. They had to have a man come and identify which one of those Jews was Jesus. So here we come to that point, right here.

**“Judas also, which betrayed Him, knew the place: for Jesus oftentimes resorted thither with his disciples. Judas then, having received a band of men and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees.”**

Now, you see, it was the top religious people that were in back of all this and wanting to

kill Christ, "the chief priests and the Pharisees, cometh thither with lanterns and torches and weapons."

Now, they were armed, and they came after Him, just like an armed group came after us almost two years ago of the government.



**“Jesus therefore, knowing all things that should come upon Him, went forth, and said unto them, ‘Whom seek ye?’ They answered Him, ‘Jesus of Nazareth.’ Jesus saith unto them, ‘I AM.’”**

Now you'll notice in your Bible it says, "***I am He.***" But the word "***He***" is in italics. You see that? The "***He***" was not originally written. They have supplied that. When this was written by John, he did not write that; and Jesus did not say, "***I am He.***" Jesus said, "**I AM.**"

Now you go back to the time of Moses, and Moses said at the burning bush, "**Well, look. If I've got to go to Pharaoh, how am I going to know? If I try to tell him God sent me, how will I tell him who God is?**" And God said to him, "**Tell him I AM sent you.**" God's name is **I AM**, or YHWH. It means the Ever-living, the Self-existent One, the Eternal, the One who lives eternally. And when He said, "**I AM.**" He was saying He was God. **I AM** is the



that He was a subversive and preaching that He was going to overthrow Caesar and the Roman Empire. They had government positions in all the lower echelons of government of the Roman Empire, and they were afraid for their lives, and afraid they would lose their jobs, and be called and arrested as subversives. That's why they wanted to kill Jesus. They thought more of their jobs than they did of the Messiah, even though they knew who He was (John 11:47-48).

Now since then, the Jews have denied that that was Jesus, and they say He was an imposter, but THOSE Jews then, they KNEW that was not an imposter. They KNEW He was God. And still they wanted to kill Him. And since then they have taught, and they are all mixed up.

### **JEW'S OBSERVE NIGHT TO BE MUCH REMEMBERED FOR THE PASSOVER**

They don't know what to do about the Passover. They don't keep the Passover. They keep the Days of Unleavened Bread and the Night to Be Much Remembered or to Be Much Observed. They observe and call it the Passover, the Jews do. I've observed

name of God. It's the same as YHWH, the Ever-living, the Eternal, the Self-existent One. There is no word in the English language that exactly translates it. That's why I use the word "Eternal" wherever God is used in the Old Testament, a great deal.

So that's what He answered. Now notice what happened. **"And Judas also, which ... "** Now this doesn't mention here, but Luke and Matthew will mention, or one of them, that Judas came and gave Him a Judas' kiss, greeted Him with a kiss. And he told them whomever he would kiss, that would be Jesus. But John doesn't mention that.

**"And Judas ... which betrayed Him, stood with them. As soon then as Jesus had said unto them, I AM, they went backward, and fell to the ground."** They fell over backward.

They KNEW He was saying, "I AM GOD." Now, as I was explaining, the Pharisees knew all along that Jesus was the Messiah. They KNEW He was God in the human flesh, but they thought that when He preached the Gospel of the Kingdom of God and ... RULE of the government of God

the Passover and that festival here in this country about four or five times in the last 20 years. So now, as soon as He said, **"I AM"** they went backward and fell to the ground. They were really shocked. They knew whose presence they were in. But they also knew He had come in the human flesh, and they could put Him to death.



**"Then asked He them again, Whom seek ye? And they answered, Jesus of Nazareth."** They must have been trembling by this time. **"Jesus answered, I have told you that I AM: if therefore ye seek Me, let these go their way."** Now they came with armed guards, just like the government came with armed guards against God's Church

**Continued on Page 26**

# Personal from the Editor

By Alton B. 'Don' Billingsley

## 'Do This in Remembrance of Me'

(I Corinthians 11:24-26)

Dear Brethren,

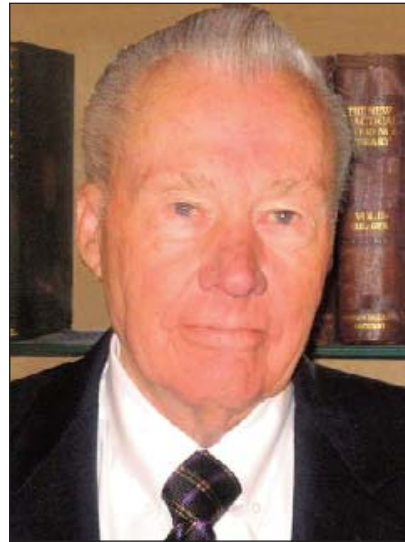
Once again we have come to the most important time of the year to observe the vital Passover Service in **REMEMBRANCE** of Jesus Christ who voluntarily sacrificed His life for His Church, Israel, and the world (John 3:16; Hebrews 10:5-14).

It is vitally important to realize without partaking of those precious symbols during the Passover service in a Biblically correct, worthy, and meaningful manner, there would be *no hope, no promise for anyone, no future.*

### PARTAKING OF THE PASSOVER IN VAIN

Realizing the VITAL importance of the Passover the question each one should weigh very seriously: Will you – *the member* – be partaking of it in that manner and with the true Scriptural meaning of it?

This is a relevant and vital question for virtually all of the members of the corporate churches will be observing it in vain! This will be made plain to the unbiased mind.



*Alton B. (Don) Billingsley*

## SACRIFICE OF THE TRUE LAMB OF GOD

The Messiah, Jesus Christ, was the true Lamb of God who voluntarily gave His body and His **blood** for the sins of the world as made clear by John the Baptizer:

**"The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, 'Behold! The Lamb of God who takes**

**away the sin of the world (John 1:29)."**

Jesus Christ did take away the sin of the world by the sacrificing of His life to pay the ultimate penalty for SIN – *an excruciating painful death on the tree* (I Peter 2:24) – pouring out His life's blood to cover SIN! (Isaiah 53:12; John 19:34; I John 1:7).

The blood of Jesus Christ is symbolized by the wine each member partakes of during the Passover ceremony remembering and commemorating what He voluntarily did for the Church of God and for the lives of all of mankind.

It must be remembered that though He was God, He was also a human being with perfect health. He would suffer horrible indignities and excruciating pain such as no one has ever suffered. Yet, because of His awesome love for His creation He willingly subjected Himself to that kind of death; as Scripture makes known:

**"Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? Father, save Me from this hour? But for this purpose I came to this hour (John 12:27)."**

**"When the hour had come, He sat down, and the twelve apostles with**



Him. Then He said to them, ‘With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer ... Then He took the cup, and gave thanks,, and said, ‘Take this and divide it among yourselves’ ... He also took the cup after supper (*the last traditional supper*), saying, ‘This cup is the New Covenant in My blood, which is shed for you’ (Luke 22:14-15, 20; Jeremiah 31:31).”

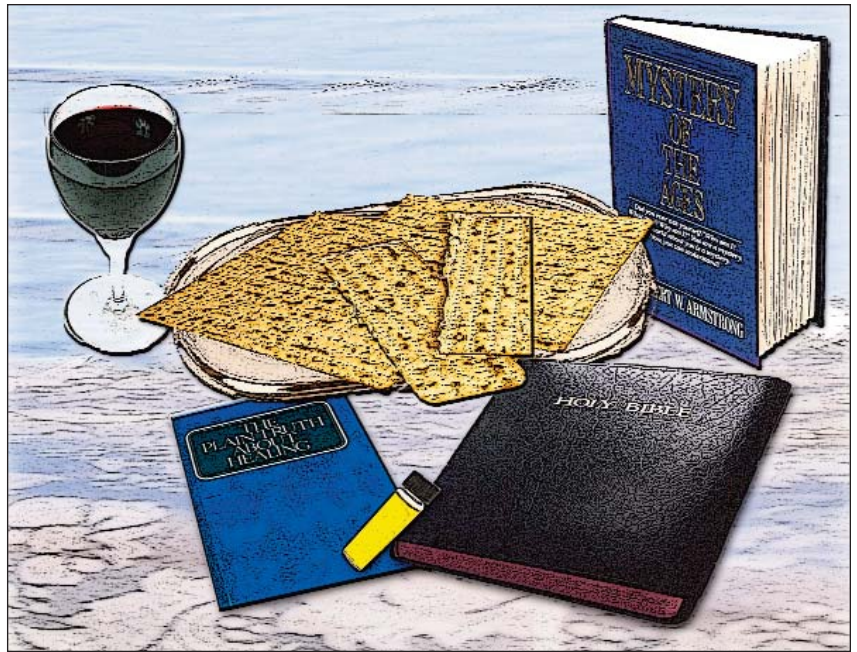
The same Scriptures also make known that in addition to the wine; Jesus Christ gave His disciples BREAD, and then said the following to them about it:

“And He took BREAD, gave thanks and BROKE it, and gave it to them, saying, ‘This is MY BODY which is given for you, DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME’ (Luke 22:19).”

### THE AWESOME LOVE OF GOD

The Scriptures pertaining to the Passover must be remembered and observed with the LOVE of Jesus Christ in both the heart and the mind! And further – it must be observed exactly as made known in Scripture otherwise the member will be dishonoring the precious sacrifice of the true Passover Lamb, Jesus Christ!

And as those Scriptures reveal, the Passover makes known there are TWO SYMBOLS and each one pictures a different part of His loving sacrifice for His people; just as he said in the above Scriptures. And the SYMBOLS must be partaken of during the Passover service with the meaning of each in mind.



### JUDGMENT FACING THE UNWORTHY

Not to partake of those SYMBOLS with the correct meaning of each in mind and heart will be partaking of them in an unworthy and vain manner and thereby place the member under judgment and can bring about an early and untimely death; and possibly even the second death!

This is how critically serious this Passover service is to you and to me. Scripture makes this very clear:

“Therefore **WHOEVER EATS THIS BREAD or DRINKS THIS CUP OF THE LORD in an UNWORTHY** (*Greek: unfit*) **MANNER will be GUILTY of THE BODY AND BLOOD OF THE LORD. But let a man EXAMINE HIMSELF [after which] and so let him EAT OF THE BREAD AND DRINK OF THE CUP. For he who EATS and DRINKS in an UNWORTHY manner EATS AND DRINKS JUDGMENT to himself, NOT DISCERNING** (*Greek: Diakrino = to separate thoroughly; to withdraw from*) **THE LORD’S BODY** (I Corinthians 11:27-30).”

### A TIME OF BOLDNESS

Realizing how close we are to the time of the **Great Tribulation** it becomes necessary to speak and write boldly for many thousands of members lives are at stake! Unless there is *a waking up* and returning to *the FAITH once delivered to the saints* many are going to experience **martyrdom** (*Jude 3; Revelation 6:9-11*). This is borne out in principle by the following Scripture.



“To the Jews at Antioch, the apostles Paul and Barnabas grew bold and said: ‘It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first, but since you **REJECT** it, and [by doing so] judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles’.”

### THE REJECTION OF JESUS CHRIST

It is very sad to realize there are many thousands of members of the corporate churches who will not be partaking of those symbols in a worthy manner due to being *misled* by ministers who are clearly off track as can be noted by Scriptures – *Scriptures they once taught themselves* – but since 1986 have come to believe and teach differently in key areas.

Evangelists, pastors, etc., are using the same Passover ceremony that was concocted by an apostate pastor general having been led by Satan the devil to devise it to keep the membership from partaking of the true Passover. Satan knew the value of the true Passover and leaders are spiritually blind to it.

Not only are they off track with the Passover service, but in doctrinal teachings that also makes them unworthy to partake of it. The prayers they offer over those symbols are meaningless to Jesus Christ for He is not hearing them:

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the Kingdom of Heaven, but he who **DOES THE WILL** of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied (*preached*) in Your Name, cast out demons, in Your Name, and done many wonders (*works*) in Your Name?’ And then, ‘I will

declare to them, I NEVER KNEW YOU; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.’ (Matthew 7:21-23)”

Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong: “A lot of people believe on Christ, but they don't believe what He says. Oh, what a difference there is! And people don't realize that difference.”

### PRAYERS FOR THE SICK UNHEARD BY GOD

Neither are the prayers that are offered over people being anointed heard by the ministers for the same reasons – *Jesus Christ does not know them! Why? They have **REJECTED** the broken body of Jesus Christ* that is symbolized by the morsel of bread that is to be eaten during

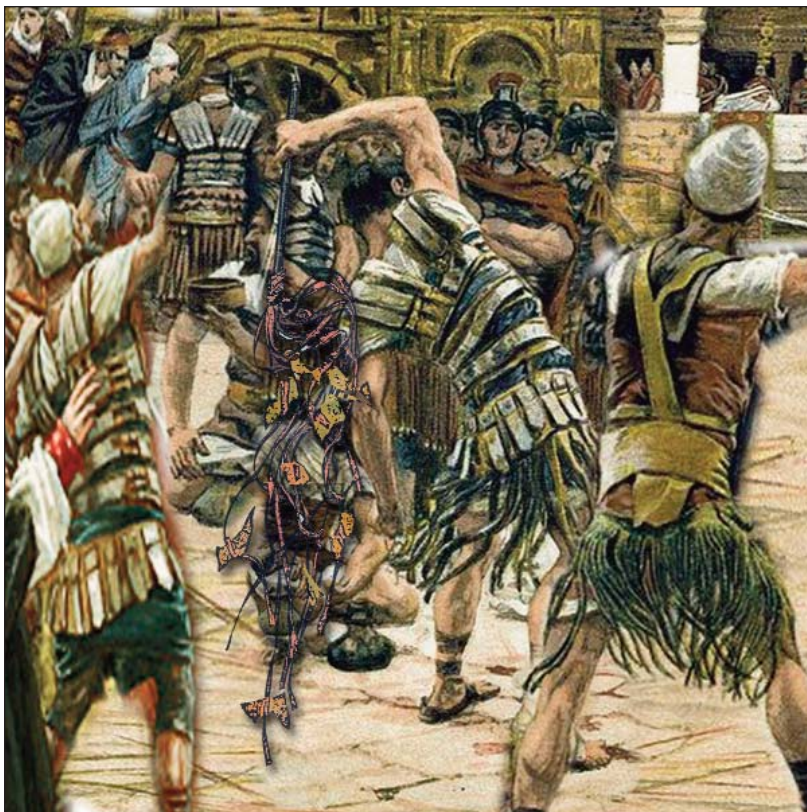
the Passover service.

Its life and death importance will be made plain in the following Scriptures:

“... the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took **BREAD**; and **WHEN** He had given thanks He **BROKE IT** and said, ‘Take eat; **THIS IS MY BODY** which is **BROKEN** for you; do this in **REMEMBRANCE** of Me.’”

“Therefore whoever **EATS** this Bread **OR** drinks this cup of the Lord in an **UNWORTHY MANNER** (an **UNDISCERNING MANNER**, meaning irreverently in a light manner, or not being **FIT**; that is being of **no worth** to the member), will be **GUILTY** of the **BODY** and **BLOOD** of the Lord (I Corinthians 11:23-24, 29).”





## BEGINNING FULFILLMENT BY JESUS CHRIST

“When evening had come, they brought Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word. And **HEALED** all who were sick, that it might be **FULFILLED** which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying, “He Himself took our infirmities [*upon Himself*] and bore our sicknesses [= *physical sins*] (Matthew 8:16-17).”

