

21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

# WATCH

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**“My prayer is  
very simple:  
God, use me  
for Your will.”  
– Charlie Kirk**

REMEMBERING  
**CHARLIE KIRK**  
1993 - 2025



# Have We Reached A Turning Point?



We're in for a long slog. The team that Trump has put in place means business, and I can't imagine that the people who corrupted government and played along are getting much sleep. I almost hate that we have to relive everything we already knew. You know the names. They thought they'd be in power forever, I guess. But these guys are going down, and the President gets to fly above the fray, letting the laws on the books and others do the dirty work.

The media is going after him full force. It's like a battle for our souls and the networks are all in. They can't believe somebody is about to upset their apple cart. And they're failing. They slant the news to make us suspicious, give overblown coverage to anything they think will cause us doubt, and don't report events that would solidify our position. What are the odds on the main networks surviving?

Are we about to go to war with Venezuela? Warships have been positioned. Maduro hadn't planned on going to war with the United States, but his gravy train may be about to dry up. He's got

cocaine shipments going all over the world, and to the biggest market — the U. S. We're through messing around.

The President apparently wants to go down in history as a peace-maker. He wants deals and wants to stop wars with them. He seems to think everything can be negotiated. If he was dealing with sane individuals he might be right.

Charlie Kirk was shot dead by someone who couldn't argue. I watched him a lot and he took all comers at university campuses and gave them something to think about. He always won the arguments, assuming someone was brave enough to argue with him. I've watched many of his college appearances and he was mighty effective. And polite! He didn't try to humiliate those looking to take him on. It's a great loss, and I'm not over it. A nicer guy you couldn't find.

All over the world vigils are being held. Who knew he was so popular or even well known? They're carrying pictures of him in many European cities, and turnout is huge. I always liked to watch



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Image: Shutterstock

his videos, but now he's everywhere. They're holding vigils attended by thousands. A couple of conservative hosts have offered to pick up where Charlie left off. This murder may have been one of the greatest miscalculations of all time. The fruit-loop who sought to silence Charlie Kirk has now made every word he said famous.

They've got the maniac who killed him. He may not get to rot in jail long enough to see that he's probably the worst thing that has ever happened to their line of reasoning.


We don't know what is going to happen with Ukraine. Apparently, some of the heaviest bombing close to Kiev has happened since the Alaska meeting and nobody knows what's next. Zelensky already had that look on his face. It looks like the whole thing may blow up and there's nothing Trump can do about it, except punish both nations. But they better straighten up and come to the table.

China is menacing Taiwan, and who knows? Maybe we'll get this thing straightened out once and for all. But not without trouble.

Israel is having its way with Gaza, but some hostages have yet to be released. Some of these cases are so pitiful you hate to look.

Israel's bombers hit Qatar and the Trump administration publicly rebuked Israel, saying it better not happen again. He wants to be everybody's friend, if that's possible. Hopefully, the raids were successful at getting some terrorists. Israel has a vested interest in keeping things friendly with us.

The media is beside itself about Trump. If you read the mainstream, they've got all kinds of dark suspicions. They act like there's something Trump did on Epstein Island that will turn us against him. I think they're talking through their hat. If there was something, it would have been made public by the Biden administration. But no, they just act like there's something we don't know. Poppycock.

No matter where you look, the Trump administration is winning. I think we'll all be in a better place at the end of his presidency. And who knows, we may get someone almost as good next time! 

# God Doesn't *NEED* You

by Garner Ted Armstrong

Image: Shutterstock

The sum total of ALL evangelistic effort or missionary work, of altar calls and religious endeavor, seems predicated on a fervent race against time!

The Devil seems to be winning, if such a frantic struggle exists.

What about it? Have you ever wondered why it is the Devil seems to have ALL the special tools, the knack and know-how, the ingenuity and craft with which to trap his victims, while God seems to have none?

Think about it.

Society, with its bright lights, entertainment, and pleasures. The movies, TV, novels, records, dances, parties, cigarettes, liquor, sex, money, position, travel — all of this appeals naturally to the average human being. The Devil seems, according to this reasoning, to have just about all the advantages.

But, goes the faulty idea, God has virtually no weapons!

Against the natural desire of the average human for the pleasures of the physical senses, the broken-hearted voice of “religion” seems to say, “No!” “Don’t!” “Give up!” “Go with-out!” “Abstain!”

Have you ever attended a “good old-fashioned revival,” or evangelistic campaign? Have you heard a hoarse-voiced, perspiring evangelist in broken, quavering tones, while the measured pulse of the choir softly chants, “Just as I am,” plead emotionally: “Won’t you come? With every head bowed, with others praying for you, won’t you step out into that aisle and come down to the altar? Give your heart to the Lord right now, tonight!”

Does God, to you, seem to represent giving up everything that is fun and enjoyable — going

without the real pleasures in life, while the Devil seems to have a corner on the market of delight?

Such ideas are utterly FALSE!

Believe it or not, there is no great struggle to get this world saved now!

Jesus said, “Think not that I am come to send peace on Earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword” (Matt. 10:34). He explained, when His disciples asked Him why He spoke in the public in hidden meaning, in parables: “Because it is given unto you [His disciples] to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given...Therefore I speak to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand” (Matt. 13:10-13).

But WHY?

If Christ were desperately

trying to plead with people to “get saved” and escape the wiles of the Devil, would He have deliberately hidden His meaning from them — obscured the very message of Salvation?

That’s what He said! That’s exactly what He did. Read it, in His own words, “And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah, ‘By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand: and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: For this people’s heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; Lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them’” (Matt. 13:14-15).

Strange words, indeed, IF God were desperately trying to save this world.

But He is NOT trying to save it, now. Christ did not try to save it, then.

And, since God is NOT now trying frantically to save the world, just how badly does He really need you?

### **DOES CHRIST SUFFER FROM INFERIORITY?**

Think about it. How has “Christ” been presented to you?

Usually, when you think of Christ, do you immediately think of death? Do you imagine a dead person, hanging on a cross? Or, like many, do you immediately imagine the manger scene, thinking of Christ as a sweet little baby, wrapped in “swaddling clothes” and being sheltered in

His mother’s arms? Or perhaps you have a picture of “Christ” in your home — or in your Bible.

Look at the picture. See any power there? See any force? Any driving, magnetic, positive, masculine zeal and energy?

Or do you see, instead, a picture of weakness?

Ever seen artist’s portrayals of the Devil? If you have, you’ve noticed a “devilishly” handsome look. Dark, intense, alert, piercing eyes — strong, craggy masculine features, powerful jaw, jutting, strong nose, the very picture of force and energy.

Christ is pictured as having long hair, as looking almost feminine while the Devil is pictured as having short hair, if any. But take away the halo from the pictures of “Christ,” and remove the tail, pitchfork and horns from the “Devil” and look again!

Then read what your own Bible says about it. Notice! “Doth not even nature teach you [inspired by the Christ of the Bible], that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him?” (I Cor. 11:14).

Read further! “He hath no form nor comeliness [not outstandingly “beautiful” or “handsome”]; and when we shall see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him” (Isa. 53:2).

Paul said, “For it is evident that our Lord sprang out of Juda” (Heb. 7:14).

Juda means the house of Judah: the tribe of the Jewish people!

Remember also that Christ was betrayed with a kiss. And for the express purpose of buying

that all-important sign, pointing out to His accusers just WHO HE WAS, the Pharisees paid Judas a great deal of money!

But why the bribe if Jesus was so outstandingly different? He would have been easily singled out in any crowd?

Put it all together. Christ was a Jew. He wasn’t any different in appearance from any other Jewish man of His day. He didn’t have long hair, and He most certainly did NOT have an inferiority complex.

But what about the “Christ” you have always just taken for granted?

How have you thought about Him?

