



Behold  the Lamb
Publications



**Rocks
in a Pond**
Volume XI

by Leroy Surface

Rocks in a Pond XI

“If you will say what I say, one day you will throw a rock into a pond, and the ripples will wash up on the shores of every nation.”

“Saying what God says” is the secret to the success of Behold the Lamb ministries. The first time God spoke this to me was in the spring of 1992. He said, “Say what I say, and I will put your ministry on television, and it will cost you nothing.” Within three weeks, the owner of channel 22 in Houston contacted me, with the result that my son Keith and I were given the “Behold the Lamb” broadcast, which was seen two times a week for the next eight years, without charge. Later in that same year, I dreamed I was throwing rocks into a pond to watch the ripples flow go to the edges. Again God spoke to me, “If you say what I say, one day you will throw a rock into a pond, and the ripples will wash up on the shores of every nation.” About fifteen years passed, and nothing changed. One day I was watching the Jimmy Swaggart broadcast as they were telling how their tv network was spreading around the world. I said to God, “Jimmy Swaggart’s ministry may hit the world like a tidal wave, but you promised me a ‘ripple.’ Are you keeping your promise to me?” The next words I heard on the TV were those of Loren Larsen, saying, “No man can throw a rock into a pond, and its ripples not ripple their way to every possible destination.” God had

answered my question through Loren Larsen, but he had no way of knowing why he spoke as he did.

Since that time, **Behold the Lamb Books** have gone into one hundred and sixty nations of the world without charge. When Jesus cleansed the Temple, He drove the money changers out, saying “Make



Leroy Surface



Keith Surface

not my Father's house an house of merchandise” John 2:16. Behold the Lamb ministries has never sold a book or any other ministry product. We have never even requested a donation, but God has abundantly provided through those people who have been blessed by the books we send. We have found when we simply “Say what God says” in the scriptures, God will provide.

Rocks in a Pond

Volume XI

A compilation of Gospel messages by Leroy Surface

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The Proof of who is God

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“For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many,) But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.”

The apostle Paul; I Corinthians 8:5-6

The first verse in the Bible says, “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth” Genesis 1:1, but how can we know for certain who that “god” is? In the days of the prophet Elijah, Israel had fallen into such a condition that they did not know who was God, whether Jehovah or Baal. Four hundred Fifty prophets preached Baal, while Elijah alone spoke for Jehovah. He called the congregation of Israel to gather at Mount Carmel along with the 450 false prophets and said *“How long halt ye between two opinions? If the LORD (Jehovah) be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him...the God that answers by fire, let him be God”* 1 Kings 18:21-24. The false prophets prayed and prophesied for most of the day for Baal to send fire upon their altar, but *“there was neither voice, nor any to answer, nor any that regarded”* 1 Kings 18:29. After their failed attempt, Elijah prepared his sacrifice on the altar, prayed a thirty-second prayer, and the fire fell from heaven and consumed the sacrifice. When the people saw the fire fall for Elijah, they fell on their faces to worship Jehovah, saying *“the LORD (Jehovah) he is the God.”*

Baal has long since passed away into the annals of failed gods, but Jehovah, the Father of Jesus Christ, is still “the God.” Today, there is another challenge as to “who is God.” The worshipers of Allah are gathering against Israel. Many have been taught from

childhood to hate both Christians and Jews. Some have committed mass murders with the cry of “Allahu Akbar,” which means, “Allah is the greatest.” In a world of eight billion people there are 2.1 billion Christians, 1.8 billion Muslims, and only 16.2 million Jews, of which 6.9 million live in the tiny nation of Israel. It is in Israel that it will be proven once again who God is.

Seven hundred years before the birth of Jesus, the prophet Isaiah gave us the “proof” of who is the living and true God as he tells how God watches over Israel.

“But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine. When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. For I am the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour: I gave Egypt for thy ransom, Ethiopia and Seba for thee.” Isaiah 43:1-3

Four thousand years ago, God made an unconditional covenant with Abraham, which reads like a “real-estate contract.” He said, “*Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates*” Genesis 15:18. Certainly this will be Israel's possession after the return of Christ to earth. In the meantime, God has established the nation of Israel as the proof He is “the God.”

Although Israel has rejected Jesus as God's son, it does not annul this “real-estate” covenant. Still, the Prophet Zechariah tells of a day when Israel will turn to Jesus, saying, “*...they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.*” Zechariah 12:10.

