

21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

# WATCH

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## Mass Migration: A Manmade Crisis

# AS THE WORLD BURNS...

by Mark Armstrong



It's worse than I thought. Apparently those that have been in charge are burning up the phone lines wondering who they can run as president. Biden seemingly mumbled his way through the debate, and given the low expectations, I thought he'd survived it. But maybe not. Jill isn't going, willfully. Biden has to win for a multitude of reasons, not the least of which is that he can steer the investigative agencies. Top names are urging another candidate be found. Other than forcing him out with the 25th amendment, there's no way to get rid of him. Or Jill. But who? Biden still rates higher than any of his potential replacements.

What does the new role of Victor Orban portend for the EU? He's on team Trump, according to his recent statements and wants to make Europe great again. Maybe it doesn't matter

that he thinks the answer to everything going wrong is another Trump presidency. But he's just assumed the rotating presidency of the Council of the European Union.

We've seen the massive tractor protests across Europe. Apparently they go home to tend their crops between demonstrations, but there's no question that the save-the-planet contingent see their point. Europe seems to be ahead of us. They bought into the global warming dogma before us, and it looks like they're now turning to the right, regardless of the angry protests in Paris.

What's happening in Paris is bizarre. They claim that large crowds choking Paris' boulevards are angry that the conservatives are winning. On the fringe you have the zealots (or should I say idiots) starting garbage fires, defacing monuments,

and battling against the police. Fireworks shot at the cops aren't going to solve much. What do they want?

It looks like Europe is ahead of the United States. They can't believe that everyone can't be bullied into compliance. What an outrage! (/s) The true wackos are ready to fight. There's been someone we never heard of calling for those in charge to bring out the military to "take care" of Trump and the Supreme Court members who don't vote right. Sorry Charlie. I'd hate to think of what might happen if anything should happen to Trump.

All the court cases seem to be going sideways or down. They thought their multitude of accusations and alleged "crimes" would do the trick. It's not doing the trick. On the contrary. Their court cases are falling apart everywhere. Everywhere but New

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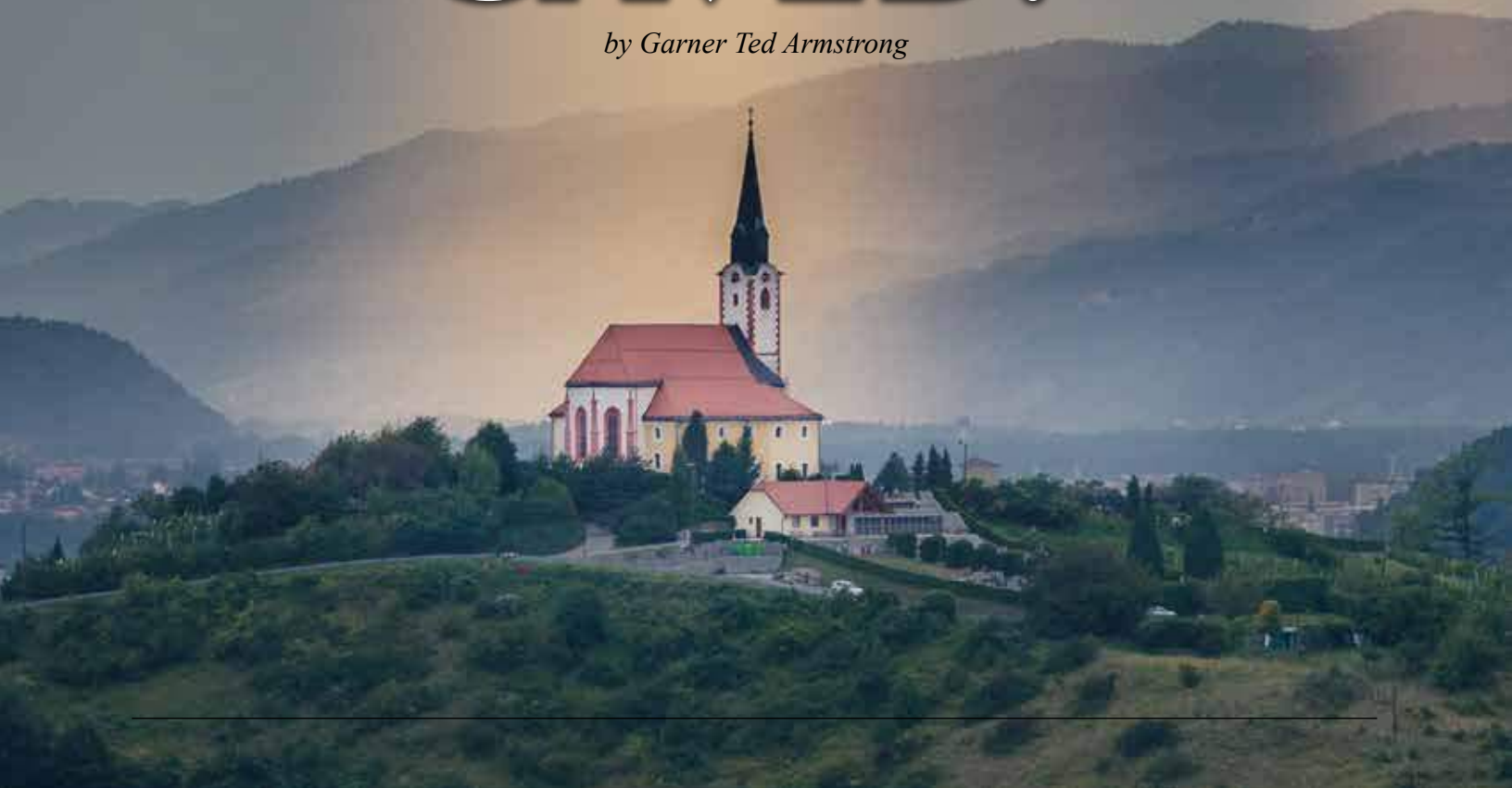
Millions of Americans feel they get all the “church going” they need from watching television on Sundays. Local churches and pastors complain, say the “electronic church” is stealing members. Many people wonder, “Should I go to a church? Can I be saved if I am not a member of a church? Which church should I attend?”

Does it really matter whether you go to a church or not? Do you need to “belong” to a church to be saved?

It's time you saw the answer from your own Bible.

# MUST YOU BE A “MEMBER” OF A CHURCH TO BE SAVED?

*by Garner Ted Armstrong*



Many have boasted, “I am not a churchgoing person, but I know I am as good or better than many of the so-called Christians I see going to church.”

Others are convinced it is only by “having their letter” in a church — having their names on the church rolls, taking their families and going regularly, dutifully every Sunday to church — that they can be saved.

Are you one of these? When the church bells toll on Sunday morning, or when you see other people going by dressed “in their Sunday-go-to-meeting clothes,” does it nag at you with a twinge of guilt, make you wonder whether you should “be in church”?

In the thinking of many millions of churchgoing professing Christians, it is as if there are “many routes” to “heaven,” which they imagine is the reward of the saved.

The only considerations may be the location of the church, the size of the choir, the ability of the preacher, the parking lot, the organist, the soloist, or perhaps where members of their own family and/or friends attend.

Millions of churchgoing professing Christians are utterly ignorant of the true doctrines that form the basis of their denomination.

One could visit any number of Baptist, Methodist, Lutheran, Congregationalist or other denominational churches and hear their sermons, and yet be struck by the marked similarity of the fare they hear.

That’s because most church messages tend to be on “neutral

subjects,” do not necessarily rebuke, exhort or admonish the congregations, and tend to stay away from strong, hard, doctrinal truths and the real “meat” of the doctrinal beliefs of that church.

Isn’t it time you understood what is a church, where God’s church really is, what that church is like, what it is supposed to do, and how you can get into it?

### “CHURCH” - JUST WHAT IS IT?

Most would answer “a building,” or “a denomination of believers,” or a “religious organization.”

Gradually, over many, many years, the original Greek word “*ekklesia*,” which meant “called-out ones,” has changed in meaning to become a building in which people meet!

Actually, the Greek word means a collective group of individuals who are called out from this present evil world by the process of repentance, conversion, water baptism, and the laying on of hands for the receiving of God’s Holy Spirit.

Jesus promised us, “I will build My church;” (Matthew 16:18).

Jesus said He would remain the living head of that church; governing and ruling over that church in loving kindness, mercy, boundless forgiveness and tender care. He promised, “I will never leave you, nor forsake you.”

Jesus Christ made it very clear He would never leave the governing and headship of that church to any man!

Notice Jesus said He would build *His* church. He did not

promise He would build a church named after a particular form of church government; after the day of the week the church kept; after a female prophetess; after the practice of “speaking in tongues;” or after John the Baptist, or any other individual, method, mode of baptism or religious-sounding jargon.

If you count up the number of times the true Church of God is mentioned in the New Testament, you will see the expression “Church of God” far outnumbers the other descriptions of the group of called-out ones who formed the early church.

The name of the true Church of God is just that: “the Church of God!” Sometimes different appellatives were added before or after, which were merely descriptions of a particular local congregation such as “the church which is in their home,” or “the Church of God which is at Corinth.” However, the main term which is used most often in Holy Scriptures, giving us positive proof of the name God ordained, is always “the Church of God.”

### WHAT REALLY IS THAT CHURCH?

By analogy, it is called “the body of Christ,” “the bride of Christ,” “His wife,” and by many other terms. The following analogies are used of the church: a “little flock,” “the diaspora” (those of the dispersion, or “scattered ones”), “pilgrims,” “sojourners,” “the house of God,” “God’s temple,” “Christ’s body” and various other descriptive analogies.

An analogy is an illustrative



story designed to help one understand a certain truth.

Analogies can quickly break down, and are not always applicable in every point. It is very clear that the true Church of God is spoken of as “one body.”

Notice! “There is one body, and one spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;

“One Lord, one faith, one baptism,

“One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all” (Ephesians 4:4-6).

“belonging to” that organization!

This is blasphemous on its face, and flies directly in the face of Jesus’ statement that there is “no other name given under heaven” whereby men may be saved and that He, only, is the “door of the sheepfold” and that any man trying to steal in by any other method is a robber and an intruder.

It is just not possible to “incorporate” the totality of the body of Jesus Christ in its true spiritual meaning!

were to be witnesses unto Him – His Name was to be primary!

They were to go, preaching a message of repentance (Matthew 4:17, Luke 13:3, 5, Acts 2:38, Acts 3:19) and commanding people to come out of sin (Revelation 18:4), and be baptized in water (Acts 2:38, Romans 6) for the receiving of God’s Holy Spirit!

They were also to give powerful warning (Matt. 24, Mark 13, Luke 21) of the terrifying and troublous times that lay ahead, crying out, “Watch and pray always that you might be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man” (Luke 21:36).

The purpose for which the church was commissioned was to preach the gospel. It only began to dawn on the early apostles that they lacked certain organizational patterns when it became noticed (Acts 6) that the widows were being neglected in “the daily ministration.” At that time, only after this neglect had been brought to their attention, the apostles had to solve the problem by ordaining deacons to serve the physical needs of the growing congregations.

How tragic and ironic it is that, as the centuries have passed, this organization of seeing to the physical needs and creature comforts of human beings has tended to supercede and completely blot out the primary purpose for the calling and commissioning of the church in the first place!

Today, one sees great, moneyed organizations of men,

## *The name of the true Church of God is just that: “the Church of God!”*

However, remember that the church is spoken of as a scattered group of “called-out ones,” individuals, in whom is the Holy Spirit of God.

Ephesians 4 is not trying to tell us that only one incorporation of man, a political entity sanctioned by a materialistic state government, can be the “one body” of Jesus Christ. This expression is to be taken spiritually, meaning there is only one spiritual body, but composed of sometimes scattered, persecuted individuals who are called, collectively, “the body of Christ.”

