



RELIGIOUS "AUTHORITY"

It is impossible to read the four gospels without concluding that Peter was accorded a special place among them; listed first at the head of the twelve (Matthew 10:2), and privy to unique occasions in the experiences of Christ (Mark 5:37; Matthew 17:1; Mark 14:33).

by Garner Ted Armstrong

Peter was a man of strong will, physical strength, and absolute devotion to Jesus Christ. Yet, for all his courage and dedication, he was yet

carnal; he did not receive God's Holy Spirit until the day of Pentecost following Christ's ascension. Thus, we see him first fiercely proclaiming his loyalty to Christ, then vehemently denying he ever knew the man dur-

ing Christ's trial and crucifixion. That Peter was a leader among the twelve; that he was one of the three most often with Jesus Christ; that he was the one whose words are preserved for us on Pentecost – of these facts there can be no doubt.

But was Peter the chief apostle? Was he given absolute authority over the others? Did he alone have the so-called *primacy*? Was he the head of the Church; empowered with the authority to "set doctrine," establish all Church customs, and with the power to excommunicate any of his contemporaries? Did he have the power to appoint a successor – no matter his qualifications at his sole subjective discretion – and did Christ command the church to *follow that appointed*

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Dangerous Holy Men

by Mark Armstrong

There seems to be no shortage of "prophets" getting insider information from on high. And, there is apparently an appreciative audience for these types of claims. Remember how Oral Roberts claimed a supernatural visit, warning him that he'd be taken home (meaning deprived of his human life and taken to heaven, I think) if he didn't raise a specific (and rather

large) sum of money within a brief period of time. Yes, that's right, it seems he was commanded to raise eight million bucks or he'd have to come home. But, if he were getting to go home, meaning heaven, you wouldn't have thought that would be such a bad thing. But, apparently his followers believed the story and coughed up not eight, but nine million dollars. Whew! That was close.

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THE SCOURGE OF ANTI-SEMITISM

by Michael Burkert

Once again the news regarding the status of Jews in Europe is not good. Anti-Semitic acts perpetrated by "enlightened, peace loving Muslims," as well as right-wing sympathizers are driving out Jews in France. Already, over 2,500 Jewish families have departed France in the past year. Their destination is Israel. The Jewish families that have left France believe that their safety and security will be

better in Israel. Despite the reign of terror currently being waged by the Palestinian Authority headed by Mahmood Abas, French Jews actually think that their safety will be better served in the Middle-Eastern war zone created by the Muslims.

Incredible! How could this happen? Isn't France a "liberal democracy"? Aren't the other European democracies tolerant of the many religions represented in their countries?

Didn't they learn anything from the intolerance and bigotry of the 1930s and 40s, that led to the murder of over six-million Jews, people murdered *simply because they were Jews*? Events that are unfolding daily in Europe tend to indicate that no one learned anything from the last Holocaust. Where's the UN in all of this? What about Human Rights?

Jews were once a thriving minor-

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Personal from Mark Armstrong:

What's Going on in the Mosques?

A recent report in the British press stated that "George" is no longer the most common name given to newborn boys in England. More children are now being given the name "Mohammed." That should give the Brits pause about what may transpire in the foreseeable future, particularly when viewed in the light of what is being preached in the mosques.

One writer laments that traditional churches in England are being closed down at an alarming rate, while mosques are springing up at an equal pace. According to a recent count, they are now more observing Muslims in England than Anglicans. Muslims are reportedly requesting increased representation in Britain's House of Lords based on their increased share of the population.

Another report that got national attention this week claimed that Muslim preachers are urging Muslim parents to "hit" (a defender said "smack") a daughter who refused to wear the tent-like Islamic women's clothing. From the U.K. *Mirror* writer Bobby Pathak, who carried out a lengthy undercover investigation, comes a number of quotes that were published in the article *Britain's New Preachers of Hate*. Here are a few examples of the kind of rhetoric the Muslims of England are hearing from their religious leaders.

"So you being a Muslim, you have to fix a target. There will be no House of Commons. From that White House to this Black House, we know we have to dismantle it. "Muslims must grow in strength . . . then take over." "...you have to live like a state within a state until you take over. "But until

this happens, you have to preach until you become such a force that the people just submit to you."

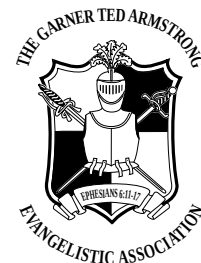
The article notes that many of the Muslim preachers in Britain have been "taught the *wahabi* branch of Islam in Saudi Arabia." In public statements they condemn the slaughter of innocents. They say they are "committed to promoting interfaith dialogue and political harmony." They reject the assertion that they teach "extremism." They say they have no desire or intention to seize power or discriminate...But in the mosques they rant and rave about how they shouldn't be subject to the (legal) authority of infidels. "We hate the *Kuffaar* (infidel)!"

A former CNN reporter who initially stumbled upon a large gathering of the who's who of radical Islamic organizations in Oklahoma City in the early 1990s began his own in-depth investigation into these types of gatherings, and also started to have books and video tapes sold in the Muslim communities in the U.S. translated into English. After quitting his job at CNN, he produced a documentary that aired on PBS entitled *Jihad in America*. Eventually he was called upon to testify before Congress about his findings, under heavy security. The FBI informed him that a Muslim assassination team had been dispatched from South America, and although he declined to enter the witness protection program, he knows he is a marked man and says he's had to live in seclusion ever since. His name is Steve Emerson.

It sure makes you wonder what's being said and done in the many

mosques that have been built around the United States. Fox News is reporting that there are unknown numbers of Hizbollah agents here in the United States, raising money through various means and sending it to leaders in Lebanon. The report includes the fact that many of them have completed military (terrorist) training.

But it looks like the free nations of the world, including our United States has so fervently bought into the ideology of multiculturalism, that any special scrutiny will bring a barrage of lawsuits and charges of "discrimination" or "racial profiling." Stay tuned. The war on terror is a very long way from resolution. □

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CAN "SAN FRANCISCO VALUES" END THE WAR WITH RADICAL ISLAM?

by Michael Burkert

The month of January, 2007 has unveiled a new government in Washington. The Democrats, after 12 years in the cold have returned to political prominence. The House of Representatives, led by Nancy Pelosi is said to be the most RADICAL LEFTIST ever to occupy the Speaker's chair. A San Francisco liberal-socialist, Pelosi represents our nation's most vocal and radical homosexual community.

She also represents a hotbed of leftist ideology that is quick to blame America for the world's problems, and loathe to condemn any foreign dictator or government that is anti-Israel or anti-U.S. She represents a district where anti-Semitism is open, constant and accepted. She would no doubt be happy to throw the fate of tiny Israel to the wind, by withdrawing any and all U.S. support to the Jewish nation. After all, her constituents are more and more vocal in DEMANDING that the U.S. abandon tiny Israel. A cornerstone of "San Francisco values"!

Her stand on unlimited and unrestricted abortion, on demand, at any stage of pregnancy is well documented. As a rabidly anti-Second Amendment firebrand, her "in your face" anti-gun credentials are renowned. A criminal rights activist, her *disdain for victims and support for criminals* is legendary.

Radical leftists are enjoying their victory over the Republicans and smell the political "blood" of the wounded President George W. Bush. What most have FAILED to realize however, is that OUR NATION IS AT WAR. We are at war with a most vicious enemy whose goal is to eradi-

cate both Israel AND the United States of America.

Like it or not, the enemy we face must be dealt with. The question now, as we enter a new chapter in the American experience, is to determine just how radical Islam will be dealt with, or if it will be dealt with at all.

Many members of the new majority party in Washington are of the opinion that if we ignore the problem, it will simply go away. This is the French approach, adhered to by such

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leading Democrats as failed presidential candidate John F. Kerry, Edward "Teddy" Kennedy and the Senate Majority Leader, Harry Reid. Many others in the U.S. Senate share this idea.

Are these distinguished gentlemen correct? Will the radical Islamists leave us alone if we just pack up our army and "re-deploy" to Okinawa (as suggested by Congressman John Murtha, (D-PA) or somewhere else *other than the Middle East*? What if we disavow Israel, cut our political and military ties and leave the Israelis to cope with their Arab neighbors on their own? Would that make the radical Islamists happy? Is this the way to world peace?