What have you thought about religion? About altar calls? About “receiving Christ” and “salvation”?

Hasn’t it all been a little confusing to you?

No, the Christ of the Bible, the living Christ who is very much alive at this precise second, does not have a terrible inferiority complex. He is NOT suffering because He so desperately needs ALL people to believe “on” Him right now, or believe “in” what He did.

But this world IS suffering — and suffering because it will not believe what Jesus Christ said!

### **A DECEIVED WORLD**

Without realizing it, you have probably been believing the exact opposite from what the Bible really says. Your Creator tells you this is a deceived world — that a great spirit being, Satan

*Continued next page*

the Devil, has succeeded in blinding the vast majority.

"In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ...should shine unto them" (II Cor. 4:4). Satan the Devil is called, symbolically, a great dragon, "which deceiveth the whole world" (Rev. 12:9).

But how many really believe the plain word of God? How about you? Do you really believe this world — yes, all of it — has been deceived?

Do you believe YOU could have been? And remember, a deceived person does not know he's deceived — he thinks he knows the truth!

Satan the Devil has turned this world to deception — has caused it to believe in lies. He is called the first liar, and the father of all lies (John 8:44).

So, today, the average person believes Christ came to destroy His Father's laws, to free us from the law — to DIE to get us saved, and that He is trying, desperately, to save the world, TODAY.

And none of this is true!

Christ's death did NOT destroy the law, did NOT, of itself, save us! And Christ is NOT trying to save the whole world, today! Here's the proof!

#### **WHAT CHRIST DID ACCOMPLISH**

Jesus said, "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am NOT come to destroy, but to fulfill" (Matt. 5:17).

He came to magnify the law of God, making it far more

binding upon us, making it spiritually applicable.

He said, when asked the way to salvation and eternal life, "If thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments" (Matt. 19:17). He came, keeping God's commandments, to set us "an example; that ye should follow His steps" (I Pet. 2:21).

Christ came talking of the LOVE of God. But He didn't leave us guessing about what kind of love is God's love! Notice. "For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not grievous" (I John 5:3).

John was inspired to write, "And hereby we do know that we know Him [know Christ], if we keep His commandments" (I John 2:3). He went on to say, "He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him" (I John 2:4).

Paul was an instrument of Christ's. Christ spoke through Paul (Gal. 2:20). Notice what Paul was inspired to say about whether the law was "done away."

"What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, 'Thou shalt not covet'" (Rom. 7:7). Paul showed how the law pointed out what sin is, and said, "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom. 6:23).

Sin is the breaking of God's law — His Ten Commandments (I John 3:4).

Paul said, "For we know

that the law is spiritual" (Rom. 7:14). He said, "Wherefore the law is Holy, and the commandment Holy, and just, and good" (Rom. 7:12). He said, "I consent unto the law that it is good" (Rom. 7:16).

Do you still think Christ came to destroy His Father's laws? Not if you believe and tremble before the sacred Word of God, you don't!

#### **Does Christ's DEATH Save Us?**

What about the broken-hearted appeals of religion today? Have you seen the signs on barns, billboards, and automobiles — "Christ DIED to SAVE sinners"?

Probably, you have. But that is not in the Bible! Shocking as it may sound, the Bible nowhere says we are saved by the death of Christ. Now read carefully what the Bible does say.

Let's understand. When we break God's laws, which were given us for our protection, our blessings, our good, we become sinners. And sin cuts one off from God!

The ONLY way we can ever be forgiven our sins, and be reconciled to God, against Whom we have sinned, is through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ:

"Neither is there salvation in any other; for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

Christ died to pay the penalty for sin!

And everyone has sinned (Rom. 3:23). Paul wrote, "For



when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly” (Rom. 5:6).

“But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom. 5:8).

But does the simple acknowledgment of Christ’s death save us?

Can a person be truly saved, given an eternal inheritance, just by confessing he believes Christ did live once, and that He died?

Not according to the Holy word of your Creator!

“Much more then, being now justified by his blood...” (Rom. 5:9).

Then the death of Christ, the shedding of His life’s blood, was required to JUSTIFY our guilty past! That means to forgive us our wrong-doings, our sins, our transgressions of God’s spiritual and Holy law! It removes the barrier our sins had set up between us and God. It reconciles one to God — establishes a connection.

It always takes Christ’s blood to forgive any sin, at any time, anywhere! But it takes more

than Christ’s death to save us.

Read it, in your own Bible. “Much more then, being now justified [having our past sins forgiven] by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him... For if, when we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, being reconciled, we SHALL be saved by His life.”

Yes, it takes a living High Priest, and a soon-returning King to really save us!

It takes the shed blood of Christ to forgive and atone for our sins, but it takes a living Christ to resurrect us, or to change our vile bodies into His glorious form (Phil. 3:21).

Forgiveness, reconciliation, and justification come with Christ’s blood. But final salvation, the gift of eternal life — being conducted into His Kingdom, changed from flesh to spirit, that is accomplished by His life!

Do you still believe Christ’s death “saves” sinners? Not if you believe the Holy Word of God, you don’t.

### **DID CHRIST TRY TO SAVE THE WORLD?**

Obviously, if Christ tried to save the world then, He lost the battle. Still obviously, if Christ is trying to save the world now, He’s fighting a losing battle.

But is Christ so weak?

Not at all. This just is not the only time of salvation.

The Devil is only allowed a certain span of time to work on human nature — to appeal to carnal vanity, and the lusts of human flesh. Satan is able to accomplish only what the great Creator allows!

God is the ruler. Christ is the soon-coming King of this earth! He WILL rule it, with a rod of iron (Rev. 2:26-27).

Christ came to deliver a message to His disciples (John 12:49), and to commission them to preach it to the world (Matt. 28:19-20).

He even predicted most people would NOT repent, and be converted.

“If the world hate you [He said to His true followers], ye know that it hated me before

MUCH MORE THEN, HAVING NOW  
BEEN JUSTIFIED BY HIS BLOOD,  
WE SHALL BE SAVED FROM WRATH  
THROUGH HIM.

—ROMANS 5:9—

it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love his own: but because you are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you" (John 15:18-19).

He predicted, "I have given them thy word [He was praying to the Father] and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world" (John 17:14-15).

not struggling desperately to plead, whine, argue, beg or wheedle people into repentance. Jesus did nothing of the kind — nor did Peter, Paul or other Apostles — nor is the living Christ, through His true ministers, today. He is NOT trying to save the world now.

But God is warning this world!

Jesus Christ gave His servants an awesome responsibility.

now, Christ offers free salvation — a conversion now — and a responsible place with Him, in conducting the most vitally important work being accomplished on earth. And He offers more — He offers a change at Christ's coming — from mortal to immortal, and a position of rulership with Him in His soon-coming RULE on this earth!

"To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my

***“To those who WILL repent now,  
Christ offers free salvation.”***

He said His true servants would be ridiculed, impugned, injured, even martyred for the truth they would preach (John 16:2; Matt. 24:9).

He warned His servants, "...beware of men; for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues; and you shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles...and ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved" (Matt. 10:17-22).

Do you still think Christ had any illusions about saving the world, either then or now? Not if you tremble before the very word of that Christ, you don't.

So, after all, just how badly does God really need you?

#### **WHAT IS GOD DOING TODAY?**

Obviously, He's not conducting broken-hearted appeals,

He commissioned them to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom of God, as a warning, as a witness against them. (Matt. 24:14).

God thunders to us a stern warning about the future. He warns where our frightful crime, divorce, lusts, hatreds, bigotries and violence are taking us.

He commands us to repent, before it's too late.

But He doesn't have to beg. He doesn't need to bargain.

Almighty God demands total surrender — absolute and unconditional!

"Repent, or ye shall all likewise perish," said Jesus Christ (Luke 13:3, 5).