There are those who trade on this scripture, trying to use it to justify a closed church, or a closed system of government, or an exclusive organization of men to which you must give your fealty and loyalty, saying the only door to the Kingdom of God is by

### AN EVANGELISTIC ASSOCIATION

Believe it or not, the early apostles would have been thunderstruck and dumbfounded if they could have entered a time machine and been plummeted forward to this century to be taken on a tour of a Bible Belt city and to have seen dozens of buildings, representing dozens of different congregations and organizations, all purporting to be “the church.”

Why? Because Jesus Christ did not tell them to build different churches, but gave to them the Great Commission: “Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature!” He told them, “You shall be witnesses unto Me, both in Jerusalem, and Samaria, and unto the uttermost parts of the earth.”

Luke 24:47 gives a very succinct summarization of the “Great Commission.” Notice they

bearing no resemblance whatsoever to the scattered group of persecuted, spirit-led, preaching and witnessing apostles who said, “We ought to obey God rather than men.” Their focus was preaching, powerfully, of the person, the death, burial and resurrection and the second coming of Jesus Christ, even in the face of threats to their lives — and martyrdom!

The early church was a group of absolute equals (12 of them) who were organized for the purpose of preaching the gospel.

As such, that first-century fledgling group far more resembled an “evangelistic association,” a group of people who were associated together by the Holy Spirit for the purpose of preaching the

gospel, than it did “a church” in the modern sense of the word.

### WHERE IS THE TRUE CHURCH TODAY?

Jesus Christ built His church, just as He promised He would. There are many proofs as to where that church is, what it is doing, how one may enter into that church, and how it can be recognized.

Where is the true “Church of God”?

- Jesus Christ, not any man or organization of men, would continue to be its spiritual Head!
- That church would be organized and governed exactly as Jesus Christ said to His disciples. He explained how the kings and potentates of the gentile

nations enjoyed “lording over them,” and said, “It shall not be so among you!” Jesus went on to explain that those who would be “the greatest” should become the servants of all. In the true Church of God, one will not find rule by fear, threats, coercion, hatred, strife, the wielding of frightening power over private, individual lives.

- The true church will be preaching the gospel of the Kingdom of God as a warning/witness to the world! Read Luke 24:47. That gospel, is the message of the soon-coming, world-ruling government of God and a message about the governing, ruling family of God. That true church will never be ashamed of the name of Jesus



**To many, “Church” has become a social club, a place to make business contacts, a show with music and lights or an emotional experience rather than the way of life taught by Jesus Christ.**

*Continued next page*

Christ — not ashamed of His name before government leaders, kings, presidents, premiers, people of any stature, great or small, rich or poor, Jew or gentile!

- The true church will understand the truth about the weekly Sabbath. It will also understand the truth about God's annual Holy Days.

- The true church will understand the truth about the pagan holidays of this world.

- It will understand the truth about the false doctrines of the pagan churches, including the false doctrines of the rapture, an ever-burning hell, the Trinity and dozens of others.

- The true church will have, safely intact, the body of doctrine Jesus Christ of Nazareth Himself delivered. It will be striving to "get back to the faith once delivered to the saints," by recapturing the true understanding as well as the spirit of the early New Testament church!

- It will be structured as closely as possible to the apostles' example — meaning a sense of teamwork, of absolute equality, and an open, friendly spirit of give and take in doctrinal and procedural discussions (see Acts 15).

- That church will be humble, led by the spirit of Jesus Christ, which is "goodness, mercy, forgiveness and faith," and will be striving to emulate Jesus Christ the Lord.

There are hundreds of identifying marks one may wish to apply to the true church. Every doctrine, small or great, could be applied — as could the attributes

of the Holy Spirit of God, of "love, joy and peace," and most especially the absence of hatred, rancor, avarice, cunning, greed, politics, party spirit, strife, brute force, cruelty, and a hierarchy attempting to carry out the punishments for sin. Such would be Pharisaical, cultic and not the true Church of God!

Through the process of elimination, how many churches do you have left which fit the foregoing description?

It is not for any one organization to boast that it, and it only, is "the true church," for history proves that there have been scattered individuals, as well as contemporary groups, which have existed side by side, whose members have both been converted, spirit-led, baptized members of "that one body," which is the body of Jesus Christ!

It is impossible to "incorporate," legally, the very body of Jesus Christ!

The true Church of God is a spiritual organism, and a body you cannot simply "join."

No, God must put you into it by giving you a calling, granting you repentance, baptism, the laying on of hands and the receiving of the Holy Spirit. God then inducts you into that true church.

On the Day of Pentecost in 31 A.D., Peter preached a powerful sermon about repentance. The people answered, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" (Acts 2:37).

Peter, unlike many modern evangelicals, did not say, "Join the church of your choice," but told them, instead, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38).

And then what happened? They became members of the Church of God by being baptized into that one body! "By one spirit



**The Church of God is made up of repentant individuals who have sought God's forgiveness and strive to follow Christ's example of living in accordance with His will and sharing the Gospel message.**



are we all baptized into one body” (I Corinthians 12:13).

Remember, you cannot be in the Kingdom of God without having received the Holy Spirit of God. God will only give that Spirit to those who are willing to obey Him. (Acts 5:32). When you receive the Spirit of God you are receiving the spirit of a sound, sane mind (II Timothy 1:6, 7), which is the very mind of Christ (Philippians 2:5) and you are then “added to the church” because God says you are among those who “should be saved” (Acts 2:47).

Notice how it was done. Following that early experience at Pentecost, “And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women” (Acts 5:14).

Make no mistake. No one can arbitrarily “join” the true Church of God. Jesus Christ says expressly, “No man can come to Me, except the Father which has sent Me draw him, and I will raise him up at the last day” (John 6:44).

Yet, this does not mean

Jesus does not want to call you — nor does it mean He is being exclusivist or restrictive — for He also said, “Come unto Me all ye that are weary, and heavy laden, and I will give you rest,” and, “My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

If you are one who has been repentant of your personal sins, meaning the transgressing of God’s Holy law (I John 3:4), then Jesus Christ tells you to be baptized (Acts 2:38, Romans 6) and have an authorized representative of God’s true church lay hands on you for the receiving of God’s Holy Spirit.

From that time on, you need no membership identification card, no “letter” sent to and kept in church files, and no material, man-made recognition whatsoever. From that time on, you are automatically inducted into the “one body of Jesus Christ,” which is the true Church of God!

That true Church of God will be zealously attempting to do the work of God. It will be preaching the same gospel which Jesus Christ of Nazareth gave to

the disciples. It will be a church in which is found the Spirit of God; the spirit of brotherly love, harmony, forgiveness, kindness, goodness, meekness, gentleness, faith and understanding.

It will probably be quite small, perhaps looked upon as weak and ineffective, even persecuted, widely scattered, and will not be a vast organization of this world.

Yet it will be “rich in faith,” crying out daily to Almighty God for every need.

If you have repented, been baptized and received the Holy Spirit of God — if you know and understand what sin is, have repented of all those sins, and cry out to Jesus Christ as a daily High Priest making intercession for you if you stumble and sin as a Christian, and if you are zealously, eagerly and enthusiastically supportive of the preaching of the gospel of the Kingdom of God as a last-minute witness and warning to a dying, sin-sick world — then you are a member of the true Church of God! If you are not, you should be! ☐

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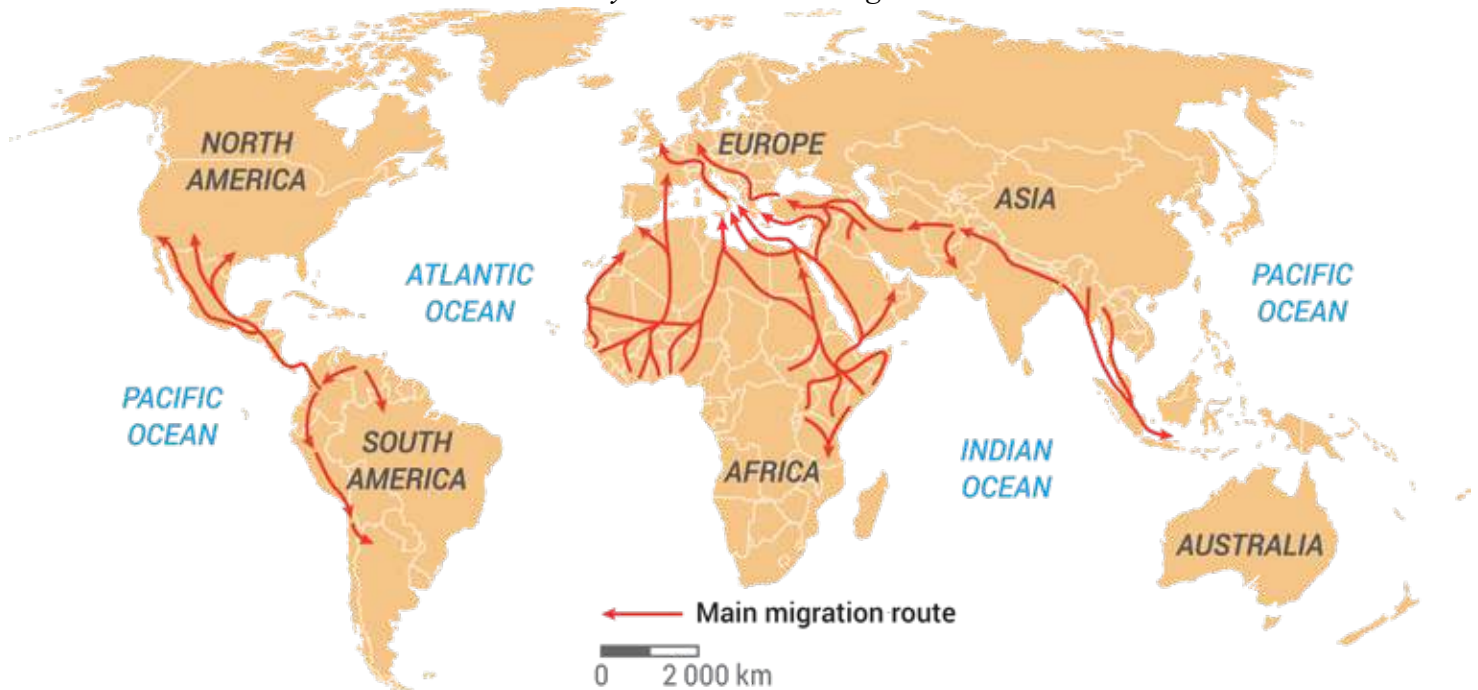
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# THE INEVITABLE PUSHBACK

by Michael Armstrong



Human migration and the regulation of borders have become major issues in recent years. The 2015 migrant crisis in Europe, with the arrival of over 1 million asylum seekers and nearly twice that many illegal border crossings, brought about a clash of ideas on how to deal with the situation. Asylum applications topped 1 million again in 2023, ensuring the issue's relevance in EU and national elections.

Similar attention was drawn to the extensive land border between the United States and Mexico. Longstanding issues with security and oversight were brought to the fore by massive caravans in 2018 and before. After a brief respite due to COVID restrictions in 2020, border apprehensions topped 1.7 million in 2021. They have increased with each passing year according to data from US Customs and Border

Protection. 2022 saw nearly 2.4 million and 2023 almost 2.5 million. 2024 has logged 1.7 million as of the end of May.

Nor do these “encounters” as they are called, tell the whole tale. Government has vastly expanded programs allowing migrants to apply for asylum digitally, like the CBP One mobile app. Some schedule appointments at the border, others (with pre-arranged financial support) can be approved to fly directly into the United States. The goal is to minimize the spectacle at the border, prevent facilities and personnel from being overwhelmed, and lessen the political impact of having the physical situation spiral out of control, a goal that has proved unattainable at times. All of this has made immigration a major concern among voters in this year's elections.