God has called for the nations of all the earth to bring their witnesses. He said, *“Let all the nations be gathered together, and let the people be assembled: who among them can declare this, and shew us former things? let them bring forth their witnesses, that they may be justified: or let them hear, and say, It is truth.”*

Isaiah 43:9

Through the prophet Zechariah, God spoke of our day, saying *“In that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it”* Zechariah 12:3. Those who fight against Israel fight against God. We are quickly coming to another “Mount Carmel showdown” to prove to an ungodly world who does not know who is God. If Allah is God, serve Allah: but if Jehovah, the Father of Jesus Christ is God, serve Him. Israel is, has forever been, and will be, “the proof” of who God is. In this generation, every nation that fights against Israel will suffer horrific defeat, because God said, *“I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem”* Zechariah 12:9.

The existence of Israel is Jehovah’s proof that He alone is God! *“Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me. I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no saviour. I have declared, and have saved, and I have shewed, when there was no strange god among you: **therefore ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, that I am God.**”* Isaiah 43:10-12

When a Nation Provokes God

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“How is the faithful city become an harlot! it was full of judgment; righteousness lodged in it; but now murderers. Thy silver is become dross, thy wine mixed with water: Thy princes are rebellious, and companions of thieves: every one loveth gifts, and followeth after rewards: they judge not the fatherless, neither doth the cause of the widow come unto them.” Isaiah 1:21-23

The prophet Isaiah, who died over a century before the destruction of Jerusalem, was sent by God to warn Judah and Jerusalem of the pending captivity and destruction if they did not repent and return to worship the one true God. It is amazing how his warnings of judgment to come fit so perfectly with America in our generation.

Provoking God *“Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward.”* Isaiah 1:4

In 1963 the Supreme Court of the United States, in order to satisfy the whims of very evil atheist woman, ruled against prayer and Bible readings in the public schools. For sixty years, many of America's children have had no exposure to the word of God or the values contained therein. Sadly, they have become our educators and our leaders. This was more than just another court decision. It was the “provocation” that provoked our Holy God. It set the stage for America's moral decline, and we are “reaping what we have sown” as a nation. Galatians 6:7. In the place of prayer

and Bible readings, our schools have become the breeding ground for violence, perversion, and promiscuity.

A diseased nation *“Why should ye be stricken any more? ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint.”* Isaiah 1:5

This provoking of God's “anger” will increase “more and more” as the nation revolts against him more and more. Isaiah said the “head” is sick and the “heart” is faint. The “head” of our nation is in Washington D.C., while the “heart” is the millions of honest, hardworking people who live in the “heartland of America.” They build our cars, haul our freight, and provide the food to feed our nation, and they are faint in heart over the present condition of our “head” in Washington D.C.

Putrifying sores *“From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment.”* Isaiah 1:6

Only a little over sixty years ago, when our children were influenced by prayer and Bible reading in the schools, the LGBTQ community was less than 2% of the population. Of those born in between 1997 to 2003, 20.8% identify as LGBTQ, and the percentage is increasing. This is an unnatural digression. Is America being filled with the “wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores” which Isaiah prophesied of?”

Destruction in the land *“Your country is desolate, your cities are burned with fire: your land, strangers devour it in your presence, and it is desolate, as overthrown by strangers.”* Isaiah 1:7

In the summer of 2020 we watched in horror as thousands of people filled the streets of many cities, protesting against the

police. The FBI has said 164 buildings were looted and burned in Minneapolis after George Floyd died in the hands of the police. Almost 1800 miles away, a thousand protesters gathered for a hundred nights straight, while rioters tried to destroy the federal courthouse, doing 1.6 million dollars in damage. Four years later, we are again in an election year, 2024. As I write this, I foresee a summer far worse than four years ago. Our major cities are in grave danger of burning and looting such as we have not seen in the past.

A city under siege *“And the daughter of Zion is left as a cottage in a vineyard, as a lodge in a garden of cucumbers, as a besieged city. Except the LORD of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, and we should have been like unto Gomorrah.”* Isaiah 1:8-9

In Isaiah's prophecy, the “daughter of Zion” as it relates to America is the church of Jesus Christ. In 1965, two years after God's influence was taken out of our public schools, 97% of American's claimed to be Christian. The most recent poll was taken in 2020, and the number was down to 65%. Without question, the church of Jesus Christ is under attack, as Isaiah said, “a besieged city.” In the sixty years of my ministry, I have never viewed politics as the answer, but I do urge every believer in Jesus Christ to go to the polls this November and cast their vote for conservative candidates who uphold biblical values.

“Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.” Proverbs 14:34

Pandora's Closet

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According to Greek mythology, Pandora was the first woman created by the gods. The earth was a paradise filled with men and women who were pure in heart and lived in perfect harmony one with another. The gods had given Pandora a beautiful box and commanded her to never raise its lid. As time passed she became more and more curious as to what was in the box, and the day came in which she decided to open it just enough to peek inside. As she carefully lifted the lid to peek inside, the lid flew open and every evil known to man swarmed out of the box. She slammed the lid down, but it was too late. The evil was out of the box, and there was no possible way to control it or return it to the box.

Born out of Greek mythology, Pandora is obviously a fable built around the biblical account of Adam and Eve. They lived in paradise; their hearts were pure, and there no such thing as sin. There was, however, that evil angel Lucifer, who desired to take the place of God. He seduced Eve to eat of the forbidden fruit, and she, in turn, gave it to Adam, and he ate. This was Adam's transgression, which brought sin into the world, along with every other evil thing; sickness, pain, sorrow, death, etc.

In less than two life spans from Adam's transgression, the world became so sinful that *“every imagination of the thoughts of man's heart was only evil continually”* Genesis 6:5, and God sent a great flood to destroy every person on earth with the exception of Noah, his wife, and his three sons and their wives. Even so, having destroyed sinful man, God did not succeed in destroying evil.

Three hundred and fifty-two years after the flood, a child named Abram was born to an idol maker. Abram watched his father carve “gods” out of wood and sell them to be worshiped by the people. The child Abram understood that these images, which were worshiped by the people as their “creator” had been “created” by his own dad. It was in such a setting that the true and living God in Heaven revealed Himself to Abram. In Abram, God had a new beginning. God changed Abram's name to “Abraham” with the promise he would be the “father of many nations.”

Four hundred years later, Abraham's descendants had increased to several million when Moses led them out of Egypt to bring them into the land which God had promised to Abraham and his seed forever. He brought them to the “mountain of God,” which was Sinai in Horeb, where God promised them, *“If ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation”* Exodus 19:5-6. Three days later, God came down on the mountain and spoke to them His Ten Commandments in an audible voice. Rather than obey God's voice, the children of Israel refused to even listen to His voice. They cried to Moses, *“Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die”* Exodus 20:19. Because of these words from the congregation, God gave them the “Law of Moses.”

Laws cannot “take away sin;” they can only “subdue sin” through the fear of punishment or death. Those who *“despised Moses law died without mercy before two or three witnesses”* Hebrews 10:28. An adulterer, a fornicator, or those who committed any of the sexual perversions which have filled America today would have been stoned to death under Moses' Law. Under American law before

the Supreme Court removed the influence of prayer and bible readings from our public schools in 1963, these “abominations” did not carry the death sentence, but they were so “shameful,” they were not public sins, but were called “closet sins.” Sadly, with the removal of Godly influence on our children, our culture has degenerated to the extent everything is out of the “closet.”

I have titled this article “Pandora's Closet,” because just like “Pandora's box,” the evil that has been turned loose upon our nation cannot be returned to the closet. How do we rid our nation of an immoral culture? We cannot do as some nations in history have done who used mass executions in an attempt to renew their culture. Jesus Christ taught us not to kill our enemies, but to love them, do good to them, and pray for them.

When the Apostle Paul assured us of what sort of people will never be a part of God's eternal kingdom, he wrote, “*Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God*” I Corinthians 6:9-10. He did, however, show God's remedy for those who truly turned to Christ for a change of heart, saying, “*And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God*” I Corinthians 6:11.

I do not know if the moral fiber of America will ever be renewed, but I do know that yours can be. It begins with faith in Jesus Christ who gave his life to “wash us from our sins.” Rev 1:5.

God's Greatest Enemy

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“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin;” Romans 5:12

Most people would probably think that Satan is God's greatest enemy. Yet, consider this for a moment; Satan, the devil, was not always the devil. In fact, he was one of God's most trusted angels. He was *“the anointed Cherub that covereth”* Ezekiel 28:14. God spoke of him, saying, “Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee” Ezekiel 28:15. The Bible describes his sin, saying, *“Thou has said in thine heart...I will exalt my throne...I will be like the most high”* Isaiah 14:13-14. The “original sin” actually occurred in heaven with the corruption of God's “anointed Cherub.” Hence, God lost His special “anointed cherub” to that dark thing God calls sin.

Earth was once a paradise placed under the dominion of the man Adam, whom God had created in His own image and likeness. In order to “be like the most high,” the anointed Cherub, whose name was Lucifer, sought to become god on earth. In the form of a serpent, he enticed Adam's wife Eve to disobey God by eating of a certain tree which God had forbidden them to eat of. She gave the fruit of the tree to Adam, and he ate of it. This was the moment that sin and death entered into the heart of the man God had created in His image, and through Adam into this entire world of people. Thus, God also lost Adam and all his descendants to the corruption of sin.

