

FREE

COLOSSUS



HE DOTH BESTRIDE THE NARROW WORLD
LIKE A COLOSSUS AND WE PETTY MEN
WALK UNDER HIS HUGE LEGS, AND PEEP ABOUT
TO FIND OURSELVES DISHONOURABLE GRAVES.

—CASSIUS, WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S *JULIUS CAESAR*

COLOSSUS



Only a few feet taller than Nebuchadnezzar's statue, the Colossus of Rhodes was erected 200 years later than the Babylonian king's statue of Daniel 3. Built at the entrance to the harbor as a tribute to the city's greatness and regarded as one of the Seven Wonders of the ancient world, the Colossus lasted 56 years before being snapped at the knees by an earthquake. The statue was never reconstructed because its collapse was taken as a "sign from the gods."

As you can see from the cover, Colossus confidently stands upon the earth, unchallenged and undefeated. What does this statue mean and what does it have to do with the time in which we live?

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN PROPHECY about the end of the world? Judging from the headlines of the tabloid newspapers at the grocery store, somebody must be. They regularly have headlines of doom and gloom, bizarre encounters with a 600-foot Jesus that is supposedly prophesied in the Bible, and other such nonsense. They sell a lot of papers. Amazing as it may seem, people buy such silly stuff.

But it's not just the foolish and insincere newspapers that find a ready audience. For a long time, movies with thrilling plots about the end of the world have successfully entertained and even scared a lot of viewers. But still, it's just entertainment. Life goes on... to somewhere.

And it's not just the entertainment media that has made a lot of money from this subject. Preachers stir up a lot of business with their books and even their movies. But once the show is over, it's out the theater or seminar door, but to where? For most of us, it's just back to business as usual, making a living and hopefully finding some pleasure along the way. Yet the world is surely headed somewhere, and even if you don't like its direction, you're still a part of it. There is no hope of getting off the planet. Wherever the world is headed, you're going with it.

Regardless of all the sensationalism and the hucksters out for gain, there are legitimate prophecies in the Bible written by men of character and dignity. One such man is Daniel, a prophet who lived some 2600 years ago. He was a Jew who lived the majority of his life in Babylon. It is in his book that the clearest prophecies of the end can be found. Yet even he was not allowed by God to understand how or when these prophecies would come about. The last chapter of the book of Daniel says, "The words are closed up and sealed until the time of the end."

At the beginning of a new millennium, what would make us think that we are in the "time of the end?" How can we be sure? Is there any way to know? History tells us of many horrible times when men had good reason to believe it was surely the end of the world. Yet the end did not come. Why would this present day be any different?

"But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase."

If these two things, *travel* and *knowledge*, mark the time of the end, then Daniel's book is ready to be unsealed. Maybe to those born in the past few decades, travel and knowledge are no



From *Julius Caesar*:

*Why, man, he doth bstride the narrow world
Like a Colossus and we petty men
Walk under his huge legs, and peep about
To find ourselves dishonourable graves.*

—Cassius,

William Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*
(Act 1, Scene 2)

To Cassius and the other conspirators, Caesar's greatness seemed as towering as the Colossus of Rhodes. Most likely they had this image in mind (left), where ships passed between his gigantic legs. Yet most historians believe that Salvador Dali's painting (opposite page) is more correct.

big deal. But only a hundred years ago, the basic transportation for people was their feet, or a horse if they had one; as it has been so from the beginning. But today, what used to be a big planet has shrunk to a golf ball, man's plaything. Cheap and easy travel is changing the way we live and how we view the world. It has also brought new and frightening problems. Now a deadly virus like Ebola can originate in one country and fly around the world in a few hours. Before the health officials even know what has hit us, people drop dead from a foreign invader. Yesterday it was beyond human imagination; today it is becoming commonplace.

Knowledge is the same. Such rapid access to information is storming society so quickly, no one really knows where it is taking us, or even if we want to go there. Want to build a terrorist bomb? The info is out there somewhere; just wirelessly surf the web in the comfort of your living room on your state-of-the-art laptop. But hurry, because if you blink twice, your new computer may become obsolete. This increase in knowledge is pushing us ahead so fast we can barely keep our feet underneath us. Maybe we lost our balance a long time ago and just haven't hit the ground yet.

This extreme rise in knowledge and travel is making life radically different from how human beings have always lived on the earth. Science is tampering with the universe like a child let loose in the control room of a nuclear power plant. Some rejoice over this newfound freedom. Some shudder.

Is this the beginning of a Golden Age of Progress, or is our ship like the Titanic, plowing through the midnight waves, proudly defiant of the icebergs? Are we steaming to a glorious future, or a grisly nightmare? Shall we break out the lifeboats, or order more champagne? Who really knows where the world is headed?

Some would say, "God only knows!"

And to this, Daniel would agree. His God sealed the prophecies until the end. Not until they are unsealed will the mystery be made known. But to whom will He reveal such mysteries? What will they do with such understanding? Who will listen to them?

We have heard something in our hearts about this "time of the end," and so we write this paper. Perhaps you will hear in your heart what we have heard in ours. It is taking us to a place worth going to. 🌐



The New Colossus

*Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
With conquering limbs astride from land to
land;*

*Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall
stand*

*A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand
Glow world-wide welcome; her mild eyes
command*

*The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.
"Keep ancient lands, your storied pomp!"
cries she*

*With silent lips. "Give me your tired,
your poor,*

*Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.*

*Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"*

—Emma Lazarus

The larger-than-life Statue of Liberty (300 ft. tall) at the entrance of New York's harbor resembles the ancient Colossus of Rhodes. In the near future, Colossus will cease to be merely a "representation of greatness" but will appropriately portray the revival of the oppressive Roman Empire in Europe.

The Magnificent Civilization



Something is wrong at a fundamental level in the lives of vast numbers of people. Something vital is missing. Something essential and meaningful has been displaced by something hollow. Something is promising comfort and security, yet is crushing the freedoms and consciences of men. Can you tell what it is? We call it Colossus.

In September of 2000, an observer of the American scene posed the question that most people could easily ignore: *Why does prosperity and power not bring happiness?*

“The economy is out of sight. Unimaginable wealth and luxury is all around. America rules the world. So why is everyone so depressed?”¹

Since then the economy has been too easily *in sight*, wealth and luxury have gone on trial, and America’s credibility as a human rights advocate has been painfully, torturously, diminished. It is not such a surprise about the increasing number of people who are lonely and alienated, rivaling any other time in human history. The crushing loneliness that many face as they pour their cereal at the breakfast table, or sip their coffee at the local diner, is simply a side effect of the fastpaced, popular culture we live in. The industrialized world is still, in comparison with the poor, basking in unequaled levels of wealth, medicine, science, and life expectancy, yet its people are plummeting into an epidemic of sadness.

FORCES OUTSIDE OUR CONTROL

Something is wrong at a fundamental level in the lives of vast numbers of people. It isn’t so much what is happening to those people as what isn’t. Something vital is missing. Something essential and meaningful has been displaced by something hollow. The possibility that forces outside our control are overwhelming us, changing us, is so frightening that many people frantically grasp at safe responses to their escalating anxiety. Terrorism is the most obvious such force, yet people sense others, especially as they watch their children grow up. And the pictures from *Abu Ghraib prison* point to some fundamental loss

of innocence on America’s part. It is a troubling world.

People rely in record numbers on prescription drugs.² They escape into the multimedia pleasureplex in an attempt to cope with reality. The French radical Gilles Ivain wrote of the beginnings of this some thirty years ago:

“A mental illness has swept the planet... no more laughter, no more dreams. Just the endless traffic, the blank eyes that pass you by, the nightmarish junk we’re all dying for. Everyone is hypnotized by work and comfort.”

For those living in this hypercommercialized, global society, a question presents itself: *Have we and the rest of the industrialized world gained power and wealth at the price of a piece of our soul? Or, in the words of a very misunderstood prophet of 2000 years ago: “What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?”³*

The moment you confront these questions head-on, the cool, commercial façade of this magnificent civilization suddenly dissolves. Before you is a web of psychological, sociological, and cybercultural threads, and behind you a wake of meaningless existence. *Why am I sad? Why was I created? Why can’t I love? What am I living for?* These questions gnaw at your soul, like someone trapped under the ice in a river, frantically searching, desperately trying to claw their way out... but where is the opening?

ELECTRONIC CULTURE

So now, into the midst of the most fundamentally isolated society in human history plops the Internet. Instead of old-fashioned relationships, people are now promoting the Net culture. Chat rooms are the craze. You laser in by subject, interacting with people “along a slender strand of common vocational interests.” People have now effectively surrounded themselves with specialists,

whom they call on briefly for one thing only — to fulfill themselves.

In this, the affluent members of the human species have made a sudden leap from a real to an electronic environment. For generations, human beings have gotten their cues from each other and from nature. Now, they get them from the computer and video game screens. Could this be related to the ever-increasing rates of clinical depression and loneliness?

These technological placebos lift the mood, calm the nerves, and attempt to fill the ever-increasing void in people's lives. Emanating from their screens are thousands of explicit and subliminal marketing messages every day teeming with sex and violence. The underlying purpose of this electronic culture is to keep people entertained, and numbed to the moral panic that is happening all around them.

SILENT ALARM

Depression is a symptom or a defensive response that tells us something important about ourselves or our culture. It makes no sense to clip its alarm wires with drugs like Prozac. This, however, is what countless people are doing. And for the masses, who are mindlessly being herded down a psychotropic path to pledge allegiance to this new world order, everything seems fine and dandy. The alarm is simply not sounding.

Postmodernism is a philosophy that says we've reached an endpoint in human history. The *modernist* traditions of advancement and ceaseless extension of the frontiers of innovation are now dead. Originality is dead. The avant-garde artistic tradition is dead. All religions and utopian visions are dead. And resistance to the status quo is impossible because revolution, too, is now dead. Like it or not, people are stuck in a permanent crisis of meaning, a dark room from which they can never escape.

INTRUSIVE MORALITY

Amazingly, all of this was envisioned 2600 years ago by a prophet named Daniel. The political, social, religious, and economic luster of this emerging global society was depicted as an enormous statue — a *Colossus*.⁴ It was awesome and its appearance was dazzling and of extraordinary splendor. The feet of Colossus represented the religiously dominated political system that would rule the planet in the last days of human history. While elections will still be held and people will still go about business as usual, Colossus will have intruded into every aspect of normal life, passing moral laws to hold the decaying society together, while offering peace, prosperity, and security for those who submit to its rule.

Just as Rome embraced Christianity to save the decaying empire, so again, Colossus will join forces with this mighty world religion and usher in a new

global church-state that will dominate the entire world. People will swap their freedoms for security in this new world order. All who do not pledge allegiance to Colossus will be dealt with in an appropriate fashion. After all, who but utter rebels would stand in the way of this perfect society?

Colossus is at the root of everything that is happening in society today. The forces at work, although expressed through the words and acts of men and nations, have their source in the spiritual ruler of this world — Satan.

This may be hard to swallow, since Hollywood and the mass media have for decades been successfully giving the Western world an electronic lobotomy. They have made Satan out to be a ridiculously fantastic, red-horned *devil* who is the star of Saturday morning cartoons and the ancient myth of Christianity — he can't be taken seriously. In the meantime, this virtuoso propagandist has been masterfully herding all of humanity to a very specific destination — a magnificent civilization.

COID AND CIAMMY

Many will scoff at this ancient prophecy and its relevance to current events, but the parallel of this dream to the contemporary political and religious climate in the world is chilling. Like it or not, when you look underneath the veneer of modern life, you are face-to-face with a decaying, hopeless humanity. Filling this vacuum of well-being is the cold iron strength and the clammy clay persuasion of Colossus, the world government revealed to Daniel in his dream. While promising comfort and security, it is crushing the freedoms and consciences of men.

But there is something else taking shape, something else coming into view. It has nothing to do with Colossus. It has a *different* source, a *different* nature. Ultimately it will destroy every trace of Colossus. ***It is just around the corner.*** 🌐



¹"America the Blue," by Kalle Lasn and Bruce Grierson, *The Utne Reader*, September 22, 2000

²"How many millions and millions of people can take Prozac and Zoloft and all the other drugs? We have more adults taking antidepressants than the National Institute of Mental Health estimates there are depressed people in the United States. The market is saturated, so the pressures move automatically to other markets. And the biggest next market is children." (Dr. Peter Breggin, May 3, 2001, interview for the PBS Frontline Special "Medicating Kids," <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/medicating/interviews/breggin.html>)

³Mark 8:36-37 ⁴Daniel 2:31-35

THE STONE KINGDOM

The Stone Kingdom will be Yahshua's kingdom which will be held together by love. It will be His Body, His Bride, perfected in love. It will bring about the end of the age. It is the Stone that will cause the giant, the great statue, the world government, to topple, so that the government of God will be able to reign on the earth.*



THE DREAM (604 B.C.)

In the darkness of the night, in his huge, elaborately decorated bed chamber, the mighty king tossed restlessly to and fro in his lavish bed. He was dreaming a terrifying dream. In his mind's eye, King Nebuchadnezzar stood gazing at a great and tall statue of extraordinary splendor which was standing before him. He was filled with awe, for never had he seen such a sight.

Somehow he realized

that this statue had monumental significance. The head was made of gold, the chest of silver, the belly and thighs of bronze, the legs of iron, and the feet and toes were partly of iron and partly of clay.

The king stared in wonder at this statue. A great stone, cut out of a mountain and hewn without human hands, suddenly plummeted with great momentum toward the statue. The stone struck the statue on the feet of iron and clay, crushing them, and causing the entire statue to come crashing to the earth. It fell with such force that all the precious metals were smashed to powder at once, leaving this awesome statue like chaff on the threshing floor. A strong wind came and blew away the last remains of its dust so that not a trace of the statue was left.

But then, before his eyes, the king saw this stone, which had just destroyed the statue,

grow to be a gigantic mountain that filled the whole earth. In terror, the great king awoke from his dream. Sitting up in the darkness, he was greatly perplexed. He knew he had dreamed a troubling and awesome dream. Yet, though he thought and thought, he could not remember it. The rest of the night he could not sleep, trying in vain to think of it. *But alas! He couldn't.*

In the morning the king sought for someone in his vast empire to help him remember what his dream was, and to tell him what it meant. But all the great sorcerers and wise men gave him the same reply: *"If you cannot tell us the dream, we cannot interpret it for you ... and only the gods could tell you your dream!"*

Their response enraged powerful Nebuchadnezzar. In his wrath he ordered the execution of all the wise men in his entire empire, for their wisdom had proven to be worthless in his time of greatest need.