Particularly alarming is

the amount of coordination and support poured into facilitating “irregular migration,” as it is often called. Regular routes are established with the cooperation of NGO's (non-governmental organizations), non-profits, human traffickers (like the cartels of Central America) and even the United Nations. Those seeking to enter the United States from overseas often begin their journey by traveling to a Central or South American country that does not have Visa requirements.

Those beginning in South America transit the rugged Darien Gap on foot. No roads exist across this treacherous terrain between Columbia and Panama. Gang activity is common and many atrocities occur. Panamanian forces intervene regularly to assist the vulnerable. Ironically, migrants are not technically allowed into Panama. They are registered at

camps, provided with documentation, travel resources, and even funds to help complete their journey to the United States but strictly on the condition that they are passing through.

Much of the trip is prearranged. Often it is segmented by country and bus travel is provided. But some portions are less organized than others. There is an unholy union between the radical idealists supporting migration and the overtly criminal gangs who facilitate it. Those with funds can often pay for a safer trip, though many find the price doubled or tripled at critical junctures when they are left with no recourse.

Some, particularly those originating outside of Latin-America, pay for their entire trip in advance. A Reuters report detailed charter flights, often originating in the Middle East, arriving in no-Visa destinations such as El Salvador or Nicaragua. Many on board had paid between \$75,000 and \$100,000 for a prearranged trip that includes being smuggled into the United States. Flight data indicates nearly 1/3 more arrivals than departures from these countries. Some attempts are thwarted, with whole flights being turned around as authorities intervene. Still, migrants entering the US from countries outside of Latin America approached 200,000 last year with India and West African origins topping the list.

Such factors have seriously colored the debate in the United States and Europe. Fleeing a war-torn chaotic country is viewed differently than migrating to secure economic advantage. While there is some overlap, the imperative

to admit anyone and everyone is lessened when life itself is not at stake. “Irregular crossings” and those who eschew the formal asylum process illustrate that economics is often a primary motivating factor, as do those who do not linger to see how the process turns out.

The EU border situation is perhaps even more complex than that of the US. The Canary Islands, controlled by Spain but located off the coast of Western Africa, have recorded the deaths of nearly 5,000 people attempting to reach their shores so far this year. This route into the EU has seen a massive increase in traffic as have other paths across the Mediterranean. Even French Guiana on the Northern coast of South America has witnessed a marked influx.

The United Kingdom, having attempted to extricate itself from the requirements of the EU through Brexit, has tried to take a sterner approach. The

conservative government (widely expected to be on its way out before this goes to print) has promoted and campaigned upon a “safe third country” scheme, likely as a deterrent. Many who enter the EU attempt to make their way across the channel into the UK. Those not eligible for asylum now face the prospect of being relocated to Rwanda.

Even the newest EU regulations have sought to appease members worried about an overwhelming or unmanageable influx of migrants by allowing them to provide financial support to those willing to accept the burden rather than care for the migrants themselves. Additional rules have been put in place requiring migrants to apply for asylum in the country they first enter rather than waiting to arrive in their destination of choice. Laws have also been modified to disallow those who transited through other countries deemed “safe,” which often include less-desirable Eastern



**Finland is installing fencing along their entire 832 mile border with Russia in addition to closing all border crossings with limited exceptions for freight.**

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**Many countries are seeking to deport refugees to “safe third countries.” The UK is set up to send theirs to Rwanda, but the plan may be derailed by Parliamentary elections. Italy has a similar agreement with Albania.**

European or Middle Eastern countries with less generous welfare programs in place and fewer opportunities.

Migration has also been weaponized. Belarus, a staunch Russian ally, has done just that to EU members Latvia, Lithuania, and Poland, all of whom it shares borders with. Long entrenched strongman Lukashenko has loosened Visa requirements. Government sponsored travel agencies advertise discounted trips to Belarus from many Middle Eastern countries, but primarily Iraq. The understanding is that migrants will not be prevented from trying to enter the EU from there, a far safer alternative than many existing routes. Documentation exists of migrants being escorted to the border by Belarusian security forces and even provided with tools to help penetrate fencing. However,

many who were repelled and attempted to stay in Belarus reported being forced to try again or otherwise leave the country.

EU countries now log hundreds of attempted entries per day. By comparison, Lithuania only counted around 100 per year previously. This has led to EU countries completely fencing their borders and committing significant resources to monitoring and patrolling them. Still, many migrants gain entry. Finland has faced similar pressure from Russia, leading them to fence their 830 mile border and close all of the official crossings. This in response to asylum seekers from places like Somalia and Yemen increasing tenfold along the Russian border. Schemes involving tourist and student Visas, facilitating travel from the country of origin to Moscow, are readily apparent on social media.

Refugee weaponization is also found in Central and South America. Regimes like Nicolás Maduro’s in Venezuela or Daniel Ortega’s in Nicaragua readily facilitate the process. Staunch communists, already on the outs with the US, really have nothing to lose. Other countries have been pressured into tightening entry protocols or turning around 1-way charter flights full of those who intend to cross the US border illegally.

The pressure migration has put on Europe is clearly visible in both a hardening of policy on the part of idealistically permissive parties as well as the results of recent EU elections. And let’s not forget the additional 4+ million people Europe has absorbed due to the war in Ukraine. Idealism is being overshadowed by necessity, much like the reality check the public has experienced over green issues. Economics lead many to fear for the future of generous social safety nets as they confront not only this but, rampant inflation, confrontation with Russia and competition from China.

Added to that is the reality that many who migrate do not necessarily assimilate. There is a real concern that culture hangs in the balance. We cannot fault those who wish to preserve their own traditions as we wish to maintain our own, but the reality exists where to immigrate and to assimilate are separate issues.

One could live a prosperous and full life in Texas without ever learning the English language. The same holds true for cities around the world, particularly in Europe. Often the

cultures in question are viewed as incompatible, and not without reason. Distrust has been the result; violence has been the result. Sadly, these are the repercussions of years of misguided or intentionally destructive policies. Compassion fades towards a perceived threat and the willingness to share the prosperity of a society is diminished when its underpinning values are despised. It is for this reason that migration can be weaponized in the first place.

If it were truly a solution to labor issues, shrinking populations and economic ills, why would the avowed enemies and detractors of Western society be the ones promoting and facilitating it? Certainly those issues need addressing, but they are not truly what is at stake when it comes to migration. If it were, the discussion would be how to encourage immigration in an orderly and legal manner. It is not like there is any shortage of those who would be interested, as we can clearly see.

Nor is it a reasonable way to deal with a humanitarian crisis, be it preexisting or created. Many who have made arduous journeys, selling all that they have and risking their lives with smugglers and human traffickers who abandon them at the first sign of

law enforcement, say they would not have even attempted the trip if they had known how dangerous and difficult it would be. Many fail over and over to gain entry to the US or the EU, spending months in limbo along a border in deplorable conditions, virtually at the mercy of the criminals they have paid to smuggle them in.

What they suffer is atrocious. The stories of abuse and extortion are gut wrenching. But the very fact that success remains possible encourages more and more people to make the attempt. It's even part of the business model in some cases. Many who have entered Poland from Belarus report having to make a video testimonial for their guides on arrival. This verifies completion for the gangs that organize the process, often so the guides can get paid, and it works as advertising to recruit more "customers."

While many are seeking safety, opportunity or a better life, the fact that it remains a wide open free-for-all renders all oversight impossible. Compassion cannot blind us to the reality that the very worst elements, from some of the most dangerous societies in the world, also take advantage of the status quo. These do not intend to assimilate or contribute to society,

only to pillage and destroy. All hypocrisy aside, there is enough self interest and criminality extant in Western society to bring it to its knees without importing any more.

Despite all that is wrong with Western culture, and its sins are many, it would be foolish not to expect a reaction to the unmitigated and ongoing disaster that appears to be "business as usual" as far as border policy goes. When times get tough people become self interested. There is a tendency to look for someone to blame. The focus becomes my problems, my job, my entitlements, my country. It is a conflict that simmers. What happens when it begins to boil?

Even liberal cities like New York were forced to admit the situation was out of control after receiving only a fraction of those entering the US. History is replete with atrocities by aggrieved majorities in search of a scapegoat. Rational, secure border policies are desperately needed for many reasons. Stopping the ongoing tragedy, restoring sovereignty, protecting the vulnerable and preventing this issue from spiraling completely out of control to name a few. May God be our guide as we deal with these complex and unprecedented problems. □

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## WORLD NEWS BRIEF

# IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

### CLIMATE SCAM

Who knew such a thing was possible? A Reuters Investigation has revealed that many of the most developed nations are profiting off of loans to help the less developed fight climate change. We hear much about the “existential crisis” and “moral imperative,” the injustice of those who suffer the most being the least responsible for the calamity. Billions of dollars are pledged to solve the problem, but is the motivation altruistic or self serving? Many of those dollars come in the form of loans, which not only have to be repaid but generate interest revenue at market rates. Some even require the funded projects to utilize materials and workers from the nation making the loan, as do many of the grants which do not have to be repaid. So while many like to measure their concern and commitment in dollars, many of those same dollars are flowing right back into their own pockets.

### RISE OF THE PIG MEN (PART 2)

This section previously reported on the successful transplant of a genetically modified pig heart into a human. The man died, but because of other terminal conditions that rendered him eligible for the experiment rather than failure of the organ itself. Now, the same process has been replicated with a pig kidney. The recipient lived for a few months, but his passing was not attributed to the kidney. Such experiments may revolutionize the organ transplant business, making them readily available to far more recipients than currently have any hope of receiving an organ. The potential complications are still unknown, a great deal of gene editing and medication is required to prevent disease and rejection.

### REPURPOSED FARMLAND

It's usually flat, sunny, and often available to lease. So who is gobbling it up? Solar electric providers have been constructing installations on land where long term leases are available. They are also willing to pay a premium, from four to six times more than agricultural operations are able to offer. However, the land is often ravaged by the installation process, the soil quality destroyed by grading or sand added to prevent vegetation from growing between the panels. While remediation efforts are often included in contracts, returning the land to productivity may be easier said than done.

### SHIFTING RIGHT

European elections have shown considerable frustration with the centrist and socialist policies that most countries have pursued for years. Perhaps most interesting of all is where some of the momentum for change is coming from. In years past the youngest voters have overwhelmingly supported leftist or green parties. While most still do there has been a significant swing to the right among this demographic, across many countries, in a shift CNN described as “scary.” One example is Germany, where the percentage of the youngest demographic supporting right wing parties increased over ten percent since the last election. Additionally, many places had allowed those as young as 16 to vote for the first time.

There are other indicators as well. Prime Minister of Italy Georgia Meloni's party, Brothers of Italy, recently came under fire after an undercover reporter shared videos of members of the party's youth division claiming to be fascists and saluting “seig heil.” Even the Pope has endured criticism for



twice speaking against entrenched homosexuality in Catholic seminaries. While most objections have been over the term he used, it is an interesting development considering the pains he has taken to cultivate a “tolerant” image during his tenure. Would he do so if he didn’t consider it necessary or if he thought the majority of Catholics wouldn’t agree? The shift may be more than we expect. The Vatican has even banned those with tattoos or body piercings from working at St. Peter’s cathedral.

### THE SALTY SPOON

In Japan, excessive salt intake is a widespread diet issue that has been difficult to address. Kirin Holdings is marketing a technological work-around, the “Electric Salt Spoon.” For 19,800 Yen (about \$120) you can now purchase a rechargeable electric spoon that makes food seem saltier. With 4 levels of intensity, the research indicates food can taste 1.5 times saltier. It works by electrically concentrating sodium molecules on the tongue, increasing the flavor without adding more salt. The spoon is an expansion of the Nobel Prize winning prototype chopsticks, allowing the technology to be used on a wider variety of dishes. Only 200 units are currently (no pun intended) available but the product is expected to hit international markets next year.