When anyone becomes sick or afflicted with a disease, it is because of the *transgression* of physical laws. Scriptures then make known upon repentance, and the calling of the elders for healing (James 5:14-15), Jesus Christ, having already paid the penalty by His stripes (I Peter 2:24), then removes the penalty by forgiving the individual and miraculously healing the person.

This is borne out in another Scripture: “**Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: who FORGIVES all your iniquities, who HEALS all your diseases** (Psalm 103:2-3).” Sin

and sickness are connected as cause and effect (Isaiah 33:24; Psalm 103:3; Matthew 9:2; John 5:4; James 5:15).

## DENIAL OF PHYSICAL SIN EQUALS UNFORGIVENESS

By putting the Scriptures together it becomes clear that to *deny* physical sin also *denies* the blessing of being healed of our physical sicknesses and diseases when afflicted by them. In so doing, the voluntary submission to the cruel and vicious beating Jesus Christ experienced is not recognized for what it was lovingly and caringly intended.

It must be emphasized that healing, pure and simple, is the **forgiveness** of physical sin, just as is Spiritual sin, as made plain in the following examples:

To a paralytic, that was brought before Jesus Christ to be healed, He said: “**Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven** (Matthew 9:2; Mark 2:5).” To a man who had been healed by Jesus Christ of an infirmity that he had had for 38 years, He said: “**See, you have been made well. Sin no more LEST a worse thing come upon you** (John 5:14).”

## ‘IN REMEMBRANCE OF HIS BROKEN BODY’

To grasp the fullness of the vital importance of the **bread** to be eaten during the Passover service there is the need of seriously studying the prophesies that foretold the sacrificial offering of the body and life of Jesus Christ and explains why He *first* voluntarily bent his back to the cruel whip of the Roman lictor before giving His life on the tree.

“Behold, My Servant ... His visage was marred (*face disfigured*) more than any man, and His form (*body*) more than any man (Isaiah 52:13-14).” “He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows (*margin: literally pains*) and acquainted with grief (*margin: literally sickness*). ... Surely He has **BORNE** our griefs (*margin: literally sicknesses*) and **CARRIED** our sorrows (*margin: literally pains*); yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted ... He was **BRUISED** (*margin: literally crushed*) for our iniquities [*violating His laws of health, physical sin*]; the **CHASTISEMENT** for our peace (*welfare, health*) was **UPON** Him and by His **STRIPES** we are healed (= *for-given*).” (Isaiah 53:3-5; I Peter 2:24; Psalm 103:3)



## NO DISTINCTION MADE BETWEEN PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL SIN

It is not known how many of the corporate churches of God have *lumped together* the meaning of the **bread** and the **wine** taken during the Passover service *by saying sin is sin – no distinction made between the two of them –* but there must be many, if not all.

If one should pay close attention to what is said during the Passover service they will find how the bread is subtly mentioned in passing but they will not devote any time in emphasizing the true meaning of it.

It is a fact that both the United Church of God and the Church of God, AIC have followed the lead of the apostate pastor general, Mr. Joseph Tkach, by teaching there is no such thing as physical sin. Therefore they place NO special emphasis on the bread; no DISTINCTION from the wine during their Passover ceremony.

Please note the writing of God's late apostle regarding the subject of physical sin:

***The Plain Truth about Healing*, 1979 publication, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, Page 47 – “To say there is no such thing as physical sin, as has been said (*still is being said*) by self-professing intellectuals is NOT intellectual – it is rank STUPIDITY, IGNORANCE OR WILLFUL PER-VERSION OF PLAIN SIMPLE TRUTH!”**

## EXAMPLES OF PHYSICAL SIN

Two different times in the past few years, people have died in this area due to mistaking toadstools for mushrooms and



eating them. Would we call their mistake in judgment – *spiritual sins – just call it sin without any distinction from God's spiritual laws?*

To violate any one of the Ten Commandments, statutes and judgments of God would be a violation of God's spiritual laws and therefore would be sin.

God's laws, such as gravity and inertia, are physical laws. To violate either of them could result in serious injury or death. A Church pastor and friend of former years, Al Dennis, accidentally died from a fall some few years ago. Was that a spiritual sin? No! He died from a fall – the law of gravity pulled him down and the law of inertia killed him upon impact with the ground!

Consider all other kinds of accidents and know if they were accidental they violated God's physical laws, not Spiritual laws.

*Can we not see the difference between the physical and the spiritual?* Upon genuine heartfelt repentance Jesus Christ will forgive the penalty of each sin, both physical and spiritual.

## PASSOVER CEREMONY CHANGED BY APOSTATE PASTOR GENERAL

The Passover ceremony that was developed from the Scriptures by Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong in early years was changed by Mr. Tkach to the One that continues to be used by many today. The change was made to reflect Satan's teaching – *no such thing as physical sin* – no physical healing! In reality it leads into the spiritual Realm denying the **BLOOD** as well.



sin? Satan wants to destroy the *intimate relationship* between God and His people and begin paving the way for the member's destruction. This was his first effort to do this by destroying any faith in God and Jesus Christ for their healing.

Miraculous healing of an individual establishes a close relationship with God as was written in a letter by Mr. Armstrong accompanying an anointed cloth mailed to a member, *"Healing expresses a deeply personal relationship between an individual and his God."*

*Think about it:* It has been reported by different ones that Mr. Joseph Tkach died an agonizing painful death having been afflicted by cancer in his 68th year. Undoubtedly he had been anointed but was not healed. *In contrast:* Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong went peacefully to sleep with no disease afflicting him in his 94th year.

**We reap what we sow** (Galatians 6:7).

### A DECEITFUL LIE

Based on the writings of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, in both the *Mystery of the Ages* (Pages 211-212, the book he wrote in the last year of this life, and the *II Volume of the Autobiography*, Pages 637, 641, we were not told the truth by the apostate pastor general after the death of Mr. Armstrong when he said that Mr. Armstrong had told him he had missed something regarding healing and for him to find it. *He then said he had found it: Physical Sin!*

He knew this would be a popular decision and favored by all. The membership no longer had any need to exercise faith with patience and trust for God to heal them. Though no one was ever told they could not go to a doctor, there was often a feeling of guilt when they did.

Now they could still go through the formality of being prayed for and being anointed and still go to the doctor without any conscience problem whatsoever. Can we not see in this the parallel of *duplicity of deception* with physical and spiritual

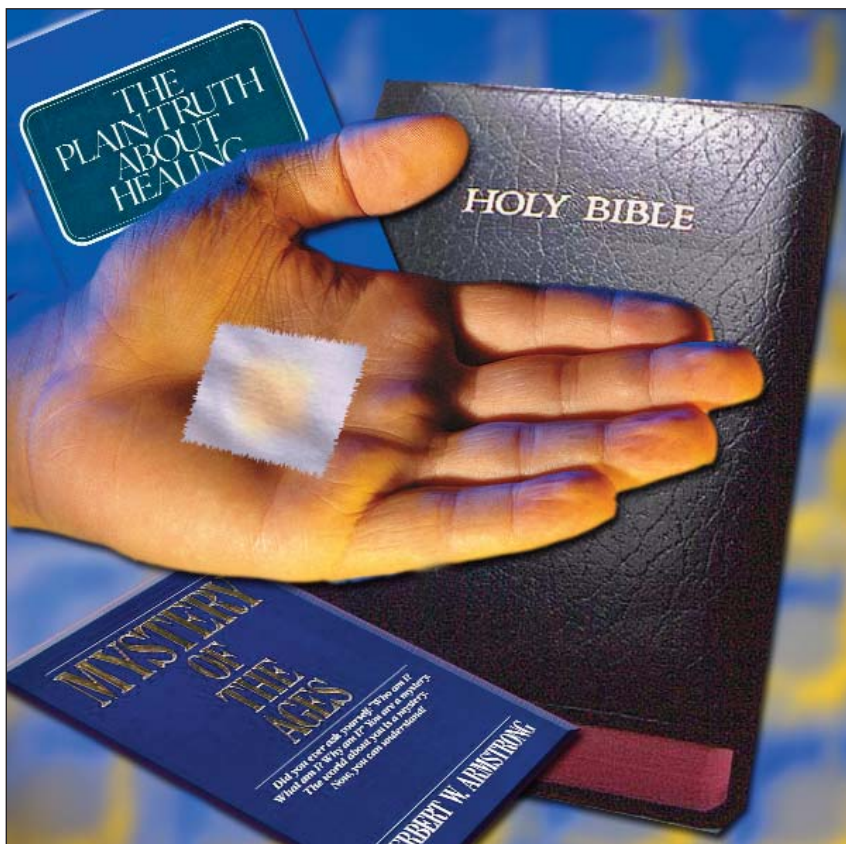
### DECEPTIVE LIES STILL TAUGHT

It must be emphasized the lie about physical sin that connects with the bread is what many thousands of members of the churches of God will be listening to during the Passover service by apostate ministers; ministers who have *turned away* from the true teaching of the Passover symbols of the **BREAD** and in so doing they have also *turned away* from the meaning of the **wine** – *meaning from the real and true Jesus Christ* as made known in Scripture.

To do away with the one – *does away with the other!*

Jesus Christ warns His people: **"Beware of false prophets (also, preachers) who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. YOU WILL KNOW THEM BY THEIR FRUITS** (Matthew 7:15-16; II Corinthians 11:2-4; 12-15)." Fruits made known by conduct and erroneous teachings.





Please compare their teachings with the unedited *Mystery of the Ages* Pages 212-214; in addition, read the booklet, “*The Plain Truth about Healing*,” 1979 publication by Mr. Armstrong.

Jesus Christ expects you to do as did the members of the Ephesian Church Era – with His approval and blessings: “... **you have TESTED those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars ...**(Revelation 2:2).”

*Would you rather accept the rejections of those doctrinal teachings and changes by a man who proved to be an apostate Pastor General, not an apostle, or remain faithful to the teachings and rulings made by a proven apostle for over 50 years?*

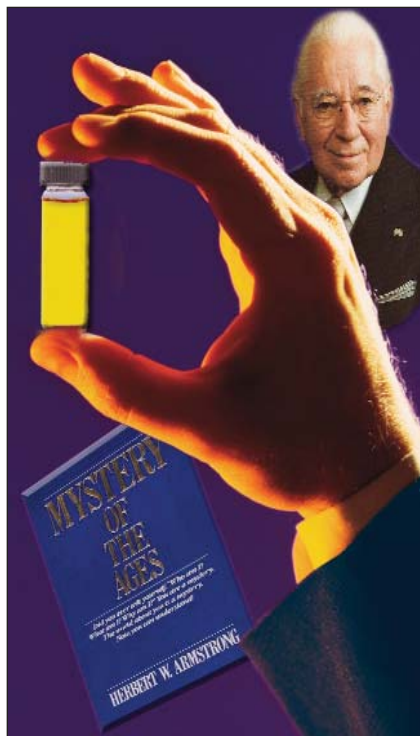
*To LIVE or die with your decision is the question! It is that serious – what will you do this coming Passover?*

The sad part is these thousands of members can be compared to sheep in holding pens to be led to the slaughter by Judas goats, and no way to wake them up before the **Great Tribulation** takes place!

### QUESTION YOUR MINISTER

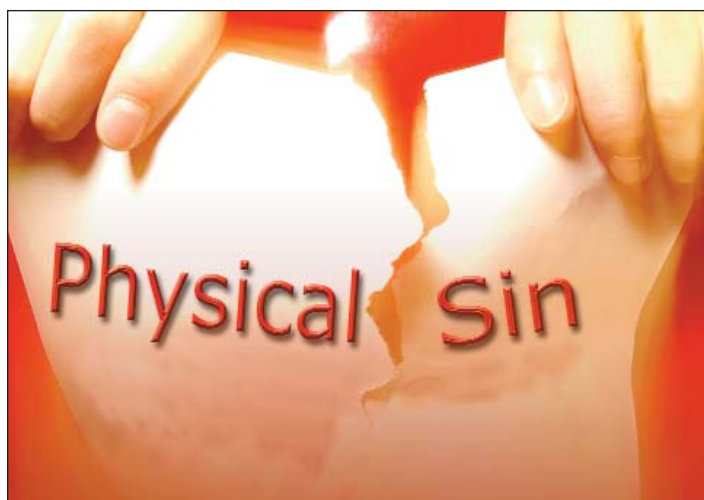
Does your church have and use the correct Passover service? Ask your pastor for a copy of the doctrinal teachings of his church including the Passover ceremony. Are you afraid to ask him?

Do you realize your salvation could hinge on whether you are in the right Church and participating in the Biblical Passover Service? *You MUST know!!!*



Regardless of what any minister may say about their changes, we should all realize the Holy Bible means what it says! And it is those Scriptures that each of us will be judged by (John 17:17; Luke 4:4). *Who will you believe?*

Your caring friend and servant in Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior,  
Don Billingsley



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## Record-Breaking Disasters in 2010-11

By Alton 'Don' Billingsley

**T**his time last year I wrote that with the new year time cycle of 2010 it undoubtedly would be the year to trigger terrible things to befall the House of Joseph and will lead to “... the great and dreadful day of the LORD.” I also wrote that it seems without question its fullness will be reached within this 19-year time frame!

The news media continue to report the record-breaking disasters on the national and international scene of this world that are taking place more frequently, considering them in light of end-time prophecies. It seems apparent those projections are accurate. Devastating, deadly earthquakes in New Zealand and Japan already this year bear this out!

Any true minister should be able to see and understand this as well as me. If the more conservative news media leaders see this while looking at the monumental unsolvable problems, speaking and writing of their lack of hope, some even comparing this nation and its problems to the fall of Rome,

why cannot the true ministers see the fullness of it in view of the end-time prophecies?

Consider the following news reports that bear out these projections:

### DISASTERS OF 2010

*Huffington Post*, Nov. 1, 2010: “With 2010 being the year of earthquakes, heat waves, and floods, we thought it was time to revisit some of the most mind-bending natural disasters in the United States and all over the world. From a town-engulfing firestorm, to a rampaging tornado, and a hundred-foot tall wave, these natural disasters show how powerful Mother Nature can be.”

*Before It's News*, Jan. 21, 2011: “2010 was a record-breaking year for natural disasters. According to Insurance ERM ... this makes 2010 the second-highest year of natural catastrophes since 1980. With a current yearly average of 785 natural catastrophes, 2010 saw an increase of more than 20 percent in occurrences of natural disasters. Furthermore,



the high number of weather-related natural disasters like storms and floods (composed) about 90 percent of all reported catastrophes in 2010 ...”

### NEW YEAR OF 2011

The same is already being seen in this new year of 2011. Records are being broken in nature with snow storms in this country – some accompanied by thunder and lightning! 100 million people were affected by a recent massive snow storm in the United States. That is about one-third of the population in this country. As the year progresses, even worse things are seriously expected to occur based on hard evidence:

**Australia:** Yasi a record-breaking cyclone struck Australia in February. *Sky News*, Feb. 4, 2011: ***“Yasi has created history in more ways than one. It will go down in the record books as the strongest to hit Queensland – at least since European settlement – and possibly the one having the most destructive winds, estimated at 290km/h (180 miles per hour). But Yasi is also notable for being the first cyclone to hit the northwest Queensland town of Julia Creek, 600km (375 miles) or so from where it crossed the coast.”***

**New Zealand:** Two powerful earthquakes struck ChristChurch, New Zealand’s second largest city with a population of 350,000 residents, only five months apart – first in September with 7.1 magnitude, causing widespread damage, and second in February, measuring 6.3 in magnitude, killing at least 76 people in addition to extensive damage.