"Repent ye, and believe the Gospel," He said (Mark 1:15).

"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord" (Acts 3:19).

To those who WILL repent

throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in His throne" (Rev. 3:21).

"And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father" (Rev. 2:26, 27).

But He's not begging. He's not pleading. And He doesn't really need you.

No, you NEED Him!

You need Him desperately, you need Him badly, you need Him urgently.

Christ doesn't need to ask you — you need to ask Him! Christ doesn't need to plead with you — you need to plead with Him to grant you real broken-hearted repentance — to fill you with His precious Holy Spirit! ☐



# U.S. Muslim mayor to Christian citizen: "You are not welcome here. Move away..."

Image: Islamic Center of America on November 3, 2017 in Dearborn, Michigan. Nagel Photography / Shutterstock

## *Elected official stuns with vitriol against man who objected to promoting violence*

by Bob Unruh, WND News Center

A Muslim mayor of Dearborn, Michigan, has stunned with his vitriol against a Christian resident of his city who simply objected to promoting violence.

Mayor Abdullah H. Hammoud scolded resident Edward "Ted" Barham, a Christian, "Although you live here, you are not welcome here."

Barham had objected to renaming some intersections in Dearborn after Osama Siblani, Arab American News publisher who has promoted Hezbollah and Hamas, both Middle East organizations that have inflicted death, destruction and terror on Americans.

Hammoud issued a dangerous suggestion for Barham to not see the signs.

"The best suggestion I have for you is to not drive on Warren Avenue or close your eyes while you're doing it. His name is up there and I spoke at a ceremony celebrating it because he's done a lot for his community," Hammoud claimed.

He then turned to a personal attack on his city's resident, accusing Barham of being "a bigot, and you are racist, and you're an Islamophobe. Although

you live here, I want you to know as mayor, you are not welcome here. And the day you move out of the city will be the day that I launch a parade celebrating the fact that you moved out of this city."



*Continued next page*

Barham had explained Siblani is “a promoter of Hezbollah and Hamas. ... He talks about how the blood of the martyrs irrigates the land of Palestine ... whether we are in Michigan and whether we are in Yemen. Believe me, everyone should fight within his means. They will fight with stones, others will fight with guns, others fight with planes, drones, and rockets.”

Fox News reported the signs actually were approved by the Wayne County commission, as the road is a county road, but the signs are inside Dearborn.

Barham compared the signs to naming a road “Hezbollah Street or Hamas Street,” and said the “honor” for Siblani was “provocative.”

He explained as a Christian, he promoted peace.

Fox explained, “Dearborn, the city with America’s highest-percentage Muslim population, has long navigated debate over cultural and political identity. For many average residents, the moment captured in City Hall begged the question of whether elected officials are willing to listen to all voices or only those they choose to celebrate.”

WND reported only days ago that adjacent Dearborn Heights was forced into an embarrassing backtrack when officials announced a badge for police officers that said “Dearborn Heights Police” in Arabic.

The scandal even caught the attention of the late Charlie Kirk, co-founder of Turning Point USA, who was assassinated a week ago at a free speech event in Utah.

After an interval of only two days, Dearborn Heights Mayor Bill Bazzi went to social media to backtrack.

“On Wednesday, September 3rd, information was disseminated from the Dearborn Heights Police Department regarding a digital mock-up of the DHPD patch bearing the department name translated in Arabic script,” his Facebook post said. “The design mock-up idea showed the words ‘Dearborn Heights Police’ in Arabic and was said to be optional. The patch effort was an internal discussion among some within the police department which was not put forth for consensus or further review.”

But, he said, “Should efforts like this be formally undertaken to make any changes to the

Police uniform, it is our goal to include multiple PD stakeholders for a larger conversation, to ensure all are included in the discussion. As we are one PD, each individual’s uniform represents the DHPD as a whole, and therefore merits the review and input of all. At this time, this patch addition remains an idea and should NOT have been presented as an official prototype.”

Dearborn Heights has a population of around 39% Middle Eastern or North African as of the most recent census, but triggered Republican Congressman Randy Fine with its announcement. He called it an example of “Sharia Law” coming to Michigan. □





# Why Keep Saturday for Sunday?

Could you be **WRONG** and not know it? It's a possibility worth considering. You grew up in a "ready-made" world. Had the western world of professing Christianity never become completely oriented toward Sunday observance, its attitude toward God's Holy Sabbath day would be quite different.

This is why I chose the title, *Why Would Anyone Keep Saturday For Sunday?* for my booklet on the subject. It seems strange — even cultic — to most.

The Sunday-observing world looks askance at the Sabbath, desiring to connect it with the "Jews, who rejected Christ." Most, without ever really thinking it through, look at Sunday as "liberty," and the Sabbath as "bondage." The exact opposite is true.

The Sabbath day was set aside by your Creator — the member of the divine family called *Elohim* who became Christ — as a day of **REST** from your labors. In the commandment itself God gives an explanation as to **WHY** we are to rest: "...for in six days the Eternal [Christ in His pre-human state] made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the **LORD** blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it" (Exodus 20:8-11)

"For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his" (Hebrews 4:10). So the Sabbath rest pictures how God "rested on the seventh day" and blessed it; hallowed it; set it apart as holy!

Those who obey God and rejoice in the joys

of the Sabbath are picturing God's own rest; which was a **CREATIVE** act. Creation was not finished in six days; God was not through creating until after the **SEVENTH** day. He **CREATED** the Sabbath day by **RESTING** upon it.

Christ said, "And he said unto them, The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath: Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the Sabbath" (Mark 2:27, 28).

Notice that the Sabbath was made **FOR MAN**, not "for the Jews." The subtle attempt to make it appear that it was "delivered to the Jewish nation" when no such "Jewish nation" existed; the attempt to make it appear "Jewish," and therefore repugnant is at best ignorant, and at worst, dishonest!

The Sabbath was something which was **MADE** — created! It was made **FOR** man; for his delight; his enjoyment; his blessed rest!

The Sabbath is to be a day of **JOY**; a day of thanksgiving; of day of rest, relaxation, recreation, contemplation, prayer, happy fellowship and assembling with brethren — a **DELIGHT**!

God says through Isaiah, "If thou turn away thy foot from the Sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the **LORD**, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure [doing your own will; going about your own business], nor speaking thine own words:

"Then shalt thou delight thyself in the **LORD**; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob

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Order the **FREE** booklet

***Why "Keep Saturday for Sunday"?***

*by Garner Ted Armstrong*

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# DEI Won't Just Go Away

***To defeat it, federal employees need to be catechized in American principles.***

*by Casey Chalk for American Mind. Reprinted with permission.*

At least on paper, DEI in the federal government is dead. On the very first day of his second presidency, Donald Trump issued a presidential action, “Ending Radical And Wasteful Government DEI Programs And Preferring,” ending all diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility “mandates, policies, programs, preferences, and activities in the Federal Government, under whatever name they appear.” Employees in DEI-specific positions were fired; DEI positions and offices were dismantled; and DEI training programs, newsletters, and promotion criteria were scrapped.

But it would be beyond naive to think that just because federal agencies are not currently promoting DEI that their workforces do not still widely hold the opinions they were encouraged to hold. Thousands of current federal employees participated in or supported DEI programs. Even those who might disagree were coerced to back DEI if they wanted to keep their jobs.

This means that the problem of getting rid of DEI in the

federal government is multi-dimensional. For one, the federal bureaucracy recruits from institutions that are overwhelmingly liberal in composition — with twice as many professors identifying as liberal than conservative — that ideologically forms each new generation of the workforce. In his new excellent collection of essays, *Seeking Truth and Speaking Truth: Law and Morality in Our Cultural Moment*, Princeton professor Robert P. George argues that our top universities

“...permit prevailing opinions on campus to harden into dogmas, dogmas that go largely unchallenged, leaving students with the false belief that there are in fact no disputes on these matters among reasonable people of goodwill. At the problem’s core is the toxic thing that provides an environment in which illiberalism flourishes, namely, the phenomenon of groupthink.”