### MOVING THE BORDER?

Many are probably aware of the territory Russia controls on the Baltic Sea, disconnected from the rest of its territory, called Kaliningrad. It has been held by Russia since the end of WWII and retained through the fall of the Soviet Union. Providing Russia its only Baltic Sea port that doesn’t freeze in winter, it is otherwise surrounded by Poland and Lithuania, both of which are members of NATO. Its boundaries also include territorial waters in the Baltic. It is these that have been suggested will change. The Russian Defense Ministry website published a document in late May 2024 indicating that the boundary was calculated off of outdated and inaccurate maps and would need to be reestablished. This revelation shocked Lithuania as well as Finland, whose territorial waters would also be affected. The document was subsequently taken down, with the Kremlin dismissing the idea that the posting was politically motivated. Accident,

warning, ploy or otherwise, the incident has served to heighten tensions among countries with a long history of confrontation with Russia.


### DRAFTED

Compulsory military service may be more common than you think. Nine European countries currently employ it and more are considering its introduction or reinstatement. Finland, Denmark, Sweden, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Cyprus, Greece and Austria require male citizens to receive training and serve at least a short term. Sweden requires men and women to participate. Some allow a longer period of community service to be substituted for military training. The threat of conflict has definitely been a factor in preserving or in some cases reinstating this practice. Its implementation has been hinted at by high ranking individuals in Germany and Italy.

### ENDANGERED

Orcas, or killer whales as they are called, are living up to their more dangerous designation. What scientists believe to be a specific group of these large mammals have been harassing ships in the Strait of Gibraltar. This behavior has been observed over years, but in recent months a 50 foot yacht actually sank after the whales repeatedly rammed it. Those aboard were picked up by another vessel. It is not known if the behavior is playful or an act of outright aggression. The results are the same, and it makes you wonder who is really endangered.

### EXCLUSIVELY GAY

Low-income housing has long been supported by the fed as well as state governments. Funding incentives exist to encourage such projects. However, regulations also exist to prevent discrimination based on race, sexual orientation, etc. when it comes to housing. Ironically, many projects are utilizing government incentives to fund exclusively LGBT housing according to WND and the Daily Caller, such as “The Equality Community Center” in Maine for gays over age 55. Other projects are also underway in Florida, Illinois, California, Pennsylvania, and Massachusetts. Is this an abuse of public funds? Would such developments be similarly overlooked if the community were advertised to a specific race or religion? Unlikely. 

# WHY THE ELITIST PROMOTION OF OPEN BORDERS, MIGRATION AND REFUGEES?

by Craig M. White, *FriendsofSabbath.org*

Disguised as wishing to promote faster economic growth and the need for greater population growth, the elites have been encouraging massive immigration into the First World since the 1960s and especially the last ten or so years.

Today the world is being coerced into “globalisation” — an attempt to weld the world into a single philosophy, single world economic and trading structure and consequent mass immigration to forge one world people and one world religion of sorts. They know that this will all take a very long time to achieve, but the pace is quickening.

This is the world babies are being born into and the youth are growing up in. They are becoming used to this being promulgated in the media and education system which is becoming the “norm” for them. Yet many within the Churches have decided to go silent about this globalisation issue and to permit the world’s media, the educational institutions and one’s peers to influence them without any counter education within the Churches.

In other words, society — this evil world that the Bible warns against — has been permitted to infiltrate the Church’s hearts and minds and bend many within it toward its will.

Whether it be Critical Race Theory, changing of place names to ethnic names, distorting news or attempting to insert guilt into Western minds, replacing Western art with contemporary art, the pulling down of beautiful historical buildings, the elites continue to use any means possible in their relentless pursuit at forging one world — a brotherhood of man under world governance. A melting pot of peoples.

## MODERN WOKE IDEOLOGY

Since the 1960s, students have been singing “Hey hey, ho ho, Western man has gotta go.”

Who taught them that? And why?

All of this can be traced back to universities which have long been under the sway of the neo-Marxists professors and lecturers.

This ideology can be likened to squeezing us all into a single box, quashing us down into the ultimate soup, making us all in common. To them, the differences between the nations, male and female, young and old, rich and poor, must be reduced and if possible, eliminated to produce a better world with everyone the same and equal. But this is completely irrational and unnatural.

For centuries, there are those that have advocated the inter-mixing of all the nations and peoples into one. Those ideas became much more popular and gained traction under Soviet leader Lenin’s influence and that of the Fabian Socialists. Following on from this, the philosophies of “internationalism” slowly gained ground within the United Nations, infecting Western nations and their leaders.

Western leaders have been much influenced by all of this. Such as John F. Kennedy (JFK), Ted Kennedy, Martin Luther King and others advocate the merging of peoples into one. With the collapse of Communism (admittedly, it veered from some of its original concepts over time and became more of a mix of nationalism and socialism, plus some local ideas, rather than full-blown Leninism), globalisation has emerged as the next threat to mankind’s diversity. JFK wanted to amend American immigration legislation to permit vast amounts of migrants into the USA (he even wrote a work, *A Nation of Immigrants*, advocating this). He believed in social liberalism and was an avid internationalist. Although he failed in his attempt to get his immigration legislation through, President Lyndon Johnson, together with Ted Kennedy, managed to

deceive Congress and the bill was passed in 1964. JFK nominated two liberals to the Supreme Court and other institutions began to become more liberal and internationalist under him, which laid the foundation for the massive student uprisings in 1967-69. The rest is history.

The theme songs of the 1960s uprisings and the consequent generation of globalists were “Imagine” by John Lennon and “Melting Pot” by Blue Mink. You can find these on the internet. Have a careful listen to what they are promoting. One

does not have to be a full-blown Marxist to have absorbed some of their social and globalist tenets.

Political Correctness is the ongoing phase of the neo-Marxists to so transform the West to the point that it is being taken over by slow moving Communism. Their woke ideology is merely the next phase in Political Correctness — it is not something new or different.

In many ways globalisation is a greater threat to the West than the Soviets or Islamo-fascism. For we could identify the external Communist threat — but with globalisation the enemy slyly and insidiously operates from within and is now using Western institutions to push the world toward globalisation when these institutions were originally set up to promote Western values, the rule of law and to stabilise the world after World War 2. It is a toxic mix of internationalism, corporatism, humanism and social Leninism (feminism, mixing of peoples, end of the natural family unit, euthanasia, abortion, homosexual marriages, androgyny etc).

#### ORIGINAL COMMUNISM

Most Marxist-Leninists or Fabian Society leaders would agree with global capitalism on various points such as immigration, feminism and the trampling on old values — money making is elevated to be more important than family, values, nationhood, religion and such like — thus globalism is not a conservative philosophy at all. In any event, most Fabians and socialists today have eschewed the nationalizing of industry in favor of a global market with the free flow of people, religions, capital, ideas and so forth to mix the world into one people — One World under the United Nations. They believe that this will lead to a higher global GDP, prosperity, and therefore happiness for mankind.

Their view is that mankind will not be happy and prosperous until we are all “freed” from marriage, family, nations and races — that we all become an individual in a globalized world who can do anything so long as we (supposedly) do no harm to others (i.e. humanism).

Notice what Karl Marx and Lenin taught:

“Even the natural differences within the species, like **racial differences ... must be done away with historically.**” (Karl Marx quoted in *Marx &*

*Continued next page*



**Screenshot from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees website, UNHCR.org. It includes resources for 125 countries.**



*Engels: Selected Works*, V, p. 403 cited in Solomon Bloom: *The World of Nations: A Study of the National Implications in the Works of Karl Marx*, pp. 14-15) [emphasis mine]

“Socialism ... is promoting and greatly accelerating **the drawing together and fusion of the nations.**” (Vladimir Lenin, “Theses on the National Question”, in *Lenin: Collected Works*, XIX, pp. 246-47) [emphasis mine]

Frederick Engels of course agreed:

“The **nationalities of the peoples associating themselves in accordance with the principle of community will be compelled to mingle with each other as a result of this association and thereby to dissolve themselves**, just as the various estate and class distinctions must disappear through the abolition of their basis, private property.” (*The Principles of Communism*, 1847) [emphasis mine]

However, forms of nationalism began to appear within sections of Communism in the 1930-40s and became a paramount feature of post World War 2 Communism — this does not represent the original and true Communism. Some Communists such as Nikita Khrushchev (Soviet Union leader, 1953-64) seemed to still believe in the original Marxist-Leninist view of mixing the world into one race of mankind: “**Full-scale communist construction constitutes a new stage in the development of national relations in the USSR, in which the nations will draw still closer together until full unity is achieved.**” (Kenneth Farmer, *Ukrainian Nationalism in the Post-Stalin Era*, p. 51) [emphasis mine]

Also, “The equality of races and nations is one of the most important elements of the moral strength and might of the Soviet state. Soviet anthropology develops the one correct concept, that all the races of mankind are biologically equal. The genuinely materialist conception of the origin of man and of races serves the struggle against racism, against all idealist, mystic conceptions of man, his past, present and future.” (Mikhail Nesturkh (Soviet anthropologist), *The Origin of Man*, p. 327)

#### GOD’S SOLUTIONS TO MAN’S MESS

Globalization is leading to the intertwining of the world into one. This is very much what the Fabians and Leninists teach and most of them

applaud globalization because of this. While others of that ilk applaud the merging of the world, they are opposed to its capitalist leadership.

President Biden, for example, has opened the borders and Europe has done virtually the same. Meanwhile governments in Canada, the United Kingdom and Australia have encouraged mammoth immigration to create, as they all say, “big countries” which means, massively populated. But why?

Contrary to globalism, Leninism, internationalism, Fabian socialism and any other “ism” (including Satanism, Taoism and such like) that advocate the merging of the world into one people, God’s Word is utterly different:

“When the Most High **divided to the nations** their inheritance, when He separated the sons of Adam, He set the bounds of the people according to ... the children of Israel” (Deuteronomy 32:8).

“God that made the world and all things therein ... hath made of one *blood* [“blood” is not in the original] all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the **boundaries of their habitation**” (Acts 17:26).

God is interested in a variety of peoples residing on this earth: There are many Scriptures extolling the virtue of borders and walls between God’s people and others. For example: Gen. 23:17; 47:21; Ex. 16:35; 34:24; Num. 20:17; 21:22; 35:27; Josh. 11:2; 13:2; II Kings 18:8; I Chron. 5:16; 7:29; Ps. 147:14; Prov. 2:28; Isa. 15:8; 60:18; Jer. 15:13; Mic. 5:6; Matt. 4:13, etc. See also Ex. 23:30 and Zech. 4:10.

“He built fortified cities in Judah, for the land had rest. He had no war in those years, for the LORD gave him peace.

“And he said to Judah, ‘Let us build these cities and surround them with walls and towers, gates and bars. The land is still ours, because we have sought the LORD our God. We have sought him, and he has given us peace on every side.’ So they built and prospered” (II Chron. 14:6-7).

“The nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it (the new Jerusalem): and the kings of the earth bring the glory ... of the nations into it” (Revelation 21:24-26). [There will be diverse spirit nations even in God’s eternal Kingdom.]

So, from the above we can see that God’s

Word promotes human diversity, which is guarded by borders — for borders are essential to protect one's national identity, unity and thus human physical and cultural diversity. But today's Christianity has so absorbed the pressures from universities, the media and social Marxism, that it has largely become politically correct/woke while not even realising it. This goes for both the older generation (generally in denial of this) and especially the younger generation. For the latter grew up within today's Left-Liberal cultural environment and are not aware of what is happening to them — that they are being absorbed into it. In other words, they have been taken over by the world in many respects.

The process of separating out the nations to

preserve their distinctiveness actually commences during the Day of the Lord, leading into the final intervention and world domination by the Messiah where His system will be fulfilled and finalised:

"I will make a man more precious than fine gold; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir.

"Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the wrath of the LORD of hosts, and in the day of his fierce anger.