Now, among the great wise men of his empire there was a very special young man, whose name was Daniel. He had lived in Babylon only a short time, for he had been brought there as a captive from his home, Jerusalem, a city in the land of Israel. The Babylonians had invaded his land and taken captive all strong, intelligent, handsome young men to serve their great king. Daniel was one of them. Born of the tribe of Judah, Daniel was part of the royal family in Israel. Though Israel had been the land where the God of heaven and earth had chosen a people for Himself, the people of Israel had long ago become unfaithful to their God.

The Babylonian invasion brought a just discipline upon Israel for their unfaithfulness.

And Daniel, just a young man, was now receiving
**See page 34 for an explanation of the name Yahshua*

ing the discipline which the sins of his father and grandfather had brought upon them all.

Actually Daniel had a different heart than his rebellious forefathers. For Daniel loved the God of Israel with all of his heart. He did not want to do anything wrong. Even in this land of wickedness, he remained pure and undefiled. And though he had only been in Babylon for a short time, his good behavior had already earned him the reputation of being a wise and respected young man.

So when the order came to execute all the wise men, Daniel himself was included in that order. The king's guard came to imprison Daniel with all the others. He told Daniel what had happened and how the other wise men were unable to help the king.

THE GOD OF VISIONS

Daniel knew that only his God, the God of visions and dreams, could reveal this mystery. Daniel went to the king and requested that he give him time so that he might declare the interpretation to the king. Then he and his loyal friends from Israel began to pray. They prayed to the only One who could deliver them.

In the night Daniel received a vision from his God. He awoke from his sleep and knew beyond all doubt what the dream of the king of Babylon had been. Full of thanksgiving, he made his way quickly to the palace of the great king. When he was brought before him, Daniel wasted no time in letting King Nebuchadnezzar know that he deserved none of the credit for discovering the answer to the king's problem. It was the God of heaven, Daniel's God, who deserved all the praise. Then Daniel went on to accurately describe the awesome statue which the king had dreamed about: a head of gold, a chest of silver, belly and thighs of bronze, legs of iron, and feet and toes of iron mixed with clay. He also described the Stone that had brought down the statue and then became a great mountain that filled the whole earth.

As Daniel spoke, the king's memory testified to the truth of what he was saying. Very respectfully, Daniel gave the king the interpretation of his dream. Then this mighty king, the most powerful man on the earth, did a very shocking thing. He fell face down on the ground in front of Daniel and declared,

"Surely your God is a God of gods and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of mysteries, since you have been able to reveal this mystery."

THE INTERPRETATION

What was the interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's mysterious dream? What did Daniel say that caused the mighty king to recognize him as a true prophet — one who spoke the very words of God? And what do his words mean to us today?

The head of gold stood for the Babylonian empire. ("*You, O king,*" said Daniel, "*are the head of gold.*") It would be followed by three successive kingdoms, each inferior to the ones before it — one of silver, one of bronze, and one of iron which would finally mix with clay.¹ History bears out Daniel's interpretation. Three empires followed Babylon in world domination: Media-Persia, Greece, and then Rome. Each one was inferior to the one before it in terms of the authority of its ruler. Each ruler had greater checks and balances on his power. Each successive government, however, was tougher and more enduring.

But what about the Stone? What is it and when will it come? All of human history is waiting for the answer. One thing is sure about the Stone. It is not part of the statue, but is the fifth and final kingdom that fills the whole earth. This kingdom was a Stone hewn from a mountain *without human hands*. That meant this Stone Kingdom would be one which Daniel's God would Himself raise up, which would never be destroyed. After putting an end to all other kingdoms, it would endure forever. Even though Daniel knew that all this would be in the far distant future, he must have been overjoyed to know that in the end the Stone Kingdom of his God would have dominion. Daniel's conclusion was, "*The great God has made known to the king what will take place in the future; the dream is true, and its interpretation is trustworthy!*"² Today is the future and the question remains: **Who is the Stone?**

The first four kingdoms represented in the statue were natural kingdoms, established by force of arms, controlling the world in this age. But the fifth kingdom is a spiritual kingdom, hewn from a mountain *without human hands*. Hewing is a deliberate cutting out with the preconceived intent to create. The final king-

But what about the Stone? What is it and when will it come? The sum of human history hinges on the answer.

The demonstration of love and unity which will shine forth from this Stone Kingdom will expose the wickedness and perversion of the last generation of human history.

dom is deliberately hewn from the world by God with the preconceived intent of creating a people of His own who will express His very nature and character. This Stone, this fifth kingdom, is a kingdom of love, overpowering all the forces of evil that have ripped the world apart for centuries. It shatters the world empires that ruled before it and brings an end to world history. This kingdom is a holy nation, a twelve-tribed spiritual Israel, according to the words of the prophet Isaiah:

It is too small a thing that you should be My servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also make you a light to the nations so that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth. (Isaiah 49:6)

This gathered people will be a light, burning intensely, deep into the heart and soul of every person who lives. The demonstration of love and unity which will shine forth from this Stone Kingdom will expose the wickedness and perversion of the last generation of human history. It is this holy³ people who will be God's light to the nations, to the governments of the world. This is what the Son of God meant when He said:

This gospel of the kingdom will be preached throughout the earth as a witness to all nations; and then the end will come. (Matthew 24:14)

THE HOLY

A *witness* is a testimony to the existence of something real. In this case it is the *demonstra-*

tion of the kingdom of God. *King-dom* means the *dom*-inion of the *King*, and God's kingdom is the place where God rules. When the nations see the lives of this people being ruled by God — being holy or set-apart — instead of by the self-interest⁴ that dominates the rest of the world, they will be able to see evidence of how human beings should live.

Such evidence of a holy life began to be presented 2000 years ago as the first disciples of our Master were gathered together in communities. They demonstrated their love for the Master by obeying His commands and loving one another just as He had loved them:

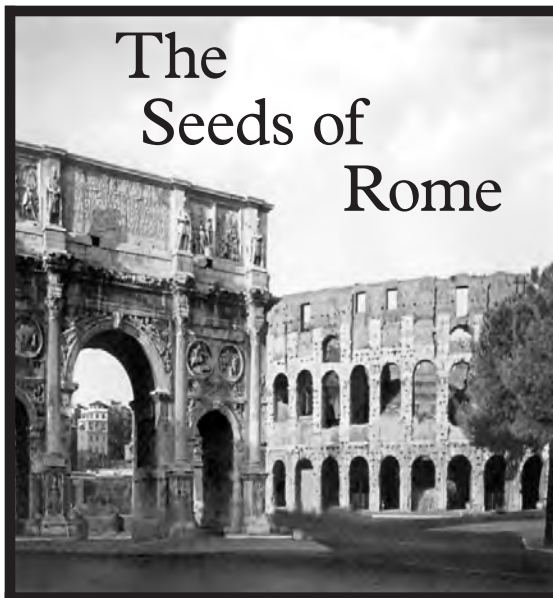
And all those who had believed were together, and had all things in common; and they began selling their property and possessions, and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need.

(Acts 2:44-45)

Instead of being the solid rock that would crush and bring to an end all the kingdoms of the world, the early communities lost their cohesiveness — their oneness of heart and soul⁵ — and became as ineffective as a lump of common clay. Grace ceased to be upon them all as self-interest crept back into their lives. They did not fulfill the prophecy of the Stone Kingdom. They stopped being holy and obeying God's commands in their relations with each other.

THE FULFILLMENT OF THE PROPHECY

We know that the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed and that such kingdom will be formed *in the days of*



The Seeds of Rome

HISTORY PLACES THE FALL OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE AT 476 A.D. with the removal of the last western emperor. This would seem to be the end of the fourth kingdom in Daniel's prophecy. But it is amazing to note that no empire has risen since that time to take its place. That means there have been over fifteen hundred years of political struggle without any one nation rising to dominance. The reason is that the dream was true and its interpretation trustworthy. There were only four kingdoms in the statue and the stone kingdom crushed and removed all trace of them. But the fourth kingdom has not yet been crushed. All around us in the present day we see traces of Rome. Actually, they are more than traces — they are the very fabric of western civilization. Primary among these is the system of law. The legal codes of most western nations are based on Roman law. This heritage is easily detected from the use of Latin in legal terminology. Also, amazingly, most western nations have adopted some form of republican government, which Rome preserved even under its

those kings because that is what *Daniel 2:44-45* records. So we know that the Stone cannot possibly appear before those kings.

To understand who those kings are we must look at what Daniel says about the fourth kingdom in *Daniel 2:33-35; 40-43*. Briefly, it is this: the fourth kingdom is like two legs of iron with feet and toes made of iron mixed with clay. As iron breaks everything into pieces, so it will crush all other kingdoms. As the feet and toes are a mixture of iron and clay, so this kingdom will be partly strong and partly brittle. As clay does not adhere to iron when mixed, so this fourth kingdom will lack integrity. Although it has the strength of iron, it will be in essence divided, and so will not be able to stand. When struck by the Stone Kingdom which is not divided, but truly in unity, the fourth kingdom will break into pieces, crumbling like powder.

The Roman Empire began as a civil government, but became a religious empire when the Emperor Constantine embraced Christianity in 312 AD and made it the state religion. History clearly records the split of this “Holy Roman Empire” into two parts: the eastern part whose capital was Constantinople, and the western part whose capital remained at Rome. This split caused by religious division is graphically represented by the two legs of iron. As a result, the empire lost its national life as a world power. Yet it has never lost its religious significance as reflected today in the Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholic churches. The influence also of Roman law and culture is the foundation of Europe, despite the national identities of the diverse countries. The seed of western civilization grounded in Rome is a basis for unification

across national boundaries, as has now become a reality in the emergence of the European Union.

Today we live in the days of the feet and toes — different from the legs in substance, but containing much of their essence. There have been no world empires since Rome fell. In the ensuing 1500 years monarchs and armies have made repeated attempts to revive the Roman Empire by uniting Europe. All attempts have failed. History does not record anything corresponding to the ten toes, to which Daniel calls much attention, but the prophecy is clear that they are part of the fourth kingdom.

However, a parallel passage in *Daniel 7* gives greater clarity. In another night vision the prophet sees a number of beasts, the fourth of which is terrible and



most powerful emperors. Beyond this, there is a deep admiration, even an awe, implanted in Westerners for the Roman Empire and its achievements. Something in the soul of western man wants to see the glory of that civilization, the Roman peace and prosperity, reproduced today.

That desire has been carried and nurtured through the centuries by Christianity. Ever since she united with the Roman Empire in the time of Constantine, the Church has had a vital interest in the unification of Europe under central rule. It was she who civilized and Christianized the Germanic tribes who conquered Rome and then crowned Charlemagne emperor of Rome in 800, looking for a revival of the security she had known under Constantine.

This political connection with the Germanic tribes endured for 1000 years, inspiring such German princes

as Otto I and Charles V to extend their rule over Europe and be crowned as Roman Emperors. So deeply ingrained in the tradition of the German people was this tie with Rome, both spiritually and politically, that an entire succession of monarchs for six and a half centuries referred to their domain as the “Holy Roman Empire.”

Their claims ended in 1806 when Napoleon, with his own dreams of empire, sought to dominate Europe. Crowned Emperor of France, with the blessing of the Pope, Napoleon soon showed that he was not content with France, but wanted a Roman empire of his own.

Rome, then, lives on in the religion, history, politics, law, government, traditions, and languages of Europe. But, most importantly, it lives in the hearts and imaginations of Europeans, ready to spring forth into a confederation of ten nations in these last days.

dreadful, having great iron teeth and tremendous strength, and crushing and devouring its victims and trampling everything underfoot. This beast has ten horns.

... the fourth beast will be a fourth kingdom on the earth, which will be different from all the kingdoms, and it will devour the whole earth, and trample it down, and break it to pieces. As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom, ten kings will arise... (Daniel 7:23-24)

These ten kings rising out of the fourth kingdom are a clear parallel to the ten toes in Nebuchadnezzar's dream. Daniel, in his interpretation, makes repeated reference to the toes of the statue,⁶ drawing attention to them, and then says, "In the days of those kings ..."⁷ meaning the kings of the iron mixed with clay. There will be ten rulers who arise from the domain of that fourth kingdom and constitute a revived and modified expression of that fourth world empire on the very soil where Roman influence and culture is most extensive — *Europe*.

The European Union will eventually be molded to fulfill Daniel's prophecy about the

ten kings. *And it is in the lifetime of those kings that the Stone will be hewn.*

**THE STONE: WHO IT IS,
AND WHO IT ISN'T**

Any kingdom that had its origin *before* the days of those kings is completely disqualified. Scripture dictates that the Stone and the toes are both formed at the same time. Therefore no spiritual movement that had its origin earlier than the mid-twentieth century could possibly be the Stone. This eliminates Christian denominations.

The Stone is central and supreme in God's purpose on earth: it brings an end to the kingdoms of the world, replacing them with an eternal kingdom, the kingdom of God. This is a dramatic contrast to the Christian religion, which is thoroughly involved in the kingdoms of the world,

supporting, strengthening, and even seeking to direct them. Such compromise is exactly what our Master faced when He dealt with Judaism. The Jews of His time had forgotten their purpose of being a light to the nations and had settled instead for their own personal comfort and security. Their religion was only an empty form. That's why He told the religious leaders of His day:



Israel



THROUGHOUT MOST OF RECORDED HISTORY, GOD'S PEOPLE have been a small, twelve tribe nation dwelling in the Middle East, known as *Israel*. Yet in the final years of this age, a new type of Israel is coming to birth. It is still the people of God and consists of twelve tribes, but this new Israel is forming outside the borders of the land of Israel (*Malachi 1:5*). It is a spiritual nation whose citizens will live in twelve different geographical locations. Like Israel of old, these people will live as a light to the nations in which they sojourn.