Sharon Davis, Flickr

New Zealand's Prime Minister John Key has said "we may be witnessing New Zealand's darkest day." The earthquake that struck Christchurch has caused some 30 million tons of ice to break off from New Zealand's biggest glacier. What problem could this cause?

### CRITICAL FOOD SHORTAGES

World leaders are also alarmed by looking at the near future with about 18 days of food supplies on hand amidst crop failures in nations that really count to supply the needs. Note excerpts from news items regarding this coming crisis:

#### Rising food prices point to a looming global food crisis

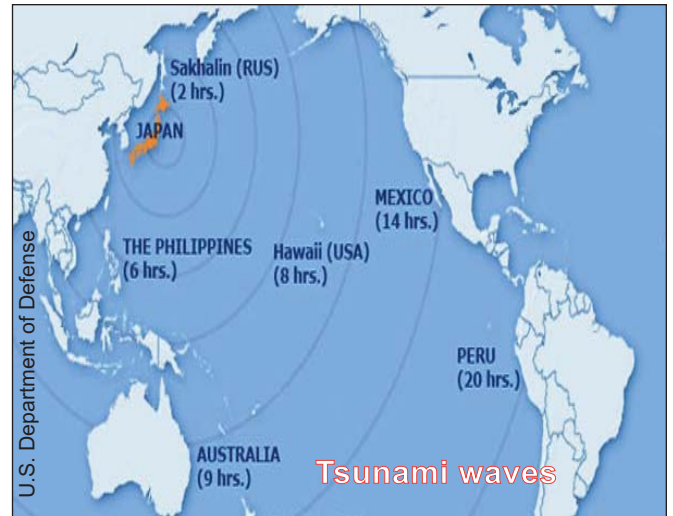
As the new year begins, the price of wheat is setting an all-time high in the United Kingdom. Food riots are spreading across Algeria. Russia is importing grain to sustain its cattle herds until spring grazing begins. India is wrestling with an



18-percent annual food inflation rate, sparking protests. China is looking abroad for potentially massive quantities of wheat and corn. The Mexican government is buying corn futures to avoid unmanageable tortilla price rises. And on January 5, the

U.N. Food and Agricultural organization announced that its food price index for December hit an all-time high. ...

“World population growth, which peaked at two per cent per year around 1970, dropped below 1.2 per cent per year in 2010. But because the world population has nearly doubled since 1970, we are still adding 80 million people each year. Tonight, there will be 219,000 additional mouths to feed at the dinner table, and many of them will be greeted with empty plates. Another 219,000 will join us tomorrow night. At some point, this relentless growth begins to tax both the skills of farmers and the limits of the earth’s land and water resources.”



## LIVING ON THE EDGE

All peoples are living on the edge with the enormous world population of almost seven billion people continuing to explode with a rapidly diminishing food supply to feed them! This will spark civil unrest for hunger-driven people will do anything to obtain food.

Those who have the eyes to see can readily grasp with understanding the curses from God as outlined in the prophecies of Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28 are beginning to be fulfilled as never before due to the rejection of God and His holy righteous laws.

There is little time left before all of us are going to be living in conditions never before experienced wherever we may live. If we cannot grasp what the enormous problems facing this nation are portending then we are as blind as a bat!



## WORLD WAR II

*To give us a preliminary idea of what is ahead consider the events of past history: All but the older generation is not*

*old enough to remember that nearly every family in America was affected by World War II. During those years, there was the rationing of meat, shoes, gasoline and sugar. No new tires for the automobiles and a speed limit of 35 MPH on the roads, not to mention, no new automobiles. Even housing was at a premium with price controls imposed by the federal government on all rentals.*

Even with the rationing in all these areas, they were met and accepted without riots and revolution. People helped one another then to make it through those difficult times just as they did during the worst of the **Great Depression**.

## A DIFFERENT SPIRIT TODAY

There is a far different spirit in this world today! This country and the world are already in a state of rebellion. It can only be imagined how bad it really will come to be when even worse conditions befall everyone in days ahead. Time is running out for the house of Joseph as the end of this age looms.

## HOW CLOSE?

The answer is directly connected with the Gospel and the last-ditch Ezekiel warning message that connects with the economy. As shaky as it is, it will not fail until Jesus Christ chooses to close the door to the Gospel shortly before the **Great Tribulation**.



## THE GOSPEL A SIGN OF THE END TIME

As a SIGN of the end time, Jesus Christ said: "And this Gospel of the Kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to



all the nations, and then the end will come (Matthew 24:14).”

The Gospel message will be completed by the Two Witnesses at the time of the **Great Tribulation** before Jesus Christ will return to this earth (Revelation 11:3-19).

### THE 19-YEAR TIME CYCLE OF JANUARY 7, 1972

Jesus Christ led Mr. Armstrong to understand more had to be done in the preaching of the Gospel before the beginning of the **Great Tribulation**.

Mr. Armstrong wrote: **“In view of WHAT DID HAPPEN, on January 7th, [1972] it seems that God has revealed in no uncertain language, BY THE VERY THINGS THAT HAPPENED ON THAT DAY, that we MUST reach all nations MORE INTENSIVELY.”**

### IT DID NOT HAPPEN – THEN!

Due to his declining health and the imminency of his death over the next 14 years, Mr. Armstrong was unable to accomplish this intensively as he had hoped before he died.

Knowing he was soon to die in 1985, and in particular early 1986, it became evident there was some years left before the **Great Tribulation**. This left him somewhat bewildered as to how this would be done. He undoubtedly had a perplexed state of mind with this realization from 1972 and knowing he was soon to die.

Other thoughts and questions must have come to mind. If there was to be a final intensive warning to be given before

the **Great Tribulation**, how would it be done? He knew by the fruits of what Christ had used him to do over the many years that He had raised him up in this end time to fulfill the role of the Elijah, and there was no Scriptural reference of any other to replace him.

Then there were the other thoughts: He knew Christ had enabled him over the years to reach into all nations with the gospel so perhaps the Work was completed and now the need was to prepare the Church. And this is the commission he gave to the ministry: Prepare the Church for the coming of Jesus Christ.

It is not difficult to understand his thinking based on these areas of his own writings to realize his bewilderment,



In this context, Mr. Armstrong has said there is no place in Scripture that Jesus Christ would raise up any one else to replace him as the Elijah. Neither is there an example of any prophet or apostle being resurrected to human life after having died and being used again.

He never grasped the fact that Jesus Christ was going to use him again, *though dead*, by the use of his recorded voice and writings some few years before the beginning of the **Great Tribulation**.

### PROPHECY HAD TO BE FULFILLED, FIRST

Before Mr. Armstrong would be used again, it was first necessary that he should die to make possible the fulfillment of the prophecies concerning the falling away and the scattering of the Church (II Thessalonians 2:1-4, 7; Daniel



12:7). Both occurred in 1995 under the tenure of the apostate pastor general who had been appointed to replace him.

### THE DOOR CLOSED TO THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

Jesus Christ knowing this man would be used by Satan the devil to destroy the corporate Worldwide Church of God, temporarily closed the door to the Gospel for the Elijah had died on January 16, 1986 (Revelation 3:7-8). And there was no way that Christ would use an apostate to fulfill this end-time commission.

There would elapse a time period of 20 years before Jesus Christ would once again RE-OPEN THE DOOR to the Gospel and the Ezekiel warning message.

### THE DOOR RE-OPENED

True to the realization that Jesus Christ led Mr. Armstrong to understand in 1972: “... **we MUST reach all nations MORE INTENSIVELY,**” began to come to pass some 20 years later.

By a series of miracles, THIS DOOR was re-opened to this little flock during the Passover Season in 2006 by Jesus Christ to reach the world more intensively as Mr. Armstrong had envisioned as a last-ditch warning to God’s Church and Israel in particular!

And through that door, He once again began using the voice and writings of the same man, *though dead*, that he had used in his life-time ministry from 1934 to 1986 by use of his recorded works on our 14 web sites (Habakkuk 1:5; Zechariah 4:6).

### THE GREAT TRIBULATION VIRTUALLY IN SIGHT

As we read from and view the news media of the mammoth unresolvable problems, it is beyond question the end of the House of Joseph is in sight. Though other problems could

be mentioned, consider just a few that we are seeing more and more about on an almost daily basis.

The end is in sight and only the blind refuse or cannot see it.

### THE FRAGILE ECONOMY

The fragility of the economy of this country can be viewed and discerned by the Stock Market. It is like a yo-yo, up and down, just as it was before it began crashing on Black Thursday, October 1929! The banks began closing their doors and people lost all of their money. This could also happen at any time!

Though it recovered there was also a crash on Black Monday, 1987.



### From Wikipedia: The 1929 Stock Market Crash

“The Roaring Twenties, the decade that led up to the Crash, was a time of wealth and excess. Despite caution of the dangers of speculation, many believed that the market could sustain high price levels.

“Shortly before the crash, economist Irving Fisher famously proclaimed, “Stock prices have reached what looks like a permanently high plateau.” However, the optimism and financial gains of the great bull market were shattered on “Black Thursday,” October 24, 1929, when share prices on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) collapsed. Stock prices plummeted on that day, and continued to fall at an unprecedented rate for a full month.

“The October 1929 crash came during a period of declining real estate values in the United States (which peaked in 1925) near the beginning of a chain of events that led to the **Great Depression**, a period of economic decline in the industrialized nations.

“In the days leading up to “Black Thursday” (called “Black Friday” in Europe due to the time difference) and “Black Tuesday” the following week, the market was severely un-

## TORNADOES



stable. Periods of selling and high volumes of trading were interspersed with brief periods of rising prices and recovery. ...”

## GREATER DISASTERS TO OCCUR THIS YEAR?

While considering the ongoing *alarming news from the news media*, it is very likely some terrible things may very well begin to take place within this country – *yet this year* – and if so, they could very well begin bringing this country and the world into chaos and destruction without parallel!

God’s apostle, and the Elijah of the end time, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong wrote the following in his booklet **1975 in Prophecy** (pages 1, 18, *revised edition 1956*): “**Today this world is changing – fast! Unprecedented events are shaking the world already. Yet what we have seen is mild compared to the catastrophic happenings that will rock the world. ... IT’S LATER THAN YOU THINK! ... Before we realize it, we’ll find ourselves in the throes of FAMINE, and uncontrollable epidemics of DISEASE. ...**”

**“... AMERICANS ARE UNDER A CURSE, AND NOW HEADING RAPIDLY INTO NATIONAL DESTRUCTION!**

**“And America today is breaking every order of God's**

**compact, and already beginning to suffer EVERY CURSE listed as a penalty. GOD SAVE AMERICA! God help America to WAKE UP, and COME TO HER SENSES! AMERICA TODAY STANDS DOOMED!”**

**1975 in Prophecy**, page 30, Mr. Armstrong wrote: “... **YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED! Your immediate future is of your own choosing. You can take this lightly; let it slip from your mind. ... If you do, you have read YOUR FATE – and I say to you on authority of God Almighty that it is absolutely SURE!”**

**HOW YOU PERSONALLY MAY ESCAPE “You CAN DELIVER YOUR OWN SOUL FROM THE TRIBULATIONS AND THE**

**PLAGUES TO COME!** (Deuteronomy 28; Leviticus 26). [For deliverance, Jesus Christ exhorts us:] ‘WATCH ye therefore” – yes, WATCH world events fulfill prophecy

– “and PRAY ALWAYS, that ye may be accounted worthy to ESCAPE ALL THESE THINGS that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man (Luke 21:36).’ So warned AND PROMISED, Jesus Christ!”

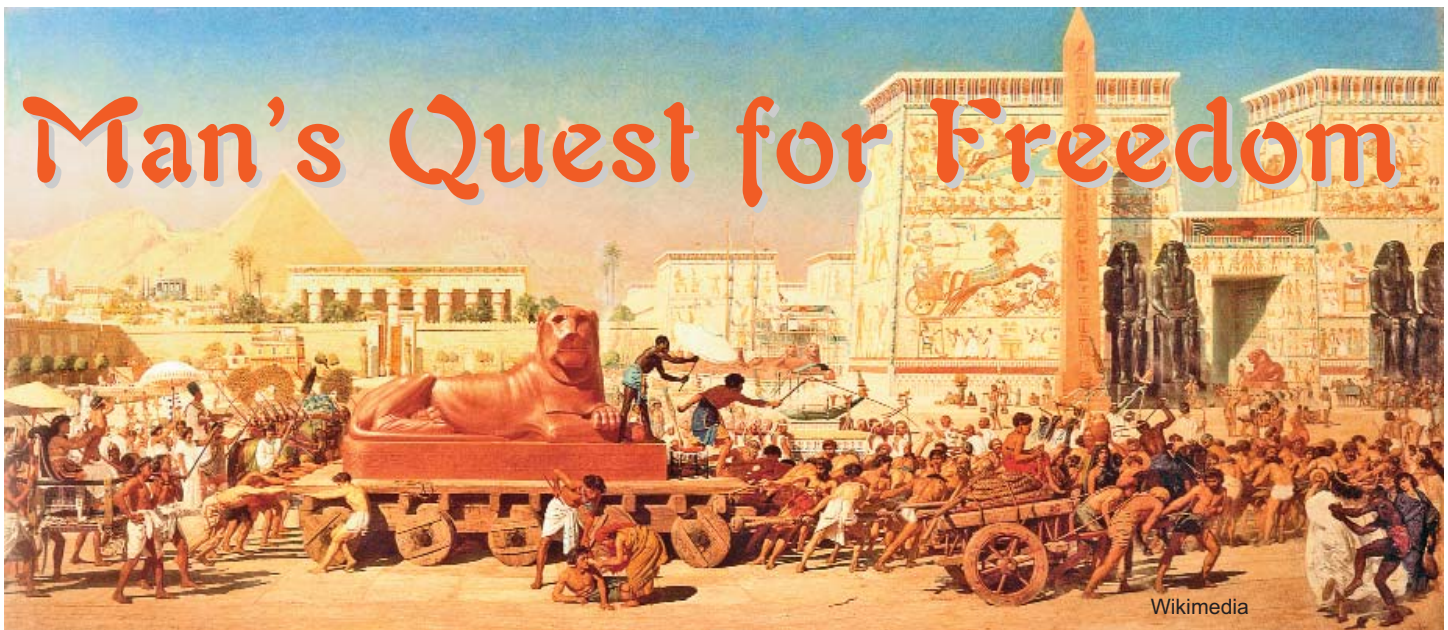


WILDFIRES



FLOODING

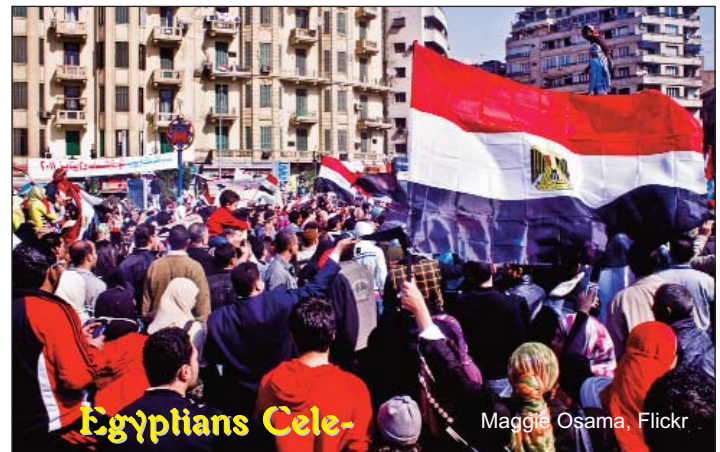
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By Mark Mendiola

Mankind's 6,000 years of history have been fraught with dictatorial systems oppressing and enslaving literally millions of people under the worst of conditions. A yearning for life, liberty and prosperity has beaten in the hearts of people of all nationalities and races down through the ages.