The former Republican majority had the best chance to win the war and end the Islamic threat. They failed miserably to do what has to be done. More interested in being accepted by liberal naysayers on the cocktail circuit in Washington, the Republicans abandoned their promises to America in favor of corruption, sometimes only perceived, sometimes blatant, criminal activity which was damaging to the nation.

In abandoning the purpose for which the American people elected them, Republicans forfeited the confidence of the American people in favor of the Democrats.

What will happen to the United States of America if we lose the so-called War on Terror, fail to secure our borders and our nation against indiscriminate attacks on our cities and our people? How many more 9/11 attacks can the United States suffer and still bounce back to our position of world prominence?

Can the Democrats win the war with radical Islam, secure our borders, and lead our nation to continued prosperity in the ensuing years of the 21st Century? Can "San Francisco values" placate our Islamic enemies and win the peace?

The American people spoke loudly last November. Already war-weary as a result of constant partisan media bias, which failed to report any accomplishment or positive actions in the war, the American people succumbed to the anti-Bush rhetoric and clearly showed that they are tired of the war. The partisan media proved its propaganda value to radical leftists and served to unravel the Republican majority in Washington. The

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partisan press it seems, can always be counted on to stab our military in the back and support our enemies.

As stated above, the Republicans failed and provided ample opportunity for Democrats to pound them over "ethics." Even the most innocuous scandal was amplified and dissected in great detail day in and day out by the liberal biased media. Naturally, the double standard rule applied in each and every case. The self-righteous Democrats were indignant over Republican abuses, yet continue to fawn over overtly corrupt members of their own party!

That the liberal media made such a ruckus over a homosexual congressman sending salacious E-mail to underage boys is hypocrisy of the highest order! Liberals, who champion homosexual sex between grown men and young boys, turned on the Florida congressman only because he was a Republican.

More than likely, Speaker Pelosi's reign in Washington will herald in a female president in 2009. Regardless of her successes or failures the partisan media can be counted on to sing her praises at every stage of the way to the crucial 2008 elections. Media fawning over her every utterance in congress will very likely elevate Pelosi to "rock star" status.

An early alliance with the likely Democratic presidential candidate for 2008 will cement her power in Washington. If Pelosi is not currently a power to be respected and reckoned with, she no doubt will be so after January 2009. It will be at that time, when the Democrats will swiftly pass the more radical legislation favored by liberal-socialists and their adherents. Gay marriage will probably be

the law of the land. The furtherance of the homosexual agenda to include the *legalization of pedophilia* may well result. Certainly, San Francisco liberals favor such legislation.

Government takeover of health care in America can be counted on as well. As a close friend in Germany once told me, "*If you think health care is expensive now, wait until it's free!*"

The future doesn't seem too bright for America. A bleak picture of our destiny is beginning to develop, not only regarding the advancement of liberal social issues, but the lack of secure borders and the failure to stand up to the growing tsunami of national defense calamities that will soon be

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in our face.

"San Francisco values" trumpeted by our likely next president and her Speaker of the House of Representatives will attempt to deal with radical Islam by pretending that it's not an issue. The anti-war element of the Democratic party will very possibly put so much pressure on ALL Democratic candidates that they have no choice but to vehemently oppose the WORLDWIDE WAR WITH ISLAM.

Pretending that we are not at war will not make it go away. Pretending that there is no need to secure our borders, no matter what it takes to do so, will not make that problem go

away either. It will render the United States powerless to defend ourselves from any enemy.

Don't think that the Islamics around the world aren't watching the USA with bated breath! They see the U.S. as growing weaker in every imaginable way. They see us as more interested in our i-Pods, MTV and what cool sneakers we choose to wear this week, opposed to confronting the evil of our time, that being ISLAMIC EXPANSION.

There will be no peace without victory. Either the Muslims win, or the non-Muslims win. It can't be any other way. Our Islamic enemies will never quit and why should they, if the United States beats them to it? Already the leftist anti-war, anti-Israel and anti-U.S. element in our nation has created a situation, from which the Islamics are benefiting immensely! Together with never ending partisan media bias, the leftists have very likely created a situation in which we can never win the war.

The new Democratic majority in congress may well engineer our withdrawal from Iraq, as well as draw the blueprint for our defeat in the Middle East. The United States of America may just decide to quit fighting the Islamics. We as a nation, may just decide to invoke the French method of pretending that we have no enemies.

On the other hand, the Islamics will NOT play the same game. They will not just decide to pretend anything. They will continue to pursue WAR against the United States until they achieve victory. End time events may soon overwhelm our nation to the breaking point.

Garner Ted Armstrong said many times that the United States has won our last war. The first time I recall him saying this was during the Vietnam debacle. He didn't mean that we

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successor no matter what?

Catholic Authority

The Roman Catholic Church derives its authority, *not* solely from the Scriptures, but from two other sources as well, each of which is claimed to have equal authority with Scripture, according to Catholic doctrine. They are: (1) The traditions of the "fathers" of the Catholic Church; (2) The pronouncements of the pope when speaking *ex cathedra* from the so-called "Holy See" in Rome. The Bible is only one of *three* authorities by which Catholic doctrine and practice, Catholic dogma, is established. As we shall see, where the Bible and tradition clash, tradition usually prevails.

Popes Not In Unbroken Succession

Though the Catholic Church

claims "Church fathers" as one of their authorities, they seem to reject the pronouncements of these same fathers, accepting only *selectively* from their writings as they desire. Notice what Cyprian, pupil of Tertullian said about so-called "apostolic succession." Cyprian lived from A.D. 200 until 258. He died more than 70 years before the famous Council of Nicea. In the introductory notes on Cyprian's writings (*The Anti-Nicene Fathers* by Roberts and Donaldson): "It [Cyprian's writings] embodies *no hierarchical assumption*, no 'lordship over God's heritage,' but is conceived in the spirit of St. Peter when he *disclaimed* all this, and said, 'The *presbyters* who are among you I exhort, who am also a *presbyter*.' ... nothing can be more delusive than the idea that the medieval system [of Catholic Church government] derives any support from Cyprian's theory of the episcopate or of Church organization. *His was the system of universal parity and community of bishops*. In his scheme *the apostolate was perpetuated in the episcopate*" (*Ante-Nicene Fathers*

Vol. V, p. 263, emphasis mine).

Cyprian knew the apostles were succeeded by the *ministry* of the Church; the "episcopate," consisting of "presbyters" or "bishops," meaning merely, "overseers," or *pastors* of churches! Notice what he wrote concerning the so-called primacy of Peter, "For neither did Peter, whom first the Lord chose...when Paul disputed with him afterwards about circumcision, claim anything to himself insolently, nor arrogantly assume anything; SO AS TO SAY THAT HE HELD THE PRIMACY, and that he ought rather to be obeyed by novices and those lately come" (*Ante-Nicene Fathers*, Vol. V, p. 377; emphasis mine).

No, Peter never claimed any primacy. One looks through scripture in vain to find Peter giving orders to the others. Rather, we find Peter *being sent* by others (Acts 8:14); being openly rebuked by Paul (Gal. 2:11). Cyprian lived only 100 years after the death of John, during that "dark century" when only sketchy information comes to us concerning the condition

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don't have the military might, or the military capability to win. He meant that WE NO LONGER HAVE THE RESOLVE OR THE NATIONAL UNITY to see a conflict through to victory. Sadly, he was correct in his assessment. We are no longer capable of securing victory.

So will "San Francisco values" win the day? Will our Islamic enemies bow down in fear to the new liberal majority in Congress? Will dictators such as Ahmadinejad, or Al-Asad, Chavez, Castro or Khadafi turn tail and run when they hear any of our liberal-socialist congressmen urging

peace and good will, by promising more foreign aid to already wealthy "holy men" in Iran or elsewhere in the Middle East?

"San Francisco values" will only bring on more pain, suffering and self-destruction. The only way out of the messes man has gotten himself into is through Jesus Christ. Yet our stiff-necked, nihilistic, MTV demonic world has dismissed the Eternal God as irrelevant, unnecessary and antiquated!

Little do most Americans know and, sadly, the answers are right in front of us! It's all written down for us and available to anyone who cares to read for himself what the Word of God says about our current situation and our near future. As Herbert W.

Armstrong said many times, "*Blow the dust off your Bible and read it for yourself!*"

The Bible warns us time and time again, that we will pay a high price for abandoning God and His ways! Prophecy is being fulfilled at a breathtaking pace. Right now prophecy is inclined to not favor either Great Britain or the United States. The good news is that we will be delivered from our enemies in due time.