"And it shall be as the chased roe, and as a sheep that no man taketh up: they shall every man turn to his own people, and flee every one into his own land" (Isa. 13:12-14).

"He made many to fall, yea, one fell upon



#### MONGOLIAN

- 1 Tunguse Woman
- 2 Kirghis
- 3 Chinese Woman
- 4 Korean
- 5 Japanese Woman
- 6 Tchuktchi
- 7 Cossack
- 10 Persian

#### CAUCASIAN

- 8 Georgian Woman
- 9 Cashmerian
- 11 Arab
- 12 Swede
- 13 Scotchman
- 14 Italian (Sicily)

#### MALAY

- 15 Diak Woman
- 16 Malay Woman
- 17 Andaman Islander
- 18 Samoan Woman
- 19 Fijian
- 20 Maori

#### AMERICAN

- 21 Eskimo (Labrador)
- 22 Sioux (No. Amer.)
- 23 Apache (No. Amer.)
- 24 Mexican Squaw
- 25 Bororo (Brazil)
- 26 Araucanian (Chile)
- 27 Fuegian Woman

#### ETHIOPIAN

- 28 Massai
- 29 Zulu
- 30 Loango
- 31 Abyssinian
- 32 Nubian
- 33 Bushman

*Continued next page*

another: and they said, Arise, and let us go again to our own people, and to the land of our nativity, from the oppressing sword” (Jer. 46:16).

“Cut off the sower from Babylon, and him that handleth the sickle in the time of harvest: for fear of the oppressing sword they shall turn every one to his people, and they shall flee every one to his own land” (Jer. 50:16).

“We would have healed Babylon, but she is not healed: forsake her, and let us go every one into his own country: for her judgment reacheth unto heaven, and is lifted up even to the skies” (Jer. 51:9).

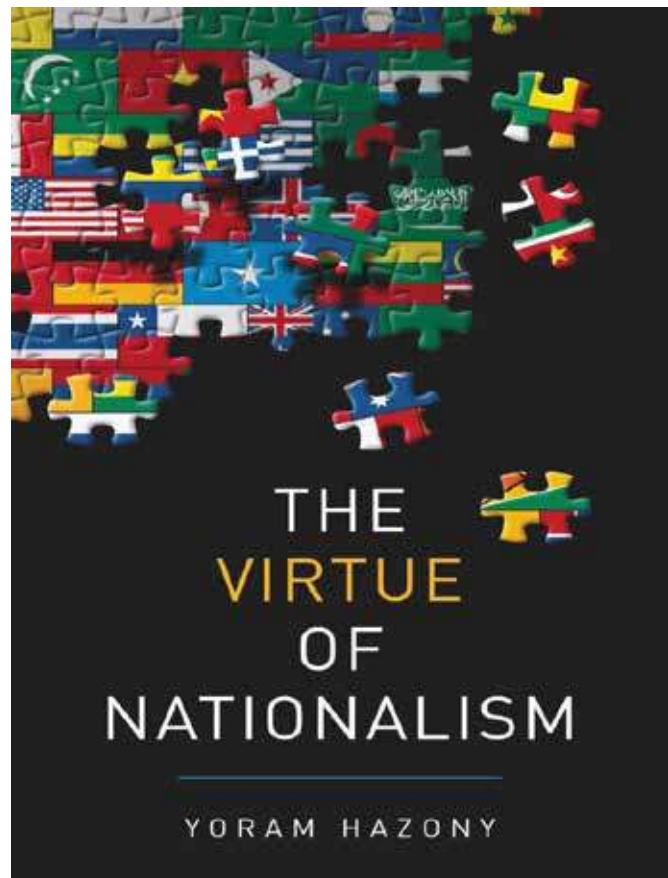
It is abundantly obvious: God has developed the nations for His purpose and glory. Therefore, He is the author of national consciousness/nativism and subsequently all nations and peoples have a right to national independence and self-determination within the bounds of His Laws and Ways.

Isn't that pure common sense? If He, in the Bible, as listed in Genesis 10 and the dozens of oracles against specific, named nations shows us that there are different nations due to His will, then He is the author of true nationhood or nationalism (i.e. patriotism or national pride). He is not a globalist or Marxist but the opposite — the originator and protector of nations and nationhood. Rather, it is Satan and his agents who wish to obliterate the nations and their differences.

Therefore, upon study of the concept of nations, how they are formed, their purposes and the part they play in prophecy, we must conduct a comprehensive Biblical study. This is how one might determine God's position on the subject — there is simply no other way of doing so. Reliance on this world's educational system and media to come to a determination on how the world works or should work ethnically, is not a wise choice. After all, the philosophy espoused by the world is not of God.

To help those struggling with the concept, I recommend a read of Yoram Hazony's *The Virtue of Nationalism*, Basic Books, New York, NY 2018. His is a voice of reason in a world of chaotic, Babylonian chatter and educational disinformation.

Hazony wrote: “... the presence of the Bible at the heart of this [Western] civilization has ensured that the idea of the self-determining, independent



nation would be revived time and again.” (p. 17)

“Christianity had the Hebrew Bible, with its vision of the justice of a world of independent nations. This vision never ceased to cause trouble for the idea of a universal Catholic empire, even if many Christian thinkers were hesitant to embrace the Old Testament too closely ... The Scottish national covenants ... modelled on the Jewish [i.e., Israel's] national covenants of the Bible, were similarly motivated. The self-image of these Protestant peoples as rightfully independent in the face of imperial opposition was often explicitly modelled on biblical Israel's effort to wrest its national and religious freedom from the dictates of Egyptian and Babylonian universal empire.” (pp. 22-23)

Contrast this world's efforts at a neo-Marxist Utopia to the coming Messiah's: while He will have a global government, all the nations and peoples will maintain their identities, forming a multi-cultural world instead of the mono-cultural melting pot that the globalists are striving for. □



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BIBLE STUDY

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*by Dr. James & Natalie Ricks*

# DELIGHT IN THE SABBATH DAY

## GOD DESIGNED THE SABBATH TO BE A DELIGHT FOR MANKIND

God's Word says that the Sabbath is to be called a delight. Clearly, God wants mankind to enjoy a day of rest and spiritual rejuvenation. The French Revolutionaries tried to alter the seven day week by instead giving people a rest only one day in ten. It just did not work. People need rest every seventh day. We also need the spiritual encouragement one day in seven. God knows what is best for His creation.

Isaiah 58:13-14, "If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath, From doing your pleasure on My holy day, And call the Sabbath a delight, The holy day of the Lord honorable, And shall honor Him, not doing your own ways, Nor finding your own pleasure, Nor speaking your own words,

"Then you shall delight yourself in the Lord; And I will cause you to ride on the high hills of the earth, And feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father. The mouth of the Lord has spoken." (NKJV)

God would bless and protect those who called

the Sabbath a delight and who simultaneously delighted in Jehovah the God of Israel. The Sabbath Day should not become drudgery or a burden. The day should be a delight. Using it correctly will help us learn to love God. God's people were told from the beginning to remember the Sabbath Day.

Deuteronomy 5:12-15, "Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy, as the LORD your God commanded you. 13 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 14 but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work... 15 And remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out from there by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm; therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day."

The Hebrew idiom, "Remember the Sabbath," carries the sense of deep reflection on the past. Think of the Creator resting and His mighty acts of grace and mercy. God rescued Israel from slavery in Egypt and the Sabbath Day is about freedom. It is a spiritual rescue. The Sabbath represents freedom from cruel labor as well as freedom from the world's evil and the ways of man and Satan. The day is about freedom from labor and resting with

## BIBLE STUDY

God. Jesus clarified the true reason God made the seventh day holy in talking with the religious leaders who should have known this information.

Mark 2:23-26, “Now it happened that He went through the grainfields on the Sabbath; and as they went His disciples began to pluck the heads of grain. 24 And the Pharisees said to Him, ‘Look, why do they do what is not lawful on the Sabbath?’ 25 But He said to them, ‘Have you never read what David did when he was in need and hungry, he and those with him: 26 how he went into the house of God in the days of Abiathar the high priest, and ate the showbread, which is not lawful to eat, except for the priests, and also gave some to those who were with him?’”

Jesus is telling them that their Sabbath rules are an example of over-regulation. The priests helped David in an emergency and were fine including the flexibility in the following of certain Tabernacle laws. Christ is telling the leaders that they both lack understanding of the grace and flexibility of administering God’s laws and even of the basic purposes and intent of the law. What is the basic intent and purpose of the Sabbath Law?

Mark 2:27, “And He said to them, ‘The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath.’”

Numerous religious people have kept the Sabbath in an atmosphere of over-regulation. Many leaders of churches even now do not understand that we do not serve the Sabbath, but it is to serve us. It helps us to rest and develop a better relationship with God. The Day should build us up, not become a point of stress. Jesus is the one who both created and administers the Sabbath.

Hebrews 1:1-2, “God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;”

Jesus made the entire world including the Sabbath and mankind, whom this day serves by helping us spiritually and physically.

### THE SABBATH SHOULD STRENGTHEN OUR RELATION WITH GOD

The Sabbath is a weekly observance to bring us closer to God in a very positive manner. Since men are both physical and spiritual beings, the Sabbath helps us in both areas. Feasting on good food and rest from our toilsome labor nourishes the physical side of mankind. This is done obviously in a positive, joyful atmosphere. Being taught the words of God at the house of God nourishes our spiritual nature.

Leviticus 23:1-3, “And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 2 ‘Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: “The feasts of the LORD, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, these are My feasts. 3 Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, a holy convocation. You shall do no work on it; it is the Sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings.””

The first of all the holy days listed in the Bible is the weekly Sabbath! The others are subsequently listed but the Sabbath is the first one, showing its importance to God and for man. After Jesus had explained to the Pharisees that He had the power to make decisions regarding the Sabbath and that their rules contained no mercy or real understanding, He openly defied their heartless regulations.

Mark 3:2-5, “So they watched Him closely, whether He would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse Him. 3 And He said to the man who had the withered hand, ‘Step forward.’ 4 Then He said to them, ‘Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?’ But they kept silent. 5 And when He had looked around at them with anger, being grieved by the hardness of their hearts, He said to the man, ‘Stretch out your hand.’ And he stretched it out, and his hand was restored as whole as the other.”

The only “work” Jesus had to do was simply speak a few words, yet that violated one of their myriad of petty Sabbath regulations. Jesus

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## BIBLE STUDY

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went out of his way to challenge their rules and to embarrass them regarding the stupidity of their restrictions. They could not answer Him with logic but resorted to naked, pure hatred and plots of murder.

Mark 3:6-7, “Then the Pharisees went out and immediately plotted with the Herodians against Him, how they might destroy Him. 7 But Jesus withdrew with His disciples to the sea. And a great multitude from Galilee followed Him, and from Judea.”

This reminds us of a disaster that happened in New York recently where some misguided Jewish people died in a preventable fire. Why? They had to follow rules that the small burners had to be left on all day and could not be turned off until after sunset. They had to turn them on before the Sabbath and had to burn all day until the Sabbath ended if they wanted warm food. It was so very tragic. Even a number of children died in the fire. This sect within Judaism following Pharisaical patterns, even in our age, cannot turn on or off any electric device or light switch. Christ understands that the Sabbath should be a delight not a burden of harsh, restrictive rules.

God wants believers to be lifted up with joy

and thankfulness on the Sabbath, not to live in fear of breaking a multitude of extra rules. Do understand that the Jewish nation went into captivity for their idolatry, for breaking God’s Sabbath and for following the immorality of the pagans. Because of this, they later wanted to be certain that no Sabbath breaking could even exist. It is an understandable mistake. Yet they went too far in their zeal to be righteous.

Romans 10:1-3, “Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. 2 For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. 3 For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.”