Citizens who have arisen in rebellion against ruthless regimes often have been bitterly disappointed when their quest for freedom turns into exchanging one autocratic government for one even more cruel and vindictive. When Fidel Castro seized control of Cuba in 1959 and the Shah of Iran was toppled in 1979, citizens in those countries were crushed by rulers even more despotic and oppressive than their predecessors.



Who can forget when thousands of jubilant East Germans streamed into West Berlin after the Berlin Wall was breached in 1989 or when millions of euphoric Poles, Hungarians, Czechs, Yugoslavians, Romanians, Bulgarians and Albanians were liberated at that time from behind the Iron Curtain after decades of stifling Soviet oppression. The taste of freedom was sweet for those who finally shed the shackles of communism.

At the start of 2011, people throughout the world were astounded to witness tens of thousands of angry, frustrated citizens taking to the streets and demanding the overthrow of autocratic governments in Egypt, Libya, Jordan, Bahrain, Morocco, Oman, Yemen, Tunisia and Algeria. Many pro-western Muslim leaders fear the uprisings will spread like wildfire throughout the Middle East, toppling their well-established regimes and creating instability in one of the most volatile, strategic regions on earth.

In a Feb. 16 speech to the Conference of Presidents of Major North American Jewish Organizations, Israeli Prime



The Holy Bible speaks of those who "while they promise them liberty, they themselves are the slaves of corruption" (II Peter 2:19). It also states in

Proverbs 29:2: "When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; but when a wicked man rules, the people groan." Groaning implies intense agony and anguish.



Minister Benjamin Netanyahu cautioned “about the shifting sands between India and Gibraltar, between Pakistan and Morocco,” comparing the widespread uprisings in the Arab Middle East to a sand-storm.

Netanyahu noted leaders and policymakers in Washington, London, Paris and Berlin, as well as Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmajinedad, all voiced strong support for pro-

testers in Cairo striving to oust Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

The American and European leaders want an Egypt that is free, democratic, peaceful and prosperous, Netanyahu observed, but Iranian leaders “want to see an Egypt that is ruled by that same iron despotism that has crushed human rights in Iran for the last three decades. They don't want an Egypt that looks forward to the 21st century. They want an Egypt that looks back to the 9th century. They want an Egypt that will break the peace with Israel – that will join Iran in supporting terrorism and promoting bloodshed throughout the region and in many parts of the world.”



DESPOTIC REVOLUTIONARIES LENIN, CASTRO, KHOMEINI

Netanyahu said changing the status quo at times can definitely lead to a better outcome – as what happened two decades ago in Eastern Europe. “But change can also lead to worse outcomes – worse for freedom, worse for human rights, worse for peace,” he said. “In 1917, there was great change (in Russia) and great hope when three months of the Kerensky government were followed by 70 years of Soviet darkness. In 1979, there was a genuine hope for democracy and progress in Iran, but a few months ... gave way to 30 years of militant Islamic darkness.”

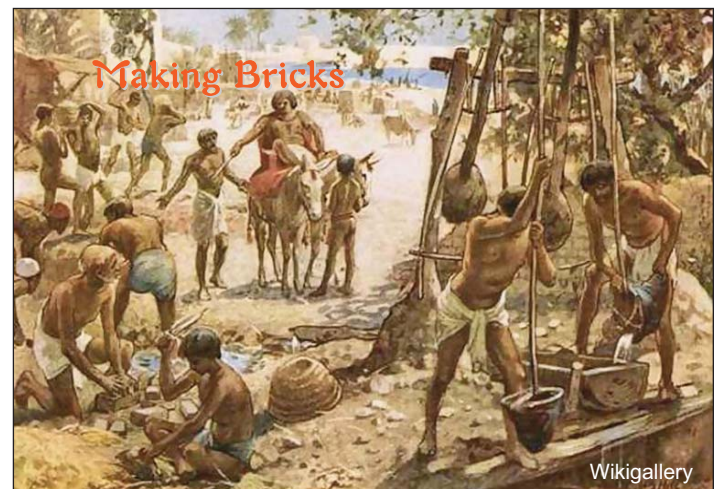
Netanyahu reminded his audience that five years ago many were optimistic when tens of thousands of Lebanese, supported by leaders of the free world, gathered in Beirut de-



manding freedom. They seemed to “herald a new day for Lebanon, a new dawn, a new beginning, new possibilities,” he said.

Yet, “five years later, Hizbullah, a terror organization that respects no human rights, that crushes human rights into the dust, that brutalizes its own people, that spreads terror throughout the Middle East, that rockets Israel – five years later, after that great promise of the Cedar Revolution, five years later Lebanon has been taken over – de facto – by Hizbullah: A proxy of Iran.”

Referring to Egypt’s future, the Israeli prime minister said: “I cannot simply hope for the best. I must also prepare for the worst.”



## EGYPTIAN SLAVERY

The world’s attention at the start of 2011 was riveted on Egypt, where massive crowds of Egyptians demanded free-dom, the same liberty sought by millions of oppressed people in times past. *Ironically, Egypt has been a symbol of slavery and oppression of the most extreme.*



At this Passover season, it's imperative to remember that the Holy Bible repeatedly shows Egypt symbolizes sin, which also enslaves us. The account of Israel's miraculous liberation from hundreds of years of cruel Egyptian bondage is one of the most inspiring, dramatic true stories ever recorded!

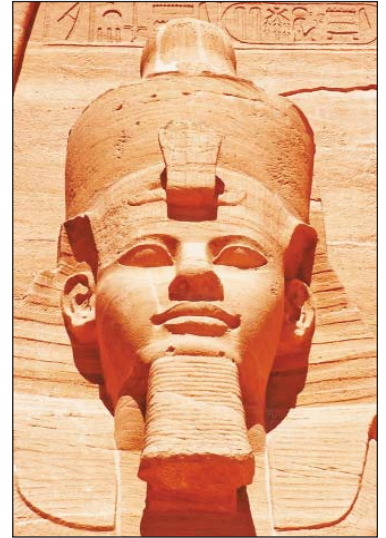
How appropriate at this Spring Festival Season to reflect on that lesson preserved for us by the Living Creator God, who gives us a bright beacon of hope as conditions now worsen and darken throughout the world during these perilous times. The Good News of the Kingdom of God proclaimed by Jesus Christ is the "Promised Land" set before us after thousands of years of tyranny have run roughshod over the aspirations of countless afflicted people.

Bible prophecies show the plight of mankind will get much, much worse as suffering, death and destruction intensify before Jesus Christ, our Passover Lamb, returns as the triumphant Lion of the Tribe of Judah to rescue and liberate tens of millions from a hellish

nightmare unlike anything ever experienced in the annals of history!

Immediately before His Passover crucifixion nearly 2,000 years ago, Christ Himself called this end-time period a "Great Tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved (alive); but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened (Matthew 24:21-22)."

The book of Exodus in the Old Testament describes a time when the Israelites were suffering and enduring the most deplorable conditions under the oppressive rule of one of the most ruthless dictators ever – the Pharaoh of Egypt, the epitome of Satan himself or, in other words, a devil incarnate! He enslaved them and set taskmasters over them to afflict them with terrible burdens (Exodus 1:11), crushing them. The Israelites were groaning under the wicked rule of Pharaoh.



"So the Egyptians made the children of Israel serve with rigor (harshness). And they made their lives bitter with hard bondage – in mortar, in brick, and in all manner of service in the field. All their service in which they made them serve was with rigor ... Then the children of Israel groaned because of the bondage, and they cried out; and their cry came up to God because of their bondage. So God heard their groaning ... (Exodus 1:13-14, 2:23-24)."

In his book "Antiquities of the Jews," Chapter IX, the renowned Jewish historian Josephus wrote that the Egyptians "became very abusive to the Israelites, and contrived many ways of afflicting them; for they enjoined them to cut a great number of channels for the river (the Nile), and to build walls for their



cities and ramparts, that they might constrain the river, and hinder its waters from stagnating, upon its running over its own banks: they set them also to build pyramids, and by all this wore them out; and forced them ... to accustom themselves to hard labor.”

Josephus also explains that a pagan Egyptian priest warned Pharaoh that a child would “be born to the Israelites who, if he were reared, would bring the Egyptian dominion low, and would raise the Israelites; that he would excel all men in virtue, and obtain a glory that would be remembered through all ages.” How prophetic!

That prediction prompted the Pharaoh to order one of the most vicious, ruthless acts recorded in history – the systematic slaughter of all the male babies born to the Israelites, aborting their innocent lives in a horrendous genocide of unthinkable scale! “So Pharaoh commanded all his people, saying, ‘Every son who is born you shall cast into the river, and every daughter you shall save alive (Exodus 1:22).’

As terrible as their prolonged sufferings had been under the whip of their taskmasters, sweating under the searing Egyptian sun and heat, that massacre of their precious baby sons was the most grievous affliction imposed on the distraught Israelites by their ruthless Egyptian captors!

## RESCUE AND DELIVERANCE

The name “Moses” or “Mosheh” in Hebrew literally means “drawn out” or “rescued,” according to *Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance*. To save her baby son Moses from getting killed by Pharaoh, his mother placed him in a small ark to float him among reeds along the Nile River’s banks, where

he was drawn out by Pharaoh’s daughter, who adopted him as her own son (Exodus 2:1-10). When he was 80, Moses was used by Almighty God to miraculously, dramatically “draw out” or “rescue” millions of Israelites from Egyptian slavery, perfectly fulfilling the meaning of his name.

Using duality throughout its pages, the Bible plainly shows Moses was a type of

Jesus Christ. Moses was inspired to prophesy of Christ’s First Coming in Deuteronomy 18:15, 17-19: “The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear ... And the LORD said to me: ‘What they have spoken is good. I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him. And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, I will require it of him.’”

In his first Pentecost sermon in 31 A.D., the Apostle Peter

plainly showed that Jesus Christ was that Prophet predicted by Moses, perfectly fulfilling that prophecy. Peter proclaimed: “But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled. ... and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before ... For Moses truly said to the fathers, ‘The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you. And it shall be that every soul who will not hear that Prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people’ (Acts 3:18, 20, 22-23).”

Any man today who claims that he himself is “that Prophet” commits heinous blasphemy, assuming a title plainly bestowed on Jesus Christ! Stephen the martyr also confirmed that Jesus Christ was “that Prophet” to whom Moses referred (Acts 7:37).



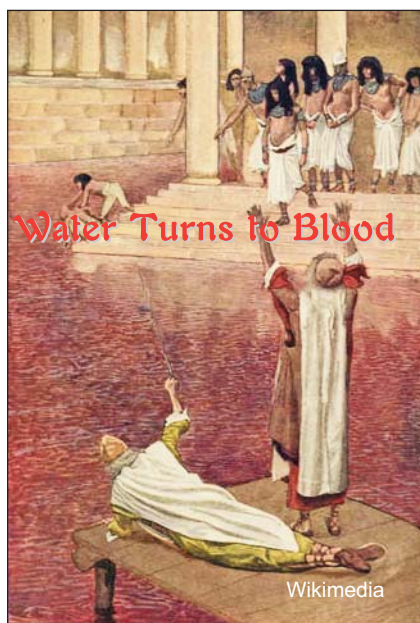
Like at the time of Moses' birth, King Herod "was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under," after wise men from the East told him the "King of the Jews" or the Christ had been born in the land (Matthew 2:1-6, 16). Joseph and Mary, the parents of Jesus, fled with their baby son into Egypt, the birthplace of Moses, to protect Him (v. 13-15).

Both Pharaoh and King Herod were heartless dictators willing to slaughter innocent babies to preserve themselves on their thrones. They viewed Moses and Jesus Christ, respectively, as rivals who threatened their governance and needed to be eliminated at all costs. Both Moses and Christ represented the benevolent Government of God that would liberate people enslaved by such repressive authoritarian systems choking their subjects to death.

The parallels between Moses and Christ are striking. Only a few months old, both miraculously escaped certain death when innocent babies were massacred by bloodthirsty despots. Both started their infancies in Egypt. Both interceded as mediators on behalf of their people to spare their lives. Moses delivered the Ten Commandments from atop Mount Sinai under the Old Covenant. Christ expounded the spirit of that Law in His Sermon on the Mount under the New Covenant. Both were

lawgivers, stressing the Law of Liberty (James 1:25, 2:12; Matthew 5:17).

Christ stated: "For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words? (John 5:46-47)."



## THE PLAGUES OF EGYPT

It was no coincidence that the very first of 10 supernatural plagues unleashed on Egypt by God to persuade Pharaoh to free the Israelites was turning the Nile River into blood, the very same river where Pharaoh drowned hundreds if not thousands of male Israelite babies in a vain attempt to murder Moses. The Egyptians worshiped the Nile as if it were a god that sustained them. In fact, God used virtually all of the plagues as an indictment against their pantheon of false gods.

The next seven plagues were an outbreak of frogs (symbolic of demons, Revelation 16:13-14), an infestation of lice, an overwhelming swarm of flies, diseased livestock, painful boils, thick hail and devastating locust (Exodus 7-10). The ninth plague blacked out the sun, which the Egyptians held in highest esteem, calling it "Ra," their sun god. Ancient Egypt was notorious for its sun worship, which spread throughout the ancient world and continues down to this age under various guises, including throughout the so-called Christian world.



“So Moses stretched out his hand toward heaven, and there was thick darkness in all the land of Egypt three days. They did not see one another; nor did anyone rise from his place for three days (Exodus 10:23).”

That ninth plague of pitch blackness preceded the 10th and final plague poured out on Egypt before Pharaoh finally relented and agreed to let Moses liberate the Israelites and lead them from Egyptian enslavement into glorious freedom! That 10th plague was the death of all the firstborn throughout Egypt, including Pharaoh’s prince!

In a sense, the Great Creator God was avenging the lives of all the innocent babies Pharaoh ordered drowned in the Nile River, personally punishing Pharaoh in his own palace. Pharaoh himself learned firsthand the grief that comes for parents who prematurely lose their children to death. Not even the vaunted King of Egypt could avoid God’s vengeance on behalf of the Israelites, who suffered so painfully under his extremely heavy yoke!

## THE PASSOVER LAMB

At the time of this 10th plague, all the congregation of Israel were told by God via Moses to take male lambs without blemish of the first year and kill them on the 14th day of the first month at twilight (the actual start of the day) and smear their blood on the doorposts and lintels of their houses. They were then told to roast the lambs in fire that evening and eat them with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. God was officially instituting and sanctioning the Passover as an annual observance that His people were to keep in perpetuity! “

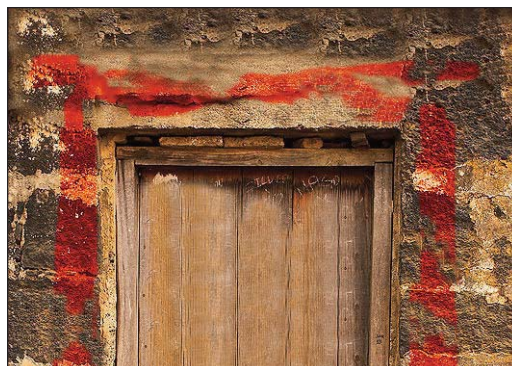
And thus you shall eat it: with a belt on your waist, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. So you shall eat it in haste. It is the LORD’s Passover. ‘For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD. Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you *when I strike the land of Egypt* (Exodus 12:11-13).”