When God created the heaven and the earth, He created them to last for eternity. With the entrance of sin into the world, however,

the entire universe was contaminated and had to be destroyed. Jesus told us *“Heaven and earth shall pass away”* Luke 21:33. The Apostle Peter said, *“The heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.”* II Peter 3:10. After God made mankind, He God looked upon everything He had created and said, *“It is very good.”* Genesis 1:31. Yet, within seven thousand years from Adam's disobedience, it will all be lost because of God's greatest enemy, which is sin!

God has never and will never forgive sin. He forgives sinners, and He forgives “sins” but never “sin.” “Sin” is a nature that every person is born with. It is such an enemy to God that He “gave His only begotten Son” John 3:16 to die on the cross to “take away our sin.” I John 3:5. This speaks of the “sin” which entered into the world by Adam's disobedience. Paul wrote in his epistle to the Romans, *“For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.”* Romans 5:19. John the Baptist was the first to understand this when he introduced Jesus to the people, saying *“Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.”* John 1:29.

Considering the fact that sin is God's greatest enemy, why does the modern church treat it as a light thing? For example, the Apostle John told the church of his day, *“He that commiteth sin is of the devil.”* I John 3:8, while giving the alternative in the next verse; *“Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin...”* I John 3:9. Yet, the mantra of the modern church is *“We are all sinners and we sin every day.”* It seems obvious that God has also lost the modern church to His greatest enemy, which is still sin.

Because of the corruption and eventual destruction of the original creation, God promised *“Behold, I make all things new.”* Revelation 21:5. He began with a *“new creation in Christ Jesus.”* II

Corinthians 5:17. When Jesus was born to Mary, He was conceived by the Holy Ghost. He had no human father, and thus no sin nature. He was the “first man” of a “new creation.” There would have never been another like Him if He had not died on the cross as the “Lamb of God” to “take away the sin of the world.” In the last week before suffering the cross, Jesus said, *“Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.”* John 12:24. Jesus was the “corn of wheat” which fell to the ground and died. Those who are born again of that “incorruptible seed” I Peter 1:23 are the “much fruit” He brought forth through His death and resurrection. Just as the harvest is like the original seed, those who are truly born of God are like Christ. They are no longer sinners because He has taken away their sin.

Sin, and everything it has corrupted will be destroyed. Only those who have been washed from their sin by the shed blood of Christ will inhabit God's “New Heavens and New Earth.” Revelation 21:1. The Bible says, *“He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.”* Revelation 21:7-8. Which do you choose?

Heaven? or Hell?

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He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.” Revelation 21:7-8.

These words were spoken by Jesus Christ to the Apostle John in his vision of the “new heaven and the new earth” Revelation 21:1. He heard a voice saying, “...*there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away*” Revelation 21:4. The new heaven and new earth is prepared for overcomers. There is another place prepared for all the rest. It is called “the lake of fire.” The list of its inhabitants begins with “the fearful and unbelieving.” They will be there along with the “abominable, murderers,” etc. The scripture clearly names those who will not be in heaven; “...*neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God*” I Corinthians 6:9-10.

Sadly, this is not a complete listing of those who will perish. The Apostle John saw a vision of the last great judgment day. He describes it as follows;

“And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things

which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.” Revelation 20:12-15

Many professing Christians love to speak of the damnation of the LGBTQ, while not considering their own eternal state. Jesus described the fate of many good and moral church members who live in our generation.

“For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.” Matthew 24:38-39

Certainly “eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage” is not sin. These may have been good, family-oriented people. Perhaps they despised the vulgar culture that filled the earth in their day. The scripture describes that culture; *“every imagination of the thoughts of his (man's) heart was only evil continually”* Genesis 6:5. The “good” people saw old Noah building a huge ship on dry land, and heard him preach of judgment to come, but they “knew not.” They did not understand, and the “good” people perished along with the evil. They could have had a place of safety in the ark if they had believed. Jesus Christ is our “ark” of safety for all who trust in Him.

You will never enter Heaven with iniquity in your heart or life. Jesus told us many would stand before him saying, *“Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?”* Yet,

Jesus said, “*And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*” Matthew 7:22.

Jesus died on the cross to make us “free from sin.” He said, to some who professed to believe in Him, “*If you continue in my word, ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free*” John 8:31-32. Those “believers” were offended, saying, “*What do you mean 'make us free? We are Abraham's seed, and not in bondage to any man.*” Jesus' next words cut them to their heart; “*He that commits sin is the slave to sin...If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed*” John 8:36.