Paul warns us about misguided zeal which can lead to self righteousness if it is not grounded in the correct knowledge of the purpose of God. We must be cautious that we do not fall into a similar trap. Naturally, one must not work his normal job, but how a person delights in the Sabbath should be up to the individual believer. Believers today should teach the truth about the Sabbath and its beneficial purpose for mankind. □



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# Biden EPA Rules Will Cause Blackouts for Millions of Americans, Study Warns

*Thomas Catenacci, Washington Free Beacon*

President Joe Biden's aggressive climate regulations targeting fossil-fuel-fired power plants will create widespread electric grid instability and lead to mass blackouts impacting millions of Americans, according to a recent study commissioned by North Dakota's state government.

The research, conducted in May by the firm Always On Energy Research, concluded that the Environmental Protection Agency's recently finalized regulations are not technologically feasible and will foreseeably lead to the retirement of coal power generation units. Intermittent and weather-dependent green energy sources, such as wind and solar, will replace such retired generators, leading to unreliable conditions, the study found.

The study largely echoes concerns that have been voiced by the U.S. grid watchdog, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation; regional grid operators; and power utility companies. Four regional grid operators that oversee the infrastructure supplying power for 154 million Americans warned after the EPA regulations were first proposed last year that grid reliability would "dwindle to concerning levels" under the regulations. The Edison Electric Institute, the lead industry group representing U.S. electric companies, in late May joined a lawsuit that challenged the EPA's finalized regulations.

"Biden's Green Agenda is shutting down baseload power and is rapidly destabilizing our electrical grid. Electricity costs are up 30% under Biden already," North Dakota governor Doug Burgum (R.) told the Washington Free Beacon in a statement. "Prices will continue to skyrocket if he's re-elected as real power demand increases dramatically for the first time in decades—for chip manufacturing and new foundational industries like AI."

Burgum, a member of the North Dakota Industrial Commission, which commissioned the study, added that Biden's regulatory regime will reduce

power supplies, leading to "higher prices AND less reliability."

In April, the EPA finalized the first part of a multi-pronged effort to curb greenhouse gas emissions produced by the nation's power sector. The regulations require existing coal plants to slash their carbon footprint 90 percent by 2032, which could force the vast majority of such plants across the country to shutter over the next two decades. They further require significant emissions reductions for new natural-gas-fired power plants that operate more than 20 percent of the time.

The finalized regulations are poised to have a particularly acute impact in Midwestern states such as North Dakota, where coal-fired power plants produce more than half of all electricity generated and where the four largest power plants are all coal-fired. North Dakota is also the sixth-largest coal-producing state in the country.

According to Always On Energy Research, the rules' economic consequences include increasing the cost of compliance for coal plant operators, reducing competitiveness with alternative power sources, expediting the rate of coal retirements, resulting in higher electricity prices, and causing supply chain issues for industries reliant on coal.

"The Finalized Rule will increase costs, which, compounded with inflation, will negatively impact the affordability of electric and gas services, resulting in a disproportionate effect on low-income citizens," the study stated. "Given the high rural populations in North Dakota, pricing low-income citizens out of a reliable energy source creates an economic and social justice issue with devastating [sic] impacts on North Dakotans' lives."

In addition, under EPA's plans, coal plants—considered dispatchable power, or power that can quickly be turned on in times of high electricity demand—will largely be replaced by new solar and

wind power generators, which are highly dependent on proper wind conditions.

Solar panels, for example, produce just 25 percent and wind turbines produce 34 percent of their listed capacity, according to the Energy Information Administration. Coal and natural gas plants, meanwhile, respectively produce 49 percent and 54 percent of their listed capacity.

Factoring in that disparity, Always On Energy Research concluded the grid across the majority of the Midwest would experience nearly 9 million megawatt hours of unserved load, leading to blackouts costing tens of billions of dollars.

“The EPA power plant rule is exactly the wrong thing to be doing for grid reliability right now,” Paige Lambermont, a research fellow at the Competitive Enterprise Institute, told the Free Beacon. “To be intentionally closing and, essentially, banning the facilities that are keeping the grid functioning while, at the same time, in other ways, encouraging the penetration on the grid of things like wind and solar that are making the grid less reliable is going to have incredibly poor aftereffects.”

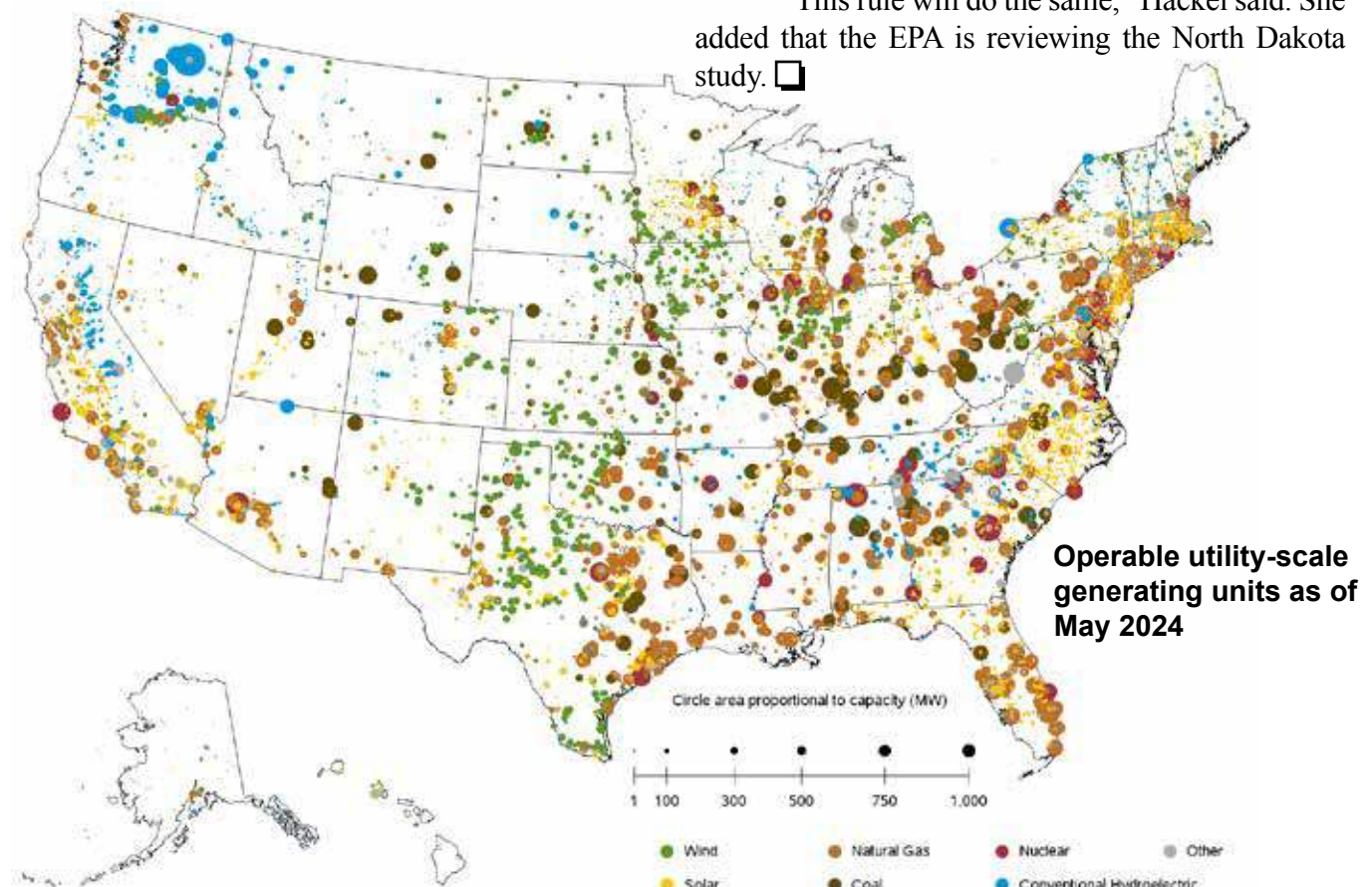
Nationwide, natural gas plants generated roughly 43 percent of total electricity produced in 2023 while coal plants generated another 16 percent, according to additional Energy Information Administration data. By comparison, wind power generated 10 percent of total electricity in the United States, and solar produced less than 6 percent.

The EPA is expected to finalize a second batch of regulations cracking down on existing natural gas power plants in the coming months.

Democrats and climate advocates have long targeted the power sector as part of their effort to reduce pollution and fight global warming. According to EPA data, electric power generation in the United States is responsible for 25 percent of total nationwide emissions, only behind the transportation sector, which produces roughly 28 percent of total emissions.

EPA spokeswoman Angela Hackel told the Free Beacon that “over decades EPA regulations like the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards and Good Neighbor Rule have achieved important reductions in pollution from electricity generation while supporting reliability.”

“This rule will do the same,” Hackel said. She added that the EPA is reviewing the North Dakota study. □



Sources: U.S. Energy Information Administration, Form EIA-860, ‘Annual Electric Generator Report’ and Form EIA-860M, ‘Monthly Update to the Annual Electric Generator Report.’



## As the World Burns...

*Continued from page 2*

York, and the judge better have the good sense not to put him in jail. That's a real possibility. It might, however, be unwise. The decision has been pushed back to September.

Is there something that hasn't gone wrong? We've got wars in Ukraine and the Middle East, Iran is acting up and financing the bad guys. Ukraine is still at war, and don't tell anybody, but it's not going very well. But they need MONEY and lots of it. What? You're not going to donate? Yes you are. Our tax dollars are out the door.

If you look at history, when has there been peace? When have there not been populations subjugated at the whim of leadership? Looking back, so many adventures have been senseless.

But America's history is one of necessity. The founders were right! But as we've grown comfortable with the status quo, we've forgotten what the rest of the world is thinking. They want



**Ultra-Orthodox Jewish men protest against Israeli Supreme Court's ruling in Bnei Brak, Israel, on June 27, 2024. The Israeli Supreme Court ruled on Tuesday that the government must draft ultra-Orthodox men for military service, a decision that threatens to destabilize Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's coalition government amid the war in Gaza.**

what we regard too cheaply, and they're coming. While we argue over nonsense China, Russia and North Korea are planning ahead.

The world is aflame. The war in Ukraine looks permanent, and the goal of Vladimir Putin is to push the U. S. out of Eastern Europe before it turns into NATO. There is a coalition of bad guys forming, and we're over here

arguing about things that don't matter.

The war in the Middle East drags on too, and little by little the world is starting to feel sorry for the instigators. I guess we've seen where all the money went. Meanwhile, Netanyahu is under attack internally. He's faced all the accusations head on, and Israel's government is nearly always on the precipice of disaster. There's heavy drama, as you can imagine.

With the world in flames, the things the networks think they have convinced us of are looking pretty lame. They assume we're all on board with the idiotic gospel they've been preaching. It can't withstand scrutiny, and just because we're not making a stink doesn't mean we're going along with woke ideology.

This nation better start appreciating what God has given us, or we're going to lose it. □



**Vladimir Putin shaking hands with Kim Jong-un in Pyongyang June 19, 2024. A mutual defense pact was signed during the visit.**



# Normalcy Bias...

by Stuart Rowland



Greetings to my fellow explorers into all things associated with the “Human Condition” in this time and space. Our subject for today is the psychological trait called “Normalcy Bias.” This is a phenomenon in which people have a tendency to underestimate the likelihood or impact of a disaster or crisis. You might think of it as a “deer in headlights” circumstance. The deer, while standing in the middle of a road, sees an oncoming car’s headlights. However, it remains motionless until the car hits it, having never understood the approaching threat.

This bias is often dealt with by individuals (and, accordingly, by larger groups of individuals) in one of two primary ways: preemptive engagement or cautionary delay. Each mode of response has advantages and flaws. So, let’s take a look at a couple of real-world situations.

For our first scenario, we need to jump into our “Way Back Machine”; destination time: December, 1998. Location: a corporate headquarters for a group of mid-sized television stations.