However, getting there is going to be a rough ride! As we move further and further into what your Bible refers to as the end time, expect more chaos, more upheaval and the hardest times you can imagine! Pray always, "THY KINGDOM COME FATHER AND SOON...PLEASE!" □

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of the church. Yet, even this man, a student of Tertullian, denies that Peter ever arrogated to himself any title of "chief apostle," or that he, or any other ministers (presbyters) in the Church claimed Peter had any "primacy."

Who, then, are *you* to believe? Do you accept the Bible as the *authority* concerning claims about the "primacy of Peter," or do you accept the claims of men? In the first century, there were those who "said" they were "apostles." But they lied. We shall see, later, how God congratulated the members of His true church for "trying" them who made such preposterous claims. We are commanded to do the same thing today; to "prove all things," and hold fast to that which is good.

It would require a book-length article to convey all the dozens of proofs from history concerning the *gradual* development of the Roman Catholic governmental hierarchy, and space precludes this. However, historical evidence abounds to disprove the claim of unbroken succession of "popes" from the time of the apostles.

The history of the development of Catholic hierarchical government includes the time when two leaders, each claiming primacy, were busily "excommunicating" each other!

It was not until the late 1800s, in comparatively modern times, that the Roman Catholic Church declared the doctrine of papal infallibility; that the pope, when speaking from the official seat in St. Peter's in Rome, is *infallible* in matters of church custom and doctrine.

Thus, any Church claiming to be governed by "an apostle," does so *solely on the authority of the Roman*

Catholic Church, and not on the authority of the Word of God. For the Bible absolutely proves Peter was *never* regarded as the head of the Church; he was *never* given authority over the other apostles; and he was *never* given the "primacy" over the Church.

Who is Head of the Church?

"Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona: because flesh and blood hath not revealed it to thee, but my Father who is in heaven. And I say unto thee: that thou art Peter [Gk. *Petros*]; and upon

Who is the ROCK? Who is Head of the Church?

this rock [Gk. *Petra*] I will build my church, and the gates of hell [Gk. *Hades*, meaning 'the grave'] shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:17-19).

Who is the ROCK? Who is Head of the Church? Who had the absolute primacy over His Church? Christ, not Peter!

Paul spoke of Christ as the Rock of offence (Romans 9:33), and said, "...for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ!" (I Corinthians 10:4).

By analogy, the Bible speaks of the Church as a building. It is called "an holy temple," and "an house," and "a building."

Now, see the plain statements about who is the "Chief" in the Church; the Chief Cornerstone.

For we are laborers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye [*the Church*] are God's building. According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise master builder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereupon. *For other foundations can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ!*" (I Corinthians 3:9-11). Your Bible insists there is no other "foundation" for the true Church but Jesus Christ Himself!

God inspired Paul to write that Christ is "Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come; and hath put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be the HEAD over all things to the Church. Which is HIS BODY, the fulness of Him that filleth all in all" (Ephesians 1:21, 22).

Who is the head of the Church? Peter? A mere human who makes preposterous claims to great power and authority? No! Jesus Christ is Head!

Notice further: "And He is before all things, and by Him all things consist. And He is the *Head of the body*, the Church: who is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead; that in all things HE MIGHT HAVE THE PREEMINENCE!" (Colossians 1:17, 18). Who has the "primacy"? Christ! Who is "Chief"? Jesus Christ!

As you might know, the statue which claims to represent "St. Peter" in the basilica bearing his name in Rome contains two large keys clutched in the hand. Many other similar representations of "Peter" appear in early church art. It was supposed the powers to "bind and loose," to make *binding decisions in matters of custom and doctrine* were entrusted to Peter, *alone*. Not so! Christ NEVER entrusted the government of His true Church into the hands of ANY ONE MAN! Rather, He ordained *twelve*

equal apostles who collectively helped form the foundation of the Church, together with the spiritual platform of the prophets, with Jesus Christ Himself being the Chief Corner Stone.

It was not until about the third or fourth year of Ambassador College, during a Feast of Tabernacles in Belknap Springs, Oregon (I was in the Navy at the time, but heard of this event many, many times from my father himself; my mother, brother, and many others) that an upperclassman student, Herman Hoeh, speculated aloud from the pulpit during the Feast that my father was an “apostle.” My father was outraged, angry. Not only was he angry that he had been referred to as “an apostle,” but he told me he was further upset that Herman Hoeh had referred to him as the “Elijah who was to come” either in that same sermon, or another.

I don’t remember if he corrected this false impression publicly in a sermon during the Feast. However, my father laid no claim to being “an apostle” from the time of his ordination until approximately 30 years later.

Is “Church Government” the “Image of the Beast”?

I want to quote a few excerpts from that article which are of *extreme historical importance*:

My father asked, “Just what is ‘the Church’? What is its object and purpose – its real mission?”

“Is it an ORGANIZATION or a spiritual ORGANISM, composed of those saints whose names are written in heaven, and who have, and are *led* by the Holy Spirit?” Later, in the body of the article, my father wrote of the disciples: “When Jesus called them, and ordained them, did He give them AUTHORITY TO RULE? Just what did He give them POWER and AUTHOR-

ITY to do?

“Notice it, in Luke 9:1-2.

“ ‘Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority’ – for what? To GOVERN? To RULE the Church? Notice carefully! Let us have a BIBLE REASON for all we accept and do! “ ‘...and gave them power and authority *over all devils, and to cure disease*. And

Christ NEVER entrusted the government of His true Church into the hands of ANY ONE MAN!

He sent them to . . .’ – He sent them to what? To rule and govern? To have supervision over the spiritual affairs of an organization? Notice it, IN THE BIBLE! ‘. . . He sent them *to preach the Kingdom of God, and to heal the sick*.’

“The word ‘apostle’ means ‘one sent.’ The definition in *Cruden’s Concordance* is ‘One sent forth. Used as referring (1) chiefly to one of the 12 disciples of Christ; or (2) to any of various other followers of Christ who did evangelistic work.’

“An apostle does not mean one IN authority, but one UNDER authority – one SENT by the authority of another! The only power and authority Jesus ever gave even His original twelve was to heal the sick, and cast out demons. And He SENT them, not to rule, but to PREACH – not to BEAR author-



ity, but to MINISTER, to serve!”

By the later stages of his life, my father had *completely changed* from this earlier *biblical* understanding. Obviously, he was absolutely *correct* in his concept of just what “an apostle” really WAS in those early years. He went on to write, “True, Paul and a few others are called ‘apostle.’ But an ‘apostle’ is merely ‘ONE SENT.’ If we could find one single scripture where Paul, or any other than the original twelve, ever were called ‘ONE OF THE TWELVE,’ as we freely hear men style themselves today, then we would know the twelve continued on.

“BUT THERE IS NO SUCH SCRIPTURE!

“The words ‘the twelve’ are NEVER used except to refer to the original 12 which accompanied with Jesus throughout His ministry, to be witnesses of His resurrection!”

Are There Any Apostles Today?

With virtual universal agreement, scholars see that the one main requirement for an apostle was to have “seen Christ.” Jesus ordained the original twelve, and Matthias was substituted for Judas Iscariot to insure that perfect number representing “new beginnings” (a number connoting “perfect government” as well) would remain

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intact.

The word "apostle" connotes no lofty office; it conveys no sense of authority, or hierarchical station. Rather, it merely means "one sent," as a "messenger." No one has ever assumed a "messenger" is a person of lofty office, pomp, authority.

Beside the original twelve (meaning Matthias having replaced Judas – the original twelve *after* the resurrection), there were several other apostles. Paul was an apostle, as was Barnabas. Many believe Sylvanus was an apostle, and some believe there were others. However, Paul makes clear the *special qualifications* of an apostleship, as does Peter, in his rebuke of Simon Magus. Peter told Simon, "Thou has neither *part nor lot* with us..." showing that one either had to be a part of the original twelve, or else chosen *by lot*, as was Matthias. An apostleship was not an appointment to pomp, ceremony, money and power. Rather, it was a calling which, in most cases *cost those called their very lives*. It was a calling from Christ Himself; a calling to *preach the gospel* to the world.

As a consequence of preaching that gospel, Christ promised His true servants would be hated and despised of the world, rejected of all nations, not received in splendid pomp and ceremony, given the red carpet treatment. He said, "If the world hates me, the world will hate you," and predicted, "In the world ye shall have tribulation. Be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

He spoke of a time when those who "kill you will think they do God a service." And said, "Woe be unto you when men speak well of you."