To old Israel was granted the unique privilege of receiving God's laws and time-honored covenants. They were entrusted with the Temple and its ritual worship, even the divine glory that filled its sanctuary. They were adopted as sons of the God who tenderly loved them. This rich heritage was the common property of those who made up the commonwealth of Israel. Not only were they participants in an abundant social life, overflowing with new moon feasts, religious holidays, and national celebrations, but they also had fellowship with their God and came to love Him supremely. To live

The kingdom of God will be taken away from you and be given to a nation producing the fruit of it. And he who falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will scatter him like dust. (Matthew 21:43-44)

The similarity of our Master's words to Daniel's description of the Stone shattering the world empires is not coincidental. He knew of that fifth and final kingdom. He was speaking of a set-apart, twelve tribe nation hewn from the mountain of the world in the last days of this age. The privilege of being that Stone, that kingdom, would be given to a *people who would produce the fruit of that kingdom.*

The ultimate fruit that God is looking for is the final destruction of the kingdoms of this world,⁸ so that no other nation would dominate Israel again. This is what He is focused on today: abolishing all rule and all authority and power other than His own.⁹ This will not be done through might or craft. It is not a military coup or a subversive plot to undermine government. The nation that produces the fruit of the kingdom will, by their lives of obedience to their Creator, raise up a standard of righteousness by which He can judge the whole world. It will be a holy nation, a royal priesthood. When this demonstration of the kingdom has confronted the world with the choice of obeying God or rejecting Him, then the end will come. He will send His Son to judge the earth, removing every trace of the kingdoms of the world, establishing the kingdom of God, and bringing everlasting peace.¹⁰

This choice of obeying God or rejecting Him is what our Master was speaking of when He said, *"He who falls on this stone will be broken, but on whomever it falls, it will scatter him like dust."*¹¹ Those who come to the end of their independent selfish lives and fall upon the King of this Stone Kingdom will see the hardened exterior of their hearts crack open so that the true Spirit of love can come and dwell in them. Their broken pieces will be perfectly put back together by the Master Potter. For those who refuse to fall on the Stone and be broken in the last days will find themselves as part of the world kingdom that will be scattered like dust, never to be retrieved or recreated.

ECUMENISM

The Stone Kingdom of Daniel's prophecy includes both the King and all who are obedient to His commands. His command is this: that we love each other *as He loved us.* The Stone Kingdom is a kingdom of love. It is a people dwelling together in unity. The unity that the Stone Kingdom expresses will be the answer to our Master's prayer,

that they may be one just as We are One ... that the world may know that You sent Me and have loved them even as You have loved Me. (John 17:21-23)

This unity is a "unity without diversity," a unity that cannot come about by mere toleration or compromise or seeking to ignore differences. It is only possible through love. It is the same unity that the Father has with the Son (and you know that they don't have differences

This unity is a unity without diversity, a unity that cannot come about by mere toleration or compromise or seeking to ignore differences. It is only possible through love.

in Israel was to be connected to its stem, to the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to its kings and prophets, and to other well-known men who walked with their God. It is little wonder that from this nation came the ancestors of Messiah Yahshua* who was sent to save His people and re-establish their nation.

All the promises that applied to the once-vibrant commonwealth of old Israel applies to the new Israel that our Master established by His death and resurrection. Over the centuries, very few people have ever understood who Israel is and what its purpose is. Some know that ten of its tribes were lost and most of the remaining two were scattered all over the earth, but who understands the significance of Israel's restoration? The Holy Spirit has wisely allowed this secret to remain hidden until a time when the conditions were ripe to raise up a twelve tribe Israel again on the earth. The clues to this mystery unfolding are plentifully supplied

in the Scriptures: *Isa 49:5-6; Jer 23:8; John 10:16; 11:52; Acts 26:7; Eph 2:12; James 1:1; Rev 7:4-8.*

Israel will once again be gathered into twelve tribes, into clans and communities like the first church in Jerusalem. Springing up from the dust like a root out of dry ground, or like a tender shoot from the stump of an ancient tree, the new Israel will appear in twelve different locations on earth. Their warmth, joy, and hospitality will invite men from all nations, tribes, and languages to take part in their social life. They will call themselves the House of Jacob, the Israel of God, the Twelve Tribes. The life of self-sacrificing love that they have for each other will spread across national boundaries. All of the clans in all of the tribes will be united together. They will give, even beyond their means, to help those in other locations. The life of heaven will come to earth.

Denominations

IT DID NOT TAKE LONG FOR SEEDS OF DIVISION TO begin taking root in the early church. You can clearly see Paul warning the church in Rome, exhorting them to continue to abide in God's lovingkindness and tender mercies (*Rom 11:22*). He told them if they did not continue to obey the Master's commands, they would be cut off (*Acts 3:22-23*).

Likewise, Paul was very concerned that the Corinthians would go astray in their minds, for there were already divisions among them (*1 Cor 3:1-3*). Although he wanted to present them to our Savior as a pure virgin, he could discern that Satan was deceiving them by his craftiness, giving them another gospel, another spirit. They were being led astray from their simple devotion to the Son of God which kept them abiding in His love and bound them together in the unity of the Spirit. There was no diversity of opinion among them until they began thinking they were missing something and could receive it apart from Paul (*2 Cor 11:2-4*).

Thus, the diversity that people in the early church allowed in their hearts opened the door for the evil one to begin driving wedges between them. As jealousy and strife filled their hearts, they began to divide into sects with some following Paul, some Apollos, and some Peter (*1 Cor 3:1-4*).

This diversity of opinion grew to the point where, in the fourth century, the descendents of the church in Rome and the descendents of the church in Corinth divided from each other into the Eastern Orthodox Church and the Roman Catholic Church. This was the beginning of denominationalism. The seeds of division continued to grow in these two sects, even though they both claimed to be ruled by the God who is One (*1 John 1:6; John 8:12; 16:2-3*).

In the 1500s further division arose concerning what the gospel meant, and Protestantism began. Now the Protestants have divided into hundreds of sects, all claiming to be led by the Spirit of the God who is One. So denominationalism, which had its roots in the decline of the early church, is the full-blown outcome of the diversity that individual people tolerated in their hearts while claiming to be in unity (*1 John 1:6*).

This divided condition among Christians is an embarrassment even to the leaders of these sects today, forcing them to reduce the church to a mystical body with no substance from which to demonstrate the love of God to the world (*John 17:20-23*).

of opinion or doctrine). Such unity was evident in the first century communities. The Spirit of love had been poured out in their hearts and the result was that

the congregation of those who believed were of one heart and soul; and not one of them claimed that anything belonging to him was his own; but all things were common property to them. (Acts 4:32)

But it wasn't long before that love began to grow cold, as we mentioned earlier. And an event soon took place which demonstrated clearly that they had lost all hope of being the Stone Kingdom.

After the life of the Spirit died out in the early church, it irreversibly divided into the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox churches. This division meant that they were no longer one church: they were no longer united under one head. This division has never been healed; they have never regained the unity and pure devotion that was evidenced in the early church. In fact, it is impossible that the division actually can be healed.

While many sincere and zealous Christians labor toward unity in diversity in the Ecumenical Movement, true unity cannot happen among these fallen branches. For, just as a person's life would depart from his body, never to return, if he were cut into pieces, so the life of God's Spirit cannot return to the stale corpse of Christianity. But they have not been able to produce the life of love and unity that will bring about His rule on earth. Instead, God's name continues to be dishonored among the nations of the world, and our Master is continually being held up to public shame and ridicule because of the hypocrisy, divisions, factions, and denominations that are promoted by those who profess to know the Son of God.

Today there is a great debate and controversy over the proposed reunion of Roman Catholicism and Eastern Orthodoxy. Although they have been divided for centuries, each continues in the deception that they could still be united under the one true Spirit of God, in whom there is no division. The same is true for all denominations, even though their divisions are beginning to be masked by a so-called

“spiritual unity” where everyone agrees to disagree. This is not the unity that the apostle Paul preached¹² and our Master prayed for.¹³ It is nothing more than a big hoax, though it will eventually appear genuine to everyone but God’s chosen people.

Christianity, whether Catholic, Protestant, or Ecumenical — cannot be the Stone because it has been in existence for centuries. *Daniel 2:44* makes it clear that the Stone Kingdom cannot begin to be cut out from the mountain until the ten toes, or ten kings, are alive on the earth. But if Christianity isn’t the Stone Kingdom, who is? And how does it relate to the prophecy concerning the ten kings?

THE UNHOLY ALLIANCE

In the guise of returning decency to society, there is a deceptive scheme at work in political and religious circles today — people who believe that God’s purposes on the earth will best be served if Christians will grab the reins of political power. History shows us what happens when religious leaders control politics. Since the time of Constantine until the conflict in Northern Ireland, religion and politics have not mixed without shedding blood. Catholics murdered their heretics and Protestants murdered theirs. Almost everyone persecuted the Jews. Such religious oppression has only recently been curtailed in governments like the United States, where a separation of church and state has been enshrined in a constitution and enforced by adherence to it.

Nonetheless, many Christians believe the kingdom of God is going to come to earth through mixing the clay of Christianity with the iron of western civilization once again. It would be easy to mistake the feet and the toes of partly iron and partly clay for a fifth kingdom. But no matter how much clay one adds to the world, it will not become God’s kingdom. It can only be an extension of the fourth kingdom, the legs of iron. The book of *Daniel* makes it clear that the ten kings will arise out of the fourth kingdom.¹⁴ The two elements of iron and clay, which can never mix, are social democracy and ecumenism, because one is political and one is religious. Despite the appearance of world peace and unity, it will be a facade that deceives all but the elect. It will look appealing. It will look like the answer to the problems of world hunger, overpopulation, environmental disaster, etc. But it will be a lie.

The amazing thing is how the ten kings will come into power. The Book of *Revelation* also prophesies concerning the ten kings. The prophet saw a vision of

the great prostitute ... a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns. The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet, and was glittering with gold, precious stones, and pearls. She had a golden cup in her hand, filled with abominable things and the filth of her adulteries ... I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of the saints ...
(*Revelation 17:1,3,4,6*)

The explanation of this vision by an angel revealed that...

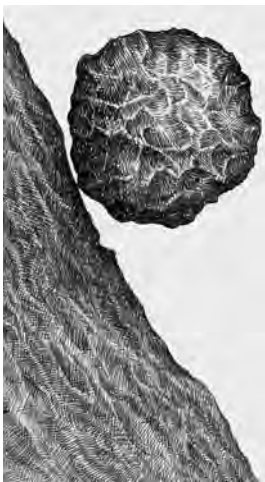
the ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but who for one hour will receive authority as kings along with the beast. They have one purpose and will give their power and authority to the beast...The woman you saw is the great city that rules over the kings of the earth.
(*Revelation 17:12-13,18*)

Clearly the ten kings come into power under the sway of this prostitute. Doesn’t this portray an accurate picture of Christianity’s role in human history?

Hasn’t she continued the words of her supposed Master in order to have the very power and wealth that He preached against?¹⁵ Hasn’t she united herself with the rulers of the earth since the days of Constantine in order to secure worldly influence for herself? Hasn’t she consistently used her influence to spill the blood of those whose faith differed from her doctrine? And haven’t the earth’s rulers always made use of her influence to motivate the masses to obey decrees, go to war, vote, etc.?

Yes, Christian leaders, from the popes of the Middle Ages to the Billy Grahams of





This Stone brings an end to world history in this age. It will endure forever and never be destroyed.

today, have maintained an unholy alliance with political leaders, each exploiting the other for their own ends. Consider the recent book *His Holiness* in which Karl Bernstein documents and concludes that Pope John Paul XXIII is the most influential *political* figure of the twentieth century, being instrumental in the reconstruction of Europe, including such events as the toppling of the Berlin Wall. So it shouldn't be surprising that the ten kings would rise to power through the influence of Christianity, and vice versa. But when?

THE COMING OF THE TEN KINGS

The political and economic unification in Europe is the beginning of the formation of that confederation of ten kings (the feet and toes). Eventually ten nations will be formed. Witness the dramatic rejoining of East and West Germany into a single nation over the last decade. No one expected it could happen, and political prophets did not foresee it.

Having begun in the fourth century, by 1054 A.D. the schism between the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox Churches foretold the fall of the fourth world empire. Similarly, the unification of Christian denominations through the Ecumenical movement will signal the coming together of the ten kings (ten toes) into a unity that will revive the fourth kingdom to the stature of a world empire. The European Union is a reality and its common currency has become reality. In the meantime, the aim of the Ecumenical movement is to achieve a worldwide Christian unity that will unite the nations of this earth and thus bring about peace on earth. So we can see that the purpose of Ecumenism is to be the Christian catalyst that will unite the ten kings of Europe.

THE CHISELING HAS BEGUN

Even as we see the Ecumenical movement becoming the catalyst for the revival of the fourth world empire, we are also beginning to see a people being hewn out of the mountain of the world. Those who have been hewn out

are being drawn together into communities of love that will grow to be the Stone Kingdom. During the life of the ten rulers depicted by the toes, God will raise up this kingdom and His name will be great among the nations.

And your eyes will see this and you will say, "The Lord be magnified beyond the border of Israel! ... for from the rising of the sun even to its setting, My name will be great among the nations."
(Malachi 1:5,11)

They will be the restored, fully developed Body of Christ, the twelve tribe Israel which will roll down that mountain and crush the toes, destroying the kingdoms of the world forever. Of this fifth kingdom there will never be an end, nor will it ever be left to another people. This kingdom will continue into the coming new age, governing the whole world and expanding throughout the universe into eternity.¹⁶

THE BINDING POWER OF LOVE

The gospel of the Stone Kingdom will be proclaimed in the whole world as a demonstration to all nations, and then the end will come.¹⁷ This Stone Kingdom will be Yahshua's* kingdom which will be held together by love. It will be His Body, His Bride, perfected in love. It will bring about the end of the age. It is the Stone that will cause the giant, the great statue, the world government, to topple, so that the government of God will be able to reign on the earth. This will happen thoroughly and quickly.¹⁸ But in the end, the kingdom of the world will become the kingdom of our God who shall reign forever and ever.¹⁹

It will happen because the Son of God will split the sky and return, once there is a people of faith gathered to receive Him. They will be Daniel's people.²⁰ This is the fifth kingdom, the Stone Kingdom. This Stone brings an end to world history in this age. It will endure forever and never be destroyed.²¹ 🌐

*See page 34 for an explanation about the name Yahshua ¹Daniel 2:37-43 ²Daniel 2:44-45 ³See *What about the Heathen*, p.30, which explains three categories of people: the Holy, the Righteous, and the Unjust & Filthy, and their three distinct eternal destinies. ⁴Apart from the Holy, who will inherit eternal life in the City of God as His children, because they were devoted to obedience to His commands, there are the Righteous (who follow their conscience, fear God, and respect others), and the Unjust & Filthy (who take advantage of others or ruin their lives with moral corruption). ⁵Acts 4:32 ⁶Daniel 2:41-42 ⁷Daniel 2:44 ⁸Revelation 11:15 ⁹1 Corinthians 15:24 ¹⁰Revelation 19:11-16 ¹¹Matthew 21:44 ¹²1 Corinthians 1:10; Philippians 1:27 ¹³John 17:22-23 ¹⁴Daniel 7:7,23,24 ¹⁵Luke 14:33; 6:24; 12:29-34 ¹⁶Daniel 2:44 ¹⁷Matthew 24:14 ¹⁸Romans 9:28 ¹⁹Revelation 11:15 ²⁰Daniel 12:1 ²¹Daniel 2:44



Where are YOU in Daniel 2?