The subject being discussed? The upcoming potential problems associated with what was being called “Y2K.” While we focus on this on location, please keep in mind that similar talks were taking place in various venues around the globe.

The problem was that a large number of older computers, when built, had not been expected to still be in use by the time the year (as tracked inside their internal clocks) rolled over from 1999 to 2000. Many systems only tracked the last two digits of the year. So, if software used math based on the calendar date of two different days, the result could not be one hundred percent assured to be accurate.

For example, if you wanted to pay an employee \$100.00 per day from 12-01-1998 to 01-01-1999, a program might say, “If ending year minus beginning year is equal to one, add the days from the first date to the end of the year and the days from the beginning of the last date to the end date of the last year, for a total of days involved.”

Using the last two digits of

the years would give us  $99-98=1$ . So, from December 1 to December 31 would be thirty-one days inclusive. And, from January 1 to only January 1 would be one day. Add those two, and get a result of thirty-two days.

But, with that same pattern, what happens if the final date is 01-01-2000?

To start,  $00-99=-99$ . Therefore, the answer is NOT equal to one. So, the process we followed with our first set of numbers would never be executed because the test failed. The software might crash. Worse yet, it might still run, but with incorrect results.

If our program was being used to compute paychecks, this situation would be potentially expensive, and absolutely annoying. If the program was used to control traffic lights, or operates a machine that automatically administers medicines in a hospital, the error could cause the loss of lives and/or the destruction of property. Costs of that nature would be too high to be acceptable!

So, the task given to the intrepid Information Technology

*Continued next page*

folks at our example headquarters (as it was also being done at thousands of other businesses all around the planet) was to investigate, test and where required, fix all computer systems so as to be safe from failure before New Year's Day 2000.

It was a rather monumental tasking, to be sure. As the new year was rung in around the world, the actual number of Y2K failures was amazingly small. The investment of time, money and effort by thousands upon thousands of people prevented the potential disaster of computer failures in essential systems.

However, in the days and weeks following, the general public started to imagine that the whole Y2K event was just a giant ball of pointless worry. Nothing happened. We just wasted time

and money. Y2K eventually became the target of jokes and TV skits, and then silently faded from the collective memory.

So, as we return to today, we can see that preemptive engagement has as its strongest advantage the ability to have the maximum amount of time wherein to respond to the posed threat or crisis. And with that extra time comes the ability to apply the greatest amount of resources to the problem.

The disadvantages include lowered recognition of accomplishment and an increased likelihood of Normalcy Bias in future situations.

Next, let's look at cautionary delay. We only need to go back a few weeks. Destination time: June, 2024. Location: a corporate headquarters for a

"Software-As-A-Service" (SaaS) called CDK Global. It provides all-inclusive software for new and used automobile dealerships all across North America.

Sometime in early June, insider information believes that a phishing hack email was received and opened at CDK Global. It contained a link to a hidden downloader. (For those not familiar with the term phishing, it is using fake website and email forms to fool people into acting on instructions that appear to be from valid companies. This allows an unfriendly group access to otherwise secure areas.)

Someone apparently violated security protocols, and clicked the link. This caused a bad program (identified as BlackSuit) to load into the computer. BlackSuit is a type of invasive program known as a "Cluster Bomb." It is called this because it actually contained not just one, but SEVEN different hacking programs. Each of these layers of programs would unfold in the target computer and open and install the next layer. Some layers would harvest any personal information in the target computer and send that info out to collection servers in Eastern Europe. Some layers would explore in-house networks, looking for new targets. The final layer would encrypt everything on the target computer, leaving it locked up. Only by entering the unlock code would the data on the target computer be accessible. The hackers would then offer the password for a ransom.

As you might have guessed, when the SaaS Server



**Foresight, plus long hours and manpower, turned the "Y2K Bug" from a potential disaster to a recurring joke.**

was locked, ALL the dealerships that used that server to buy, sell, trade, repair, ship, finance and inventory their cars and trucks were out of business until the server came back on line.

So, at first go, they just loaded a backup from an earlier time. But, apparently, the BlackSuit had been silently waiting for a long enough time so as to be on the backups. Oops!

They went even further back. No good. BlackSuit ended up being in all the backups!

So, CDK Global had no choice other than to pay the multi-million dollar ransom. It seems to have worked, and, as of July, 2024, CDK Global is repairing and reopening for business.

Now, one might be wondering how “cautionary delay” had ANY advantage in this event? Well, at the beginning, proceeding with caution would have bought the maximum available time to investigate the situation. This would also provide the biggest opportunity to consider different options as a response.

But, as we saw, it is also the largest potential for things to go from bad to horrible in the quickest time. In the case of CDK Global, inside information leads us to believe things went from, “I think we have a problem” to “We are SO dead!” in just a few hours.

CDK Global had a secure network. It used secure VPN (Virtual Private Network) connections to its clients. By normal hacking vectors, it SHOULD have been untouchable.

But, as I have often taught students over the years, the weakest link in any computer/



**CDK Global, software provider to roughly 15,000 car dealers across the US and Canada, was targeted in a massive cyber attack by the European cybercriminal organization “BlackSuit.” In addition to internal disruptions which affected sales, maintenance, inventory, parts and supply orders — not to mention customer’s personal information — CDK Global has reportedly had to pay millions of dollars to regain access to their software.**

networking security system is ALWAYS the humans that are using it.

This was proven truth in this event, as the hack entered by email, with just one person opening the poison link. And, I can promise you, this person had been taught by the company to never click on email links, no matter how safe they look.

Normalcy Bias told that person, “It’s probably just a quick message from someone I know, so it’s OK to click the link they sent me.” Millions of dollars in damages were to follow.

So, as we near the end of our study on Normalcy Bias, we’ve seen that both approaches have positive and negative points to be considered in a crisis situation. Each situation will be unique; each response will need to be customized to fit the particular characteristics in that event.

However, a piece of

wisdom given to me many years ago has proven to be very applicable to these circumstances:

“In a high pressure situation, it is far better to quickly respond, even if it isn’t the best response, than to find the best plan after it has become too late to matter.”

In the world we live in today, things can go from peace to war, from feast to famine in mere moments. Knowing that Normalcy Bias is just a part of being human can give you an advantage when dealing with the unexpected. Give yourself time before something happens to imagine various events, and how you might best address those events. You don’t even need to plan on WHAT you will do, so much as planning HOW you will do it. Just a little preparation can mean you won’t be the deer in the headlights.

Peace be unto you. □





# BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE

## LESSON SEVENTEEN: THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

*The Ten Commandments, as revealed by God, codified by Moses, and ratified and magnified by Christ, are the perfect expression of God's law. They are the foundation of all biblical teaching, showing man how to express love toward God and fellowman, and are consequently the focal point of Christian life.*

### DOCTRINAL OVERVIEW

When God initially spoke to the Israelites from Sinai, He gave them the Ten Commandments (Ex. 20:1-17). It is true that the full covenant made with Israel at Sinai also contained other rules, regulations and commands (Ex. 20-24). Yet the only code spoken directly to the people, rather than through Moses, and written on the tables of stone placed in the ark of the covenant was the code of the Ten Commandments. The vital importance of these ten major precepts to our culture has been recognized even by historians who see no uniqueness in the Old Testament as a religious document.

Jesus Christ specifically listed five of the Ten Commandments (fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth and ninth commandments) when He told the young rich man, "If thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments" (Mt. 19:17). He also pointed out that the Ten Commandments have two basic objectives (Mt. 19:16-22; Mk. 10:17-22; Lk. 18:18-23): (1) the first four show how one is to love, worship and honor God, and (2) the final six give the basis for how to love other human beings. Indeed, Jesus summarized the two basic objectives of the Ten Commandments when He answered the Pharisee's question:

"Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great

commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets" (Matt. 22:36-40).

James wrote that "whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it" (James 2:10). What "law" was James so strongly upholding in this context? He makes this plain in the next verse by discussing two of the Ten Commandments (the sixth and seventh commandments).

John wrote profoundly about God's commandments in his first epistle: "And hereby we do know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments" (I John 2:3), for anyone "that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in Him" (v. 4). Moreover, "whatever we ask, we receive of Him, because we keep His commandments" (I John. 3:22).

Ultimately, the whole object is the love of God, which is the essence of God's being: "For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome" (I John. 5:3). The entirety of the law — in both its major and minor points — has the object of teaching us what godly love is. Yet even though each part is a section of the whole, unique stress has always been placed on the specific ten points first enumerated as such at Mount Sinai. One can see an obvious reason for this.

The problems of our modern legal system are

well known. Some laws are so badly worded that the individual citizen is hard put to know exactly what the legislators had in mind in framing them and how he is to adhere to those laws. On the other hand, each individual is continually beset on all sides by a welter of picayune regulations which seem to irritate more than help. How is one to come to grips with the situation without having to become a professional lawyer, as it were? The Ten Commandments, by contrast, are a paradigm for the modern legislator. The Ten Commandments provide a few convenient categories by which all laws can be summarized and organized.

To illustrate the importance of the Ten Commandments as the basic summarizing principles of God's mind, the following section gives a precis [a concise summary] of each and shows how it serves as a major category of rubric [broad heading] under which many important but more detailed commands can be systematized.

**FIRST COMMANDMENT:** Worshipping No Gods But the True God. Many regulations of the Old and New Testaments relate to worshipping and honoring only the one God. In today's society there are few who follow blatant polytheism. And though historians acknowledge Israel as the cradle of monotheism, most educated Romans and Greeks also thought in terms of a basic monotheism by the time of Jesus. Yet polytheism easily exists in a more subtle form in every age and society. Human nature naturally places the self rather than God at the center of the personal universe. Man by nature first worships himself. Even the initial impulse to worship a superior being — a god-or even the true God — is often a selfish one, since such worship is undertaken in order to stave off disaster (by sacrifice or other propitiatory means), or to ask a favor, or to obtain salvation. Worship of God for its own sake is completely possible only by means of the Holy Spirit.

**SECOND COMMANDMENT:** No Manufactured Images of God. Human beings naturally like to deal with physical objects. Worshipping an invisible God and recognizing that He is more real than even the physical world does not come easily. Therefore, man seeks physical "aids" in worshipping God

rather than coming to grips with the true reality of the transcendent, invisible God inaccessible to the five senses. Pagan worshippers seldom regarded their idol as the actual deity itself. On the contrary, the idol was merely a representative of the invisible god in heaven. The idol served as an aid to worship just as the icons and statues still used in various religions, do today. Since the use of images in reality only serves to impede true understanding of the spiritual and invisible Creator God, it was — and is — forbidden.

**THIRD COMMANDMENT:** Not Taking God's Name in Vain. Respect the world over is to a considerable extent demonstrated by the manner in which one refers to the object of respect. One does not address the chairman of the board frivolously or familiarly. To make use of God's name lightly — whether as an interjection in day-to-day conversation, or as a witness to an event which really doesn't concern Him (swearing and taking oaths), or in a context which does not show respect or honor — shows an unacceptable attitude toward God Himself. We all eventually have to come to see God as the center of the universe and of all reality. That required insight is impossible without the utmost respect and honor toward God. How one uses His name is an outward indicator of how one really feels towards Him.

The third commandment has a deeper meaning as well. We are not to do anything that could hold God's name up to scorn. As Christians — and as God's Church — what we do, what we teach and how we teach it directly reflects upon God. We should take this responsibility seriously.

**FOURTH COMMANDMENT:** Sabbaths for Rest and Worship. The Sabbath command is very much a pivotal one, serving both as a means of honoring and worshipping God and of aiding man. First of all, the Sabbath is a memorial of Creation, pointing to God as the Creator. Secondly, the human body requires rest for efficient bodily function and a proper mental outlook. Therefore, God commanded man to rest a full day once a week plus setting aside certain other days for annual times of rest and rejoicing. Man by nature needs periodic holidays. Had God not given some to Israel, they would have invented their own.