What is the “truth” which Jesus said would make us free from sin? It is found in the words Peter spoke to Jesus, saying, “*Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.*” Matthew 16:16. It is found in the words of John the Baptist, who described Jesus as “*the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.*” John 1:29. It is found in the words of the angel Gabriel, who told us “the Messiah the Prince” would come “*to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity*” Daniel 9:24-25.

Do you know Jesus as “The Christ” who came into the world to “make an end of sin” in you? I have written many books explaining, from the scriptures, the “truth” that makes its believer free. Let me send one to you without charge.

O America, America

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“Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward.” Isaiah 1:4

These words of the prophet Isaiah to Israel, shortly before Jerusalem was destroyed by the invading armies of Babylon, are a perfect description of America in this summer of 2024.

Our founding fathers came to America as to a “land of promise.” Some believed it was a “new Israel,” a place prepared by God for those who believed upon Jesus Christ. They succeeded in establishing a form of government which gave us the greatest nation in the history of the world. We won the civil war and delivered our own nation from the horrible scourge of slavery. We fought two world wars, saved the world from Hitler's Nazis and brought Imperial Japan to unconditional surrender. Those brave young men who won this decisive victory become known as America's greatest generation.

After the end of the war, spiritual revival broke out in America. Men like Oral Roberts, William Branham, and Jack Coe preached under huge tents in revival crusades across the nation. In 1951 Billy Graham filled Rice Stadium in Houston Texas with 100,000 people attending. It was a blessed time for most Americans. I was Pentecostal; my best friend was Church of Christ, and we attended a high school which was about 30% Jewish, and there were no conflicts. This was America until 1963 when the Supreme Court of the United States ruled that it was

unconstitutional to have Christian prayer and Bible reading in the schools. Today, we see what has happened in the schools, the cities and the streets of America. God has not done this to us. We are “eating the fruit of our own way” Proverbs 1:31; the result of sixty-one years without the influence of God in our public-school system.

In 1965, led by Ted Kennedy, congress changed our immigration laws and opened the door for Muslims and other non-Christian religions to migrate to America in large numbers. At first they were very moderate and peaceful people. Then came 9/11/2001. Nineteen Muslim extremist with box knives took control of four passenger planes. Two of them flew into the twin towers, one flew into the Pentagon, and the fourth, which crashed in Pennsylvania, was intended to destroy our Capitol building. Some in the Middle-East danced in the streets at the report of what happened that day. Since that day, radical Islamists have swarmed like locust into America as it has become an idolatrous nation.

God asked ancient Israel, *“Why should ye be stricken any more? ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint”* Isaiah 1:5. America's “head” in Washington D.C. is a very “sick” man, and his “sickness” has made the “heart” of America faint. In what could be described as “giving God the finger,” the President declared Easter Sunday 2024 to be Trans Day of Visibility. Due to the present condition of America's leadership, the entire world is in great danger of the time in which, according to the scriptures, a third of all living will be slain

Revelation 9:15.

“From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores:

they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment.” Isaiah 1:6

Dare I say this scripture would speak of the spiritual sickness of American society? In the past four years America has “fallen off the cliff” into a immoral abyss. We must find our way home, and only God, the Father of Jesus Christ, can bring us back. The only answer for America is repentance, and a return to the God of our fathers, and the Lord Jesus Christ. Otherwise, we will be “stricken more and more.”

“Your country is desolate, your cities are burned with fire: your land, strangers devour it in your presence, and it is desolate, as overthrown by strangers.” Isaiah 1:7

It is estimated that between eight to ten million “strangers” have crossed our southern border in the past four years. While it is true that many have come to America seeking jobs and a better life, we have no way of knowing how many have come as terrorist to do us harm. We do know, however, that our cities “burned with fire” in the 2020 election year, and 2024 may prove to be worse. As I write this, over 150 colleges and universities in America are having demonstrations with support for Hamas and hatred for Israel and Jews.

Where is God in the midst of all this confusion? We must understand, God is still in full control. He spoke of this day through the prophet Zechariah, saying, *“And in that day (which speaks of our present day) will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it”* Zechariah 12:3.

“And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.” Zechariah 12:9

The Pendulum

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“While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.” Genesis 8:22

The pendulum on my grandfather clock completes a full swing every two seconds. “Seedtime and harvest,” “cold and heat,” “summer and winter,” and “day and night” are all like pendulums of different lengths. For example, day and night are a twenty four hour swing, while seedtime and harvest are about ninety days.