Do you have a part in the “**Revived Fourth Kingdom**” of iron mixed with clay? (*Daniel 2:43*). Or are you part of the Stone that puts an end to the “**Kingdom of the World**”? (*Revelation 11:15; Daniel 2:44*). The Stone is God’s Kingdom:

“In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will ... crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever.” (Daniel 2:44)

What if you were a part of the feet of the statue — the clay part? Remember, the iron is the civil government, the clay is religion. What if you were part of the “**church**” that is called “**the harlot**” in *Revelation 17 & 18*? This “**woman**” was once pure, but became all those bad things in *Revelation 18:2*. Remember, the beast is the civil government, the woman is religion. One day she mounts the beast and seizes the reins of power (*Revelation 17:3,18*). The next day she is drunk with the blood of the “**saints**” (the holy) (*Revelation 17:6*).

MAKE SURE you are *not* in the woman who is on the back of the beast.

MAKE SURE you are in the woman who is clothed with the sun and crowned with twelve stars (*Revelation 12:1*). She is the mother of all those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of His Son (*Revelation 12:17; Galatians 4:26; Revelation 21:2*). She is the Bride of Messiah, who will be His wife in *Revelation 21:9* — the twelve tribe nation of Israel (*Revelation 21:12; 1 Peter 2:9,10; Revelation 5:9,10; 7:4-8*).

The bad woman persecutes the good woman in *Revelation 17:6*, not the other way around (*Galatians 4:29; 2 Timothy 3:12*). Make sure you are in the **RIGHT WOMAN**. The characteristics of each woman are clear and evident. Examine the qualifications of each woman and see

who fits the description of the bad woman and who fits the description of the good woman... The bad woman was good in the beginning, but became bad (*Revelation 18:2*). She was a sweet child and no one ever dreamed she would grow up the way she did... but at a young age she already began to show signs of going astray. Look at her early childhood in the second and third centuries... then her later childhood in the middle ages... then her teens during the “**reformation**” days... Oh, yes, she seemed to reform, but what a great cost — the murder of thousands of innocent people with slightly suspicious doctrines... does that sound like a reformed young woman? Her guilty jealousy lashed out at all those simple ones who made any attempt to lead a pure life, as a guilty conscience always does.

Her course was set by that time — there was no turning back for her. And yet, like an old drunkard, she still made attempts from time to time to “**revive**” her babyhood devotion with new year’s resolutions... but as always, those resolutions never lasted.

So, she finds herself now a full-grown harlot, trying to cover her blatant inconsistencies with all manner of justifications. But the cognitive see through her thick makeup. Her history tells the tale no matter how pretty she may dress up on Sunday morning.

There is another woman who is small and simple and young and sincere. She could also stray, for all the forces of darkness are certainly aimed at her to get her to follow the path of that old harlot. But, by the grace and strength her God supplies, she will make it.

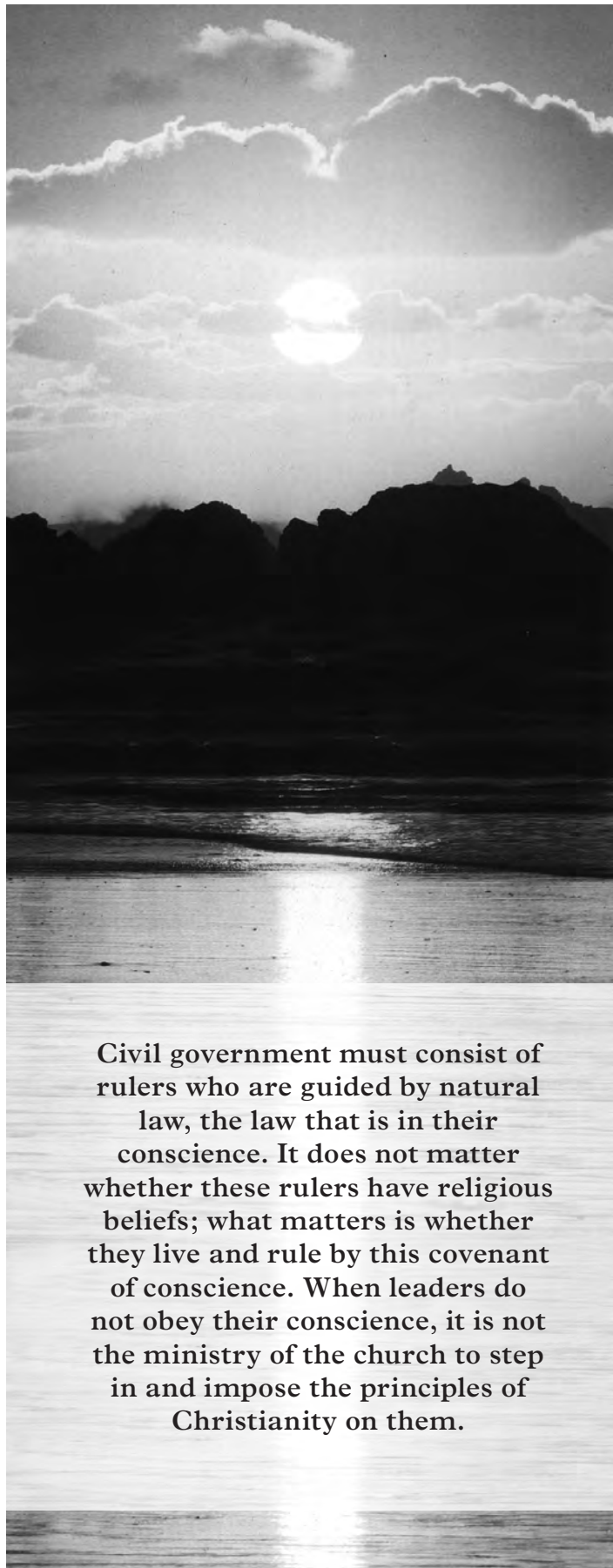
Be wise and be found in her... the pure one. For her substance is solid rock, and only there can you find the qualities of a stone that can smash the statue of *Daniel 2*.

So, which woman are you a part of... the right or the wrong woman? 🌐



Make sure you are not in the woman who is on the back of the beast.

Make sure you are in the woman who is clothed with the sun and crowned with twelve stars.



Civil government must consist of rulers who are guided by natural law, the law that is in their conscience. It does not matter whether these rulers have religious beliefs; what matters is whether they live and rule by this covenant of conscience. When leaders do not obey their conscience, it is not the ministry of the church to step in and impose the principles of Christianity on them.

THE LIGHT AND THE GLORY

WHEN OUR MASTER YAHSHUA* TAUGHT AND put into practice beliefs that were contrary to the traditions of the elders of Israel, He was brought before Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor of Israel. The chief priests and scribes charged Him with proclaiming Himself to be a king, in disregard of allegiance to Caesar.¹ When the chief priests said to Pilate, “*We have no king but Caesar,*”² they confirmed their alliance with Rome. Although Pilate found no fault with our Master Yahshua, they demanded His crucifixion with venomous rage. This pattern of violence and bloodshed has been the result every time a religious establishment has sought the power of the state to enforce adherence to its beliefs and practices. This is an example of a church state, where the government just does what the religious leaders tell it to do.

The Christian church likewise proved its loyalty to Rome when they officially merged in 312 AD, during the reign of the Roman Emperor Constantine. The church fell completely off the foundation when Constantine “*established*” Christianity as the official religion of the Roman Empire. This set in motion an unholy alliance between the church and the state, an adulterous relationship which has continued on through history and marches prophetically toward the consummation of the age.³ Once Rome declared Christianity to be its state religion, the Roman church was instantly clothed with civil authority and began to oppress and persecute all those who disagreed in matters of doctrine or mere opinion.

It had been so different in the early church when the apostles were alive and the hope of Messiah’s return so real. The God they worshipped had wanted no one to perish. How could it possibly be that so many *saints* have

*See page 34 for an explanation of the name *Yahshua*

persecuted so many *sinner*s? How come the people with *good* doctrine kill people with *bad* doctrine?

After Constantine, the church was no longer separate from the world. As Roger Williams, the colonial champion of liberty, put it many years later:

The unknowing zeal of Constantine and other Emperors, did more hurt to Christ Jesus, His Crown and Kingdom, than the raging fury of the most bloody Neros. In the persecutions of the latter, Christians were sweet and fragrant, like spice pounded and beaten in mortars: But those good Emperors ... maintaining their religion by the material sword, I say by this means Christianity was eclipsed, and the professors of it fell asleep. Babel or confusion was ushered in, and by degrees the Gardens of the Churches of the Saints were turned into the Wilderness of whole nations, until the whole world became Christian or Christendom, Revelations 12 and 13. (1644)

With this confusion something besides the church's purity was lost. It was the understanding that there are three eternal destinies for mankind. This was the inevitable consequence of the church marrying the state. Now, the church taught, there were only two kinds of people, the *good* and the *bad*, with only two destinies, *heaven* or *hell*. However, their fate was not based on their goodness or badness, but only on whether they believed in Jesus or not. There was no longer any provision for those who lived according to their conscience, apart from any formal practice of religion.

THE ERROR OF REFORM

For over a thousand years the corruption and atrocities of the Roman Catholic Church continued uninterrupted. Many in the clergy were notoriously immoral, maintaining mistresses or young boys, living in luxury, and delving into political intrigue and treachery. Papal authority was used to coerce kings and princes; church positions were sold to the highest bidder; forgiveness of sins and release of relatives in purgatory were granted to those who contributed large sums to the church; supposed relics of the cross, Jesus' clothes, and beard were bought and sold; heretics were tortured and executed, including the mass slaughter of dissenting religious groups.

During the Renaissance, Martin Luther and others like him eventually rose up in protest of many Catholic traditions. Their hoped-for reforms were unable to purify the

Roman church, much less disentangle her from alliance with civil government, which had lasted 1200 years. In fact, they did not even protest this alliance, which proved them to be no different from the Catholic Church. Instead, they continued on in the same tradition with their own alliance with civil government.⁴ Luther's example paved the way for other sects of the Protestant Reformation to become established state churches, continuing in the Constantinian pattern. Thus the Reformers all ironically committed the same error as the Catholics had before them.⁵ As history so tragically reveals, the leaders of the Reformation quickly joined blood-stained hands with their Catholic opponents in persecuting anyone who differed from their doctrines.

ROGER WILLIAMS

But the God of heaven did have men and women of conscience on the earth, and foremost among them in the early days of the American colonies was Roger Williams,⁶ a man to whom the whole world is indebted.⁷ His uncompromising stand against the oppressive Puritan government in Massachusetts, and his later work in establishing Rhode Island,⁸ laid the foundation for the kind of government we have in America — one that protects the freedoms which are so necessary in order for God to establish what He desires in these last days.

Williams saw that there must be a restoration of apostolic authority and the life of the early church apart from the control of the state in order for God to have a people for whom His Son could return.⁹ He knew he was not the man to bring it about, and that it would be left to another generation in the future.¹⁰ Still, he devoted his life to establishing in Rhode Island a form of government which would protect religious freedom. Little did he know that the principles which he gave his whole life for would emerge in the hearts of men like Thomas Jefferson and James Madison a century later, thereby finding their way into the Declaration of Independence and the First Amendment to the Constitution.

The religious persecution in Massachusetts differed little from what he had witnessed growing up in England, and he spoke out against it. The pattern was clear. In many colonies one denomination would gain recognition, obtaining a charter through the civil government, and begin to persecute other denominations that were not the recognized religion of the day.

Thomas Jefferson, like Williams, used the term *wall of separation*¹¹ to make his very

Williams saw that there must be a restoration of apostolic authority and the life of the early church apart from the control of the state in order for God to have a people for whom His Son could return.



When they [the Church] have opened a gap in the hedge or wall of separation between the garden of the church and the wilderness of the world, God hath ever broke down the wall itself, removed the candlestick, etc., and made His Garden a wilderness, as it is this day.

famous declaration in 1802, acknowledging that, through the First Amendment:

*... the whole American people ... declared that their legislature should "make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof," thus building a wall of separation between Church and State.*¹²

Roger Williams believed that the day would come when Christ would once again commission new apostolic messengers to proclaim the gospel with power and to gather churches according to the original pattern of the early

church. One of the most profound things Roger Williams saw was that the newly formed colonies needed a form of government that would secure and protect the rights of this pure church (the Stone Kingdom) whenever it might be raised up,¹³ so it would be able to exist and grow and mature, completely free from the civil government's control, and free from the imposition of any denomination as a state church. Those who talk about "the light and the glory" and angelic intervention in the establishment of this country

must understand this: ***Roger Williams had the true angelic light. He alone in his day understood that God's holy people would be raised up in another generation and that their future security needed to be ensured.***

ANGELIC GUIDANCE

Angelic intervention is clearly evident in the way the First Amendment of the United States Constitution came to be written, in the midst of great struggle and turmoil. One of the main controversies concerned the degree of control the state should exercise over the practice of religion and the degree to which any particular denomination could be established as a state religion. These conflicts were fierce, and revealed to Madison that the real issue was greater than mere "toleration of religion" espoused by John Locke. He saw the issue as "free exercise" of religion, or "full and equal rights of conscience" for the individual.¹⁴ He understood that government should protect every man's freedom of conscience; this was the limit of the government's role in religious matters. What James Madison, one of the framers of the Constitution, saw from the perspective of civil government, Williams understood spiritually, 100 years before him.¹⁵

The Separation of Church and State

MANY SCRIPTURES SUPPORT THE SEPARATION OF church and state,¹ and men of conscience like Roger Williams have seen the evil that results when they are not separate. There are profound spiritual reasons why the state must not tell the church how to conduct her affairs in any way.² For the church to allow the state to rule over her in spiritual matters is nothing less than changing gods.³ It would be an irreparable breach of loyalty between the church and her Savior. Listen to the words of Roger Williams:

It is the will and command of God, that ... the most Paganish, Jewish, Turkish, or Antichristian consciences and worships, be granted to all men in all Nations... God requireth not an uniformity of Religion to be inacted and inforced in any civil state; which inforced uniformity (sooner or later) is the greatest occasion of civil War, ravishing of

*conscience, persecution ... and of the hypocrisie and destruction of millions ... An inforced uniformity of Religion throughout a Nation confounds the Civil and Religious, denies the principles of Christianity and civility*⁴

Nor was the Church to get involved in the civil government, or meddle with the hearts of the people to turn them away from their rulers. Listen to the words of James Madison, Father of the Constitution:

During almost fifteen centuries has the legal establishment of Christianity been on trial. What have been its fruits? More or less in all places, pride and indolence [laziness] in the Clergy, ignorance and servility in the laity, in both superstition, bigotry and persecution — If Religion be not within the cognizance [jurisdiction] of Civil Government, how can its legal establishment be said to be necessary to Civil Government? What influence in fact have ecclesiastical establishments had on Civil Society? In some instances they have been seen to erect a spiritual tyranny on the ruins of Civil authority; in many instances they have been seen upholding the thrones of political tyranny; in no instance have

Miraculously, the spirit of religious liberty established in Rhode Island's charter, drafted and engineered by Roger Williams, was incorporated into the Declaration of Independence and the Federal Constitution.¹⁶ The First Amendment protects the right to worship God according to the dictates of one's own conscience, unhindered by the state or any religious group.