Consider that the universities whose graduates most commonly end up in federal service — including George Washington, Georgetown, Michigan, Mary-

land, and American — are all redoubts of the Left. For example, 95.45% of GW employees donated to Democratic candidates in the 2020 election. A 2020 *Michigan Daily* survey found that more than 75% of University of Michigan students described themselves as “somewhat liberal” or “very liberal.” None of this is particularly surprising.

Moreover, federal service is often a means of instituting a peculiar progressive political vision that is multinational, if not post-national, in nature. In a recent *Wall Street Journal* article discussing cuts in the federal government, one employee explained, “For almost all of my colleagues, this was more than a job. We all got into this work not for power or wealth but to help women and girls and help advance equality globally.” Note that nothing in that employee’s “mission statement” has to do with advancing U.S. policy objectives, which is, after all, the stated purpose of every federal agency.

There is also the fact that for decades federal agencies were



given incredible latitude to push blatantly ideologically liberal initiatives. Those involved in federal recruiting were told that although they could not make a hiring decision based on race or sex, they needed to help their respective federal agency boost their diversity hiring numbers, which effectively amounted to the same thing. The tenets of critical theory — including its antagonism toward

Federal agencies in the past have routinely brought in guest speakers to discuss various topics related to mission-specific topics. Speaker series should be introduced across the government that articulate the Framers' constitutional understanding of the government's role and its relationship to various agency missions, be it trade, education, immigration, or law enforcement.

to offer their services to reeducate Washington. These voices could be leveraged to offer their expertise to make the federal workforce into a truly pro-American vision of the Constitution and our national identity.

The anthropology of the Framers was “sober, realistic, and devoid of both excessive optimism and debilitating pessimism,” argues Daniel J. Mahoney in his

**“MANY are awakening from their ideological slumber, and need only a little exposure to something besides the groupthink they’ve been fed...”**

Western civilization, white men, and Christianity — became so central to federal service that conservative and Christian employees regularly found themselves confronted with fundamental questions of conscience regarding their employment.

There is then a great need to replace the overarching role DEI has played in the federal government for decades. What is required is an alternative vision of public service, one that has a constitutionally informed narrative about American history and law. Claremont’s Chris Ross has already hinted at what this would look like in his earlier piece at *The American Mind*. Ross noted the need for training that discourages federal employees from weaponizing government, and includes “heaping doses of civics and sound American political theory.” But much more can be done.

For years, apparatchiks from HR and other offices flooded employees’ email inboxes with DEI-themed announcements and newsletters — why not turn the tables and designate officials to regularly inform the workforce on constitutional principles or U.S. history? Promotion criteria could even be tethered to employees’ participation in these activities. If we expect medical professionals, lawyers, and educators to pursue continuing education for licensing, why shouldn’t the federal workforce be expected to do the same regarding the Constitution and the American civilization they are supposed to represent and serve?

I presume the same intellectuals and writers at Claremont and elsewhere who for many years have offered their incisive criticism of the federal workforce as deviating from constitutional norms would be more than happy

new collection of essays, *The Persistence of the Ideological Lie: The Totalitarian Impulse Then and Now*. That anthropology is desperately needed in a federal workforce that has been grossly misinformed regarding the purpose and function of our government.

It’s undoubtedly true that many employees are simply waiting out the current administration, and no amount of catechesis will dissuade them of their woke beliefs. But as recent elections have demonstrated, many are awakening from their ideological slumber, and need only a little exposure to something besides the groupthink they’ve been fed since their childhood. “The increasingly obligatory alphabetical agitprops must be resisted and challenged,” writes Mahoney. The opportunity to get rid of the DEI virus is here. We must take advantage of it. □

# IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

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## RED HEIFERS

In the Spring of 2024 this magazine reported on red heifers in Israel, an integral part of the purification ritual from Numbers 19. This process will be completed before the Jews begin any sort of sacrifice again, something the Bible indicates will be taking place prior to the tribulation. At the time, 4 of the 5 heifers qualified. No action was taken, however. The restoration of the Temple service is extremely controversial, even in Israel. Now, all of the 5 heifers have been disqualified. The Temple Institute did practice burning one of them to obtain the ashes as described in the ceremony, but any actual return to sacrificing is again on hold until a perfectly red and unblemished heifer is found.

## NOT SO BRIGHT

Geo-engineering projects that aim to dim the sunlight reaching Earth's surface continue on a small scale. Their intent is to reflect more sunlight back into space, lowering the planet's temperature to fight global warming, which is controversial to say the least. Trials have so far been on a small scale and some tests have been thwarted by local governments concerned about fallout. There are yet unrealized plans for larger scale testing in international waters. Ironically, it is aerosol, the purported scourge of the ozone layer in the 90s, that scientists now propose to release into the atmosphere to make clouds more reflective. There is no scientific consensus on the wisdom of this. Consider the lockdowns in 2020. Climate scientists' favorite line of logic is that fossil fuels equal global warming. Yet they claim people not driving their cars caused temperatures to increase because the exhaust reflects heat from the sun. Let's hope the powers that be keep these geniuses on a short leash before they do something rash.

## GERMAN TROOPS ABROAD

About 5,000 German troops have been stationed permanently in Lithuania, the first such German deployment since WW2. Other foreign missions conducted by German troops have occurred, such as contributions to various conflicts in the Middle East, but those have been far more limited in scope and duration. As the threat from Russia has spurred a rearmament in Europe, Germany has been encouraged to shrug off its post-war reluctance and assume a military role equal to its economic power. Eastern Germany and Lithuania were both subjugated by the Soviet Union until its collapse in 1991.

## EUROZONE EXPANDS

Bulgaria will be added to the 20 countries that have adopted the Euro as their official currency. A member of the EU since 2007, Bulgaria has had a long road to adoption. Countries must meet certain criteria on inflation, deficit spending, and economic integration as well as face other regulatory hurdles before being approved to adopt the Euro. Six members of the EU's 27 members still do not use the Euro and reportedly have no plans to join. These are Hungary, Poland, Sweden, Denmark, Romania, and the Czech Republic.

## DIGITAL DRAGNET

The FBI, the Department of Homeland Security, the Secret Service, the Department of Defense... All of these entities use a program called Babel X that scours the internet for public (and not so public) information on any person they are interested in. It provides available public records, social media posts, IP addresses, advertising data linked to an individual's history, and even location data. The benefit to law enforcement is obvious,



but it is somewhat concerning that such a wealth of information on any individual is available at the touch of a button and there is certainly potential for abuse.

#### **SURPASSED**

Streaming services had more viewers than cable and broadcast TV combined for the first time last May, according to Nielsen's ratings. It has been a long time coming, with streaming making steady gains over recent years. Not surprisingly, YouTube boasts the largest streaming audience, comprising a whopping 12% of total TV viewership.

#### **GIRL POWER**

A man, who has yet to be brought to justice, tried to attack a 13 year old girl who was walking home from school in California. Fortunately, he picked on the wrong girl. This particular young lady had been training in Jiu-Jitsu for years. She punched him, stomped (and broke) his ankle, spun him around and briefly had him in a headlock before he made his ignominious escape. The police have yet to apprehend him, but he's probably more worried she'll find him first.