As a consequence of being an

apostle – a humble servant of Christ who was sent to preach the gospel of God's soon-coming Kingdom, Paul said he was beaten, jailed, shipwrecked, betrayed by false brethren, suffered every privation and hardship (see II Corinthians 11). Paul was not received as the head of a "foundation," nor as a "college president," nor as an "ambassador for world peace." No, he was scorned, spurned, despised, as was our Savior, Jesus Christ!

Yet, Paul was an *apostle*. Continually, he presented his true credentials, in order to support his preaching

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Christ's gospel. Notice what some of the qualifications were to be an apostle:

Paul wrote, "Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not *seen Jesus Christ our Lord?*" (I Corinthians 9:1). *It was a requirement that an apostle had to have seen Jesus Christ: been with Him, personally!* Paul spent perhaps three and one-half years with Christ, *personally*, in the desert of Arabia! He relates this experience in one of his lengthy defenses of his calling as "one sent," an apostle.

He said, "Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father who raised Him from the dead)" (Galatians 1:1).

Notice Paul was not "appointed" *by a man*. He was not "an apostle" because he was a "successor" to another apostle. He was an apostle because he had *seen Christ* and been appointed *personally* by Christ!

He wrote, "But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the heathen; immediately I conferred *not with flesh and blood*: neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before (in time, not in "rank") me; but I went into Arabia, and returned again unto Damascus. Then *after three years* I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and abode with him fifteen days. But other of the apostles saw I none, save James the Lord's brother... then fourteen years after, I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, and took Titus with me also..." (Galatians 1:15-24).

Paul makes it absolutely clear that Peter enjoyed no position of "primacy" over the other apostles! While Paul acknowledges that Peter was among the three or four of the "chiefest" (*plural!*) apostles in the church, he makes it equally clear that he was not under the *authority* of Peter!

Notice! "But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed" (Galatians 2:11). Here, Paul is relating to the churches at Iconium, Lystra and Derbe in southern Galatia an event that took place, perhaps during the preceding Feast of Tabernacles, when large numbers of leaders in the church and lay members were together; including Jews and Gentiles. Not only did the apostle Paul stand up and publicly rebuke Peter *before the leaders and the brethren* of the church, but he was inspired to *write* of this occasion so that God's Word would perpetuate it, bringing it down

to us in this day so we can plainly see those who claim the “primacy of Peter” are absolutely contrary to scripture!

Why was Peter “to be blamed”? Read on, “For before that certain *came from James* [meaning certain delegates from Jerusalem, where *James*, the brother of Jesus Christ is always mentioned before *Peter*!] he [Peter] did eat with the gentiles: But when they [these brethren who came from James] were come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them which were of the circumcision.

“And the other Jews dissembled likewise with him; insomuch that Barnabas also was carried away with their dissimulation” (Galatians 2:12, 13).

Here was *division* in the church, directly *caused* by a foolish subjective action of Peter! Peter was being a “respector of persons.” Obviously, Peter was not in charge of the church. When these Jewish leaders had “come from James” and arrived in the area where Peter was sitting happily eating and chatting away with *Gentiles*, your inspired Bible tells you that Peter immediately *separated* from them. WHY? Because he “*feared them which were of the circumcision!*” meaning, he feared the Jewish leadership in the church!

Obviously, Peter was not in charge. Peter was not in authority. Rather, he was *under* the authority of other individuals, some of whom he “feared”; men he believed had influence; men who he believed looked down upon the Gentiles.

Now notice what happened: “But when I saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel, I said unto Peter before them all, If thou, being a Jew, livest after the manner of Gentiles, and not as do the Jews, why compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews?

“We who are Jews by nature, and

not sinners of the Gentiles, knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by your works of the law shall no flesh be justified” (Galatians 2:14-16).

Read the rest of that second chapter of Galatians, including Paul’s famous statement “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me, and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved

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me and gave Himself for me” (verse 20); all of which is a continuation of what Paul said to Peter before a considerable group of ministers and lay members when he, Paul, withstood Peter, and rebuked him to his face!

This could NEVER have been done if Peter was the “head of the church”! It *never* would have been accepted by Peter if Peter had enjoyed any “primacy” over the others! If Peter had acted like thousands of brethren assume an “apostle” is to act, he would have swelled up in egotistical wrath, and in stentorian thunder REBUKED Paul, putting him OUT of the Church on the spot! Thousands assume “an apostle” is an individual of towering power, great potential WRATH, and

ABSOLUTE AUTHORITY over the Church in manners of custom, practice and doctrine! Thousands *assume* “an apostle” is to be feared, held in awe, and *instantly obeyed* – NO MATTER WHAT!

Remember, all this explanation of Paul’s early experiences in the faith is being related to the Galatian Churches for the express purpose of proving Paul’s absolute equality with the other apostles. Notice it! “But of these who seemed to be somewhat [the ‘delegates’ arriving from Jerusalem, to whom Peter deferred, and of whom he was ‘afraid,’ wishing to gain favor] (whatsoever they were, it maketh no matter to me: God accepteth no man’s person) for they who seemed to be somewhat in conference added nothing to me: but contrariwise, when they saw that the gospel of the uncircumcision was committed unto me, as the gospel of the circumcision was unto Peter; (for He that wrought effectually in Peter to the apostleship of the circumcision, the same was mighty in me toward the Gentiles:) And when James, Cephas, and John [Notice the order in which they are listed! It is always so; even to the placement of their writings in the Bible. James, Christ’s brother, is always listed *before* Peter because he labored in Jerusalem among other leading apostles. Peter was considered one of the “chiefest” apostles, but was always mentioned after James] perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship, that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision” (Galatians 2:4-9).

This is absolute proof that Peter enjoyed no special “rank” above the others. Paul says those who “seemed to be somewhat” were not impressive to him. Even if Peter was taken aback by their being “somewhat” or “in con-

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RELIGIOUS "AUTHORITY"

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ference," Paul was undaunted.

Now, notice how Paul strove to protect the Corinthian Church from *false apostles*. There were self-appointed teachers; those who had gained their "office" through politics; through racist appeal, who were teaching the imposition of circumcision upon newly-converted Gentiles. Paul wrote of them, "For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus [a different Savior; a Savior concerned about matters of the *flesh*, and not the spirit] whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.

"For I suppose I was not a whit behind the very chiefest apostles..." (II Corinthians 11:4, 5). Then there were apostles – plural, several of them – considered "the very chiefest." No doubt there were those who had more leadership capabilities than others; there were those who were more compelling speakers than others. And there were those God used to perform miracles; in whom the power of the Holy Spirit was more obvious than others. These – several of them, no doubt including James and John, and also Peter, who may have been among the three to five "very chiefest" are said to be *EQUAL* to the apostle Paul! The Holy Spirit inspired Paul to write these words. Why? Why is the Bible so absolutely adamant that Peter WAS NEVER THE CHIEF APOSTLE? Is it because God knew there would come those in the latter days making preposterous claims? Is it because God's Holy Spirit is leading His people to *reject* such claims?

Notice how He congratulates the Ephesian Church! "I know thy works, and thy labour and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil; and thou has TRIED THEM WHICH SAY THEY ARE APOSTLES, AND HAST FOUND THEM LIARS" (Revelation 2:2).

Now, WHO "says" they are apostles? The people? Does the entire congregation of the Church say they are apostles? Is it because of many powerful signs of an apostle? Have there been miracles, signs, wonders, many miraculous healings? WHO says they are apostles? Why, THEY do. Notice the Church is congratulated for trying "those who SAY THEY are apostles!" Oh, then the claim to "apostleship" was made by the false apostles, themselves! But it is interesting that these false apostles did not claim to be the *ONLY* apostle; nor did they claim *THE PRIMACY*!

It was preposterous enough that they claimed "an apostleship." Their claims were blatantly false – and blasphemous! Now, remember! An apostle merely means "one SENT." But, WHO DOES THE SENDING? Jesus Christ of Nazareth does! He said to the original apostles, "Go ye therefore..." The original apostles were directly SENT by Christ! They had to have SEEN Christ to be "apostles." An apostle is not "one appointed." An apostle is not "one elected," or "one who maneuvers into office," or one who is "the successor." No, an apostle is *ONE SENT*. That means an apostle *has a calling directly from God!*

Paul did not go to Jerusalem to request "approval" for his labors; rather, after *FOURTEEN WHOLE YEARS* he went to Jerusalem to show the apostles there what God had already accomplished! He did not seek "approval," he merely wanted cooperation; brotherly love, understanding. Christ had already approved Paul's works. Christ had converted him,

taught him personally, and SENT him to preach the gospel to the Gentiles.