THE STONE KINGDOM

For more than two hundred years, men have debated how to maintain a proper separation between the state's sphere of authority and that of the church. Whenever these spheres of authority collide, conflicts arise. Moral and social issues today, like abortion, homosexuality, and children's rights, cause violent reactions and counter-reactions from both sides. This continuing climate of tension between church and state will trigger the events necessary to bring about the end of this age.

The evil prince of this world¹⁷ would like nothing better than to destroy the protections of religious freedom, especially in the United States, in order to eliminate the possibility of the Stone Kingdom being raised up in these days — the beginning of “the days of the ten kings.”¹⁸ Before the end of this age can come, and before the Harlot can have the political ties she needs to ride in on the Beast,¹⁹ the

God of heaven must have civil governments that will allow the Stone Kingdom to develop.

NATURAL LAW

Such civil governments must consist of rulers who are guided by natural law,²⁰ the law that is in their conscience. If these rulers have religious beliefs, be they Christians, Jews, or Muslims, then wherever their religious principles agree with natural law, it will help them rule according to their conscience.²¹ In addition to this natural law, rulers ought to be guided not by legislated Christian principles, but by the “light to the nations.”²² This light is a life of love and unity that demonstrates the kingdom of God, a foretaste of life in the age to come.²³ This life is to be separate from the nations, but at the same time a light to them. It is clear that there can be no light demonstrated to the nations apart from a life of love that is being perfected in unity.²⁴ This life must be raised up free of any compromise or connection with the government if it is going to be the Stone Kingdom.²⁵

In sharp contrast to this life of love, Christianity today has no light to offer the rulers of the na-

...by degrees the Gardens of the Churches of the Saints were turned into the Wilderness of whole nations.



*they been seen the guardians of the liberties of the people.*⁵

The whole concept of wedding the church and the state, or even of the church functioning as the conscience of the state, was utterly repugnant to Roger Williams. It was he who first penned the now-famous quotation later used by Thomas Jefferson, “the wall of separation”:

*When they [the Church] have opened a gap in the hedge or wall of separation between the garden of the church and the wilderness of the world, God hath ever broke down the wall itself, removed the Candlestick, etc., and made His Garden a wilderness as it is this day. And that therefore if He will ever please to restore His garden and Paradise again, it must of necessity be walled in peculiarly unto Himself from the world, and all that be saved out of the world are to be transplanted out of the wilderness of the World.*⁶

Roger Williams was one of the first to experience religious persecution for his opinions in the

Massachusetts Bay Colony. He was but one among many in the various colonies who were jailed, branded, banned under penalty of death, or burned at the stake for their different opinions concerning religion. The framers of the Constitution knew this history, as well as the legacy of Christianity in Europe since Constantine. This history is still being written today in the same ink. It was with the fervent desire to close this awful chapter of human history that the framers of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States erected the wall of separation between church and state.

¹Acts 18:12-17 is the prime text, and Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 is another. Acts 12:1-4 is a negative example, as is the Jews before Pilate, John 18,19. ²See Roger Williams and the Stone Kingdom, page 20. ³2 Corinthians 6:14-18 ⁴Roger Williams, *The Complete Writings of Roger Williams* (New York: Russell & Russell, 1963), 3: 3-4. ⁵*The Papers of James Madison*, eds. William T. Hutchinson and William M. E. Rachal (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1962), 8:299-302 ⁶“Mr. Cotton's Letter Lately Printed, Examined and Answered,” *The Complete Writings of Roger Williams*, Vol. 1, page 108 (1644) This is similar to Thomas Jefferson's famous phrase, the wall of separation between church and state.

tions except biblical principles. Using Christian principles to bring moral stability to the governments of the nations is not the same thing as the holy nation that brings light and glory to the world.²⁶ The polity of the Kingdom of God in this age is the twelve-tribed nation of spiritual Israel, a body of believers who live by the highest standard of love²⁷ and not merely the standard of natural law or Christian principles. Christians' lives are integrally tied up in the world system, in all its political, social, and economic aspects. They want to make the world a better place to live, for they are not a people set apart and cannot be a demonstration to the world that they are one with. Since they have no authority from God, they try to gain power in the same way as political parties do. They actively campaign to elect Christians to political office, lobby for certain legislation like any other interest group, and make deals in order to gain power for their own survival.

This is precisely why governments are skeptical of religion. They have maintained the wall of separation to prevent any group from imposing its religious principles on the nation.

Christianity poses a certain kind of threat to government. That's why there is tension between the two. Many Christians believe that this "tension" comes from the conflict of two spiritual kingdoms at war with one another —

Christianity (light) versus the world (darkness). In reality, the tension comes from Christianity trying to usurp the authority of the state. When the Beast eventually destroys the Harlot, it will be because she has gained too much power and influence in the government.²⁸ The authority of the state is legitimate because it is based on conscience. When leaders do not obey their conscience, it is not the ministry of the church to step in and impose the principles of Christianity on them.

ON THE BACK OF THE BEAST

The current movement to "*Reclaim America for Christ*" is the latest, most sophisticated attempt to rewrite American history in order to unite Christianity with the government of this nation. Religious leaders Dr. James Kennedy and Dr. James Dobson, Christian activists Gary Bauer and Beverley LaHaye, and politicians Dan Quayle and Pat Robertson are but a few of a growing number on the bandwagon. Using all the glitter of slick advertising and media attention, such influential men and women are launching a broad-based campaign to make the world a better place to live by cleaning up Hollywood, TV, magazines, and through moral reforms in schools, colleges, sports, businesses, and government. This new "Reformation" movement will some day place Christianity on



Roger Williams and the Stone Kingdom

The Christian Church or Kingdom of the Saints, that Stone cut out of the mountain without human hands, (Daniel 2) now made all one with the mountain or Civil State, the Roman Empire, from whence it is cut or taken: Christ's lilies, garden and love, all one with the thorns, the daughters and wilderness of the World.¹

~Roger Williams, *Bloudy Tenent* (1644)

ROGER WILLIAMS' VIEW OF THE STONE KINGDOM was remarkably accurate.² He understood from reading church history that Christianity could not be the Stone Kingdom of *Daniel 2* because it had fallen away long ago. In his *Bloudy Tenent*, he wrote, "*Christianity fell asleep in the bosom of Constantine, and the laps and bosoms of those Emperors who professed the name of Christ.*"³

the back of the Beast, a government that will one day enslave the whole world.²⁹

THE “MYTH” OF SEPARATION

The spokesmen of this movement claim that America was established as a Christian nation and that therefore the “separation of church and state” is a myth. They intend to make America the theocracy³⁰ which they claim the early colonists were seeking. These Christians go to great lengths to prove the “myth of separation:”

That “wall” was originally introduced [by Jefferson]³¹ as, and understood to be, a one-directional wall protecting the church from the government. This was also Jefferson’s understanding ...³²

They credit Roger Williams as the source from which Jefferson got this concept of a one-way wall. Williams, in his treatise of 1644, *Mr. Cotton’s Letter Lately Printed, Examined and Answered*, made it clear that the wall of separation must go both ways:

The faithful labors of many witnesses of Jesus Christ, extant to the world, abundantly prove that the church of the Jews under the Old Testament in the type, and the church of the Christians in the New Testament in the antitype, were*

both separate from the world, and that when they have opened a gap in the hedge or wall of separation between the garden of the church and the wilderness of the world, God has ever removed the candlestick, et cetera, and made his garden a wilderness, as at this day.³³

By calling for a return to no separation, these Christian activists cite numerous examples of leaders in the colonial era “never separating the struggle for freedom from Biblical principles ... For Samuel Adams there was no separation between political service and spiritual activities.”³⁴ But what these Christian activists fail to see is that, if virtue and knowledge are the chief protection against loss of liberties, these principles must be diffused among the people by individuals choosing to extol them in their personal lives, and in teaching them to their children. Individuals can, in the words of Adams, “lead [their children] in the study and practice of the exalted virtues of the Christian system,”³⁵ but must never force the virtues of the Christian system on anyone through the authority of civil government. It is the current application of “the doctrine of separation” that is at issue, but taking away the wall of separation that does exist in the spirit and application of the First Amendment can never be seen as a solution

The church must be a light, and not a political entity that legislates or forces compliance to biblical principles.

Roger Williams saw that Christianity fell asleep (died spiritually) when it had grown comfortable and compromised with the state. “Good” Christian emperors had seduced the church and she could never regain her lost purity.

This Stone, according to Williams, had been cut out of the mountain of the world in the time of the early church. Something radical had happened when it merged with the Roman civil power, however. The change was so radical it ceased to have the nature of the Stone that would judge the whole world. Instead it became one with the world from which it had been cut, undoing the work of Messiah and doing the work of the evil one.⁴

Williams’ imagery is from the *Song of Songs*. He speaks of Christ’s beloved, His Bride, the Church⁵ as being one with the thorns and the wilderness. This refers to a tasteless and saltless church that is good for nothing anymore, and

which will one day be trampled underfoot by men.⁶ Equally so, he knew the day would come when the Stone would be cut out of the mountain of the world, which all the holy prophets had said would be fulfilled.⁷

Until that time, Roger Williams would only call himself a “waiter” or a “seeker.” His was a costly honesty, for his greatest desire was to serve the God he loved so much, and to do so in sweet communion with all other sincere believers. Yet he knew that until true restoration came through the re-establishment of apostolic authority, Christianity was merely an outward form in which he could not in good conscience take part.

¹Roger Williams, *Bloudy Tenent of Persecution for Cause of Conscience* (1644), p. 174. ²“The Stone,” p. 6 ³*Bloudy Tenent*, p. 184. ⁴1 John 3:8 ⁵Ephesians 5:25-30 ⁶Matthew 5:13 (The true Church is described in Matthew 5:10-16, the one which has not lost its salt. It is offensive enough to the world to be ill-spoken of.) ⁷Acts 3:21

Conflict occurs when the church tries to get the government to cross the line and begin to legislate Christian doctrine to all the people.

to the breakdown of moral standards in society. The church must be a light, and not a political entity that legislates or forces compliance to biblical principles.

The Declaration of Independence establishes “the laws of nature and of nature’s God” as the standard by which civil government should function. Natural law is instinctive in every man’s conscience regardless of his religious beliefs. The language of the First Amendment is clearly written from the perspective of natural law and not from any particular religious belief.

Though many of the framers of the Constitution adhered to the Christian religion in their personal lives, and believed Christian principles to be the correct way in which to lead future generations, they in no way intended to “establish Christianity.” They never intended any religious principle to be forced on any individual’s conscience, much less on an entire nation as was done by the Emperor Constantine. James Madison made it clear:

...During almost fifteen centuries has the legal establishment of Christianity been on trial. What have been its fruits? More or less in all places, pride and indolence [laziness] in the Clergy, ignorance and servility in the laity, in both, superstition, bigotry and persecution...

Conflict occurs when the church tries to get the government to cross the line and begin to legislate Christian doctrine to all the people. This principle is embodied in John Locke’s view that religious strife stems from the tendency of both religious and governmental leaders to overstep their bounds and intermeddle in the others’ affairs:

*I esteem it above all things necessary to distinguish exactly the business of civil government from that of religion, and to settle the just bounds that lie between the one and the other.*³⁶

GRAPPLING WITH THE WALL

The last two hundred years of American history illustrate this tension as those on both sides of the wall grapple with where to draw the line between the legitimate sphere of authority of the state and the legitimate sphere of authority of the church. Where would we be as a nation without the foundation of the First Amendment that gives civil government the freedom to rule according to conscience (whether based on Christian principle or natural law apart from any religion) for the good of all its citizens and gives individuals the freedom to believe and

practice whatever their conscience dictates to them? Although the tension will continue until the end of the age, the wall is established in the foundation of the Constitution, as an example for other nations, so that what the Bible predicts concerning the end times can happen.

In view of what the Scriptures prophesy about the last days, we can see that the movement to “Reclaim America for Christ” is misguided and that Roger Williams was right after all. He had the “angelic light and glory” to see the need for civil government patterned after the Rhode Island Charter of 1663. A hundred years later, James Madison, out of his deep respect for religious liberty, spoke for the need for separation between church and state. His sentiments, as well as those of the other Founding Fathers, emerged in the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and in state constitutions as well.³⁷ That Madison’s views prevailed further establishes the value of Roger Williams’ understanding and example. The real reason this country was established on the broad foundation of religious freedom, not just mere toleration by the state, was for the sake of the Stone Kingdom. Williams foresaw that it would emerge outside the institutions of Christianity and would need the protection of the civil government in order to be established and grow.

WHEN THE WALL COMES TUMBLING DOWN

Since the days of Constantine, the state and the Christian religion have been together, thereby disqualifying Christianity from being the people who will represent the kingdom of God in the last days.³⁸ To this day, she continues to assert herself in the affairs of government, even into this latest venture — “Reclaiming America for Christ.” Christians are involved at every level of American life, in the guise of combating the liberal tendencies in society that try to remove from government any moral standards whatsoever. But by doing so, these Christians are seeking not merely to bring this country’s rulers back to a standard of conscience, but to establish a broad-based and intimate merger of the interests of the state and the doctrines of Christianity in general. They are attempting to do this through legislating the doctrines and principles of the Bible. It is a subtle introduction of a long-standing theology called Reconstructionism or Dominion Theology.³⁹

This is not the “light of the world” influencing the nations with the salt of the earth, because it has no life — only principles from the Bible. It is deadly. The establishment of Christianity will root out all possibilities of non-Christian leadership in government. They will

eventually define “*Christian*” in a way that eliminates all who are on the fringes, classifying them as “*cults*.” It is the breakdown of morality in society at large that is forcing Christians with seemingly good motivations, to actively seek the establishment of Christianity to bring this nation back to the moral standards of days gone by. This is the danger. It poses the greatest threat to religious liberty for us in this day.

The stage is set for the final drama of human history. As civil governments slip further from the restraints of conscience and natural law, and begin to evidence a beastly nature, the fragmented segments of Christian religion are evolving into a kind of superficial unity. This unity will be just strong enough (the alliance of iron and clay) to allow Christianity to mount the state once more and ride into secular power.