They were to keep the Passover as a memorial and an everlasting ordinance to the Eternal God throughout their generations. Following the

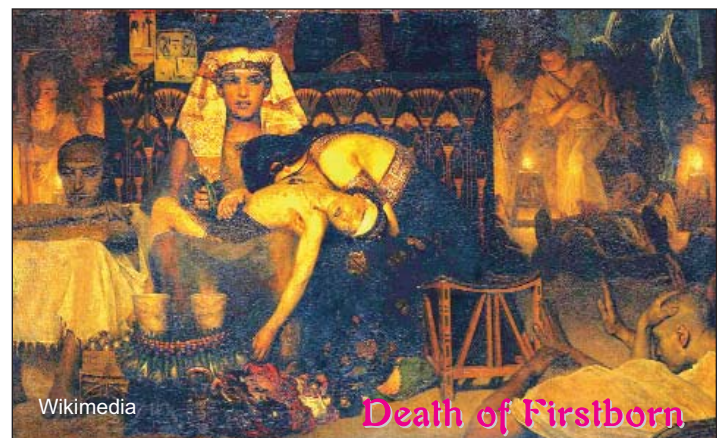
Passover, they were then to eat unleavened bread for seven days. The first and last of those seven days were to be high days or holy convocations (v. 15-17).

“And it came to pass at midnight that the LORD struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of livestock (v. 29).”

This widespread loss of life was so devastating that the Pharaoh finally agreed to let Moses lead the Israelites out of Egyptian captivity. A mass exodus of literally millions of Israelites from Egypt ensued. They were finally liberated from Egyptian slavery!



The innocent Passover lambs killed on the 14th of Nisan on the Hebrew calendar obviously symbolized Jesus Christ Himself whose crucifixion and death precisely on Passover in 31 A.D. was the ultimate supreme sacrifice that sets us free from sin’s bondage! Just as the sun was



blackened out for three days before those lambs were killed in Egypt, darkness fell over the entire land of Palestine for three hours before Christ the Passover died and His blood stained the stake on which He hung (Mark 15:33-34, Luke 23:44-45).

“Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Therefore purge out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed, Christ our Passover was sacrificed for us. Therefore let us keep the feast (of Unleavened Bread), not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth,” the Apostle Paul wrote (I Corinthians 5:6-8).

Later in this same epistle to the Corinthians, Paul explained how to observe the Passover with broken unleavened bread, which symbolized Christ’s body broken to pay the penalty of our physical sins, and red wine symbolizing His blood shed for our sins (I Corinthians 11:23-34).

Just as the blood of the Passover lambs smeared over doorways saved the Israelites from death and destruction, the blood of Jesus Christ redeems us from the wages of sin, which is death (Romans 6:23). The Apostle Peter says we are “redeemed ... with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot (I Peter 1:19).”

The Apostle John plainly shows that Jesus Christ was “the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world! (John 1:29, 36)” He called Him “the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world (Revelation 13:8).”

John emphasized “the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins,



He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (I John 1:7-9).” John also quoted Christ saying, “The truth shall make (or set) you free. ... Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. ... Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed (John 8:32, 34, 36).”

The Apostle Paul also compares sin to slavery in Romans 6:16-18 – “Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one’s slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness? But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.” Sin brings us into captivity (Romans 7:23)!

Jesus Christ was the Firstborn Son of God slain at Passover (Romans 8:29, Colossians 1:18). His sacrifice as the Lamb of God liberates us from the bondage of sin. What an awe-inspiring lesson to remember during the Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread!

## THE WORLD SET FREE FROM SIN

Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong often would explain that the world was kidnapped and held captive for 6,000 years by Satan the devil, the cruellest of diabolical oppressors, but his enslavement of mankind soon will come to an abrupt end!

Jesus Christ gave Himself as a ransom so we can be freed and no longer held hostage by Satan (Matthew 20:28, Mark 10:45, I Timothy 2:6). Just as God Almighty had to unleash 10 devastating plagues on Egypt to liberate



the Israelites from Pharaoh and abject slavery, God once again will pour out plagues to free mankind from Satan's cruel bondage. Those plagues on Egypt were a type of the seven last plagues described in the Book of Revelation to be blown at the Seventh Trumpet heralding the Day of the LORD!

Before the plagues are poured out from vials or bowls “full of the wrath of God,” the song of Moses and the song of the Lamb will be sung. The seven last plagues complete the wrath of God during the Day of the LORD (Revelation 15:1, 3, 6-7). This imminent great Day of the LORD that hastens quickly “is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of devastation and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet and alarm (Zephaniah 1:14-16).”

The seven last plagues will include malignant sores, waters turned to blood, scorching sun, darkness and pain, the Euphrates River drying up, and the earth utterly shaken by noises, thunder, lightning and a great earthquake (Revelation 16)! At this time, the nations will rage and kings, rulers and despots of the world will unite against Jesus Christ, the Messiah, whose robe is dipped in blood and who will strike, break and crush them with a rod of iron (Psalm 2:1-9, Revelation 19:11-15)!

At this same time of the Seventh Trumpet, Christ once again will liberate modern descendants of the Israelites from cruel bondage, and there will be another mass exodus out of slavery! Another Holocaust will recur in the near future, but there will be no Allied military forces to liberate the hideous death camps as during World War II. Jesus Christ, our Savior, however, will do so, returning on a white horse with the armies of heaven (Revelation 19:11-14)!

General Dwight D. Eisenhower, supreme commander of the Allied Expeditionary Forces, was appalled when his troops discovered the horror of Nazi Germany's concentration camps, where six million Jews were enslaved and exterminated. He ordered Generals George Patton and

Omar Bradley and all American troops in the area to visit and witness the atrocities at the Buchenwald and Ohrdruf camps. “I never dreamed that such cruelty, bestiality and savagery could really exist in this world,” he later said. Battle-hardened soldiers vomited at the despicable sight!

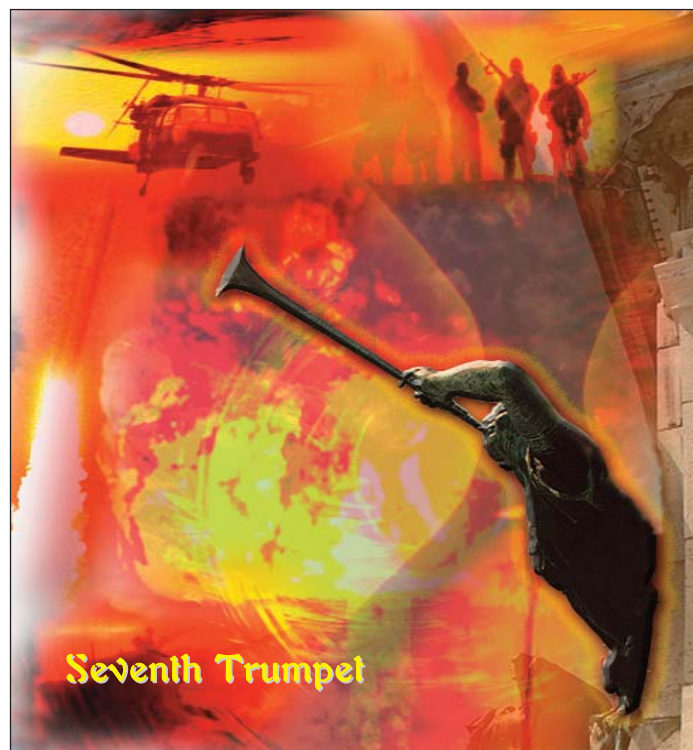
“It shall come to pass in that day that the LORD shall set His hand again the second time to recover the remnant of His people who are left, from Assyria and Egypt ... He will set up a banner for the nations, and will assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth. ... The LORD will utterly destroy the tongue of the Sea of Egypt; with His mighty wind He will shake His fist over the river ... and make men cross over dryshod. There will be a highway for the remnant of His people who will be left from Assyria, as it was for Israel in the day that he came up from the land of Egypt (Isaiah 11:11-12, 15-16).”

As Revelation 1:5, 7 states, Jesus Christ, “the firstborn from the dead and the ruler over the kings of the earth, washed us from our sins in His own blood ... Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, and they also who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen!”

When the righteous Savior reigns in authority in the Government of God, people of all nationalities and races will rejoice when they are rescued and liberated by the

Messiah from Satan's brutal system of slavery and oppression!

At that time, Jesus Christ, King of king and Lord of lords, will “proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn, to console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning (Isaiah 61:1-3),” putting an end to man's prolonged inhumanity to man and finally fulfilling mankind's never-ending quest for freedom!



# Christ's Last Passover

Continued from Page 4

almost two years ago now, and there is a parallel that I'm going to bring out as we go along.



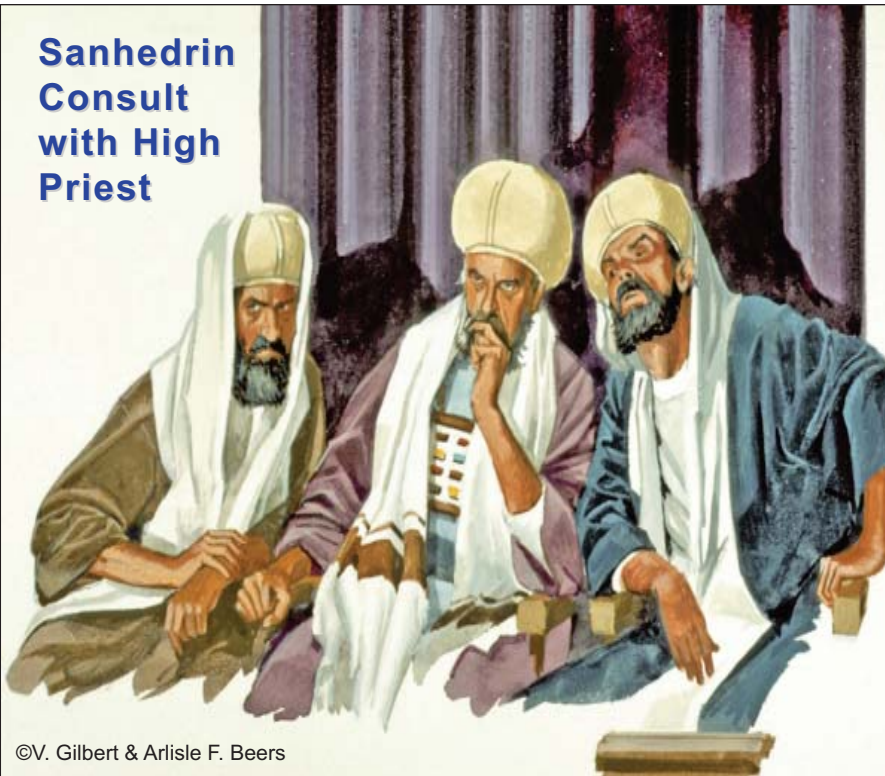
**“That the saying might be fulfilled, which He spake, ‘Of them which Thou gavest Me have I lost none.’ Then Simon Peter having a sword drew it, and smote the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus. Then said Jesus unto Peter, ‘Put up thy sword into the sheath: the cup which My Father hath given Me, shall I not drink it?’”**

Now, Matthew or Luke, or both, will explain how Jesus put the ear back on and healed it instantly. That's why they did-



**PRAETORIAN GUARD**

## Sanhedrin Consult with High Priest



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n't do more to Him about that right then. He healed that immediately, but John doesn't mention that.

## THE CREATOR GOD ARRESTED AND BOUND

**“Then the band and the captain and the officers of the Jews took Jesus, and bound Him.”** Now there was Jesus, their very Creator and Maker, and now they bound Him. I just want you to notice what they were willing to do to their own Creator.

**“And led him away to Annas first; for he was father-in-law to Caiaphas, which was the high priest that same year.”** Now, Annas was the father-in-law of the high priest. Caiaphas was the priest.

**“Now Caiaphas was he, which gave counsel to the Jews, that it was expedient that one man should die for the people.”** And he was the high priest. Now just look what he was saying (John 11:49-52).

**“And Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple: that disciple was known unto the high priest, and went in with Jesus into the palace of the high priest.”** That was all over here within the Walled City. **“But Peter stood at the door without. Then went out that other disciple, which was known unto the high priest, and spake unto her that kept the door,”** or they had a female door-keeper.

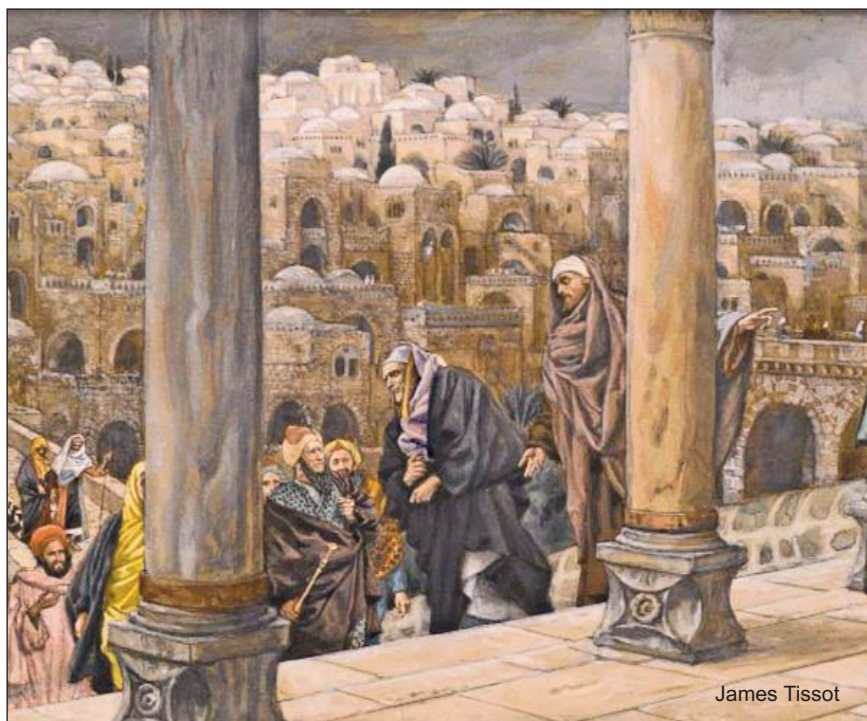
**“And brought in Peter. Then saith the damsel that kept the door unto Peter, ‘Art not thou (also) one of this Man's disciples?’ He saith, I AM NOT!”** Peter began to deny Jesus. It shows how human Peter was before he received the Holy Spirit.

**“And the servants and officers stood there, who had made a fire of coals; for it was cold.”** It was getting rather chilly, and it was still early enough in the spring that it wasn't warm yet, and it was night.

**“And they warmed themselves: and Peter stood with them, and warmed himself. The high priest then asked Jesus of His disciples.”** Let's see, asked Jesus **“of His disciples”** – about His disciples, **“and of His doctrine.”** And

**“Jesus answered him, ‘I spake openly to the world; I ever taught in the synagogue, and in the temple, whither the Jews always resort; and in secret have I said nothing’.”**

**“Why askest thou Me? Ask them which heard Me, what I have said unto them: behold, they know what I said. And when He had thus spake, one of the officers which stood by struck Jesus with the palm of his hand, saying, ‘Answerest thou the high priest so?’ Jesus answered (him), ‘If I have spoken evil, bear witness of the evil: but if well, why smitest thou me?’”**



### A PARALLEL OF TODAY

I would say the Attorney General attacked us. And I said, "If I have done evil, accuse me of the evil; and put me on trial for the evil. But, if not, why do you smite us? Why do you come and try to take us over, and do all of this?"