Peter NEVER claimed any "primacy" over all the others. Rather, he wrote, "The elders which are among you I exhort, *who am also an elder*, and a WITNESS OF THE SUFFERINGS OF CHRIST [Peter had "seen Christ!"] ... feed the flock of God which is among you... NEITHER AS BEING LORDS OVER GOD'S HERITAGE ... yea, all of you be subject *ONE TO ANOTHER*, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble" (I Peter 5:1-5).

No, Peter did not have the primacy. There are no apostles alive today, nor have there been since the last apostle died. Christ promised His true Church would continue: He SENT the original apostles, HIMSELF. They had SEEN CHRIST, and they were witnesses of His sufferings; witnesses to the resurrection. Today, Christ's ministers carry on the work of preaching the gospel of the Kingdom of God to the world as a witness and a warning, knowing Jesus Christ said, "Lo, I am with you always." Christ's true ministers lay claim to no lofty titles. They claim no "primacy" over anyone, let alone over each other. Rather, with the apostle Paul they realized there is one way they might be "chief." And what was that? Let the Holy Spirit answer! "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief" (I Timothy 1:15).

But Paul went on to say, "Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on Him to life everlasting. Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen" (I Timothy 1:16, 17). □

ANTI-SEMITISM

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ity in Europe. In 1933, the year that Hitler came to power, there were 520,000 Jews in Germany. The Nazis put an end to that. Over 180,000 German Jews were murdered in Hitler's camps. The others either fled Germany, or survived the nightmare of the Holocaust either in one of the camps or in hiding. A small number of Jews survived by pretending that they weren't Jewish. After all, most German Jews looked just like any other German. This was the reason that the Nazis required Jews to wear the yellow star. Otherwise, how would they be able to identify a Jew out and about in the cities and towns?

Despite the fact that during World War II, the Petain government, better known as "Vichy France" happily deported thousands of Jews to concentration camps, some to camps inside France itself, the largest Jewish community remaining in Europe is in France. Over 500,000 Jews live there today. For most, life has been good. Jews have worked hard and earned positions of prominence. Since World War II, the French nation has accommodated their large Jewish community. France has no doubt reaped the rewards and benefits of Jewish ingenuity, entrepreneurship, and plain hard work! Whatever you think or say about our Jewish brethren, they are hard working, industrious people! They give to the community much more than they receive.

There is a slight problem in France however, and the same problem permeates Europe as a whole. The problem is the massive migration of Muslim peoples to Western Europe. As a result of latent anti-Semitism in Europe, and the massive introduction of hostile Muslims, it's only natural to witness a rise in anti-Semitic attitudes and incidents. Simply put, Muslims

have a deep-rooted hatred for Jews and anything Jewish. But then so do many Europeans. The Palestinian Arab cause has been successfully exported to Europe, with every intention of opening new battlegrounds in every European nation possible. The inherent anti-Semitic attitudes extant in Europeans makes Europe a fertile ground for spreading anti-Semitism, anti-Israeli and anti-American sentiment.

HATRED FOR JEWS NEVER ERADICATED FROM GERMANY

Despite the overwhelming defeat of the Third Reich in 1945, and the complete destruction that Germany suffered as a direct result of war brought on by National Socialism, many Germans today believe that it was the Jews who "ruined" Germany. I have actually been told this by Germans on more than one occasion. I have yet to hear a German tell me that the destruction and defeat of Germany was a result due to the National Socialists. Indeed, the Hitler government instituted many laws, policies and practices still enforced in Germany today.

The rise of anti-Semitism is once again problematic. Right-wing political movements, who encourage anti-Semitism, are gaining strength in numbers. The largest right-wing party by far, is the *National Democratic Party*, (NPD) recently joined by the *National Volksunion* or NVU. The so-called National Democrats are headed by Udo Voigt and realizes its strongest support in Saxon-Anhalt, a German *Lander*, or state in the former German Democratic Republic (East Germany). The NPD holds about 17% of the seats in the Saxon-Anhalt State Assembly. The NPD distributes millions of pages of literature each year, mostly advocating the expulsion

of foreigners, and minorities. "GERMANY FOR GERMANS," is their motto. NPD membership increases every year, as more and more Germans assume this attitude. Donations to party coffers are also on the rise. Money is coming in from around the world, including money from sympathetic right-wing groups in the United States.

The economy in Germany, while having improved some in 2006 remains rather stagnant. The government is projecting half of one percent growth for 2007. Immigration from the former communist countries and the Middle East is on the rise. The real threat is a merger of all right-wing neo-Nazi parties. If this occurs, the neo-Nazis will assemble a large voting block, which will make it's impact felt in the national political scene almost immediately. A major failure of the economy, a collapse of the banking system, a collapse of the European currency the "euro" could rapidly bring about an amalgamation of all right-wing elements. The Federal Republic would most likely go the way of the Weimar Republic. A "new order" would descend upon Germany, as it did in 1933.

ANTI-SEMITISM A WORLDWIDE PHENOMENON

Anti-Semitism is the oldest form of bigotry and racism. It is certainly nothing new, and has followed Jews wherever they migrated during the entire period of the *Diaspora*. Bias against Jews has always been a blight on civilizations wherever they have migrated and prospered. Anti-Semitism is the most illogical, irrational phenomenon imaginable!

Throughout the 19th Century, and up to the end of World War I, Jews enjoyed a unique existence in Ger-

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many. Everywhere else in Europe, Jews were subjected to severe discrimination, anti-Jewish sentiments and pogroms. Nineteenth-century pogroms in Russia were famous! Death and destruction were commonly inflicted upon helpless innocent Jews. The least provocation was all that was required to cause riots, mob violence and mass murder of Jews, not only in Russia, but other European nations as well.

However anti-Semitism was at an all time low in Germany during this period. Jews had come into their own, in the fields of engineering, medicine, banking, business, and general academia. The German people knew and understood the benefits they reaped as a result of Jewish accomplishments. Jewish manufacturers hired non-Jewish labor. Jewish businessmen created wealth that benefited non-Jewish workers and their families.

Jews were prominent in the trades as well. Trade Guilds in Germany benefited by the numerous skilled machinists, metal fabricators, millwrights, foundry workers and other skilled members of the Trade Community, who happened to be Jewish. In 1914, the number of Jewish Tradesmen, possessing *Meisterbriefs*, or established "Trade Master" credentials, rivaled those of the Catholic or Lutheran communities. Jewish artisans were known for their skills in the design and manufacture of high-quality goods.

The defeat of the German Empire in 1918 and the subsequent collapse of the Hohenzollern Monarchy brought an end to Jewish prosperity and dominance in many fields of endeavor. The Kaiser and his government had welcomed Jews as essential human resources. Even in the

German Armed Forces, recognition of the importance of Jewish service members was recognized. Accordingly, there existed two distinct oaths of enlistment. There were sufficient numbers of Jewish men serving in the Army and Navy, that a Jewish version of the oath of allegiance to the Kaiser and Empire was deemed appropriate.

The oath that Jewish recruits took was not designed to offend or discriminate. Quite the contrary, it recognized the difference between Jews and Christians, and served to unify the armed forces for a common purpose, that being the defense of the German Empire. Over a hundred

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thousand Jewish men served their nation in World War I. That was more than 20% of all German Jews extant.

They fought on every front, served on vessels at sea, and fought the air battles over France. Some even earned the *Pour le Merite*, the highest medal Germany could bestow upon her heroes. Jews most certainly did not, as the Nazis were quick to claim, "stab Germany in the back" during World War I. The vast majority of Jews were Germans first and Jews second.

This is not to say that anti-Semitism had been eradicated during the period of the German Empire (1871-1918). Anti-Semitism abounded in university clubs and organizations, as well as political par-

ties that existed during that time. The Catholic Church served to perpetuate anti-Semitism even in Germany, where the Catholic population was second only to the Lutherans. At the inception of the German Empire in 1871, Pius IX was the pope extant. Among his many anti-Protestant "Bulls" and decrees, Pius IX also issued strong anti-Jewish sentiments and decrees. He declared the Jews as "Christ killers," and openly opined that Jews had no place in "Christian" lands. He advocated expelling Jews from Europe.