True to her nature, she will once again seek to suppress or exterminate all threats to her supposedly eternal security. But in these last days, the age-old story of religious oppression will have a new twist. For in the ranks of the ostracized and persecuted will be a people, a Stone Kingdom, a twelve tribe nation which the God of heaven will set up. Despite all obstacles, it will never be destroyed. It will instead maintain a righteous standard which will allow God to execute judgment, bringing to an end both the political and ecclesiastical powers of wickedness, and ushering in a new age of freedom with Messiah, Yahshua’s* return. 🌐



The establishment of Christianity will root out all possibilities of non-Christian leadership in government. They will eventually define “Christian” in a way that eliminates all who are on the fringes, classifying them as “cults.”

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- ¹John 12:47 ²John 12:48 ³Revelation 17 & 18 ⁴John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*. ⁵D’Aubigne, *History of the Reformation*, book 9, p. 334 ⁶Henry M. King, *Religious Liberty*, p. 26. ⁷See “*The Story of Roger Williams*,” www.twelvetribe.org/publications/story-roger-williams.html
⁸Williams’s *Patent of 1644*, the Assembly’s *Civil Code of 1647*, and John Clarke’s *Charter of 1663*. ⁹“Baptists,” *Encyclopedia Britannica* (1979), v. 2, p. 714. ¹⁰Sidney E. Ahlstrom, *A Religious History of the American People*, Vol. 1, p. 222. ¹¹John Eidsmoe, *Christianity and the Constitution* (MI: Baker Book House, 1987), p. 243; David Barton, *The Myth of Separation* (Wall Builder Press, 1992), p. 42. ¹²Thomas Jefferson, *Jefferson Writings*, Merrill D. Patterson, ed., p.510, Jan. 1, 1802. ¹³Hughes, *The American Quest for the Primitive Church*, p. 41. ¹⁴Hunt, *James Madison and Religious Liberty*, 1 Ann. Rep. Am. Hist. A., p. 163, 166. ¹⁵Michael McConnell, “Origins of Free Exercise,” *Harv. Law Rev.* (May 1990), Vol. 103, p. 1426. ¹⁶“Origins of Free Exercise,” p. 1449. ¹⁷John 5:19 ¹⁸The “Stone Kingdom” is described in *Daniel 2:44-45* as the final kingdom which will put an end to all earthly kingdoms. It will be formed at the same time as the kingdom represented by the feet of iron and clay in Nebuchadnezzar’s dream. The mixture of iron and clay represents the mingling of church and state in the final days of this age. ¹⁹*Revelation 17:1-6* ²⁰According to the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, *natural law* is a moral standard in the human conscience which all men know instinctively, independent of church or Scripture. If men are to live at peace with one another, there are certain rules which must be observed: the keeping of promises, the recognition of human equality, the principles of equity and justice, of parental responsibility, and of marital fidelity. ²¹“Williams, Jefferson and Madison all agreed that the civil competence of the state did not reach to any person’s private acts of belief. Since each person’s belief is private, all the establishment of religion does is impose the conscience of one person, or of one set of persons — the ruler or his magistrates — on everybody else. Jefferson, in particular, noted that the individual, whether ruler or ruled, can answer only for his own belief, ‘founded on the evidence offered to his mind,’ since ‘his own understanding, whether more or less judicious, [is the] only faculty [given by] God.’” (Wills, *Under God — Religion and American Politics*, p. 371) ²²Is 49:6; Matthew 5:14-16 ²³John 1:4 ²⁴John 17:21-23 ²⁵Daniel 2:44; also see Roger Williams, *Bloudy Tenent* (1644), p.174,175. ²⁶1 Peter 2:9-10 ²⁷John 13:34-35 ²⁸Revelation 17:16-18 ²⁹Revelation 17:3; 18:1-24 ³⁰*theocracy* — a type of government which recognizes God as the supreme ruler and which gives temporal authority to the church to interpret and enforce His laws. ³¹Patterson, op.cit., p. 510. ³²Barton, *The Myth of Separation*, p.42. ³³Williams, *Complete Writings*, vol. 1, p. 108. ³⁴Barton, *The Myth of Separation*, p.94. ³⁵Barton, op.cit., p. 116-117. ³⁶J. Locke, “A Letter Concerning Toleration”, in *6 Works of Locke*, (London 1823 and 1963 photo reprint), p.9. ³⁷Michael McConnell, “Origins of Free Exercise,” *Harv. Law Rev.* (May 1990), Vol. 103, p.1455 ³⁸Christianity — whether Catholic, Protestant, or ecumenical — cannot be the Stone because it has been in existence for so long, for centuries... *Daniel 2:44* makes it very clear that the Stone Kingdom cannot even begin to be cut out from the mountain until the ten toes, or ten kings, are alive on the earth. ³⁹See the article, “Dominion Theology” at www.twelvetribe.org/publications/dominion-theology.html

Yahshua* *the Sacrifice*

Anything less than giving up everything belittles His sacrifice on the cross. The spiritual sacrifice of our lives must be as real and true as His physical sacrifice on the cross.



Abel offering a lamb from his flock as a pleasing sacrifice.



Soldiers casting lots for Yahshua's robe.

“BEHOLD, THE MAN!” THE ROMAN RULER of the Jewish people cried these words out to the Jews assembled before him. Pilate saw a value in this man that His own people did not see. Here was a man worthy of respect. It was obvious that His own priests had delivered Him up out of envy. What was it that was so compelling about Him? There, beaten and bloody as He was, stood a man, THE MAN, as Pilate intuitively knew.

If only His people could have understood what those stripes on His back meant. The prophet Isaiah could have told them. He could have given meaning to the appalling sight of Yahshua's beardless and bloody face if words could have come from his grief-stricken heart.¹ But for the generation that crucified the Son of God, Isaiah's words were safely entombed along with his body. They saw Him as a beaten man, but not as the Lamb of God.

No one would ever forget what He looked like that day, least of all those who were closest to Him. His death agony burned itself into their memory, and all the more keenly as they remembered the admirable life He had led, the acts of compassion and love that had filled His days. He was innocent, yet there He hung — where the guilty should have been. They touched the pain that was written on every aspect of His being — the tortured breathing, the blood dripping from his wounds. One of His friends, Yohannan, stood there next to Miriam, the crucified man's mother. There

were only a few like them, unafraid of the consequences. Being there with Him was more important to them than life.

They endured the agony of watching the life being torn from Him. How they longed to satisfy His thirst when He asked, but they could not go to Him. When He finally bowed His head after speaking His last words, they knew it was finished. The life of the man who had meant so much to them had ended. What thoughts Miriam must have had! Her child, who had come from her womb and nursed at her breasts, for whom she had sewn and cooked and cared, was limp and lifeless. Down that lonely hill she walked with Yohannan to whatever life awaited them after such a death.

What pain they felt! What misery they knew! Where was the resurrection He had spoken of? Where was He now? It seemed as though the power of evil had triumphed over the most noble and kind life that had ever existed. Was death then the victor?

O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?

What thanksgiving welled out of them when their grief was ended and they beheld the risen Messiah, radiant with life! Uncontrollable joy burst forth from them, and worship filled their souls. He was alive! They could touch Him. He even ate with them. He was altogether real. In Him the power of death had been broken. There was hope for all men now. Surely one day all grief would come to an end. God's people would at last be set free from all their enemies and all the sins that had led them astray.²

They devoted their lives to sharing the hope they had. They possessed something precious

*See page 34 for an explanation of the name Yahshua

in their hearts which no one could take away, and oh, how they longed to share it with others. They wanted everyone to experience the same deliverance from the finality of death that they had, to know of the resurrection and all that it meant for them. It was such GOOD NEWS!

In His blood, shed so freely that day, was the most marvelous and complete forgiveness. At Calvary the innocent had taken the place of the guilty. The pure and spotless Lamb that God required for sin had been offered and accepted. But never had it happened before that the lamb slain for the sins of the people had come back to life! God had made the sacrifice, just as Abraham had prophesied of Messiah when he went to offer up his son, Isaac, “*God will Himself provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.*”³

AN UNBIEMISHED LAMB

The disciples knew about sacrifice. Blood sacrifices had dominated their lives from childhood. A sacrifice was the destruction or surrender of something valuable to gain something of even greater value. They slaughtered a lamb as the sin offering in order to be restored to the right relationship with God that their sin had destroyed. The sincere knew that they deserved to die for their sins, not the innocent lamb. They cried out to God to accept the substitute of the lamb’s life instead of theirs. Unless the sacrifice was costly — a pure, unblemished lamb — its blood meant nothing to the God of Israel.

“*For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life*” — the true meaning of these words filled the disciples with inexpressible joy.⁴ God gave His only Son for what He wanted more — *us*. Our Master willingly sacrificed His own life (something a lamb could never do) to redeem our lives from death, for that was of greater value to Him than His own life.⁵ Because of His Son’s sacrifice,⁶ God could make the great summons, “*Gather my godly ones to me, those who have made a covenant with Me by sacrifice.*”⁷

HE DISPENSES NO CHEAP GRACE

The purpose of His sacrifice was to set us free so that we could make a willing sacrifice like He did. Nothing else is worthy of Him; nothing else reaches the blood of the Master’s atoning sacrifice. This is the faith that saves and compels you to wholly consecrate and devote your life to the merciful God who saved you.

For the love of Messiah controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, that they who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.⁸

This is what the *New Testament* records about those who received the message of truth, the gospel of their salvation.⁹ The disciples wanted nothing more than to be just like their Master. Possessions, family, jobs, and a respected place in society were all cast aside for His sake and the sake of His gospel.¹⁰ This was the reality of their baptism and of the sacrifice of their lives, without which they could not have received His life.¹¹ They had to give up what was lesser (their life) for what was greater (His life). It was *His* life or *their* life — they couldn’t have both. Just as He had given up everything for them, coming down out of heaven and being the sacrifice their sins required, they sacrificed everything they had for Him.¹² It was the only response a grateful heart could give, the only one that saving faith called forth.¹³ Because of this obedient response, He came to dwell in their hearts, granting them His Holy Spirit.¹⁴ Anything less would have belittled His sacrifice on the cross. They loved Him too much to not give Him everything.

The spiritual sacrifice of our lives must be as real and true as was His physical sacrifice on the cross to Miriam, Yohannan, and the other disciples. If we don’t die to sin and the world, we can never have the witness in our hearts that we are forgiven. He dispenses no cheap grace. It is life for life, a sacrifice. ●

*If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it.*¹⁵



Top: Abraham offering Isaac on the altar. Bottom: Elijah calls down fire from heaven to consume the evening sacrifice.



¹Isaiah 50:5-7 ²Matthew 1:21; Luke 1:68-75; Acts 2:47 ³Genesis 22:8 ⁴John 3:16 ⁵Hebrews 2:14-15 ⁶Isaiah 53:7 ⁷Psalms 50:5 ⁸2 Corinthians 5:14-15 ⁹Ephesians 1:13 ¹⁰Mark 10:29-30 ¹¹Romans 6:3-5 ¹²Philippians 2:5-9; Matthew 10:37-39 ¹³Luke 7:40-50 ¹⁴John 14:15,21,23; Acts 5:32 ¹⁵Luke 9:23-24



Wedding Bells

He has his agenda; she has hers. He is rough and crude sometimes; she prefers to use tender words. They both know how to get their way. It is a marriage of convenience, a strained relationship, with no love lost between them.

“Between the years A.D. 100 and A.D. 500, the Christian Church changed almost beyond recognition...”

The Lion Book of Christian Thought,
by Tony Lane

THE SOUND OF WEDDING BELLS ECHOED through the air in the city of seven hills, proclaiming to all the union of a seemingly idyllic couple.

The groom was a man of stature, risen to the rank of General, fresh from the battlefield in triumph.

The bride was a lovely young lady, her upbringing handled with the finest of care from a tender age. She had been chosen for a special purpose and even betrothed, yet not to this man. She had been betrothed to another husband.

The bride’s name: the *Church*.

The groom’s name: *Constantine*.

This monumental event took place in history in the year 312 AD. It was the marriage of church and state. At their embrace, both parties were changed forever. The mighty civil government of the Roman world became a religious empire, with Christianity at its side as the state religion. The church — originally “betrothed to one husband” in the first century (*2 Corinthians 11:2-3*) — was now a testimony of unfaithfulness, led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Messiah.

By uniting herself to the state government of the world she was becoming part of the world and involved in world affairs

(*John 17:16*), contrary to the words of her betrothed and Master who said that his kingdom was not of this world (*John 18:36*).

What had happened to the first century church described in *Acts 2* and *4*, who had promised to love her Master with an undying love? (*1 Corinthians 16:22*). Once full of fervent love and zeal — devoted to the apostles’ teachings, fellowship (*koinonia*), breaking of bread, and prayer (*Acts 2:42*) — she had lost her first love (*Revelation 2:4*), resulting in a change, a transition in which she became unfaithful. Now she had committed adultery with this king of the earth. She had forgotten the companion of her youth and the covenant of her God (*Proverbs 2:16,17*). Many other harlotries would follow.

Joined to Christianity, the Roman Empire grew to great heights. But the Eastern and Western branches split, confirming what had been predicted about them long before in the dream of Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, as recorded in the *Book of Daniel*. This mighty king had seen a vision of a huge statue with extraordinary brilliance and a frightening appearance. Its head was of fine gold, its breast and arms of silver, its belly

and thighs of bronze, and its two legs of iron (*Daniel 2:31-32*). Here were depicted four world empires that would follow one another: the Babylonians, the Medes and Persians, the Greeks, and the Romans (*Daniel 2:37-40*). After the division and fall of Rome, depicted by the two legs of iron, the king saw that the statue had feet partly of iron and partly of clay (*Daniel 2:41,42*), so it seemed there would arise yet another world empire.

Thus far there have been no more world empires since Rome fell, although various rulers in the ensuing 1,500 years have attempted to revive the Holy Roman Empire. History, to this day, does not record anything corresponding to the feet with its ten toes of iron and clay.

Daniel told the great king that the iron and clay would mix together in marriage: "As you saw the iron mixed with miry clay, so they will mix with one another in marriage, but they will not hold together, just as iron does not mix with clay" (Daniel 2:43, RSV).

Is it possible that wedding bells will ring again on the earth and proclaim to its inhabitants another marriage? Will this be the union of the iron essence of Rome with a religious system so pliant (like clay) that she will give in just like fourth-century Christianity? Will church and state once again unite in a revived, modified expression of that fourth world empire?