You notice the parallel here? Now there's one difference: Jesus didn't have to die, and He wouldn't have died except that He had come for that purpose – to die for us. He only had to die for you and for me, and the rest of the world. He didn't have to die for Himself. He never committed anything.

He had never done one thing that He had to die for.





## Morning Judgment

And we had not done one thing they accused us of, either. Jesus would have resisted. Jesus would not have allowed them to do this. He did it only for us. He did it to give His life for us. That's what He came for, from heaven – to die.

Now the time had come, and He had to do it. But when Paul was put on trial, he refused to go to trial up at Jerusalem. He said, "I appeal to Rome." Paul did just what we've done. Now some of our former members would have said, well, we should have caved in. They said, "Jesus gave in. Why shouldn't we give in?" But Jesus came to die for the rest of us. We're not dying for anybody. There's quite a difference when you understand it.

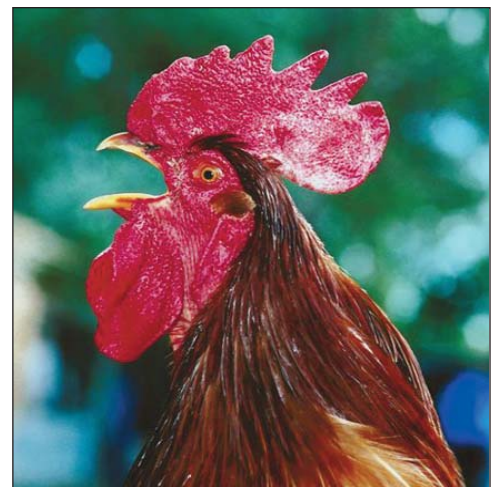
### THE APOSTLE PETER DENIES THE MESSIAH

"Now Annas had sent Him bound unto Caiaphas the high priest. And Simon Peter stood and warmed himself. They said therefore unto Him, Art not thou also one of His disciples? He denied it, and said, 'I AM NOT!'" Now that's TWICE he's denied Jesus, here within just a few minutes.

**"One of the servants of the high priest, being his kinsman whose ear Peter cut off," said, 'Did not I see Thee in the garden with Him?' Peter then denied again: and immediately the cock crew."**

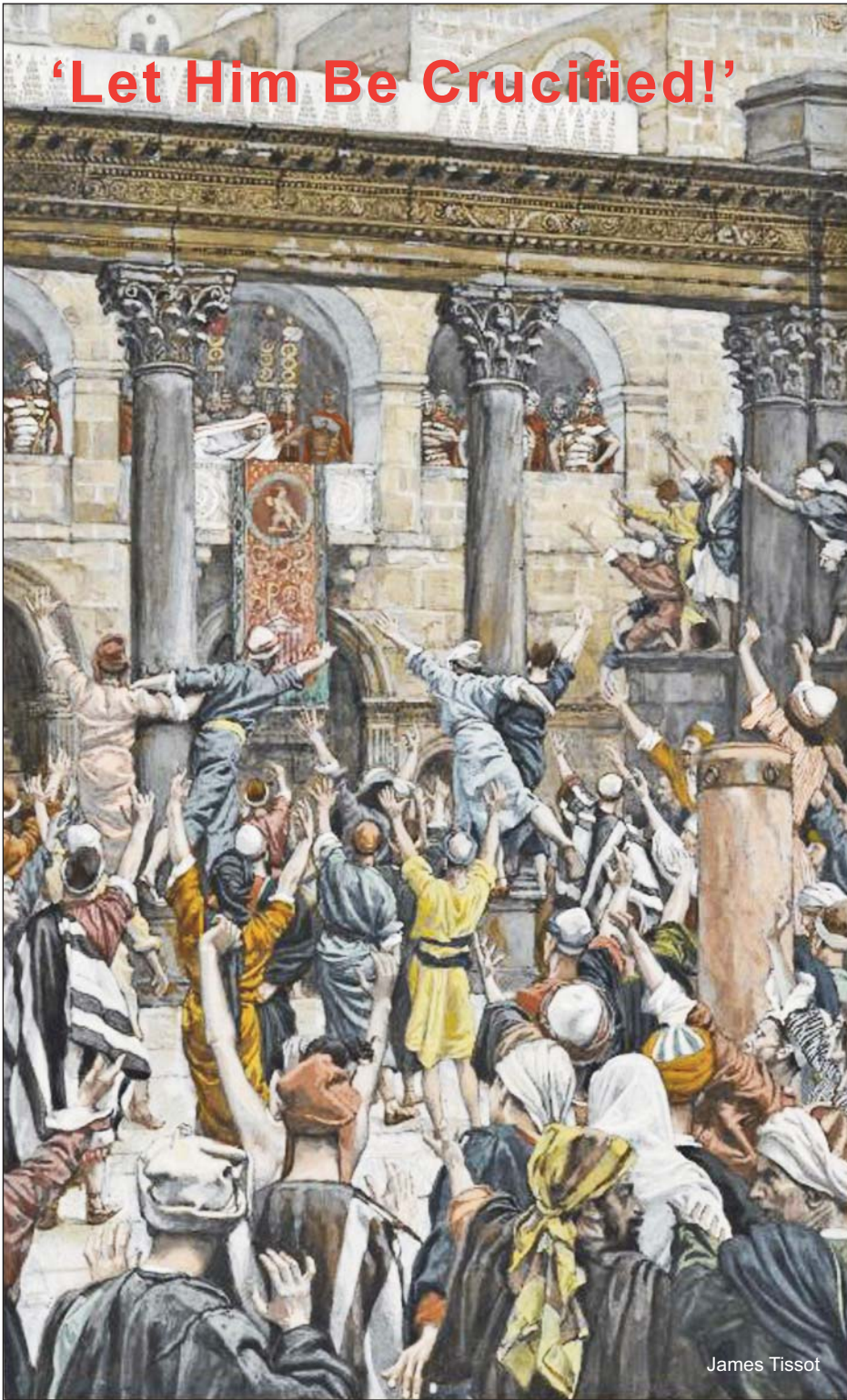
It was getting on near enough toward morning that the rooster crowed. **"And immediately the cock crew."**

That's what Jesus said: **"Before the cock will crow in the morning, you will deny me three times."**



**"Then led they Jesus from Caiaphas unto the hall of judgment: and it was early; and they themselves went**

## **'Let Him Be Crucified!'**



not into the judgment hall, lest they should be defiled,” and “that they might eat the Passover.”

Now, they were going to take the Passover later. Christ had already had the Passover with His disciples. You see, this shows that they were then taking the Passover the night of the Feast, the Feast Night to Be Much Observed.

“Pilate then went out unto them, and said, What accusation bring ye against this Man? They answered and said unto him, If He were not a malefactor, we would not have delivered Him up unto thee. Then said Pilate unto them, Take ye Him, and judge Him according to your law. The Jews therefore said unto him, It is not lawful for us to put any man to death: That the saying of Jesus might be fulfilled, which He spake, signifying by what death He should die. Then Pilate entered into the judgment hall again,” and that's the courtroom, in other words, “and called Jesus, and said unto Him, Art thou the King of the Jews? Jesus answered him, Sayest thou this thing of thyself, or did others tell it thee of Me? Pilate answered, Am I a Jew?”

See, there was anti-Semitism, even then they were hating Jews.

“Am I a Jew? Thine own nation and chief priests have delivered Thee unto me: what hast Thou done? Jesus answered, ‘My kingdom is not of this world: if My kingdom were of this world, then would My servants fight’,” and “I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is My kingdom not from hence,” or that's from here.

“Pilate therefore said unto Him, ‘Art thou a king then?’ Jesus answered, ‘Thou sayest that I am a King. To this end was I born, and for this cause

came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth My voice’.” **Various Pilate paintings in Pilate folder**

They hear His voice. They believe what He says. A lot of people believe on Christ, but they don't believe what He says. Oh, what a difference there is! And people don't realize that difference.

# Pontius Pilate, Mob



“Pilate said unto Him, ‘What is truth?’ And when he had said this, he went out again unto the Jews, and said unto them, ‘I find in Him no fault at all. But ye have a custom, that I should release unto you one at the Passover: will ye therefore that I release unto you the King of the Jews?’ Then cried they all again, saying, ‘Not this man, but Barabbas.’ Now Barabbas was a robber.” \

He was a real criminal. Now we come to chapter 19, “Then Pilate therefore took Jesus, and scourged Him.”

## THE MESSIAH BEATEN FOR PHYSICAL SIN AND HEALING

And He was beaten to suffer our physical pains, and sicknesses, and diseases – that we could be healed through the Holy Spirit instead of through drugs and medicines. People don't believe that today. They don't believe the things of God (Isaiah 53:4-5; Matthew 8:16-17). “And the soldiers platted a crown of thorns, and put it on His head, and they put on Him a purple robe.”

Purple is the color of royalty, and this was all done to mock and make fun of Him – their own Creator, the Man who is now letting them put Him to death. He was dying for them that someday in their judgment, when it comes, this was Christ's judgment but their judgment is coming, and they will have a chance to be saved then.

“Hail, King of the Jews! And they smote Him with their hands. Pilate therefore went forth again, and saith unto them, ‘Behold, I bring Him forth to you, that ye may know that I find no fault in Him.’”



Pilate's trying to get out, trying to save his own skin, trying to "put the blame on Mame," as they say, and blame someone else.

**“Then came Jesus forth, wearing the crown of thorns, and the purple robe. And Pilate saith unto them, ‘Behold the Man!’ When the chief priests therefore and officers saw Him, they cried out, saying, ‘CRUCIFY HIM! CRUCIFY HIM!’”**

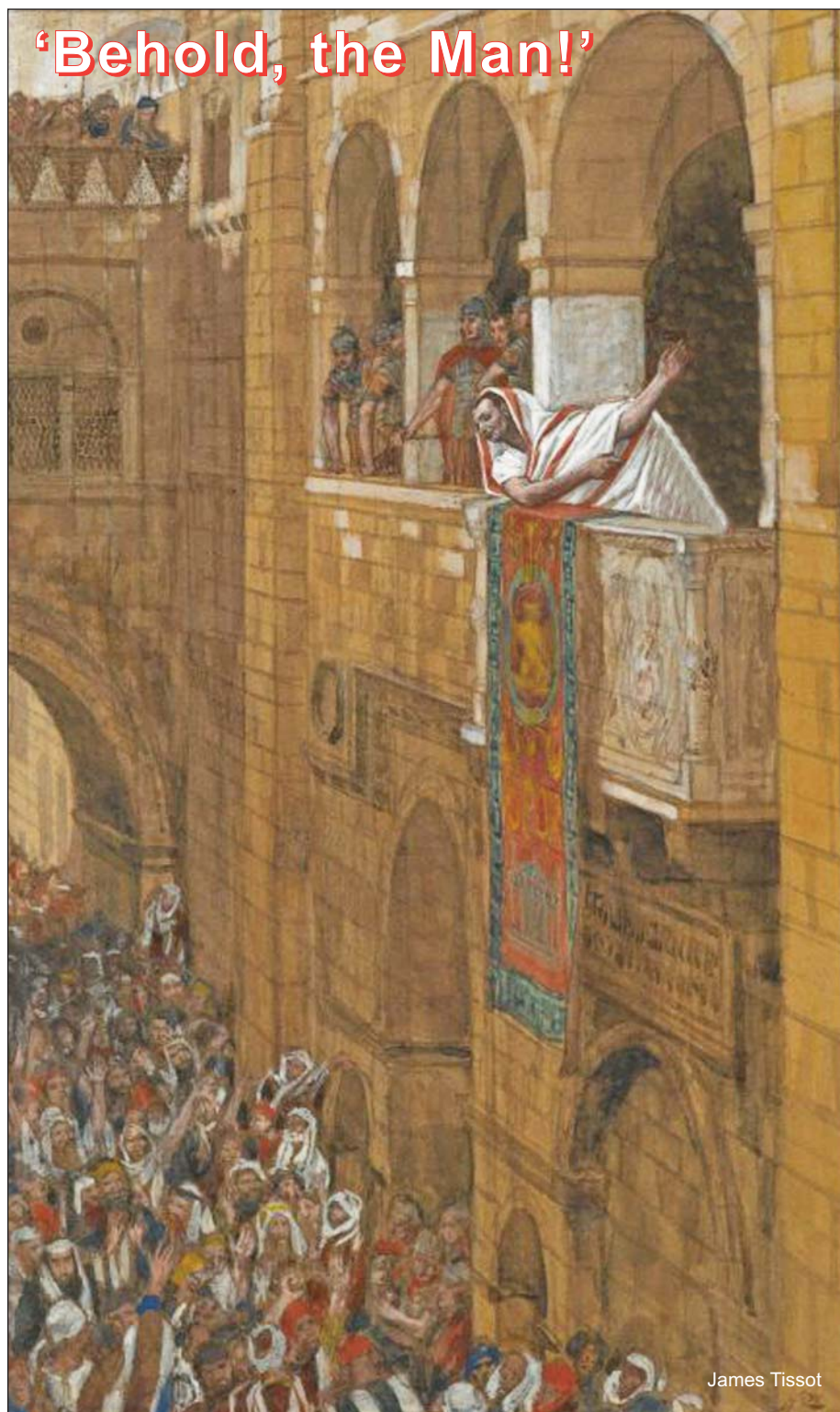
And there He was. He had been beaten with 40 stripes save one. He had been beaten as probably no man ever had, when the chief priests said, **"Crucify Him."**

**“Pilate saith unto them, ‘Take ye Him, and crucify Him: for I find no fault in Him.’”**

"Yeah, I'm innocent. Yeah, I didn't do it." You know, God said to Adam, **"Adam, what have you done?"** He pointed to the woman. **"The woman, she led me. She's the one that's guilty."** He turned to the woman and said, **"Woman, what have you done?"** And she turned to old Satan. **"Here, the devil, he's the one who's responsible. He's beguiled me."** Always they would blame someone else. **“The Jews answered him, ‘We have a law, and by our law He ought to die, because He made Himself the Son of God’.”**

Moses made himself the leader too, didn't he? And I have made myself the leader? Do you see any similarity? Not only Jesus, but all men that He's had to represent Him – all the same way.

**“When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he was the more afraid; And went again into the judgment hall, and said unto Jesus, ‘Whence art thou?’”** Where did you come from? **“But Jesus gave him no answer.”**



Jesus was through answering. He was going to have to go and die for the world, and He was just going to do it.

**“Then saith Pilate unto Him, ‘Speakest Thou not unto me? Knowest Thou not that I have power to crucify Thee, and have power to release Thee?’”** Don't you know I'm greater than You are? I've got POWER OVER YOU? AND HE SAID THAT TO THE VERY CHRIST, TO THE VERY GOD!

“Jesus answered, ‘Thou couldst have no power at all against Me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered Me unto thee hath the greater sin.’” Now, it was only a matter of degree – degree of sin. Pilate had sin all right, but they had, the Jews who accused Him, had greater sin. You’ll notice that.

“And from thenceforth Pilate sought to release Him: but the Jews cried out, saying, ‘If thou let this Man go, thou art not Caesar’s friend.’” You see, they were afraid about Caesar. They thought Jesus was a subversive.