A pendulum swings in both directions, from left to right, then from right to left. Cultural changes are the same, as well as political. America's culture has swung to the extreme left, which is manifest in both politics and the moral culture of today. I have, in the past, despaired over the “woke” culture of today, the LGBTQ, and those who seek to mutilate our children with sex changes. Today, I have hope for the future, because I know the past, and I also know that God is in control.

America's “pendulum” was at the far left during Lyndon Johnson's administration, but swung to the far right under Ronald Reagan. Our “pendulum” has now swung to the extreme left, and it seems those who hate America are in charge, but thank God, the “pendulum” is about to swing again.

The Bible records in detail the sins of the Canaanites before God gave their land to the children of Israel. It describes the LGBTQ takeover of America perfectly. In that day “the land itself vomited out her inhabitants” *Leviticus 18:25*. America is sick right now, and it is a “sickness unto death.” If there is not a change, America will die. Our elite universities are producing a generation that does not know nor love our Constitution and Bill of Rights. As I write this, the students of over a hundred and fifty universities are demonstrating in the streets against both America and Israel. They would annihilate Israel and completely destroy the America we have known and loved, but thank God, the “pendulum” is about to swing, and America will “vomit out” those abominations which bring the wrath of God against the nations.

We are suffering the end result of the Supreme Court's decision sixty one years ago to take prayer and bible readings out of our public schools, and the Ten Commandments from their walls. The result is millions of Americans who have never had the daily influence of God during their developing years, which has brought us to our present condition. While it may still be possible for many of good, decent, bible believing people to close their eyes to the problem and raise their families in peace, those with “open eyes” can see, we are in danger of losing our nation and even our freedom to worship God.

The same biblical words which described Israel before their hour of judgment also describes America today. *“And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient*

to parents, without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:” Romans 1:28-31

Certainly this defines much of America today, including the ruling class, but the “pendulum” is about to swing. Two states have made laws to return the Ten Commandments to their public schools. As the “pendulum” begins to swing to the right, the demonstrations in the streets will increase. As I write this, Donald Trump has been found guilty of thirty nine counts that could sentence him to over a hundred years in prison. Why would they do this? They are trying to stop the “pendulum” from swinging to the right, but they cannot succeed. America is waking up. As the “pendulum” swings, church attendance, which has been on the decline for sixty years, will begin to increase. The LGBTQ will continue, but their “pride” will turn to shame. The “woke” have had their day, but tomorrow belongs to the “awakened.” Many have been awakened to the present deplorable condition of our governing powers, and many of these will also return to their altars of prayer to seek God for revival and change. If this happens, we could see the beginning of the third “great awakening” in America in 2025.

There is a promise the angel Gabriel gave to the Old Testament prophet Daniel that seems to pinpoint the year 2025 as a “blessed” year for the true believers. Could it be the third “great awakening?” or could it be the return of Jesus Christ to earth to reign in great power over His enemies? I do not know, but I look forward with great hope and anticipation.

2025

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“And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days. Blessed is he that waiteth, and cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days.”

Daniel 12:11-12

In the twelfth chapter of Daniel, the angel Gabriel, God's messenger angel, is explaining to Daniel the events of the last days. In the first two verses, Gabriel tells of a time of “great trouble,” followed by the resurrection of the dead. Jesus spoke of this and called it a time of “great tribulation,” which would come just before His return to earth. These were things Daniel had not heard of before, and his excitement over the resurrection seemed to know no bounds. He questioned Gabriel, “what, when, how etc. shall these things be.” Gabriel, on the other hand, was anxious to “close the book” on these things and go his way.

“And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end. Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.”

Daniel 12:9-10

Certainly, we are living in “the time of the end,” when the “wicked” are “doing wickedly,” while at the same time it is given to the “wise” to “understand” many things that were mysteries to past generations. One of these is the incredible prophecy which I

have chosen for our text. A correct understanding of this prophecy, which was given by the angel Gabriel over twenty-five hundred years ago, pinpoints both the year 1980 and the year 2025. There are two possible dates given to begin this prophecy; the first is 70 A.D. when the temple in Jerusalem was destroyed, which marked the end to the daily sacrifices, and the second date is 690 A.D. which is the year the Muslim shrine, the “Dome of the Rock” was completed in the exact place the temple of God had once stood. Certainly, this is “the abomination that maketh desolate” spoken of by Gabriel, and is the starting date of Gabriel's prophecy.