Daniel 2:45 says, "The dream is true, and its interpretation is trustworthy." Already we can see the flexible and malleable religious system of today blending together with the political systems of the world. She is infiltrating all levels of government and of business enterprises in order to usher into power a one-world government system. She is making herself attractive by dealing with problems the state has proven it can't really help, like entrenched poverty and juvenile crime. Her very size and stability will seem to offer the state the way to control dangerous religious groups and individuals. This ecclesiastical system will become the woman of *Revelation 17:3,18*, who actually reigns over the kings of the earth, controlling and manipulating the governments of the world to her own advantage, in order to make the world a better place to live. She will attempt to clean up Hollywood, television, magazines, and sports, improving and

reforming schools, colleges, and jobs. Unable to be holy and set apart, she will find a way to live in society — being both in and of the world. So she will bring into existence another "holy empire" — *another Christendom* — a harlot kingdom because she will have united her heart to the kings of the new world empire (*Daniel 2:41-43*).

How clear are the very words of the apostle John in Revelation when he describes this woman as the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her immorality:

"For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the passion of her immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed acts of immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich by the wealth of her sensuality" (Revelation 18:1-3; 19:2).

How far is this description from the pure virgin that was once betrothed to Messiah (*2 Corinthians 11:2*) or the church that He gave Himself up for, to sanctify her and cleanse her, that He might present to Himself a bride in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and blameless (*Ephesians 5:27*).

Of which of these two women are you a part? 🌐



Constantine established Christianity as the official religion of the Roman Empire, thus marrying the church to the state. This created a pattern that has lasted in Europe up until the present day.

Already we can see the flexible, malleable religious system of today blending together with the cold, rigid political systems of the world.

A PLACE TO BELONG

The children of the '60s were a prime example of a generation seeking an alternative way of living from the Judeo-Christian traditions in which they were raised. They were the generation that began to sense the beginnings of a "System" as hard as iron but brittle like clay. This sense fueled a deep desire in most everyone's heart to get back to a life that respects not just the earth and its resources, but also the people of the earth. This was exactly what the community of believers was supposed to be.

THE COMMUNITIES OF THE EARLY CHURCH were meant to be the light of life, the light of the world.¹ They started out that way, but soon deteriorated into the dead institution of Christianity, which is not what it boasts to be.

This is why every generation still craves a life that produces love. Thirty years ago, communes sprang up where everyone shared everything, simply looking for love, wanting to escape the omens of books like *1984* and *Brave New World*. Yes, there was a sense that something radical needed to happen to change the world, but there was no prophetic light to guide that generation into a real alternative. The book of Daniel was still sealed ... the time of the Stone Kingdom had not yet come.



This was the life of love that shook the foundation of the old social order. A radically new way of relating to one another had broken into this age.

SEEKING THE TRUTH

So where do we find that prophetic voice that can actually lead us? Is it time? Where do we find love anyway? And the power to actually do it? If only the Holy Spirit of God could be made real to us, then we would have true life, true community, and true love. It would surely satisfy our craving for a real alternative to the rat race and plastic-Jesus society that is forming into the ten toes of the statue ... the emerging of the "new world order."

If we could just find that place where the life of unity described in the ancient manuscripts of *Acts 2* and *4* was practiced, what hope we would have! But what if we never find that life we read about in the Bible? Can the longing in our hearts to live together in peace ever be satisfied? Is there such a place?

Just like utopia is found "no place," there is no place where the boast of Christianity as a life of love exists as an alternative to the evils of the world. That's why Haight-Ashbury was a valid alternative to Christianity thirty years ago. Christian preachers gave us more talk and more lies than communism or any politician we've ever heard, and left us without hope. They preached a different gospel, another Jesus, a different spirit.² But today both the Movement and Christianity have been destroyed by greed and selfishness and divided beyond redemption.

Since then, every generation strikes out on its own, seeking the truth. If only we could find truth, some light in our spirits, it would pave the way for all our other needs as human beings to be met. But every generation, eventually, is left disappointed and very hurt. The '60s generation now stands with their children and grandchildren with no hope to offer in any alternative, and the religion that promised, yea, boasted of that hope, did not and could not deliver the goods.

If the hope and dream of human beings from every race, the strong and the weak, the rich and the poor, the educated and the illiterate, of living together in true unity, loving one another and constantly striving



for justice in their midst is not happening, where can we go? Where can we look?

Many have returned back to the fold of Christianity, just about brain-dead from a hopeless search. Perhaps dad was right after all. Perhaps there is no real alternative to just making a living, being comfortable. And this is exactly why the Messiah told those of a similarly dead religion,

“If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin, but since you claim to see, your guilt remains.”³

Christianity is dead, but claims to be alive. That’s why the Scriptures call it a home for demons and a haunt for every evil spirit.⁴ It claims to have

the alternative to death, but here the children remain, still hoping for an alternative.

THE STONE KINGDOM IS REAL
Ask yourself this question: Are we living in the days when “those kings” are being formed into an alliance in the land where the seeds of the Roman Empire have been sown? Then ask yourself whether you want to have a place to belong in the statue or a place to belong in the communities that are being cut out of the mountain of the world to be the Stone Kingdom. The God of Daniel is preparing a new social order in these communities that will have the greatest social impact in history. This life of love will have the force to smash the statue, destroying

the old social order that mankind has been enslaved to for 6,000 years. Then it will fill the whole earth. But a new social order cannot exist unless all the things that divided us can somehow be rendered powerless. Then people would be able to live together in community — *actual community*. Actual community is *real* community, one that exists in reality at the present time, where all the people share a common life together.

This only happened one time, for a brief moment, in the first actual community established by the disciples of Yahshua* 2,000 years ago. These men and women had life. They were forgiven people in whom all the barriers of sin that forever divide people had been knocked down by Yahshua’s death on the cross. They experienced a *real common life together*. This was the life of love that shook the foundation of the old social order. A radically new way of relating to one another had broken into this age. Love was its essence, the kind of love that Yahshua demonstrated for us — one of giving yourself up, laying down your life for each other every day.

When actual community ceases to exist, the new social order is held in abeyance. When we see people being real, being able to share a common life together, then we will know that this new social order is being restored here on earth. It is the seed of eternal life, the foothold of the light of the world.

As the prophet Daniel foretold 2,600 years ago, this new social order must be restored on the earth without human hands, that is, by the hand of God. Its emergence is what will bring the old social order to its final end.⁵ Then the new social order will become a great mountain that will fill the whole earth.

The Stone is forming! This is what we are living for. It is what we were created for. It is the only hope for the world. We want to be real — *actual*. We want the actual Kingdom of God to rule the earth forever and ever. 🌐

*See page 34 for an explanation of the name Yahshua. ¹Matthew 5:14 ²Corinthians 11:4 ³John 9:41 ⁴Revelation 18:2,4 ⁵Daniel 2:34,44



Thoughtful people have long struggled in the face of the Christian doctrine of Heaven and Hell, causing them to consider the destiny of the countless millions of people who have never had the opportunity to hear about Jesus.

What about the Heathen?

Are all men doomed to eternal death who have never heard the Gospel? What about the millions of people who have never had the opportunity to hear about Jesus Christ? Are they going to eternal destruction?

THIS QUESTION LOOMS IN THE MINDS OF MANY Christians, and the classic answer, at least from the Calvinist camp, makes God out to be a vindictive¹ monster: *all men are born totally depraved, worthy of eternal damnation regardless of how they live their lives or whether they have ever heard of Jesus* Christ.*

We utterly reject this misrepresentation of God's justice and would like to set the record straight from the Holy Scriptures. While it is *not* possible for a man to work his way to heaven, it is also *not* true that he is doomed to eternal death regardless of how he lives his life. What *is* the truth about man's eternal destiny?

First of all, it is true that when Adam and Eve disobeyed God's command in the Garden of Eden and ate the forbidden fruit, they incurred the sentence of death:

And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." (Genesis 2:16-17)

WHAT ABOUT THE HEATHEN?

Their physical death was not immediate, but their spiritual death was, and their fallen condition was passed on to their offspring, as the record shows, “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”² Therefore, since “the wages of sin is death,”³ then “it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.”⁴

This much is clear to most Christians, but what happens after the judgment? This is the part that is widely misunderstood. But remember, the Bible says, “it is appointed for men to die once...” It doesn’t say *twice*. Yet there is a *second* death:

But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.

(Revelation 21:8)

This verse identifies a certain character of people whose destiny will be a second and unending death in the lake of fire. But what about those who are not of that character? That is why there must be a judgment:

Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

(Revelation 20:11-15)

Let’s be clear: this is *not* the judgment of *believers* in Christ, for their eternal destiny does not depend on their works.⁵ This is the judgment of all those who died *without Christ*. They are raised from the *first* death to be judged as to whether they are worthy of the *second* death, based on how they lived their lives.

Now some will say this judgment is merely a formality — not a judgment at all, but a sentencing. They will say that no one’s name was found written in the Book of Life because they didn’t believe in Jesus,⁶ so all were cast into the lake of fire. They fail to distinguish between this “Book of Life” for the nations and the “Lamb’s Book of Life” for the holy nation. They suppose that God raises men from the first death to stand before Him so that He can gloat at them while He pretends to look up their name in the Book of Life, knowing it will not be there. Then He gleefully casts them into the lake of fire. But this is not God’s character.

Abraham, the father of our faith, when he appealed to God to spare the few righteous in Sodom, knew something about the character of God that escapes many Christians today:

“Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous should be as the wicked; far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?”

(Genesis 18:25)

Of course Abraham was especially thinking of his nephew Lot, and God heard his plea and rescued Lot and his daughters. Although he was not included in the covenant with Abraham, Lot is described as being *righteous*.⁷ And while this passage does not speak of Lot’s eternal destiny, but merely his temporal deliverance from the destruction of Sodom, yet it speaks of God’s character as understood by Abraham, the *friend* of God.⁸

We stand with Abraham, knowing that God will righteously judge all people according to their works, and not just throw them all willy-nilly into the lake of fire. Those who are not *worthy* of the second death will be granted a second life, and it is over them that Messiah and His Bride (those who have truly believed in Him) will rule throughout eternity.⁹

Now let’s take a closer look at the basis of this judgment:

Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil...” (Genesis 3:22)

After Adam ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, he would have to live by that knowledge, choosing to do the good and not to do the evil. Even though fallen man could not do this perfectly, God still held him accountable to exercise his will to overcome the temptation to do evil, just as He told Cain:

“If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if



Exhausting toil—God’s prescription to remedy the plight of man—is now regarded as a thing to be avoided.



The righteous care for even their animals and would not exploit them for their own selfish gain.

you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it.” (Genesis 4:7)

Of course, Cain did not master it, but all are not as Cain. All do not murder. All are not immoral. Many strive to do the good they know in their conscience, and are grieved when they fail, and do everything possible to make restitution when they do wrong. These have a natural righteousness of their own, a natural faith or persuasion that God is good and that He will judge all men justly. They value the dignity of life. They recognize the image of the Creator in His creation. They work hard and are faithful in their marriages.¹⁰ They labor to put their values into their children. They bear suffering without growing bitter. They try to keep a good conscience. And God does not despise their efforts.

True, all men sin and fall short of the glory of God, but not all fall *utterly* short. Glory means weight or value. Adam, before he fell, had great value, having been made in God’s image. When he fell, God’s image in him was marred, but not obliterated. This is very clear from what God said *after*

Adam’s fall, and in fact even after the Flood:

“Whoever sheds man’s blood, by man his blood shall be shed; for in the image of God He made man. And you, be fruitful and multiply; abound on the earth and multiply in it.” (Genesis 9:6-7)

Man still bears God’s image and has great value in God’s eyes, as He requires capital punishment for any who would fail to respect His image in his fellow man to the point of committing murder. But beyond that, God commissioned Noah and his sons after the flood to be fruitful and multiply abundantly on the earth. If man was now worthless and totally depraved, why would a loving Creator want to fill the earth with such creatures?

So fallen man still bears the image of his Creator and retains intrinsic¹¹ worth to the degree that he lives by the knowledge of good and evil inherent¹² in his conscience. Even though he has an inborn inclination to sin, he is able and accountable to do the good that he knows in his conscience and to keep himself from the kinds of sins that would make him worthy of the second death.¹³

Yet regardless of how careful a man is to live by his conscience, he will not do so perfectly, for he is a fallen creature. He will sin, and his sin must be paid for, as it is an inviolable law that the wages of sin is death. A man’s good deeds cannot save him from the consequences of his sin — the first death. His natural righteousness cannot restore him to fellowship with God, nor make him worthy of ruling and reigning with Christ. All of his good deeds are of no more value than filthy rags¹⁴ for obtaining the righteousness of God, which can only be imputed to a man on the basis of faith, which comes from hearing the word of Christ from someone sent to preach the Good News.¹⁵

So whoever dies without Christ must go to the first death to pay the wages of his own sin, since he does not have a sacrifice for his sins. How

then does he pay these wages? It is according to how much worth remains in him, how much integrity and courage he has to face the truth about himself. For in death he is finally alone with his conscience, forced to face his sin, with nowhere to hide and nothing to distract his mind from the awareness of his own guilt. Every evil deed, every base thought, every selfish motive comes out of hiding to torture him. Like a worm burrowing into the recesses of his memory, eating away at his every excuse, so is the path of his thoughts as his conscience fully awakens. The unquenchable fire of his self-inquisition leaves him either weeping in remorse or gnashing his teeth as he resists the truth about himself.¹⁶

Those who resist the truth, reasoning away their guilt even in death, prove themselves unable to pay sin’s wages. They are the same in death as they were in life — set in their ways, their hearts fully hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. A second death awaits them, where they will gnash their teeth eternally. There is a mystery here. King David wrote:

From heaven the LORD looks down and sees all mankind; from His dwelling place He watches all who live on earth — He who forms the hearts of all, who considers everything they do. (Psalm 33:13-15)

The Creator of man forms, fashions, or molds each man’s heart according to what he does or gives himself to. Eventually the heart, like clay, becomes “set” in its way, and so that person’s character will remain eternally¹⁷ — some bent towards evil, and some towards good.

The latter, in death, will weep in remorse, accepting the full responsibility for their sins rather than blaming them on others. They are the ones who are able to pay sin’s wages. When they are resurrected to stand judgment, they will have fully received the discipline of death and will find mercy and not condemnation. This mercy and comfort will come at the hands of the bride of Messiah, who, according to the Apostle Paul, will be

judging the nations on God's behalf.¹⁸ They will wipe away the tears of those who were judged not worthy of the second death:

Then I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." (Revelation 21:2-4)

The "tabernacle" or "dwelling place" of God is the bride or wife of Messiah,¹⁹ who will dwell with men — the resurrected righteous people of the nations. That is how God Himself will be with them — through the wife of Messiah.²⁰ Redeemed Man will rule with Messiah over Restored Man,²¹ and the original commission given to Adam will be restored to him, once sin and death and the evil one himself are no more.²²

"Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth." (Genesis 1:28)

Amazingly, in *Psalm 8*, King David prophesied that man (both the redeemed and restored man) would rule over all the works of God's hands, including all the galaxies of planets. Surely without death, restored man will quickly fill up the earth and go on to colonize the universe with restored humanity, under the ever-increasing government of God²³ — the redeemed corporate²⁴ man, which is the wife²⁵ of Messiah.