#### **ROBOT DROP-OFF**

Amazon is testing the use of humanoid robots to deliver packages to your doorstep. They are being trialed in conjunction with Amazon's current fleet of delivery vans, though there is some speculation that they could eventually be paired with self-driving technology to completely automate the delivery process. Right now the idea is they could speed up deliveries by assisting human drivers. The technology is thought to be adept at standard layout homes with clear driveways and walkways. The challenge will be compensating for anomalies in design and the possibility of interference by humans and animals, a potentially enormous liability.

#### **BLUSHING BUDDHA**


An unscrupulous woman has devastated at least nine high ranking Buddhist monks with a seductive scam, according to reports. Her scam has been revealed in tens of thousands of photos, videos, and communications seized by police. It

went thus: seduce a monk (they are supposed to be celibate), document the relationship, tell the monk you are pregnant, use the documentation to extort large sums of money from the monk in exchange for silence. In total, she received almost \$12 million in this manner. While monks take vows of poverty, monasteries receive many donations and often have significant resources. She spent much of the money gambling online and is now facing charges for her actions. The King of Thailand has disciplined many of the errant monks.

#### **BYPASSING THE DOLLAR**

The Pan-African Payment and Settlement System (PAPSS) is offering an alternative to the U.S. Dollar for transactions. While most African nations do not seek to avoid the Dollar out of malice, some (such as South Africa) may see that as an added bonus. Cost is a major issue. Many African banks lack Dollars. Local currencies have to be converted, transactions take place through overseas partners, and the funds are then reconverted into the recipient's currency, with fees incurred at every step. PAPSS seeks to process transactions from one local currency to another, eliminating the need to use the Dollar or the Euro as an intermediary step. The process faces challenges, including pressure from the U.S. to maintain the Dollar's status as the currency of international commerce. Intentional or not, it aligns with the trend of de-Dollarization embraced by many of America's rivals.

#### **Dr. Dolittle Meets AI**

Chinese tech company Baidu has patented an AI system to interpret animal noises and translate them into human speech. Think Balaam and his donkey from Numbers 22, but as an app. While still in the research and development phase, many are gushing with enthusiasm over the potential benefits to zookeepers, veterinarians and those who just want to feel closer to their favorite furry friend. Some remain skeptical, and the resulting product may fall short of the "sweezy poochy wuvy" baby talk our active and anthropomorphic imaginations are accustomed to. A bigger question still is, do you really want to know what your cat thinks of you? 

# THE DAY(S) OF

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**“IT IS A FEARFUL THING TO  
FALL INTO THE HANDS  
OF THE LIVING GOD.”  
(HEBREWS 10:31, ESV)**

In this Bible study, we will go forth and attempt to understand the concept of Days of the Lord. For, as we will find, there is not merely a single Day of the Lord in Scripture, but a number of such days at several “levels.”

What will be demonstrated within this article is that the term “Day of the Lord” is not restricted to the awesome and frightening intervention in world affairs by God Almighty after the Great Tribulation. Rather, the term can be applied to any time of God’s direct intervention in world affairs.

So, let us have a closer look at these various momentous Day of the Lord events and how they inform us of God’s character and various historical and future events.

For these periods are when God takes a very personal interest in commanding destruction upon the earth and mankind. Whenever He decides to intervene it can be regarded as a Day of the Lord (or “that day” or “visitation”) — various earthquakes, volcanic activity, etc., feature during these periods. A cautionary note: just because similar outpourings of wrath occur in various prophecies, does not mean that the same event is recorded or prophesied, as we shall see.

Prior to exploring the pertinent scriptures that will aid us in this understanding, let us understand what **a** or **the** Day of the Lord is, which will provide a framework for our study of the subject.

The Day of the Lord may be best described below:

“Thus, the ‘Day of Yahweh’ is a generic or collective event which gathers together all the antecedent historical episodes of God’s judgment and salvation along with the future grand finale and climactic event in the whole series. Every divine intervention into history before that final visitation in connection with the second advent of Christ constitutes only a preview, sample, downpayment or earnest on that climactic conclusion. **The prophet did not think of the day of the Lord as an event that would occur once for all, but one that could ‘be repeated as the circumstances called for it.’**” (Willis Beecher, *The Prophets and the Promise*, p. 311) [emphasis mine]

I am grateful for this observation given that it supports the view that has been held to for some decades by the Church of God family. It is what we term “duality” because some prophecies have more than a single application.



# OF THE LORD

by Craig White, *FriendsOfSabbath.org*

**Is the Day of the Lord a single event for the end-time or does it cover historical events too? Or different future time periods? Can humans and Christians themselves experience such an event during their spiritual journey – a microcosm of His wrath, in their lives? Further, is the Day of the Lord restricted to only God's wrath? In this short study we will explore that Day as historic, prophetic, typological and spiritual events.**

## DAY OF THE LORD CHARACTERISTICS

When we study the subject of the Day of the Lord, several characteristics of these events come to the fore and often appear associated with it, viz:

A time period where God intervenes or claims control over:

- **Solar activity:** Ps. 19:2-7; 84:11-12; 108:2-6; 113:3-4; Is. 6:4, 13; 59:19.
- **Pitch Darkness at times:** Is. 13:9-10; Joel 2:1-11; 3:14-15; Amos 5:18-20; Zeph. 1:15.
- **Massive earthquakes:** Is. 2:12-21; 13:13; Joel 3:16; Rev. 6:12.
- **False leaders:** 2 Thess. 2:1-11.
- **The wicked punished:** Is. 13:9; Ob. 1:15-16; Zeph. 1:17.
- **Few survive:** Is. 24:6; Zeph. 1:2-3; Is. 13:12.
- **Earth destroyed, then restored:** Zeph. 1:2-3, 18; Zech. 14:8-9; 2 Pet. 3:10-13.

It can be a time of God's wrath or blessing. The Sabbath is also the Lord's Day, but a time of rest.

Noah's flood may itself be regarded as typological of the Day of the Lord and therefore a Day of the Lord in its own right:

"What is significant for our purposes is the way **Zephaniah describes this judgment in terms**

**that echo the primeval deluge... then the effect is to portray the Day of the Lord as an eschatological judgment modeled on the primordial flood:** it is a universal reversal of creation because of humanity's overbearing violence and sin." (Daniel Street, "As it was in the Days of Noah: The Prophets' Typological Interpretation of Noah's Flood," *Criswell Theological Review*, Vol. 5, No. 1, (Fall 2007), pp. 49-50) [emphasis mine]

Other Days of the Lord could include the punishment upon Sodom and Gomorrah, the Exodus and various punishments upon Israel itself because they are described in Day of the Lord terminology.

## THE EXAMPLE OF PSALM 97

"The LORD reigneth; let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of isles be glad thereof.

"**Clouds and darkness** are round about him: righteousness and judgment are the habitation of his throne.

"**A fire goeth before him, and burneth up** his enemies round about.

"His **lightnings** enlightened the world: the earth saw, and **trembled**.

"**The hills melted like wax** at the presence

*Continued next page*



Images: Shutterstock



**Floods, volcanoes, hurricanes, earthquakes; the destructive potential of natural disasters is so great that mankind has no adequate defense.**

of the LORD, at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.” (Ps. 97:1-5)

The chief aspects of this day, as we can see from the above, is that it entails the fierce wrath of God Almighty upon the nations and the earth itself. But let us take a closer at this Psalm, for it portrays volcanic activity as does the book of Revelation:

“The LORD reigneth; let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of isles be glad *thereof*.” This describes that the Messiah now reigns during the Millennium. However:

“Clouds and darkness *are* round about him: righteousness and judgment *are* the habitation of his throne.” This portrays the clouds that are exuded by volcanoes which shuts out the sunlight.

“A fire goeth before him, and burneth up his enemies round about.” Clearly the above has reference to volcanic explosions that rain down fire, rocks and ash for miles around.

“His lightnings enlightened the world: the earth saw, and trembled.” If one views documentaries on volcanoes, you will notice how they generate awesome lightnings. The land trembling — earthquakes — are also associated with volcanoes.