In the prophecies given by the prophet Daniel, it has been proven that one day equals one year. That being the case, we must add 1290 years to 690 A.D. when the Muslim shrine was built in the place of the temple of God. This brings us to 1980, which was not a good year for America on the world scene. This was the year Iran held our embassy in Tehran hostage for the full year, only to release them the same day Ronald Reagan was inaugurated in January, 1981. If we had lived in bible days, President Reagan would have been listed among the greatest of rulers, along with David, Solomon, Hezekiah, Josiah, etc. He challenged the “evil empire” of his day and literally destroyed the old communist Soviet Union without firing a shot. I remember his presidency as a time we were proud to be Americans.

The prophecy says, “Blessed is he that waiteth, and cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days.” This adds another forty-five years, and brings us to the year 2025, which is only four months in our future. According to the prophecy, 2025 will be a year blessed by God Himself.

As I write this, Donald Trump has just survived an assassination attempt. While speaking at an open-air rally, he turned his head to the right just as the would-be assassin fired and the bullet hit

president Trump's right ear. Had his head been one degree more to the right or the left, he would have been slain before many thousands of his followers. President Trump has said it is only by the grace of God that he is still with us. Understanding this, he is a greatly humbled man. Almost certainly he will be elected president this fall and will be inaugurated in January, 2025. As a man who has faced certain death and been spared by the intervention of God, he has nothing more to fear of what man can do. God has his attention, and he will listen. He has received a “mandate” from God to make sweeping changes in America, which will affect the entire world.

I am not Catholic, but the Pope in Rome has recently declared 2025 to be a year of “Jubilee.” According to the Jewish law in ancient times, every fiftieth year was a year of Jubilee, in which all things were restored as at the beginning. Debts were canceled, prison doors were opened, families were reunited, and everyone enjoyed a new beginning. What a joyful sound it was in the first day of Jubilee to hear the sound of trumpets and the cry of those messengers who “proclaimed liberty throughout the land” Leviticus 25:10.

To America, Jubilee would be the year our nation is restored to constitutional government. Righteous laws will be enacted. No longer will “drag queens” have access to our elementary children. The influence of God will be restored to our public schools, and the “woke” community will be replaced by those who are “awakened” to righteousness.

The prophecy of blessings in 2025 was not given by a man, but rather it was the word of God, given by the angel Gabriel to the prophet Daniel. As such, it is absolute!

He takes away our Sin

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In the time of Christ, two lambs were sacrificed every day for the sins of the people. According to the historian Josephus, over 250,000 lambs were slain every year at the Feast of Passover. This adds up to untold millions of lambs that were sacrificed under the Old Testament Law of Moses. Rivers of blood flowed from the temple down into the brook Kidron, until the waters would flow red with blood. All this was done year after year as a covering for the sins of the people. Yet, not one drop of blood was found which could cleanse the human heart. The New Testament writers state the obvious reason for this, saying, *“For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.”* Hebrews 10:4. It was to accomplish what those sacrifices could never do that Christ came into the world, that is, “to take away our sin.”

Since no earthly sacrifice could wash sin from the human heart, God purposed that Christ lay down his life to take away our sin. Yet, in order to die, Christ must have a body. The Bible says, *“Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldst not, but a body hast thou prepared me:”* Hebrews 10:5. He received that body when he was conceived in the womb of a virgin named Mary.

Christ, the creator of heaven and earth, is identified as “The Word,” who was “with God,” and “was God.” The Bible tells us, “the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.” This “Word made flesh” was Jesus, the firstborn son of Mary, who had “conceived by the Holy Ghost.” The angels from heaven announced His birth to shepherds in the field, saying, *“For unto*

you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2:11

The birth of Jesus created quite a stir in Bethlehem for a time. King Herod murdered all the children under two years of age, seeking to kill the child Jesus, whom the wise men had said was “the King of the Jews.” The baby Jesus was rushed into Egypt to save His life, and later was returned to Nazareth, where He grew up with Joseph and His mother, Mary. He was a good child, whom the scripture says “...*increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man*” Luke 2:52.

The next we hear of Jesus is when He was about thirty years old and came to be baptized by John the Baptist. The Bible records, “And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” Matthew 3:16-17

It was the next day after seeing and hearing these things that John the Baptist began proclaiming Jesus to be “*The Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world*” John 1:29. Remember the millions of Lambs which had been slaughtered in sacrifice during the hundreds of years under the Law of Moses. None of these could “take away sin,” but Jesus was declared to be “the lamb of God.” This “lamb” would be sacrificed on a Roman cross, and His blood would be shed to “take away the sin of the world.”

Notice the scripture speaks of “the sin” of the world. The Apostle Paul tells of how sin came into the world, writing, “*Wherefore, as by one man (Adam) sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:*” Romans 5:12

It is because of Adam's disobedience that every person is born into this world with a sin nature. This is “the sin” that came in through Adam, and it is also “the sin” Christ died to “take away.” He takes it out of your heart. He takes it out of your nature.