His successor was Leo XIII, who declared Jews "enemies of all Christians," and further declared that the Jews were the "source of all evil." Leo continued to issue strong anti-Semitic statements, which were most certainly taken to heart by his millions of followers. He advocated renewing the Inquisition during his reign.

There existed in Germany, secret organizations that advocated various and sundry issues. One of the secret groups was the *Thule Society*. Thulists were heavy into the occult, and anti-Semitism. The Thule Society provided many of the ideas later developed and refined by the National Socialists. Nazi ideology borrowed heavily from the Thule Society.

Jews in other countries in Europe did not benefit from a benevolent Monarch, as they did in Germany. Most everywhere else in Europe, Jews were forced to live in ghettos. They were restricted from farming, owning farmland, and not allowed to participate in the trades reserved for Christians. Consequently, they were forced into work that was considered demeaning to Christians. The medical profession was actually looked down on for centuries in most European countries. Jews were allowed to become doctors for this reason. Other trades included barbering, as barbers were required to participate

in the preparation of the dead for burial, this profession was considered fit for Jews. The operation of undertaking parlors, tanneries, and pawn brokerages was considered beneath the dignity of Christians, but okay for Jews. There were many other trades and professions that were relegated to the Jews, depending on what country set the rules.

THE NAZI HOLOCAUST WAS NOT THE FIRST

Most people never bother to learn history. The subject of history is probably one of the most loathed subjects in American schools. After all who really cares what “old Joe Smith” did in 1845? Or why does anybody care what some Roman guy did in 31 AD? Unfortunately, those nations and peoples who fail to learn from history are bound to repeat it. The Holocaust is no exception. The first Holocaust or mass murder and destruction of Jews was perpetrated from 610 to about 670 AD. Hundreds of thousands of Jews were killed, enslaved, tortured and relentlessly harassed during the initial spread of Islam. The first Holocaust occurred because the Jews refused to recognize Mohammed as a prophet. Mohammed was so incensed by the Jewish refusal to embrace Islam that he saw to the complete elimination of all Jews from the Arabian Peninsula. Mohammed decreed that Jews and Muslims could not live together in Arabia. Consequently, there are no Jews in Saudi Arabia today. They aren’t allowed to live there. Mohammed’s pogroms and his effort at “ethnic cleansing” was thorough and complete.

The hatred and anti-Semitic beliefs and attitudes are a direct result of the first Holocaust to befall the Jews, as well as the subsequent Papal decrees, the Inquisition, and the continued anti-Jewish stance of many nominal

Christian churches. It’s not only the Roman Catholic Church that taught its followers that the Jews were “Christ killers.” Most all nominal-Christian churches have at one time or the other held to the belief that the Jews were responsible for the murder of Jesus Christ. This belief is still prevalent in Europe.

It makes no difference whether the church is a “reformed” church, a “Baptist” church or a “Presbyterian” church, the common belief is that the Jews are responsible for the murder of Jesus. I remember hearing this in the Methodist Church, when I was a boy. How many believe this today is good question. A well known

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televangelist recently proclaimed that, “God does not hear the prayer of the Jew!” Oh really. What if a Jew were to repent, be baptized, and receive the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands? The televangelist would probably still insist that his prayer would not be heard. I wonder if this famous Sunday morning guy believes that the Jews are “Christ killers.” I wouldn’t be surprised.

Not only has hatred of the Jews been confined to hating “Christ killers.” Jews have been hated out of jealousy as much as anything else. Wherever Jews have migrated, they have prospered. They have done so because of ingenuity, tenacity and hard work. When a European Jew was forced to live on a tiny, sparse

piece of land yet was able to grow food and feed his family, when nobody else had been able to do so, jealousy set in. *Maybe the Jew used witchcraft. Maybe the Jew is in league with the devil. How else could he have grown a crop, where crops won’t grow?* Superstition, distrust, envy and a little “Jew-baiting” from the local church went a long way in perpetrating anti-Semitic feelings that often led to the murder of innocent men, women and children.

CAN ANTI-SEMITISM LEAD TO THE EXPULSION OF ALL JEWS?

Every day, more news of anti-Semitic crimes is reported in the local media. Synagogue burning, desecration of Holocaust memorials, desecration of Jewish cemeteries, harassment of Jews on the streets is increasing. Crime perpetrated against Jews in Europe continues to climb. In some cases, the local police more or less turn the other way. Not much effort goes into solving crimes against Jews.

Many Muslim clerics in Europe are advocating the expulsion of all Jews from Europe. With millions of Muslims in Europe today, and just a few hundred thousands of Jews, the expulsion movement may gain momentum. The neo-Nazis are aligned with the Muslims for convenience. These groups are virulently anti-American, anti-Israel and anti-Semitic. They are also anti-Muslim but play this down. Most neo-Nazis would like nothing better than to expel the Turks, the Lebanese, the Syrians, Iraqis and other Arabs just as soon as possible. They see the expulsion of the Jews as a first step.

One of the recent anti-Semitic policies to resurface in Europe, is the banning of kosher food preparation, spe-

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Holy Men

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But that was a long time ago.

Just last week, another high profile religious leader got, if not a visit, at least something kin to a phone call. I'm not sure just how it happened, but a conversation...well, it might be a blasphemy to even repeat it, so I'm hoping you saw the news report. So too this "prophet" pronounced there will be a terrorist attack resulting in a mass killing here in the United States sometime over the next nine months. He said it wouldn't necessarily be nuclear, but he thinks something along those lines. Well, he might be right about a terrorist attack. Logic like that wouldn't seem to require a divine visit. After all, Iran's president is threatening the future of not only Israel, but the United States as well, about twice a week. Just recently he was quoted throughout the media as saying Iran was preparing to "push the button" on their nuclear program. Some of this is no doubt false bravado, but the nuclear program is real as is Iran's hatred and determination to destroy "the great Satan" as they call us.

In Iran, on the authority of the Ayatollah, they're operating a humanly devised theocracy and systematically brainwashing the very young and impressionable little children to believe that Jews are "apes and pigs"

and devils in human form that must be killed for the glory of "Allah." Parents are being instructed by their Islamic preachers to repeat, and have their children repeat after them, that there is no greater calling than to die as "martyrs" in the process of killing infidels. This is creating a worldwide problem that will plague the western democracies and Christian world for decades to come, assuming our societies as we know them are to survive for decades to come.

As bad as it hurts to recognize it,

**"Never check
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there are some church leaders who parade the likeness or their purported previous connection to my Grandfather, Herbert W. Armstrong as justification to administer yet another type of theocracy and systematic brainwashing over their followers. Some have even claimed divine authority

and taken divine titles upon themselves to demand absolute, unquestioning loyalty and obedience from their followers. This is, I believe, a very frightening and dangerous development. My Grandfather would never have approved of many of the things that have been said and done in his name.

It reminds me of the Jim Jones tragedy. Jones, who claimed direct communication with God, forced 900 followers to drink poisoned Kool Aid. It was a hideous disaster that should forever serve as a stark lesson.

You'll also remember the terrible outcome of the David Koresh movement.

The prospect that my Grandfather's legacy might be used to foster a cult of "man worship" is *contrary to everything he stood for*. It is contrary to everything we stand for, and contrary to what my Dad, Garner Ted Armstrong, taught. "Never check your brains at the door," my Dad said many times. We are free moral agents with God's Word as our guide. Any time someone begins to exalt himself above the Word of God, or twist scripture to elevate *himself* to the level of divine authority, you had better think twice. No, you'd better run!

If you look down through history, or look at the incredible corruption, treachery and bloodshed that has been perpetrated under the supposedly

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cifically kosher slaughter. Five European nations now have imposed bans on kosher slaughter. The reason given is that kosher slaughter is inhumane. Some countries are considering banning the import of kosher meat products. Banning kosher meat was one of the first laws passed after

Hitler took power in 1933. The Nazis said it was for "humane" reasons. The interesting thing is that five years ago in January, 2002, Germany lifted the ban on *Halal* slaughter, so that pious Muslims can eat ritually slaughtered meat products. *Halal* ritual slaughter is very similar to Kosher. It was one of the many practices from Judaism that Mohammed incorporated into Islam.