“The hills melted like wax at the presence of the LORD, at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.” Here are portrayed enormous lava flows that destroy all in their paths — as if they were melting the land and vegetation as it rolls on relentlessly. Other Scriptures that may also portray volcanoes are Ex. 19:16-19 with I Thess. 4:16; Deut. 5:22. Read them for yourselves as you dig into the wonderful truths of God’s Word.

The Day of the Lord is clearly characterized by a pouring out of divine wrath on God’s enemies and sinners. In some prophecies, the Day of the Lord is poured upon individual nations (e.g., Edom — Isa. 34:8; Philistines — Jer. 47:4; Egypt — Jer. 46:8-10; Ezek. 30:3); or even upon the entire world (Isa. 13:10-13; Ob. 15).

#### **DAY OF THE LORD PREDICTED IN THE NEW TESTAMENT**

“Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the **sun be darkened**, and the **moon shall not give her light**, and the stars shall fall



from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:

“And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

“And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other” (Matt. 24:29-31). [NB: the elect is dual and refers to both Israel and the Church.]

Other New Testament Scriptures that mention this awesome and majestic day of God’s terrible intervention in man’s affairs include: II Cor. 1:14; I Thess. 5:2-3; II Pet. 3:8-10; Rev. 1:10; Rev. 6:12-17; 19:15-16.

“And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the **winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.**

“And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.” (Rev. 19:15-16. See Ps. 50:3)

#### THE TIME OF ISRAEL’S REDEMPTION

This Day also heralds the saving of Israel by the Messiah. He is coming to save the Church and marry her; He is also coming to save Israel and covenant with her.

Both these events seem to occur around the same time — at the last trump (Is. 27:13; Matt. 24:31; I Thess. 4:16-17; 1 Cor. 15: 52-53).

Ezekiel 34:1-14 portrays the restoration of Israel as a resurrection — it occurs around the same time as the resurrection of the saints or shortly thereafter. Israel experiences an exodus led by angels from enslaved conditions around the world to the Holy Land. While the Church experiences a bodily resurrection — an exodus from this world (accompanied by angels) into His everlasting Kingdom, Ezekiel 34:1-14 is also about a literal resurrection — the second resurrection described in Rev. 20:11-12.

“So it shall be in that day: **the great trumpet will be blown**; they will come, who are about to per-

ish in the land of Assyria, and they who are outcasts in the land of Egypt, and shall worship the Lord in the holy mount at Jerusalem.” (Is. 27:13. See 11:12)

“For it is the **day of the LORD’s** vengeance, and the year of recompences for the controversy of Zion.” (Is. 34:8) [i.e., God’s intervention as part of His revenge for what happened to Israel during the Great Tribulation.]

“For it shall come to pass **in that day**,” says the Lord of hosts, “that I will break his yoke from your neck, and will burst your bonds; foreigners shall no more enslave them. But they shall serve the Lord their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up [resurrect] for them. Therefore do not fear, O My servant Jacob,” says the Lord...” (Jer. 30:8-10). See also Ezek 34:11-16; Is 30:26.

“As also ye have acknowledged us in part, that we are your rejoicing, even as ye also are ours **in the day of the Lord Jesus.**” (2 Cor. 1:14)

“For yourselves know perfectly that the **day of the Lord** so cometh as a thief in the night.” (1 Thess. 5:2)

“Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me **at that day**: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.” (2 Tim. 4:8)

#### THE GREAT CLIMAX OF GOD’S WRATH

The picture we gather from these prophecies and many more is that there is a build-up reaching a crescendo — a climactic peak in Day of the Lord activities. The severe and terrifying Day of the Lord heralding the end of man’s and Satan’s rule upon this earth — who will be supplanted by the Messiah Himself — is drawing nigh. But first, they must be warned by God’s servants:

“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the **great and dreadful day of the Lord.**” (Mal. 4:5).

#### THE MILLENNIAL REIGN OF THE MESSIAH

Individuals, tribes and nations will be tested during the Messiah’s reign for He will want to know their heart. The 1,000-year reign will not be a “bed of roses.” But overall it will be a time of wonderful outgoing concern for others, fine education and arts, prosperity, peace and health. As such, the

good periods of time under God are also Days of the Lord! The term is not limited to periods of His wrath alone.

The remnant of the 200 million army (Rev 9:14-21; 16:12) that are still in existence some years or decades after the return of Christ are described in some detail in Ezekiel 38 & 39:

“And it shall come to pass at the same time when Gog shall come against the land of Israel, saith the Lord GOD, that my fury shall come up in my face.

“For in my jealousy and in the fire of my wrath have I spoken, Surely in that day there shall be a great shaking in the land of Israel;

“So that the fishes of the sea, and the fowls of the heaven, and the beasts of the field, and all creeping things that creep upon the earth, and all the men that are upon the face of the earth, shall shake at my presence, and the mountains shall be thrown down, and the steep places shall fall, and every wall shall fall to the ground.” (Ezek 38:18-20)

So here we have another Day of the Lord. This time it actually occurs during the Millennium. Much speculation has arisen about this particular invasion of the Holy Land by forces to the north and how far into the Messianic period it will occur.

According to *The Acts of God* by Francis Foulkes,

“Thus we find in the Old Testament the two-fold basis of typology. We find that the belief in the unchanging God who is Lord of history leads to the understanding of the repetition of the acts of God. **We find also that the Old Testament itself points forward to divine acts more glorious than any in the past.** The Old Testament is an incomplete book,

it is revelation developing towards a climax. **There is the constant prediction of a ‘day of the Lord’, a consummation, a unique revelation of the power and glory of God in the person of the Messiah or in a Messianic age.** Then God will reveal Himself in mercy and in judgment more fully than ever before. This hope is expressed in terms of the past, yet exceeds anything experienced in the past” (p. 33) [emphasis mine].

The Millennium is also called “in that day” in a number of Scriptures including Is. 4:2-6; Hos. 2:18-23; Joel 3:18; Amos 9:11-15; Mic. 4:6-8; Zech. 14:6-9, as is the Day of the Lord just prior to the Millennium.

#### AFTER THE MILLENNIUM

God’s authority must not be questioned. He, after all, is the all-knowing and all-powerful One, Creator of all that is.

It would appear from Rev. 20 that God is going to test individuals and the nations at the end of the millennium by releasing Satan to see if they have developed holy, righteous character and will not doubt or question Him.

Mind you, given God’s way of fairness and how He usually performs, He would have undertaken a warning ministry to all on earth prior to Satan’s release which is in accordance with His usual way of dealing with humans.

“And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,

“And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.

PERIOD:	Pre-Adamic	Noachian	Lot	Exodus	Christ’s Crucifixion
Means of Destruction	Water	Water & Upheavals	Fire & Brimstone	Ten Plagues	Earthquake, Eclipse
Extent of Destruction	Much of the World	Entire world	Localized destruction	Local with impacts into Mediterranean	Local with possible global implications
Those Preserved	n/a	Noah & Family	Lot	Moses & Israelites	Mary, Disciples, & Many Others



“And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: **and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.**

“**And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone**, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.” (Rev. 20:7-10)

“And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness **unto the judgment of the great day.**” (Jude 1:6)

This would also probably qualify as a Day of the Lord given the punishment and His direct and personal involvement.

Those mentioned above that end up in the lake of fire are found also described below:

“He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

“But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the **lake which burneth with fire and brimstone**: which is the second death ...” (Rev. 21:7-8)

“Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

“For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.” (Rev. 22:14-15)

This too must be a Day of the Lord for the sinful. But why does it say that those burnt up are “without,” or “outside,” the New Jerusalem if they

are already extinct?