“Whosoever maketh Himself a King speaketh against Caesar. When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus forth, and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called the Pavement, and in the He-



## Message from Pilate’s Wife

brew, Gabbatha. And it was the preparation of the Passover. ...” **Bird’s Eye View Forum, Crucifixion folder**

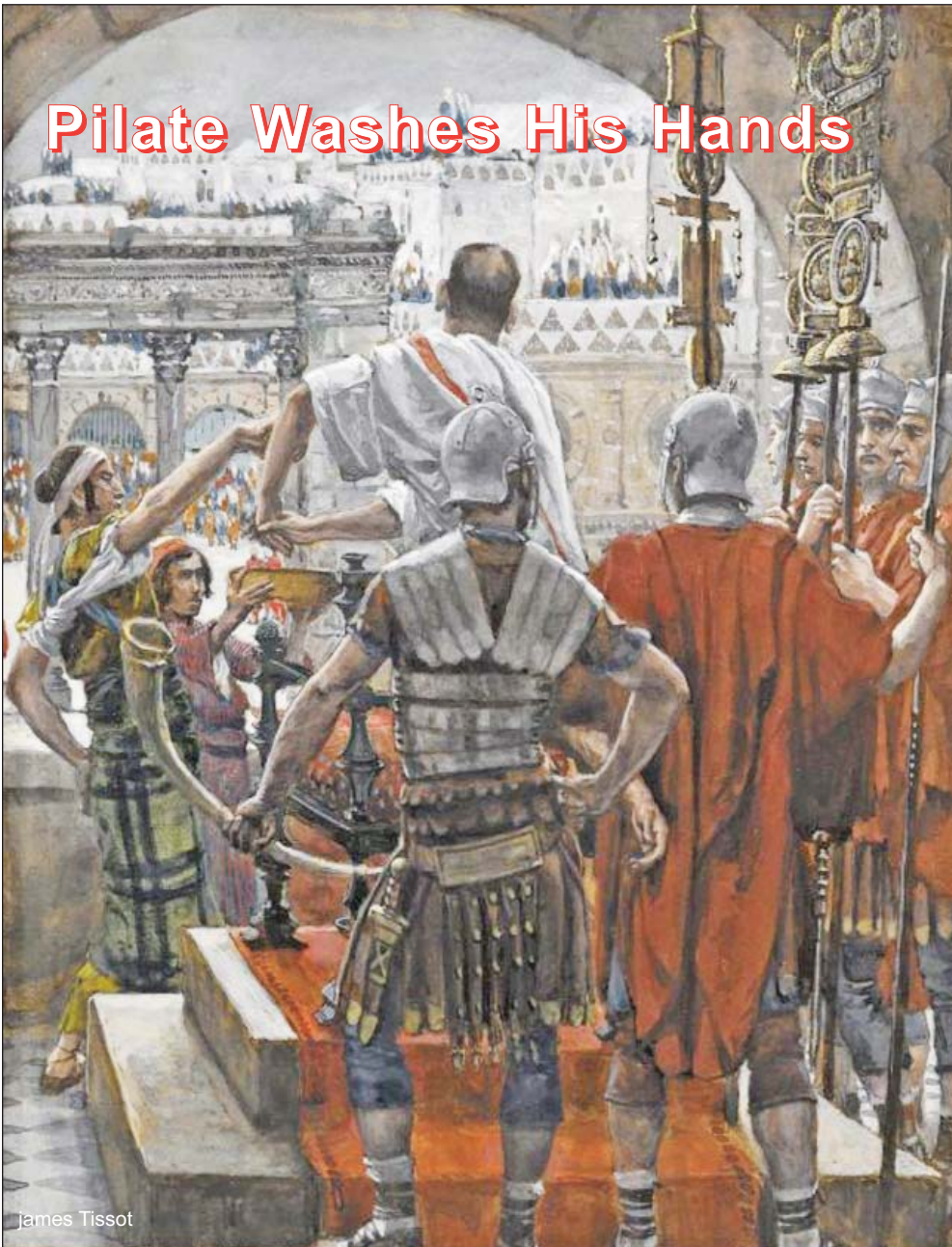
In other words, it was the day of the Passover, which is the preparation for the Holy Day, which is the morrow after the Passover. And the eve, the beginning, of that day is the Night to Be Much Observed, which is one night after the

Passover. But that’s the beginning of the Seven Days of Unleavened Bread. You know it’s very plain here, and yet even some of our people are mixed up, and they are beginning



Wikimedia

# Pilate Washes His Hands



“Then delivered he Him,” Pilate delivered Jesus therefore, “unto them to be crucified. And they took Jesus, and led Him away. And He bearing His cross went forth into a place called the place of the skull.” **Roman soldier with whip, Angry Mob on way to Golgotha in Crucifixion folder**

Now, that’s right across from St. Stephen’s or is that St. Stephen’s entrance? I guess it is to the Walled City. And I wanted to take the girls [students at the Jerusalem dig] and go there this afternoon right after this, and show them the Garden Tomb where Jesus was crucified. **Stephen’s Gate photos**

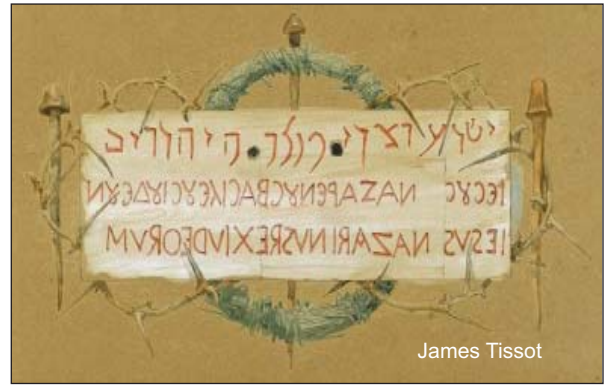
He was not crucified in what do they call that Church in the Walled City? That the Catholics and the Protestants and all of them claim the “Church of the Holy Sepulchre.” There was nothing holy there, and Jesus was not crucified there. That’s another Catholic superstition.

“And He bearing His cross went forth into a place called the place

to think that we should observe the Passover one day later than we do. But God has led His servant and led His Church.

“The preparation of the Passover, and about the sixth hour,” meaning, in other words, it was six o’clock in the morning by now. You see, the whole night had gone through. “And he saith unto the Jews, Behold your King!” But, the crowd, “cried out, ‘Away with Him, away with Him, CRUCIFY Him!’ Pilate said unto them, ‘Shall I crucify your King?’ The chief priests answered, ‘We have no king but Caesar.’” The world has no God but Satan. Same thing, exactly the same thing!



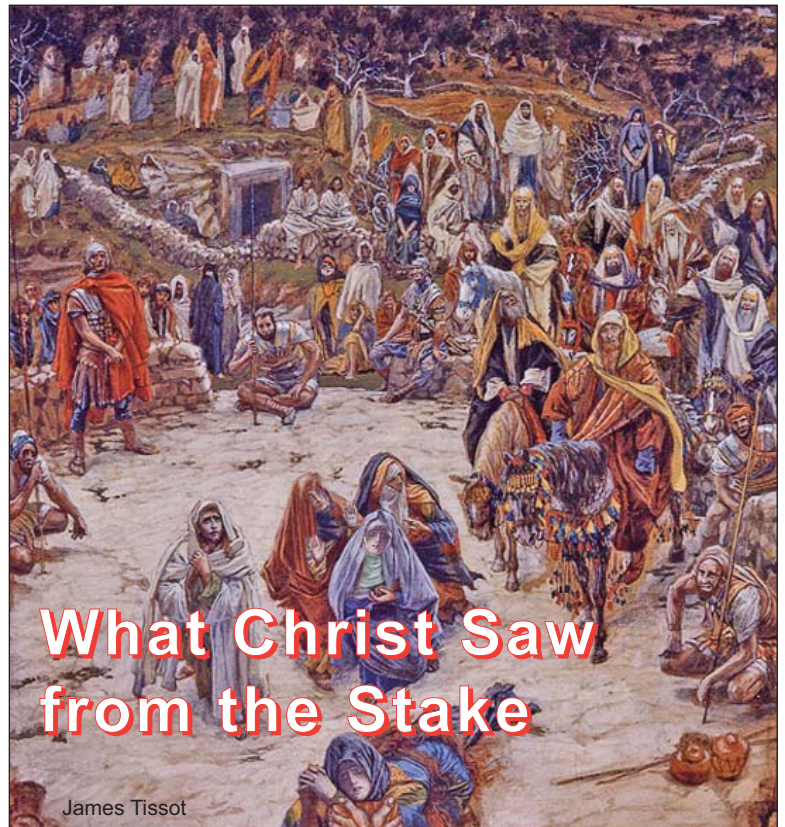
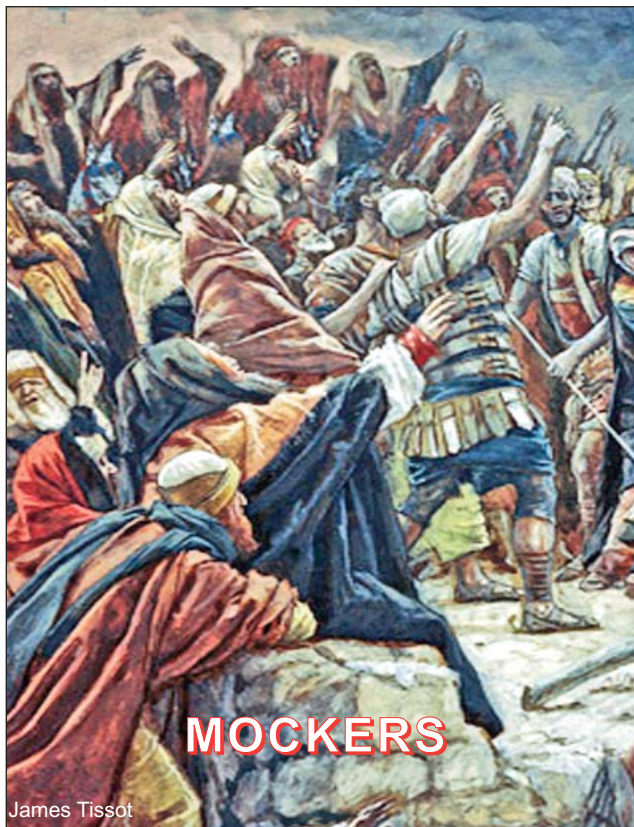


Now that's not all of it. You'll notice, if you take Mark, Mark says a little more, and Luke has it different, and Matthew. Put them all together, and you've got, **"THIS IS JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS."** You have to put all four – Matthew, Mark, Luke and John together, to get what he said because that's the way the Bible is written. You get **"here a little and there a little."** (Isaiah 28:9-10, 13)

### THE CRUCIFIXION OF THE MESSIAH

**"The place of the skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha: Where they crucified Him,"** up on top there, **"and two other with Him, on either side one, and Jesus in the midst. And Pilate wrote a title, and put it on the cross. And the writing was, 'JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS.'"**

**"This title then read many of the Jews: for the place where Jesus was crucified was there nigh to the city."** You see, it was near to the city. That's where it is. They're trying to say it was in the city. It was **"nigh"** to the city (Mark 15:20-22, Hebrews 13:12-13).



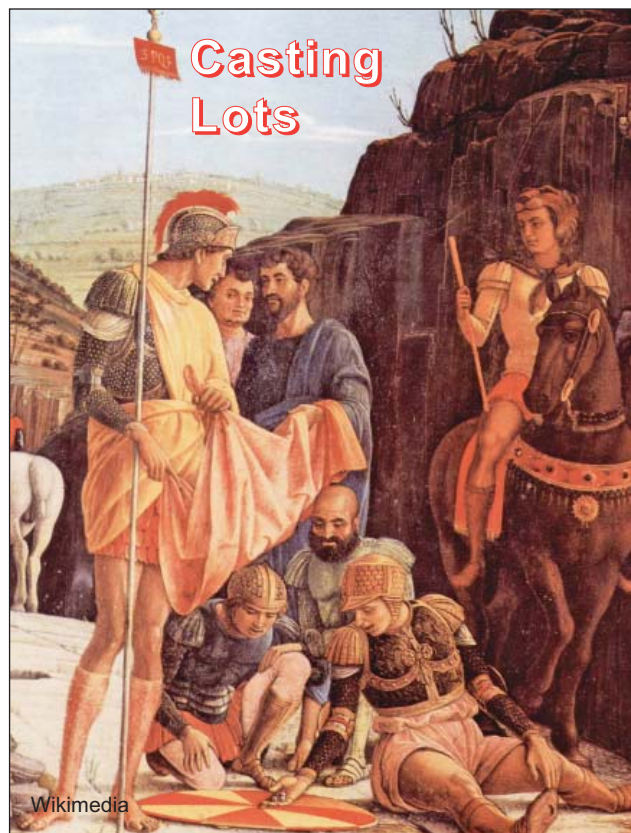


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“And it was written in Hebrew, and Greek, and Latin. Then said the chief priests of the Jews to Pilate, ‘Write not, The King of the Jews; but that He said, I am King of the Jews.’ Pilate answered, ‘What I have written I have written.’” He wasn’t going to take orders from them. “Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took His garments, and made four parts, to every soldier a part; and also His coat: now the coat was without seam, woven from the top through-out.”

That shows it was of extraordinary high quality. I’m criticized because I believe in good quality. So does God believe in good quality, and so did Christ.

“They said therefore among themselves, Let us not rend it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be: that the Scripture might be fulfilled, which saith, They parted My raiment among them, and for My vesture they did cast lots. These things therefore the soldiers did.” Now they were Roman soldiers, not Jews.



Wikimedia

“Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother’s sister, Mary ... Mary Magdalene,” Jesus had cast demons out of her. “When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom He loved,” which was John, “He saith unto His mother, Woman, behold thy son! Then said He unto the disciple, Behold thy mother!” Of course, the Roman Catholics make an awful lot of that now.

“And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home. After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst. Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to His mouth.” Of course, His hands were nailed to the cross; and He couldn’t take hold of it. “When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, He said, ‘It is finished.’”

And He had said previously “I have finished the work,” He said to God, “that Thou hast given Me to do.” He finished the work He was to do on earth here in this country where we are now. But His whole work that He’s doing through us wasn’t finished yet, and it isn’t finished today.

### THE MESSIAH DIED FROM LOSS OF HIS BLOOD

“And he bowed His head, and gave up the ghost.” Now one of the others shows that someone came and stabbed Him in the side with a spear, and blood gushed out, and He bled to death (Isaiah 53:7-12).



It's His **blood** that pays the price of our sins and forgives us. Remember that His **blood** does not save us. We are saved by His resurrection and by His life, and not by His **blood** (Romans 5:10).

**“The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation,”** in other words, the day of preparing for the holy Sabbath day that came on that night. Now it's in the afternoon, **“that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the Sabbath day.”** See, the Sabbath day was coming on. That Sabbath day was a Thursday, which we have proved. Dr. Hoeh has absolute proof from the calendars and from astronomy of that.

**“For that Sabbath day was a high day,**” not an ordinary Sabbath, you see. It was not a Saturday holy day. It was a high day.

**“Besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. Then came the soldiers, and brake the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with Him. But when they came to Jesus,**

**and saw that He was dead already, they brake not His legs. Then one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side,”** now this is a little out of context here, **“and forthwith came there out **blood** and water.”**

He didn't die until after that. He died of the bleeding that came out of His side, and if you'll check with Matthew, Mark and Luke you'll find that is true and that copyists later have transposed that here.