Middle East immigration is exploding in Europe. There are no signs that it will taper off any time soon. The more Muslims, the more anti-Semitism. Nominal Christians will embrace more and more anti-Semitism, as throughout history, they always have. The next European Holocaust may be upon us sooner than we think possible. History will no doubt, once again repeat itself. □

Jimmy Carter's Book

Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid

Dear Journalist, Many of you may have seen former President Carter's media interviews of late. While I admire many of Carter's significant contributions, his new book, Palestine Peace Not Apartheid, has many serious factual errors and his opinions in several cases do not reflect the current reality of Israel's security concerns and commitment to peace.

Thursday, 14 members of the Carter Center's advisory board resigned, telling Carter in a letter "We can no longer endorse your strident and uncompromising position. This is not the Carter Center or the Jimmy Carter we came to respect and support." Just last month Ken Stein, a fellow at the Carter Center, turned in his resignation letter in which he said that the book was "replete with factual

errors, copied materials not cited, superficialities, glaring omissions and simply invented segments." Not long ago, Israel gave up all of Gaza, making painful sacrifices for peace. The response by the Palestinians has been to launch more than 1,200 rockets into Israeli civilian areas.

I know that Carter cares deeply about human suffering. I too want a better future for the Palestinians, but they're being held back by their failure to recognize Israel, their past peace agreements and renounce terrorism.

If Carter wants to focus on saving lives in the Middle East, I wish he would pay more attention to the Iranian President who says he wants to wipe Israel off the map while he is developing nuclear weapons.

For more background on Carter's book please see <#bronn> works by Ambassador Dennis Ross, Ethan Bronner, deputy foreign editor of The New York Times, Professor Alan Dershowitz, Neal Sher, a New York attorney, and a former executive director of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, Dr. Mitch Bard, Executive Director, American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise, and myself.

*Sincerely, Jennifer Laszlo Mizrahi
theisraelproject.org*

The World According to Carter

The New York Sun, Nov. 22, 2006

By Alan Dershowitz

Sometimes you really can tell a

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Holy Men

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"divine authority" of those who claimed the "primacy," it should be a chilling and lasting reminder.

As my Grandfather and my Dad faithfully taught the acknowledgment and honor only to Jesus Christ, so we still do the same today. My Dad's book *The Real Jesus* has had a profound effect on most who have read it. That's because it showed, from the Bible, that Jesus was a man's man, contrary to the effeminate and strange way he has been portrayed by the mainstream "Christian" organiza-

tions. The truth, thankfully, is pretty plain and straightforward. The laws of God stand regardless of man's attempts to change them, and regardless of any man's, or organization's attempt to enforce them. It is not up to man to make God's judgments. It is not any man's place to inflict punishments on anyone who fails to live up to God's standards or some man's interpretations of those standards, for that matter.

This organization, the Garner Ted Armstrong Evangelistic Association, will never engage in "authoritarian" pronouncements or make demands upon anyone. When I see the Armstrong name being used for such

purposes it makes me sick. And I fear for people who had such great admiration for my Granddad, that they would give their minds over to someone who claims to speak for him.

The actual apostles, who were taught by Jesus Christ Himself, warned against men who would claim divine authority and said, as did the Apostle Paul in II Corinthians 1:24, that *even the apostles themselves* did not have "dominion" over the people's faith, but were to be helpers of their joy. Look it up and read it yourself. It's hard to find either much joy or any truth in the whacked-out pronouncements of today's weird "holy men." □

Jimmy Carter's Book

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book by its cover. President Jimmy Carter's decision to title his new anti-Israel screed "Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid" (Simon & Schuster, 288 pages, \$27) tells it all. His use of the loaded word "apartheid," suggesting an analogy to the hated policies of South Africa, is especially outrageous, considering his acknowledgment buried near the end of his shallow and superficial book that what is going on in Israel today "is unlike that in South Africa—not racism, but the acquisition of land." Nor does he explain that Israel's motivation for holding on to land it captured in a defensive war is the prevention of terrorism. Israel has tried, on several occasions, to exchange land for peace, and what it got instead was terrorism, rockets, and kidnappings launched from the returned land.

Jews, Arabs and Jimmy Carter
The New York Times, Jan. 7, 2007

By Ethan Bronner

This is a strange little book about the Arab-Israeli conflict from a major public figure. It is premised on the notion that Americans too often get only one side of the story, one uncritically sympathetic to Israel, so someone with authority and knowledge needs to offer a fuller picture. Fine idea. The problem is that in this book Jimmy Carter does not do so. Instead, he simply offers a narrative that is

largely unsympathetic to Israel. Israeli bad faith fills the pages. Hollow statements by Israel's enemies are presented without comment. Broader regional developments go largely unexamined. In other words, whether or not Carter is right that most Americans have a distorted view of the conflict, his contribution is to offer a distortion of his own.

Ex-President for Sale
Gather.com, Jan. 9, 2006
By Alan Dershowitz

It now turns out that Jimmy Carter—who is accusing the Jews of buying the silence of the media and politicians regarding criticism of Israel—has been bought and paid for by Arab money. In his recent book tour to promote *Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid*, Carter has been peddling a particularly nasty bit of bigotry. The canard is that Jews own and control the media, and prevent newspapers and the broadcast media from presenting an objective assessment of the Arab-Israeli conflict, and that Jews have bought and paid for every single member of Congress so as to prevent any of them from espousing a balanced position. How else can anyone understand Carter's claims that it is impossible for the media and politicians to speak freely about Israel and the Middle East? The only explanation – and one that Carter tap dances around, but won't come out and say directly

– is that Jews control the media and buy politicians. Carter then presents himself as the sole heroic figure in American public life who is free of financial constraints to discuss Palestinian suffering at the hands of the Israelis.

Carter's Calumny
Dec. 3, 2006

By Mitchell Bard

By titling his book as he has, Jimmy Carter is not merely being provocative to sell books, he appears to be giving aid and comfort to the new anti-Semites whose goal since the 2001 UN World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance in Durban, South Africa, has been to link Israel to apartheid South Africa.

Curiously enough, if you read through almost the entire book, which persistently accuses Israel of apartheid acts, you arrive at page 189, where he specifically contradicts the entire thesis by stating, "The driving purpose for the forced separation of the two peoples is unlike that in South Africa." In fact, the only tangential support for the title of the book is an anonymous quotation from an Israeli lamenting the treatment of Palestinians. It is clear from the beginning, however, that facts are of little concern to Carter who sees Israel as "the tiny vortex around which swirl the winds of hatred, intolerance, and bloodshed." It is certainly true that Israel is subject to these winds, the question is why he blames the victim. □

Letters

Dear Sir:

Thank you for sending me the little booklet re: Christmas. You have done a very comprehensive study on the changes from paganism to Catholicism, and of course the world in general has followed. What surprised me was with all the thorough research you have done, you failed to discover that the same religious power also changed the fourth commandment so that now the whole world virtually worships on Sunday which is honoring the sun god. Perhaps you found it and just didn't mention the fact.

Sincerely,
M. F., Oregon

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

I can't wait for Saturday mornings to listen to you talk. I have started – as much as I can – to observe the Lord's Sabbath, rather than the sun's day. Thank you for your teaching. I would like to receive the tape and booklet on *Christmas the Untold Story*, and "The True Origin of Christmas," and also *Invasion From Space* and "Visitors From Space," please. This small offering is to help offset the cost.

Thank you and God bless,
St. Louis, MO

Dearest Ministry,

I have your book *Peter's Story* and have recently received the book *The Real Jesus*. These books – I have found – to be so

helpful and understandable, so that now I understand the people and the Bible, so much more. Do you have any other books that you have written, and could I have them sent to me? Enclosed is a donation.

With love,
Jefferson, TX

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

I enjoy the websites and the booklets, articles and webcasts. Keep up the good work!! I was reading the online version of Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong's Booklet *The Real Reason Christ Came To Earth*. In the booklet he made a statement that shocked me. That statement was concerning the date of birth of Jesus Christ. Mr. Armstrong stated, "More than likely Christ was born on the FIRST day of The Feast of Tabernacles." I couldn't agree more!!

W. D. C. in West Virginia

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

I try to start my day in the mornings by reading Your Daily Start. It reminds me to focus on those things which should take precedence in our daily struggle to keep God's commandments. Thanks for all the great work.. Thanks again for all you do and keep up the work.

R. F. in Georgia

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

Thank you first of all for the enlightening material. All of you

have given me a better understanding.