According to *Strong's Concordance*: “With-out = *ex'-o* Adverb from G1537; *out* (*side, of doors*), literally or figuratively: - away, forth, (with) out (of, -ward), strange.”

As is so common throughout the book of Revelation, the prophecies contained therein swing between literal and metaphorical — in this instance the extinguished are outside of the holy city and will never enter it, for they were ashes when burnt up in the lake of fire and now have become mere molecules.

“And ye shall tread down the wicked; for **they shall be ashes** under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the LORD of hosts.” (Mal. 4:3)

“The LORD trieth the righteous: but the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth.

“Upon the wicked he shall rain snares, **fire and brimstone**, and an horrible tempest: this shall be the portion of their cup.” (Ps. 11:5-6)

This is evidently metaphorical but portrays a literal outcome in the resurrection of the sinful — another Day of the Lord.

“Thine hand shall find out all thine enemies: thy right hand shall find out those that hate thee.

Thou shalt make them **as a fiery oven in the time of thine anger**: the LORD shall swallow them up in his wrath, and **the fire shall devour them**. Their fruit shalt thou destroy from the earth, and their seed from among the children of men.” (Ps. 21:8-10)

Other Scriptures that describe this are: Ps. 68:1-3; 140:9-11; Dan. 12:2; Matt. 5:21-22; 7:18-19; 13:39-42; 18:8-10; II Thess. 1:6-9; Heb. 12:28-29; Jude 1:7-8, 13; II Pet. 3:5-7; 2:4-9, 20-21.

Day of the Lord in Revelation	Gog & Magog near beginning of Millennium	Gog & Magog after the Millennium	Satan & Demons	Prior to New Heavens & Earth
Seven Plagues	Earthquakes, Pestilence, Fire & Brimstone	Fire from Heaven	Fire & Brimstone	Fire
Global event	Regional event	Regional event	Local event	Global & universal
The Church of God	Israel	Converted Ones	n/a	n/a

### YET A FURTHER DAY OF THE LORD

After the judgment which Peter refers to (which must be that of Rev. 20:13-15), we have another Day of the Lord. It is self-evident that this one is foreshadowed and typed by the pre-Millennial Day of the Lord but is a much, much larger event — this time it seems to be taking in the entire universe:

“But **the day of the Lord** will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

“Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,

“Looking for and hasting unto the coming of **the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved**, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

“Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.” (II Pet. 3:10-13)

This universal cleansing by fire — called a day of the Lord and day of God — the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, will relocate their universal headquarters to earth — heaven will come to earth!

“And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

“And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

“And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

“And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

“And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.” (Rev. 21:1-5)

### THE DAY OF THE LORD LOOMS!

I hope that this Bible Study has been interesting and enlightening — once again we can find the Bible to be the most fascinating book available to mankind. It is filled with great depth, amazing breadth of subject matter and surprises for any researcher.

Its nuggets and wealth are available to all those that seek and endeavour to mine the depths of His Word (Prov. 2:1-10).

At this point it should be stated that even the term “the last day” can refer to several events, including the day of His return at the commencement of the Millennium when the saints are raised (John 6:39-40, 43, 54; 11:24; 12:48) as well as the period after the Millennium. Similarly with the term “That Day.”

Another is “great day,” found in Acts 2:20; Rev. 6:17; 16:14; Jude 1:6, which may refer to both the post-Tribulation Day of the Lord and the judgment of fallen angels which are separate events, occurring at least 1,000 years apart.

So it is with the Day of the Lord. Let us recap the *Days* of the Lord concept with two quotes which add to our body of knowledge:

**Baker’s Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology**, article “Type; Typology”:

“As another example, **Joel understands the “day of the Lord” (2:31) to be not a single event but a theological concept with multiple fulfillments, or perhaps better, multiple manifestations.**” (emphasis mine)

Researcher Thomas Moore stated it in a fashion that is easy to grasp and helpful to our study of the subject: “There are a number of statements by the sacred writers that are designed to apply to distinct facts, successively occurring in history.” (*Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi*, pp. 396-99)

The Day of the Lord — a future event pictured by previous, historical events, is obviously a major theme of Scripture, so often overlooked, read over and largely ignored. Yet God considers it important — VERY important.

Do you see how terrible these Days usually are? This should be of great concern to all of us as the end-time Day of the Lord approaches. It may be sooner than we think. Are you prepared for it? ☐



## BIBLE STUDY

by Dr. James Ricks &amp; Natalie Ricks, M.A.

# THE ASSASSINATION OF CHARLIE KIRK

## AND THE IMPACT OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE ON PUBLIC OPINION

Image: Shutterstock

### THE SPIRITUAL INFRASTRUCTURE OF GOD'S ADVERSARY

There exists an entire realm of spirit beings that heavily influence much of this world. They are the unseen infrastructure behind much of what occurs. Note what Daniel saw:

Daniel 10:13-21, "But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia...And now I must return to fight with the prince of Persia; and when I have gone forth, indeed the prince of Greece will come. 21... No one upholds me against these, except Michael your prince." (NKJV)

It is revealed that God's angels are resisted by demons who run the Persian and Greek empires. Further, Christ also acknowledged that Satan controls this world.

Matthew 4:8-9, "Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed

Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. 9 And he said to Him, 'All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me.'"

Obviously, Jesus will soon return and take full control of this world, but He did not contradict Satan. God IS allowing this structure to exist for now, for a greater purpose.

Ephesians 6:12, "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places."

Disciples of Jesus have one true enemy and it is found in the spiritual world.

### RESULTS OF MAJOR SPIRITUAL BATTLES OF THE MODERN TIMES

The attack of 9/11 resulted in America uniting and going into a spiritually positive direction for about six months — a spiritual victory for America. Satan noted this. There were no further terrorist attacks and America drifted backwards again. Why?

Continued next page

## BIBLE STUDY

We recently witnessed the senseless murder of conservative activist Charlie Kirk. The evil empire of demons miscalculated again, it would seem. A record of 36,000 new charters for Turning Point USA, Kirk's nonprofit conservative outreach, were filed almost overnight. Interest in Bible teaching churches has skyrocketed. However, if this level of increased interest in God is temporary while the hatred of goodness is still strong, it could be a victory for evil long-term. Why? Because we lost a vital leader who will now not be available for the next forty years if our revival is temporary, like after 9/11. Charlie was also a prime enemy of evil because he discovered the true seventh day Sabbath — the sign between God and His people.

Historical event, Pearl Harbor: At a time when they were winning, the axis powers of evil struck at a vulnerable naval fleet headquarters and declared war on America. Churchill knew this was the turning point. America became more united than it had ever been in the past or ever would be in the future. Evil was defeated.

### THE FOG OF WAR ALLOWS FOR REDEFINING DEVIANCY AND NORMALITY

Before God's nation went into captivity they became immoral, evil idol worshipers. Note what God said of their society before they went into captivity.

Isaiah 5:20-21, "Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! 21 Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, And prudent in their own sight!"

Those people believed themselves to be advanced and smart but were, in essence foolish. They called good bad and evil good. Thanks to academia and the media amplifying this foolishness, so has most of the western world including America. Why is the west so vulnerable to deviant illogical ideas? Because they have devalued the Bible and the laws and ordinances contained within it.

Isaiah 5:13, "Therefore my people have gone into captivity, Because they have no knowledge; Their honorable men are famished, And their multitude dried up with thirst."

Western societies have ignored the true source of knowledge and wisdom, the Word of God. The woke culture has pushed all this strongly in the last decade. It is predicted by the Apostle Paul that deviant people are more violent.