The word of God reveals that Jesus Christ died as sort of a proxy. For us who believe upon him, his death became our death, and our death with him became God's way of taking away our sin. The Apostle Paul describes this, saying, “*Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead (in union with Christ) is freed from sin.*” Romans 6:6-7.

Christians around the world are told to confess daily “We are all sinners; we sin every day; we will continue to sin as long as we live in this body of flesh.” This is not the truth of the gospel nor is it the biblical confession of those who are redeemed by Christ. The Apostle Paul told us to “*reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.*” Romans 6:10-11. This is what Christ has done for his people, and we must recognize in our own heart that it is the truth.

Almost seventy years after Christ died on the cross, the old apostle John confirmed these words of the apostle Paul, saying,

“Ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not.”

I John 3:5-6

Savior, Christ, and Lord

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December 25th is the day we celebrate the birth of Jesus. This date was given us by the emperor Constantine in the year 336 A.D, but is an unlikely date because of the fact the shepherds were in the fields with their flocks. More likely, Jesus was born sometime in September before the sheep were brought into the fold for the winter. The fact is, however, that the Son of God was born to a virgin girl named Mary, who, though the intended bride of Joseph, had never been with a man until after Jesus was born. On the day of His birth, the angel of the Lord, which is the angel Gabriel, announced His birth to the shepherds in the field, saying, *“Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger”* Luke 2:10-12. The shepherds rushed to Bethlehem, and found the baby Jesus exactly as they had been told.

Jesus was born in a stable because there was no room for them in the inn. He was “wrapped in swaddling clothes” and “laid in a manger.” Having been raised on a dairy farm, I know that a manger is not such as we see depicted in the manger scene. Instead, a manger may be a hundred feet long with cattle eating the hay both day and night. Into these poorest of surroundings our Savior was born.

There are three things I wish to point out in the message of Gabriel to the shepherds. First, this baby was said to be “a Savior,

which is Christ the Lord.” We will examine each of these three, “Savior,” “Christ” and “the Lord.”

The Savior

The name “Jesus” is the English equivalent of the Hebrew name “Yeshua,” which means “salvation.” Jesus is both the “savior” and the “salvation” of everyone who trusts in Him. When Joseph realized that Mary was pregnant before their marriage, the only conclusion he could reach was that she had been unfaithful. Joseph was a righteous man who dearly loved Mary and was unwilling to make her a “public example,” which means she would have been publicly stoned to death as a fornicator. When Joseph decided to “put her away privately,” the angel Gabriel appeared to him a dream, saying, “Fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins” Matthew 1:20-21. Notice that as Savior, Jesus saves the believer “from their sin” and not, “in their sin.” The modern church says, “We are all sinners, and we sin every day. We will continue to sin as long as we live in a body of flesh.” Such a people have never trusted in Jesus to be “saved from their sin.” They do not believe in the one John the Baptist called “*The Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world*” John 1:29. But exactly who is this Savior? Again, the angel Gabriel said He is “Christ, the Lord.”

The Christ

The title “Christ” is the Greek counterpart for the Hebrew Messiah. The angel Gabriel came to the prophet Daniel with the promise of one called “the Messiah, the Prince” who would “...*make an end of sins, make reconciliation for iniquity, and bring in everlasting righteousness...*” Daniel 9:24-25. He gave a

timeline for the appearing of this Messiah which was mathematically perfect unto the very year Jesus was baptized by John. When He was baptized, the Holy Ghost descended on Jesus in the bodily form of a dove, and a voice from heaven was heard saying, “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

“Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me.” Hebrews 10:5.

Christ is as eternal as God is. He is the creator of all things. He continued for all time and eternity as a Spirit without a body. Millions of lambs had been slaughtered under Moses' Law, and not one was found which could “take away sin.” It was Christ, our creator, who chose to become a man in order to have a body and blood sufficient to take away sin.

The Lord

The Bible says, *“The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven.”* 1 Corinthians 15:47. The first man was Adam, who was formed from the dust of the earth and created in the image of God. Adam disobeyed God and sin entered into the world. Untold billions of people have been eternally lost because of the first man's sin. God is a just God, and his justice required there must be a “second man” to undo what the first man had done. No natural man could accomplish such a thing, but Jesus was not just a natural man. He is the Lord from Heaven, and when he was born into this world, the Bible said, *“Let all the angels of God worship Him.”* Hebrews 1:6. As we celebrate this Christmas season, let us not forget the baby born in the manger is Jesus our Savior, who is Christ, the Lord!

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