*Continued next page*

Moreover, God not only gave weekly and annual days of rest, but He required that slaves — and even beasts of burden — be allowed to enjoy rest on these days. This was a demonstration of love for one's fellow man as well as kindness to animals.

Thirdly, while periodical physical rest is sufficient to meet physical needs, the Sabbath and annual holy days serve a spiritual function as well. Indeed, this is their primary purpose. They provide the opportunity for study and for meeting to receive instruction in the ways of God. They provided the opportunity for worship and intellectual and spiritual pursuits which may not be possible during the day-to-day task of making a living. Again, any day of the week would suffice for this as well as for physical rest. The spiritual aspect lies in the fact that (1) it is a time God has chosen, a fact significant in itself since one shows respect to God by worshipping when, and as He says, rather than as the individual chooses; and that (2) the choice of the seventh day also points back to Creation and, as a consequence, to the Creator. Further, both the weekly and annual Sabbaths serve to point out God's overall plan to man. This is all part of the process of acquiring God's mind, which is perfect love. (An expression of the fourth commandment to include the annual festivals is indicated by some of the scriptures which utilize the plural form of the Hebrew word *shabbat*.)

**FIFTH COMMANDMENT: Honor of Parents.** The parents are the first authority in a child's life. They are also the first source and the first object of his love. By respecting and honoring his parents the child learns respect for constituted authority in general, and eventually learns respect for the ultimate authority, God. In the same way, he learns love from the love of his parents. As he returns that love, he begins to see how love must also be directed toward a broader circle, and eventually toward the Source of all things. Familial love is the basis of a stable family unit, which in turn is the basis of a stable society. Loving one's parents is thus crucial in a positive environment in which love is learned and expressed, and God thereby worshipped. It is also a necessary step in learning to love God.

**SIXTH COMMANDMENT: Respect for Another's Life.** Any orderly society has certain restrictions

on the taking of human life. Absolute prohibition against taking human life does not exist in human society, but the basic principle is, at least, recognized. A number of Old Testament laws governing warfare and the execution of criminals relate to a physical nation rather than to a spiritual church. Life could be taken under certain circumstances. However, Jesus showed that even hating was wrong, since hating preceded murder and murder never embodied love. Even Old Testament laws clearly taught that lack of care for the safety of another was only one step removed from deliberate murder. A number of laws regulated potential or actual cases of manslaughter. If a man accidentally killed another, the law protected him by allowing a place for him to flee to. That is, it prevented another life from being taken in revenge for the accident. On the other hand, the one guilty of manslaughter had to suffer a temporary exile, which demonstrated the seriousness of the incident, showing that he might perhaps have prevented a death had he been more careful. In other cases, the guilt of the careless individual was more clearly defined, as for example, in not building a guard rail on his roof or not keeping a belligerent farm animal safely locked up. Clearly, more than just premeditated murder is being regulated and punished.

**SEVENTH COMMANDMENT: The Marriage Institution.** Adultery is probably the most blatant offense against another person's marital partner. Forcible adultery (rape) or consenting adultery both violate an intimate bond between husband and wife, even if the wronged partner is not aware of it. Consenting adultery strikes at the very bedrock of society, the marriage family unit, shattering the most intimate human bond. Rape constitutes a violation of another person's body, mental and physical health, and the right to make personal decisions. Rape could never be considered an act of love.

Other unlawful sexual practices (e.g. homosexuality, bestiality) are illegal, both because they degrade the human mind and body, and because they are a substitution of the God-ordained marital bond. Sexual relations with near of kin are potentially hazardous to unborn offspring. Premarital sexual relations are potentially adulterous since the partners in such relations may eventually marry someone else. Similarly, to live together sexually before marriage



is to give a distorted view of the purpose of marriage and perhaps to take away an important physical incentive for marriage in the first place. All of these have consequences for one's ability to love others.

Finally, since marriage is also a picture — in miniature — of God's plan, a wrong approach towards marriage can cause one to overlook the important spiritual truths about the ultimate and eternal Family of God which can be learned from a proper marriage.

**EIGHTH COMMANDMENT:** Respect for the Property of Others. Love for another requires respect for his empirical self, which includes his family and his physical possessions. While the greatest possession one has is life, and the next greatest is one's marital partner and family, personal property may be an important necessity for continued existence. To take another's property in a poor society, may sentence him to malnutrition and a slow death. In a more affluent society, it may produce mental and emotional consequences. Consequently, we must learn to respect the rights and needs of others.

**NINTH COMMANDMENT:** Honesty in Dealing with Others. This commandment is phrased in a legal manner because one of the most obvious ways to defraud another is to testify falsely against him in court. This could cause loss of property, freedom, or even life. Yet, complete honesty and aboveboard dealing is also envisioned. One has, in a sense, witnessed falsely when he uses a scale which has been tampered with. Misrepresentation to get ahead means that a more deserving person is passed over.

Lying to boost one's ego, thereby deflating someone else's, is also blatant disregard for another. Such self-centered dealings to the exclusion of others are unconscionable and the antithesis of love — a violation of the ninth commandment.

**TENTH COMMANDMENT:** The Beginning of True Love is in the Mind. The specific phrasing of this command proscribes desiring what is not lawful for an individual to have: another person's property or mate or position or whatever. In a sense, this gets at the heart of the four previous commands. One does not kill unless he desires something another person has or can give him (such as property, a better position, an improved reputation, the elimination of a threat or problem, etc.). Even revenge can usually be traced back to envy, a form of covetousness. One does not commit adultery or other sexual sins unless he has first desired what he was not entitled to, what he was not allowed to have. One does not steal or gain through dishonesty without first taking possession of the forbidden object in one's mind. If a person can control his nature at this point, many of the other temptations shall take care of themselves. Indeed, the tenth commandment is Spirit in form and content—it is concerned with the unlawful desire in the mind as well as the specific act. In this sense, it points to and foreshadows the future teachings of Jesus Christ. As Paul wrote in Philippians 2:3,5: "Let nothing be done through strife or vain glory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves... Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." □

**SUMMARY:** Read these scriptures in your own Bible:

- **Exodus 20:1-17 - God gives Israelites the Ten Commandments.**
- **Matthew 19:17 - Jesus tells the rich man to keep the commandments.**
- **Matthew 19:16-22 - Commandments have two objectives, love, honor and worship of God and love of man (See Mark 10:17-22 and Luke 18:18-23)**
- **Matthew 22:36-40 - The great commandment of the law.**
- **James 2:10 - Fail in one point of the law and you are guilty of all.**
- **1 John 2:3 - We know Him if we keep His commandments.**
- **1 John 2:4 - He that saith I know Him and keeps not His commandments is a liar.**
- **1 John 3:22 - Whatsoever we ask of Him, we receive because we keep His commandments.**
- **1 John 5:3 - For this is the love of God that we keep His commandments**

**QUESTIONS (ANSWERS BELOW):**

- 1) Which of the following is false? The 10 Commandments are...
    - a) revealed by God
    - b) ratified and magnified by Christ
    - c) the perfect expression of God's love
    - d) the foundation of biblical teaching
    - e) showing man how to express love toward God and fellowman
    - f) are the focal point of the Christian life
    - g) are no longer required
    - h) all of the above
  - 2) Historians have recognized the vital importance of these ten major precepts to our culture even when they gave little importance to the Old Testament as a religious document. True or False?
  - 3) Jesus never told anyone to keep the commandments. True or False?
  - 4) Finish this verse from Matthew 19:17: "If you will enter into life \_\_\_\_ \_ \_\_\_\_." [3 words]
  - 5) Finish this verse from James 2:10: "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point he is \_\_\_\_ \_ \_\_\_\_." [3 words]
  - 6) Finish this verse from 1 John 2:3: "And hereby we do know that we know him if we \_\_\_\_ \_ \_\_\_\_." [3 words]
  - 7) Finish this verse from 1 John 2:4: "He that saith I know him, and keepeth not his commandments \_\_\_\_ \_ \_\_\_\_ [3 words] and the truth is not in him."
  - 8) Finish this verse from 1 John 3:22: "And whatsoever we ask we receive of him, because we \_\_\_\_ \_ \_\_\_\_." [3 words]
  - 9) Which phrase best completes this sentence? The entirety of the law — both its major and minor points — has the object of teaching us:
    - a) what His demands are
    - b) How narrow the road to Salvation is
    - c) what godly love is
    - d) the burden of being a Christian
  - 10) Man by human nature first worships himself. True or False?
  - 11) Which best completes the sentence? Worship of God for its own sake is completely possible only by...
    - a) obedience
    - b) sincerity
    - c) belief
    - d) the Holy Spirit
  - 12) It is quite permissible to have a symbol of God or Jesus to aid you in your sincere worship of them. True or False?
  - 13) What we do in our worship, the Work of God, what we teach and how we teach it directly reflects on God. True or False?
  - 14) Which apply? The Sabbath is...
    - a) kept on Saturday
    - b) from sunset [even] Friday to sunset [even] Saturday
    - c) is a memorial of creation
-

- d) points to God as Creator
- e) a physical rest
- f) a spiritual renewing
- g) part of the overall plan of God
- h) all of the above

15) Which does not apply? Parents are...

- a) the first authority in a child's life
- b) the first source and object of love
- c) infallible
- d) a necessary step in learning to love God, who is infallible

16) Which is worse?

- a) killing a person      b) hating a person      c) both equally bad

17) Caring for the safety of your fellow man is an important element of the sixth commandment. True or False?

18) Which of the following are related to a discussion of the 7th Commandment?

- a) adultery
- b) rape
- c) homosexuality
- d) bestiality
- e) sexual relations with near kin
- f) living together outside wedlock
- g) all of the above

19) Respect for the property of others includes them, their family, their possessions and their property (real estate). True or False?

20) The ninth commandment is best understood and kept by invoking the godly principle of \_\_\_\_\_. [what]

21) The 10th Commandment shows us that both love and sin begins in the mind with a thought. True or False?

22) The 10th Commandment is...

- a) Spiritual in form and content
- b) concerned with the act of covetousness, such as envy or revenge
- c) concerned with the unlawful desire of the mind
- d) all of the above

#### LESSON SEVENTEEN — ANSWERS:

16. (c)	9. (c)	1. (g)
17. (true)	10. (true)	2. (true)
18. (g)	11. (d)	3. (false)
19. (true)	12. (false)	4. (keep the commandments)
20. (honesty)	13. (true)	5. (guilty of all)
21. (true)	14. (h)	6. (keep His commandments)
22. (d)	15. (c)	7. (is a liar)
		8. (keep His commandments)





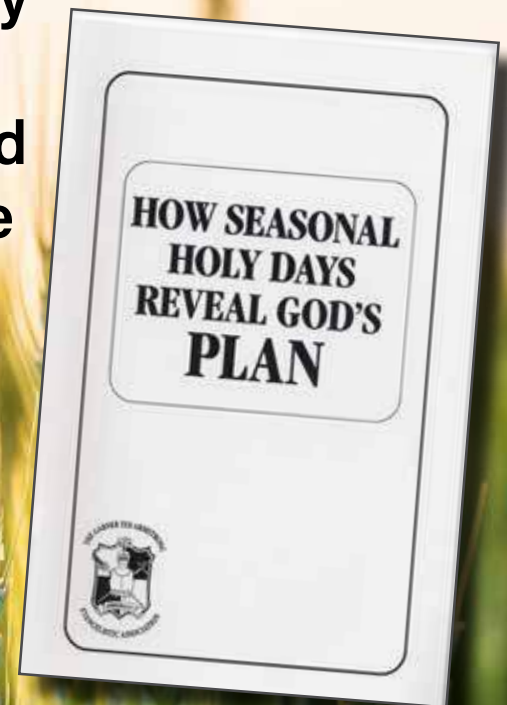
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