So we hope that you can see that there is a lot more in God's heart towards His highest creation, mankind, than to throw countless millions of them into the lake of fire for the crime of not having been born in the right place and time to hear the true gospel. If you are interested in reading more about man's eternal destiny, please visit *The Three Eternal Destinies of Man* section on our web site: www.twelve Tribes.org/3ED/. Or better yet, just come and visit one of our communities and we will be more than happy to talk with you. 🌐

¹*Vindictive* — disposed to seek revenge; showing malicious ill will and a desire to hurt; motivated by spite.

²*Romans 3:23*

³*Romans 6:23*

⁴*Hebrews 9:27*

⁵ There is a judgment of believers that Paul describes in

2 Corinthians 5:10 and 1 Corinthians 3:12-15, but its

purpose is to determine who is worthy to rule with Christ during the Millennial Age. This judgment takes place at Christ's return, 1000 years before the so-called "Great White Throne" judgment. But the eternal destiny of true believers is sealed according to *Ephesians 1:13-14*.

⁶The "cowardly and unbelieving" in *Revelation 21:8*

are those who rejected the gospel as *John 3:18,36*

describes, not those who never heard the gospel. But some Christians will say there is no excuse, because if anyone were really sincere, God would send a missionary to him, even in remotest corner of China. Rightly did our Master say of such self-righteous judges: "Woe to you, for you travel over land and sea to win one convert, and when he is won, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves!" (*Matthew 23:15*)

⁷ *Peter 2:7-8* ⁸ *2 Chronicles 20:7*; *Isaiah 41:8*; *James 2:23*

⁹ *Revelation 22:3-5* ¹⁰ *Genesis 3:16-19*

¹¹ *Intrinsic* — belonging to a thing by its very nature.

¹² *Inherent* — existing as an essential constituent or characteristic; in the nature of something.

¹³ *Revelation 21:8; 22:15*; *Romans 1:28-32*

¹⁴ *Isaiah 64:6* ¹⁵ *Romans 10:13-17*

¹⁶ *Romans 2:14-16*; *Matthew 18:34*; *Acts 2:24*; *1 Corinthians 15:55-56*

¹⁷ *Revelation 22:11* ¹⁸ *1 Corinthians 6:2*

¹⁹ *Revelation 21:9* ²⁰ *Revelation 21:9,12*

²¹ *Revelation 22:5* ²² *Revelation 20:10,14*

²³ *Revelation 21:24*, NKJV; *Isaiah 9:6-7*

²⁴ *Corporate* — composed of individuals acting together as one entity. ²⁵ *Revelation 21:3,9*



The righteous are not perfect and do sin. Still, they work hard and are faithful in their marriages, abiding by the truth they know in their conscience.



The righteous man works hard to provide for his family, living off the sweat of his own brow, not trying to escape the responsibility of being their provider.

For all the people in all the Nations of the world there will be a judgment.

This judgment will be based on what *they have done*, regardless of what they claim to believe.

*“Do not be surprised at this; the time is coming when all the dead in the graves will hear His voice, and they will come out of their graves: **those who have done good** will rise and live, and **those who have done evil** will rise and be condemned.”* (John 5:28-29)

*“The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged **according to what he had done.**”*

(Revelation 20:13)

*“God will give to each person **according to what he has done.** To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor, and immortality, He will give eternal life. But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger.”*

(Romans 2:6-8)

The people in each of the Three Categories of Mankind will exist eternally in a place that has been prepared:

The **Unjust** and the **Filthy** will go to the place prepared for Satan and his angels — experiencing forever and ever a Second Death in the Eternal Lake of Fire.⁵

The **Righteous** will go to the place that has been prepared for them since the world began — enjoying a Second Life in the Nations of God’s Eternal Kingdom.⁶

The **Holy** will experience Eternal Life in the place prepared for God’s very own special people⁷ — they will be His dwelling place forever, metaphorically called the Holy City, New Jerusalem — the Bride of Messiah.⁸

The judgment of those who do Evil will be fair.

No one is born unjust or filthy. People make themselves that way by the things they do. All are born with the knowledge of God in their conscience. They instinctively know right from wrong. The unjust and the filthy do not like to retain that knowledge.⁹ Both classes break the Everlasting Covenant of conscience¹⁰ and callous their hearts by ignoring the truth. As a result, they hurt others and lead others astray from doing what is right. Thus they earn for themselves the fate of Satan and his angels. At the judgment,¹¹ the Second Death will be their Eternal Destiny.¹²

⁵ Matt 25:41,46; Rev 20:14; 21:8 ⁶ Matt 25:34; Rev 21:24,26; 22:2 ⁷ 1 Pet 2:9 ⁸ Rev 21:9-12

⁹ Rom 1:28; Gen 3:22 ¹⁰ Isa 24:5,6; Gen 3:16-19; 9:1-7 ¹¹ Rev 20:11-15 ¹² Matt 25:46



The judgment of those who do Good will be fair.

The Righteous stay within the boundaries of conscience. They are born in a fallen state, and so they DO sin,¹³ but they do not reject the instinctive Knowledge of Good and Evil within them.¹⁴ Instead they obey their conscience; they do not sin so as to ruin others. So, after paying for their sins in death¹⁵ they will rise from the First Death to face judgment.¹⁶ They will not go to the Second Death because they do not deserve it. They do not practice the deeds which the Bible describes as worthy of the Second Death.¹⁷ Since they persevere in doing good¹⁸ their Eternal Destiny will be a Second Life in the Nations.¹⁹

The judgment of the Holy will also be fair.

The Holy have already been judged worthy of Eternal Life. They do not need to face the judgment that decides a person's Eternal Destiny.²⁰ They will not go to a Second Life in the Eternal Nations or to a Second Death in the Lake of Fire. They have already passed out of Eternal Death and into Eternal Life.²¹ This is evident from the daily life of self-denying love that they lead.²²

Seeing that they would be willing to do His will,²³ God redeemed them with the death of His Son,²⁴ Messiah Yahshua and set them apart for His very own plan and purpose. (He did this not because of any good thing that they had done, but only because of His mercy. Most of those He has redeemed were actually on their way to the Second Death.) Their response of wholehearted devotion shows that His suffering in Death for them was worthwhile. He said they will prove themselves worthy of Him by obeying the gospel and leaving behind their own life, property, possessions, family, etc. to become His disciples.²⁵ Those who do not respond this way judge themselves as unworthy of Eternal Life.²⁶ He makes those who do respond into a New Nation who live their lives entirely for Him. Those who obey Him fully will never see death at all, not even the First Death.²⁷ In Eternity they will be Citizens of the Holy City,²⁸ still part of the Holy Nation that they entered in this age.²⁹ They will rule with Messiah Yahshua over the Nations in the Eternal Kingdom of God. ✱

¹³ Rom 3:23 ¹⁴ Rom 1:28 ¹⁵ Rom 6:23 ¹⁶ Heb 9:27 ¹⁷ Rev 21:8; 22:15 ¹⁸ Rom 2:7

¹⁹ Rev 21:24; 22:2 ²⁰ John 5:28,29 ²¹ John 5:24 ²² 1John 3:14,16; Acts 2:44,45; 4:32-35

²³ John 7:17 ²⁴ Isa 53:10; Acts 2:24; 2 Cor 5:15 ²⁵ Matt 10:37-39; Mark 10:29-30; Luke 14:26-33

²⁶ Acts 13:46 ²⁷ John 8:51 ²⁸ Rev 21:10-12 ²⁹ Eph 2:12,13

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1130 Lay Ave, Warsaw, MO 65355 ☎ (660) 438-2541

Common Ground Café 145 E. Main Street,
Warsaw, MO 65355 ☎ (660) 438-2581

CALIFORNIA

Community in Vista 2683 Foothill Drive
Vista, CA 92084 ☎ (760) 295-3852

The Yellow Deli 321 East Broadway
Vista, CA 92084 ☎ (760) 631-1888

Morning Star Ranch, 12458 Keys Creek Rd.
Valley Center, CA 92082 ☎ (760) 742-8953

The Yellow Deli 32011 Lilac Road
Valley Center, CA 92082 ☎ (760) 742-2064

WASHINGTON

Community in Raymond 418 State Route 105
Raymond, WA 98577 ☎ (760) 691-6461

TENNESSEE

Community in Chattanooga 900 Oak Street
Chattanooga, TN 37403 ☎ (423) 752-3071

The Yellow Deli 737 McCallie Ave
Chattanooga, TN 37403 ☎ (423) 386-5210

Community in Pulaski 373 Glendale Drive
Pulaski, TN 38478 ☎ (931) 424-7067

The Yellow Deli 219 S. Third Street,
Pulaski, TN 38478 ☎ (931) 363-8586

VIRGINIA

Stoneybrook Farm (Washington, DC area)
15255 Ashbury Church Rd, Hillsboro, VA 20132
☎ (540) 668-7123

Stoneybrook Farm Market
37091 Charlestown Pike, Hillsboro, VA 20132
☎ (540) 668-9067

NORTH CAROLINA

Gladheart Farm 9 Lora Lane
Asheville, NC 28803 ☎ (828) 274-8747

Community Conference Center
471 Sulphur Springs Road, Hiddenite, NC 28636
(near Statesville & Hickory) ☎ (828) 352-9200

GEORGIA

Community in Savannah 403 E. Hall Street
Savannah, GA 31401 ☎ (912) 232-1165

The Maté Factor 401 E. Hall Street
Savannah, GA 31401 ☎ (912) 235-2906

Community in Brunswick 927 Union Street
Brunswick, GA 31520 ☎ (912) 264-2279

FLORIDA

Community in Arcadia 601 W. Oak Street
Arcadia, FL 34266 ☎ (863) 491-0160

MASSACHUSETTS

Community in Boston 92 Melville Ave.
Dorchester, MA 02124 ☎ (617) 282-9876

Community in Hyannis 14 Main Street
Hyannis, MA 02601 ☎ (508) 790-0555

Common Ground Café 420 Main Street
Hyannis, MA 02601 ☎ (508) 778-8390

Community in Plymouth 35 Warren Ave.
Plymouth, MA 02360 ☎ (508) 747-5338

Blue Blinds Bakery 7 North Street
Plymouth, MA 02360 ☎ (508) 747-0462

Community in Raynham 1128 Pleasant Street,
Raynham, MA 02767 ☎ (508) 884-8834

NEW YORK

Journey's End Farm 7871 SR 81,
Oak Hill, NY 12460 ☎ (518) 239-8148

Common Sense Farm 41 N. Union Street
Cambridge, NY 12816 ☎ (518) 677-5880

Community in Oneonta, 81 Chestnut Street
Oneonta, NY 13820 ☎ (607) 267-4062

The Yellow Deli 134 Main St.
Oneonta, NY 13820 ☎ (607) 431-1155

Community in Ithaca, 119 Third Street
Ithaca, NY 14850 ☎ (607) 272-6915

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Community in Lancaster, 12 High Street
Lancaster, NH 03584 ☎ (603) 788-4376

Simon the Tanner Outfitters
55 Main St, Lancaster, NH 03584 ☎ (603) 788-4379

VERMONT

Community in Island Pond, P.O. Box 449
Island Pond, VT 05846 ☎ (802) 723-9708

Simon the Tanner Outfitters Cross & Main St.
Island Pond, VT 05846 ☎ (802) 723-4452

Basin Farm P.O. Box 108
Bellows Falls, VT 05101 ☎ (802) 463-9264

Community in Rutland 134 Church Street
Rutland, VT 05701 ☎ (802) 773-3764

The Yellow Deli & Hostel 23 Center Street
Rutland, VT 05701 ☎ (802) 775-9800

CANADA (1-888-893-5838)

Community in Winnipeg, 89 East Gate, Winnipeg,
Manitoba R3C 2C2, Canada ☎ (204) 786-8787

The Yellow Deli 596 Fifth St.
Courtenay, BC V9N 1K3, Canada ☎ (250) 897-1111

New Sprout Farm PO Box 189, 7191 Howard Rd.
Merville, BC V0R 2M0, Canada ☎ (250) 337-5444

Mount Sentinel Farm, 2915 Highway 3a South Slocan,
British Columbia V1L 4E2, Canada ☎ (250) 359-6847

The Yellow Deli 202 Vernon Street
Nelson, BC V1L 4E2, Canada ☎ (250) 352-0325

Fairfield Farm (Vancouver) 11450 McSween Road
Chilliwack, BC V2P 6H5, Canada ☎ (604) 795-6199

The Yellow Deli (Vancouver area) 45859 Yale Road,
Chilliwack, BC V2P 2N6, Canada ☎ (604) 702-4442

CZECH REPUBLIC

Preserved Seed Farm
Mšecké Žehrovice 137, CZ-27064, Mšec,
Czech Republic ☎ (420) 728943096

ENGLAND (0800-0743267)

Stentwood Farm Dunkeswell, Honiton,
Devon EX14 4RW, England ☎ (44) 1823-681155

SPAIN

Comunidad de San Sebastián Paseo de Ulia 375
20013 San Sebastián, Spain ☎ (34) 943-32-79-83

Sentido Común General Echagüe 6
20003 San Sebastian, Spain ☎ (34) 943-433-103

FRANCE

Communauté de Sus 11, route du Haut Béarn
64190 Sus/Navarrenx, France ☎ (33) 559-66-1428

ARGENTINA

Comunidad de Buenos Aires
Batallón Norte y Mansilla 120, 1748 General Rodriguez
Buenos Aires, Argentina ☎ (54) 237-484-3409

BRAZIL

Comunidade de Londrina Rua Major Achilles
Ferreira Pimpão 5000, 86040-020
Londrina, Paraná, Brazil ☎ (55) 43-3326-9664

Comunidade de Campo Largo Caixa Postal 1056,
83601-980 Campo Largo Paraná, Brazil ☎ (55) 41-3555-2393

Café Chão Comum Rodovia do Café BR 376
KM 297, 86828-000 Mauá da Serra, Paraná, Brazil
☎ (55) 43-8812-2280

AUSTRALIA

Peppercorn Creek Farm 1375 Old Hume Highway,
Picton, NSW 2571, Australia ☎ (61) 02-4677-2668

The Yellow Deli in Katoomba 214 Katoomba Street
Katoomba, NSW 2780, Australia ☎ (61) 02-4782-9744

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