**“And he that saw it bare record, and the record is true: and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe. For these things were done, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, a bone of Him shall not be broken. And again another Scripture saith, They shall look on Him whom they have pierced. And after this Joseph of Arimathaea, being a disciple (of Jesus), but secretly for fear of the Jews, besought Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus: and Pilate gave him leave. He came therefore, and took the body of Jesus.”**





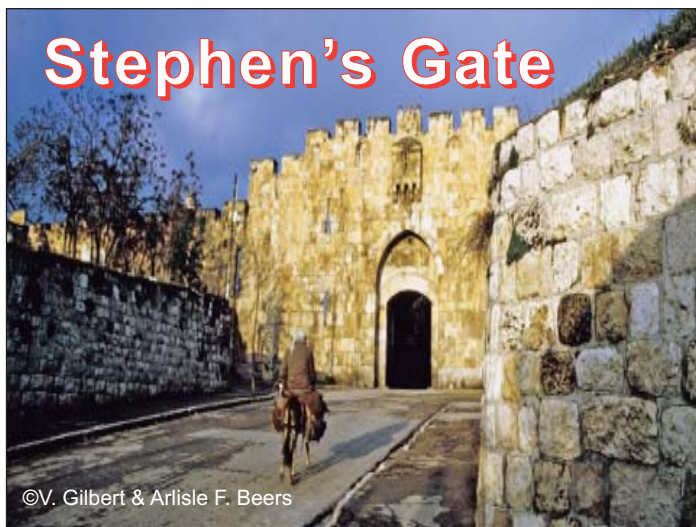
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### THE BURIAL OF THE MESSIAH

They wound up the body in a certain kind of cloth and, of course, there's a great controversy about the shroud that was supposed to have been wrapped around the body of Jesus. We've had articles in *The Plain Truth* about it. There have been controversies lately around the earth on that. **“And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes,”** about an hundred pounds worth. **“Then took**

**they the body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes,”** that's the shroud, **“with the spices, as the manner of the Jews is to bury. Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden.”** Now, He was buried in the Garden Tomb, **“and in the garden a new sepulchre, wherein was never man yet laid. There laid they Jesus therefore, because of the Jews' preparation day; for the sepulchre was nigh at hand.”**

There wasn't time to get Him to some cemetery away off, and that's right underneath. And I hope you've all been over there. I think maybe all of you have been. I have been many times. Well, that's the end of the Bible study.



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## Will War in Libya trigger spike in oil/gas prices?

**W**ith the price of crude petroleum recently vaulting past \$100 a barrel and the cost of regular gasoline approaching \$4 a gallon in the United States, the March 19 launch of "Operation Odyssey Dawn" by a coalition of European and North American military forces against Col. Moammar Gaddafi's Libya threatens to propel oil prices to much higher levels and derail fragile economic recoveries in the United States and Europe.

Uprisings by tens of thousands of Arabs in volatile oil-rich countries throughout the Middle East and North Africa have fueled the dizzying upward spiral in gas prices paid at the pump and ignited inflation fears worldwide. Many officials worry the opening of a new war front in another Muslim country could ignite a radical Islamic backlash in the extremely strategic region. It is the largest military intervention in the Arab world since the 2003 invasion of Iraq. U.S. and NATO forces also have been battling Muslim extremists and terrorists based in Afghanistan for about 10 years.



GADDAFI



Oil prices jumped by more than \$2 a barrel on March 21 after allies attacked Libya. North Sea crude for May quickly rose \$2.16 to \$116.09 a barrel and U.S. crude rose as much as \$2.12 to \$103.19 a barrel, at 2½ year highs, Reuters reported. Barrel prices for Brent and West Texas Intermediate crude oil rose by a steep \$11.92 (12 percent) and \$15.52 (17 percent) a barrel, respectively, from Feb. 1 to March 8.

It's been estimated for every \$1 increase in the price of oil per barrel, retail gas prices typically rise 2.5 cents a gallon. Also, every \$1 increase in the price of oil costs consumers an additional \$1 billion a year. In one week in late February, gasoline prices jumped 17 cents a gallon!

U.S. retail gas prices surged by 38 cents per gallon in three weeks to \$3.52 per gallon. They are expected to average at least \$3.71 (if not \$4) per gallon this summer, 98 cents per



PENTAGON BRIEFING ON LIBYA ATTACK

gallon higher than last year! The projected spike suggests vehicle fueling costs on average will be about \$700 higher in 2011 than they were in 2010.

When thousands of Egyptians took to the streets to oust President Hosni Mubarak in February, oil prices also escalated for fear of disruptions through the vital Suez Canal. A civil war in Libya virtually shut down that North African country's crude oil exports, which have accounted for about 2 percent of the petroleum sold on global markets or about 1.6 million barrels a day. About 1.1 million of those daily barrels were exported, making Libya the third largest African exporter and 17th largest world oil exporter.

Libya has proven oil reserves of 44 billion barrels, the largest in Africa, the International Energy Agency estimates.

"Unrest over the weekend also flared in Syria and Yemen in the wake of popular uprisings that toppled long-time leaders in Tunisia and Egypt earlier this year. A crackdown on protests in Bahrain last week also had oil traders on edge." the *Sydney Morning Herald* reported.

"I can see uncertainty and fear driving the price of oil higher in the short term," Matthew Lewis, an analyst at CMC Markets, told the Australian newspaper, predicting

further spikes and shocks will rattle the oil market.

"With involvement from the West, the uncertainty that has surrounded the region and the fear of upheaval and unrest spreading to countries like Saudi Arabia, where we could lose a lot more crude than what we did from Libya, is definitely going to be the main price driver."

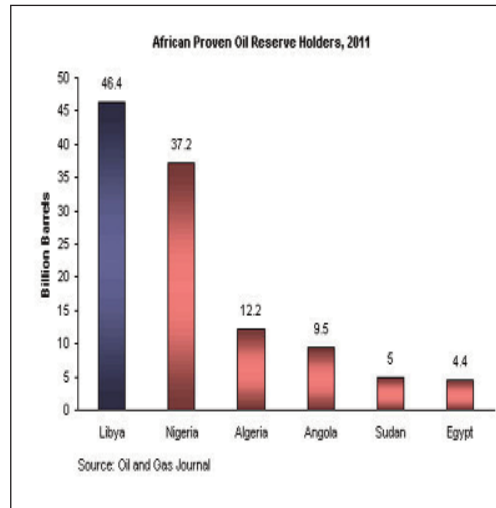
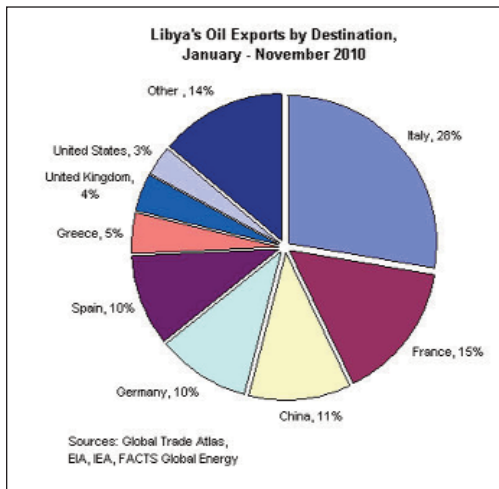
Despite promises by several Arab countries to provide military support to the coalition, only the Persian Gulf emirate of Qatar and the United Arab Emirates did so, the *Guardian* of London reported, noting Turkey blocked an early initiative to have NATO take responsibility for enforcing the no-fly zone.

More than 100 U.S. Tomahawk cruise missiles were fired on Libyan targets right away. American bombers unloaded a barrage of bombs on the country, and French war jets fired missiles at Gaddafi's ground equipment. The U.S. Navy estimates each cruise missile costs at least \$569,000.



Following those actions, the secretary general of the Arab League – which initially supported the assault – reversed course and condemned the military campaign, further complicating the risky, sensitive, complicated attack, which would be a major diplomatic setback for the West.

Amr Moussa deplored the broad scope of the U.S.-European bombing campaign in Libya and announced he would call a league meeting to reconsider Arab approval of the



“Although the eccentric Gaddafi is widely looked down upon in the Arab world, the leaders and people of the Middle East traditionally have risen up in emotional protest at the first sign of western intervention.”

Russia, China, Germany, Brazil and India abstained from voting on a U.N. Security Council resolution authorizing the military strike. Russian and Chinese officials criticized the attack while leftist leaders Fidel Castro of Cuba, Hugo Chavez of

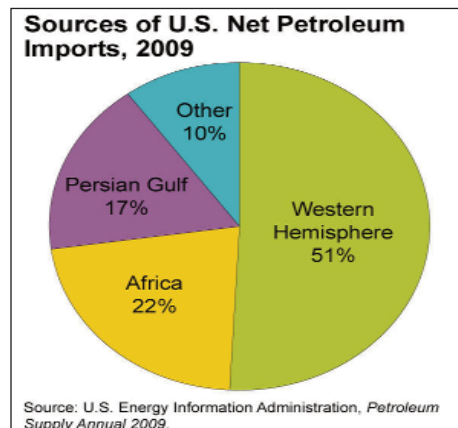
western military intervention, the *Washington Post* reported. Syria and Algeria were the only Arab League countries to vote against the league’s original endorsement of the coordinated military intervention against Libya.

Moussa said the Arab League originally approved a no-fly zone to prevent Gaddafi’s air force from attacking civilians, but did not endorse intense bombing and military attacks on Libya’s capital of Tripoli and Libyan ground forces, the *Post* said.

“Moussa’s declaration (to the Middle East News Agency) suggested that some of the 22 Arab League members were taken aback by what they have seen and wanted to modify their approval lest they be perceived as accepting outright western military intervention in Libya,” the *Post* said.

Venezuela, Daniel Ortega of Nicaragua and Evo Morales of Bolivia condemned it, claiming it was a move to secure Libya’s oil reserves. Muslim Brotherhood, Al-Qaeda, Hezbollah and Iranian officials also ripped it.

Iran’s oil minister said any increase in production by individual Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) members aimed at reducing oil price pressures caused by the Libyan crisis would fail. Saudi Arabia produced 9.71 million barrels of crude oil a day in 2009, one-third of OPEC output and almost six times as much as Libya, Bloomberg reports.



“The price of oil is going to go up, whether you like it to or don’t,” Juerg Kiener, chief investment officer at Swiss Asia Capital Ltd. in Singapore, told Bloomberg. “If Saudi Arabia fails, then I say you have a fire in the house.”



**SAUDI ARABIAN OIL REFINERY**

Tom Kloza, Oil Price Information Service chief oil analyst, told the *Detroit Free Press*, that fear of the Libyan conflict continuing and possibly spreading to Saudi Arabia is driving oil prices to their highest levels since September 2008. U.S. motorists could spend about \$44 billion on gasoline in March if pump prices average \$3.50 a gallon or 36 percent more than the \$32.3 billion they spent on gas in February, the newspaper reported.

Before the military attack on Libya, MarketWatch reported on March 8: “The price of gasoline has jumped




U.S. Energy Information Administration graphics

close to 70 cents a gallon over the past year. This has the effect of a giant tax increase. It has removed \$70 billion from the U.S. economy.”

Victor Shum, a Purvin & Gertz energy analyst in Singapore, told the Associated Press: “The concerns in the market go beyond Libya. It’s unlikely we’re going to see any meaningful disruption of oil from the Middle East or North Africa, but the spread of the unrest has raised anxieties.”

The potential for instability to spread to other OPEC countries, especially Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, is especially worrisome for oil markets, AP reported. “The elephant in the room that has the potential to really ignite the markets is Saudi Arabia,” Edward Meir, MF Global senior commodity analyst, told AP.

The Strait of Hormuz between Oman and Iran is the world’s most important oil chokepoint linking the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea. In 2009, 15.5 million barrels a day flowed through it or about 33 percent of all seaborne traded oil or 17 percent of oil traded worldwide.

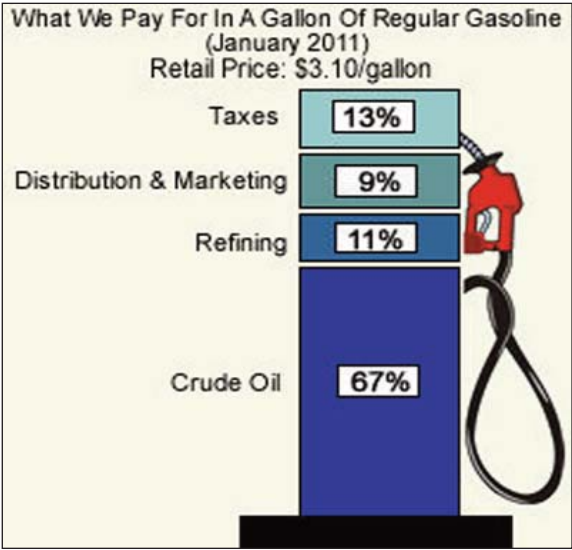


Bible prophecies indicate that sibling rivalries stemming back to the dawn of history greatly explain conditions in the world today. Wikipedia says: *“Ishmael is recognized by Muslims as the ancestor of several prominent Arab tribes and being the forefather of Muhammad.”*

In Genesis 16:11-12, it is predicted that Ishmael “shall be a wild man; his hand shall be against every man, and every man’s hand against him. And he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren.” His descendants would multiply exceedingly so they could not be counted (v. 10). Ishmael

married an Egyptian woman (Genesis 21:21).

The Prophet Daniel also predicted the time would come when a King of the South will push or attack a King of the North, ultimately precipitating a massive invasion of Northern Africa and the Middle East, including the “Glorious Land” around Jerusalem (Daniel 11:40-43).



Jesus Christ Himself warned that foreign troops surrounding Jerusalem would be a sign of His imminent Second Coming.

“But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near,” Christ said. “And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled. (Luke 21:20, 24; Revelation 11:2, Zechariah 12:2-3).

The dramatic developments unfolding in the oil-rich Middle East and North Africa fueling the world economy bear keen scrutiny. The warfare we are now witnessing promises to bring about dire unintended consequences adversely impacting all nations in a coming global conflagration that defies imagination!



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*Below are web sites made available by the Church of God – Faithful Flock as Bible resource tools.*

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[www.cog-ff.com](http://www.cog-ff.com)

**Watchman for the House of Israel**  
[www.ezekielwatchman.org](http://www.ezekielwatchman.org)

**World News Bulletin**  
[www.worldnewsbulletin.com](http://www.worldnewsbulletin.com)

**Lost 10 Tribes of Israel**  
[www.losttribes.org](http://www.losttribes.org)

**The Ten Commandments**  
[www.10commandments.ws](http://www.10commandments.ws)

**Prophetic Events**  
[www.propheticevents.us](http://www.propheticevents.us)

**What Do You Mean Born Again?**  
[www.begotten.net](http://www.begotten.net)

**Restored Truths of God**  
[www.restoredtruths.net](http://www.restoredtruths.net)

**Pagan Holidays or God's Holy Days?**  
[www.holy-days.org](http://www.holy-days.org)

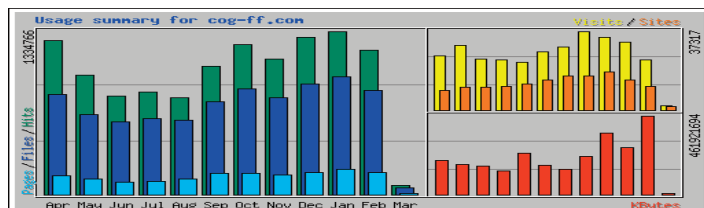
**Which Day is the Christian Sabbath?**  
[www.sabbathcentral.com](http://www.sabbathcentral.com)

**Herbert W. Armstrong – Apostle of God**  
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[www.coghomeschool.org](http://www.coghomeschool.org)

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