C., in Maryland

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

For years, I been waiting on God and came across your program one day and I watch every Sabbath. It's warming to the soul to hear the truth spoken again. My prayers, good thoughts and blessings are with you.

E. F. in Rhode Island

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

Thank you for spreading the word of God and continuing in the work of your grandfather and father. God has indeed blessed all three generations. I look forward to receiving the tapes. I listen to them every Sabbath with my 84 year old mother. God bless you and again, thank you.

E. in the USA

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

Just a quick little thank you to whomever does the cassette tapes. They came just when I needed them the most. May God continue blessing this work!!

K. E. in Georgia

Dear Mr. Armstrong

I want you to know how very pleased I am that you have "printable" booklets on line. I've lost track of the number I've printed for myself and for others. Thank you very much

A. G. in Ohio

Dear Sir,

Thank you for the CD ROMs you've been sending me. I very

Continued next page

Letters

Continued from page 15

much enjoy them in my home on the Sabbath days. Please keep sending them.

E. H. in Texas

Dear Mr. Armstrong,
[after sending material exposing false doctrine of the trinity]:
Thank you. This is very helpful.
R. L. in the USA

Dear Mr. Armstrong,
Thank you so much. God Bless you for all your hard work. Couldn't do without My Daily Start.
C. in the USA

Dear Mr. Armstrong,
[after sending information on Commandments and Sabbath]:
Hi, great email. Thanks a lot. Really really good. I have read a couple of books on the Sabbath and the law and I thought your email to me summed it up and gave me much more info and insight into the issue about the law. Really explains a lot. Thanks and I appreciate it.
P. W. in the USA

Dear Mr. Armstrong,
Thank you for your email and the valuable information that you sent and thank you for the much needed Bible Correspondence Courses.
T. J. in the USA

Dear Sir,
Thank you—just seeing Garner Ted Armstrong brings back

memories. We enjoy his commentary on Bible prophecy. I remember what he said about a United Europe and the fall of Communism—things we all thought would never happen.
M. N. in New York

Dear Mr. Armstrong,
I just finished going through all of the Correspondence Course lessons that you have put up on the Church site. Great work! All of the time and effort that you put into it really shows in the quality of the end result. I know its just your way of doing your job, but thank you for doing it so well.
J. E. in Texas

Dear Sir,
You have blessed my life beyond words. Have been searching for nothing but TRUTH for 30 yrs. Mr. Armstrong set me on the path. God is with you. Love your Internet!
M. B. in Louisiana

Dear Sir,
Thank you very much. I do so appreciate all the trouble that you went through to help me out.
E. O. in Canada

Dear Mr. Armstrong,
I just read your news commentaries that you automatically send and which I greatly appreciate. Now I'm wondering if I'll be able to get back to sleep. Keep up the good work. I think and pray for you all of the time. I really am becoming alarmed over the events now shaping up and think a great deal about it

too. *G. R. in Canada*

Dear Mr. Armstrong,
[commenting on the weekly Bible questions we have in our Web Report.] We are enjoying this great learning session so much. We have been baptized and members of God's church for four years. Keep up the great work you're doing.
K. W. in the USA

Dear Mr. Armstrong,
I just want to say I'm thankful to have found out about the Inter-continental Church of God. It will help me learn more and more about the truth.
T. S. in Tennessee

Dear Mr. Armstrong,
I just read your article "Iranian Oil Exchange" and the supporting articles by William Clarke and Mike Whitney in the Word From Section of the GTAEA Site. I had not heard about the proposed Iran Oil Bourse until your article. Thank you and please keep us informed with future articles.
J. P. in USA

Dear Sir,
I think it's incredible how you have kept Garner Ted Armstrong alive through this website. He taught me so very much. I am still flabbergasted 28 years later.
P. A. in the USA

Dear Sir,
Thanks for the quick reply. I will read the booklet, *Heaven on Earth*, as you suggested.
G. B. in the USA □

Television Log of GTAEA

- Rhode Island (statewide) Cox Comm., Ch. 14, 9:00 a.m., Sat., Eastern
- “i” Network (formerly PAX), 6:30 a.m., Thurs., Eastern & West Coast
- Sacramento, CA—RCC-TV cable, ch. 19, 10:30 p.m., Sun., Pacific
- Tampa, FL—WTTA, 6:30 a.m., Sat., Eastern
- Paducah/Cape Girardeau, KY—Fox 23/KBSI, ch. 9, 7:00 a.m., Sun., ch. 49, 8:30 a.m., Wed., Central
- Hattiesburg, MS—WHLT, 6:30 a.m., Sun., Eastern
- Dallas/Ft. Worth/Denton, TX, KFWDD ch. 52 or Dish Network 8409 or Direct TV 901, 6:30 a.m., Wed., Central (every other week)
- Springfield, MO—UPN, 9:00 a.m., Sun., Central
- Raleigh/Durham, NC—WRAZ-Fox, 6:30 a.m., Sat., Eastern
- Knoxville, TN—WBXX WB20, ch. 20, 6:30 a.m., Sun., Eastern
- Nashville, TN—WNAB-TV, 8:00 a.m., Mon., Eastern
- Huntsville, AL—WZDX, 6:30 a.m., Mon., Eastern
- Norfolk, VA—WTVZ, 7:00 a.m., Wed., Eastern

Cable Access:

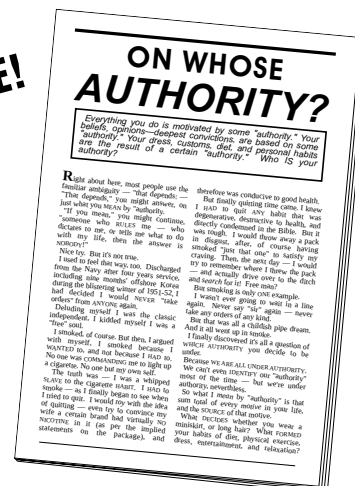
- Inter-Mt.-Cable–WPRG TV-5, 10:30 a.m., Sun., Mountain
- Atlanta, GA, WGCL, 6:30 a.m., Sun., Eastern
- Charleston, WV, Charter cable, ch. 9, 6:30 a.m., Thurs., Eastern
- Ft. Wayne, IN–Cable Access, ch. 10, 2:00 p.m., Sun., Eastern
- Lexington, KY–Public Access, 9:00 a.m. Tues., Central
- Jackson, MO–Galaxy cable, ch. 5, 8:30 a.m., Wed., Eastern
- St. Louis, MO–KDNL, 6:30 a.m., Sat., Central
- Durham, NC–Public Access, ch. 8, 10:00 a.m. Wed., Eastern
- Cincinnati, OH–INSIGHT TV, 9:00 a.m., Sat. and 4:00 p.m., Sun., Eastern
- Bentlyville, PA–INFORMATION ch. 4, 7:00 a.m. Sun. and 9:00 a.m., Mon., Eastern
- St. Paul, MN–SPNN, 11:00 p.m. Sun., Central
- Austin, TX–Cable Access-Austin, 4:00 p.m., Mon., Central
- El Paso, TX–Time Warner Cable, ch. 15, 5:05 p.m., Mon., Mountain
- Norfolk, VA–WTVZ, 6:30 a.m., Mon., Eastern
- Tri-cities/Washington state–FOX, KFFX-TV & KCYU-TV, 6:30 a.m., Sun., Western
- Olympia, WA–TCTV cable, ch. 22, 8:00 a.m., Wed. & Fri., Pacific
- Macon, GA–Public Broadcasting, 7:00 a.m., Fri. and 12:00 noon, Sun., Eastern
- South East Regional Australia, Prime TV, 6:00 a.m., Sun.

Radio:

- Daleville, AL–WTKN, 10:00 a.m. Sun., Central
- Fordyce, AR–KBJT AM 1570, 10:30 a.m., Sun., Central
- Brandon, MS–AM 970, 8:00 a.m., Sun., Central
- Temple / Waco, TX–KTEM, 10:00 a.m., Sun., Central
- Wheeling, WV–WWVA AM, 8:00 a.m., Sun., Eastern



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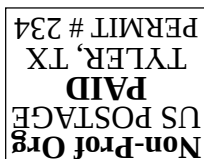


The message of witness and warning is going out to the masses via the GTA television program, books, articles, video and audio tapes and of course our web site, because people like you make it possible. Our sincere thanks to each and every one of you.

Also the INTERNET! Visit our Website:
<http://www.garnertedarmstrong.ws>

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