2 Timothy 3:1-4, "But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: 2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, BRUTAL, despisers of good, 4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,"

It seems logical that as people become more base, ungodly, and evil in their lifestyle, they also become more violent and brutal, sort of like Hitler. How are many of those influenced by evil powers responding? Demons are real and have found a home in many radicals. They have posted some of the most vile trash imaginable about Charlie Kirk on social media. The good thing is that many of them have lost their jobs. Leftists are always calling those who disagree with them "Nazis." NAZISM is a form of BRUTAL socialism. It is the National SOCIALIST Party. Antifa is Nazi-like in their very actions. The assassin of Mr. Kirk was deeply into Antifa.

John 8:44, "You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him..."

Charlie was becoming a threat to Satan. He had a huge following among the youth. He was connected to them.

A post on X said, "Make America Hate Again." An evil, ungodly, hateful, repressive, FAKE religious-driven regime is what the Devil wants. They worshiped Hitler, Mussolini, and Stalin in Communist Europe during the fascist era.

Everyone must remember that we are facing true evil from powerful fallen spirits. The people they are deceiving and using are victims also. As

## BIBLE STUDY

Jesus said, “love thy enemy,” we must love them. We may not be able to trust them, but we should also recognize them as victims of Satan’s influence. Of course the government has a responsibility to prosecute people for their crimes, for the sake of law and order, but we true disciples of Christ should have love in our hearts for all.

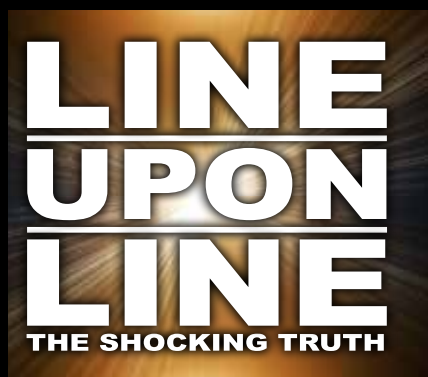
### WILL WE BE LULLED INTO APATHY AND TAKE GOD’S BLESSINGS FOR GRANTED?

Ecclesiastes 8:11, “Because the sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in

them to do evil.”

Some surveys indicate that 25% or more of Americans are loyal to the angry, hateful left. Hopefully, they are not all brutally violent now. What about the remainder? Will the majority of Americans turn back to God? Will we experience a national revival that lasts and is significant, or will we be lulled back to sleep like after 9/11?

The evil spiritual forces did not like the unity they saw after 9/11 and sent no more terrorist attacks on U.S. soil. It is likely they might try and lull us to sleep again. If they believe we are sufficiently divided, there may be a push for some level of undeclared civil war. Watch and evaluate which way the evil wind blows. How will the hearts of the American people go? Pray! □



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### Saturday for Sunday

*Continued from page 11*

58:13, 14).

The Sabbath is a day for sleeping in; for a leisurely breakfast; for reading, relaxing, and for extra time for prayer. It is a day to “smell the roses,” to walk in the yard, or go to a park, or take the children to the zoo if convenient, to show them the marvelous creation of God. It is a day to sunbathe, or to watch a documentary about fish, animals and insects. It is a day for sending a card of love and appreciation to a friend; making a phone call to a lonely person; visiting a sick person in the hospital or nursing home — a day of service, consideration, sharing and giving.

thy father: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it” (Isaiah

The Sabbath should be FAMILY day — a day for rejoicing, thanksgiving, happiness, and family worship of God and His creation. The time is coming when this entire world will call the Sabbath day a DELIGHT! God says, “And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one Sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD” (Isaiah 66:23).

This is a prophecy for the distant future — the “New Heavens and the New Earth.” Then, far into the future, all those who today hold anti-law, anti-Sabbath feelings in their hearts will joyfully observe God’s Holy Sabbath day and will find great joy in knowing, in their innermost being, “God is happy with me today!” □





# Challenge Accepted

*by Michael Armstrong*

Image: Whitehouse

Image: ANDRES MARTINEZ CASARES/EPA Shutterstock



The story of this Quarter has been a tumultuous rise in tensions among the world's leading powers. The United States has been rushing to reassert its geopolitical dominance. Allies and enemies alike have been recalibrating their relationships in light of potential benefits and liabilities. Trade relationships have been completely reset. Deals and tariffs have been held up as the proverbial carrot and stick. There is an overriding sense that lines are being drawn for future conflicts, whether economic or military remains to be seen.

and require bold, decisive action?

Our reputation abroad has fared little better. Humiliation in Afghanistan; China trampling on its guarantees to Hong Kong, making aggressive demonstrations around Taiwan and its other territorial claims in the South China Sea; Russia undeterred in Ukraine, with North Korea providing troops and weapons to back them up; Iran actively supplying its terrorist proxies like the Houthis, who virtually stopped shipping through the Red Sea for a time. On the part of our allies, complacency to say

ular and its economy, like most of Europe's, could hardly withstand a major shock. Consider France, with a new Prime Minister (its fifth in 2 years) and the cry of "*bloquons tout*" ("block everything") protests resounding at fever pitch over the idea that ANY significant budget cuts might take place. Nevertheless, they were among the most outspoken EU nations against reaching a trade rapprochement with the US.

While not exactly popular, tariffs have already had a startling effect on US finances. A \$27 Billion budget surplus was reported

**“E***CONOMIC and military might are the primary sources of American influence.*”

To say that Donald Trump hit the ground running for his second term would be a wild understatement. His administration has pursued its agenda like an all-out blitz. One might reasonably ask, *why?* Why the overwhelming sense of urgency in both foreign and domestic affairs?

Consider the big picture. This country has long been on a slow slide down. Our debt burgeoning, unchecked by congress and successive administrations without the will or political capital to actually do anything about it. Our economy tepid and at risk of being reliant on foreign adversaries for essential goods and materials. Our institutions grossly inefficient, shackled by red tape and pusillanimous pronoun protocols. Is the situation not urgent? Does it not deserve

the least, with a definite trend towards opportunism. Taken all together, this combination of factors gave the impression that the US was not the “force to be reckoned with” that it once was.

Needless to say, a great deal of that attitude has been put on notice. Economic and military might are the primary sources of American influence. On trade, traditional allies have been the first to fall in line. Britain, the EU, South Korea and Japan have been quick to reach agreements. This is worth noting because of the out-sized role the US plays in their economies as well as their defense planning.

Nor are inherent weaknesses to be overlooked. Japan has been the test case for debt to GDP ratios. Britain's Labor government is already deeply unpop-

ular. The country topped \$100 Billion in revenue in a fiscal year for the first time and the Treasury Secretary projects it could grow to \$300 Billion in the year to come. This was credited by Standard and Poor's as the reason our credit rating held steady in August. Coupled with budget cuts, increased economic growth, and lower interest rates, the US might actually be able to do something about our excessive debt, which topped 124% of GDP in 2024.

In Asia, our allies fully realized their dependence on exports and their proximity to an ever more assertive China, resulting in a swift acquiescence to US trade stipulations. This highlights the fragility of many Western allied nations. Just as NATO members have largely bent to US demands, they lack credible



**September 18, 2025, US President Trump and UK Prime Minister Starmer agree to increased technological cooperation under the Tech Prosperity Deal.** *Victoria Jones/Shutterstock*

alternatives. While many NATO countries have made sweeping statements about mutual defense and their commitments to increase military spending, what they have actually been able to commit to is far less impressive.

Italy has claimed it needs 10 years to actually reach its spending targets. It will only reach the old target of 2% in 2025 by counting certain domestic emergency services as “defense.” They are not the only country using this method to help them reach their goals. France, as referenced above, has spent the last year in virtual paralysis over its budget, making real increases impossible despite Macron’s bold rhetoric. Germany has made constitutional amendments to try and meet their targets and speed up the actual procurement process. Some of the political maneuvering to achieve this has not gone over well with the

population however. Chancellor Merz’s handling of foreign policy in general has led the AfD to top some popularity polls for the first time, though the next scheduled election is years away.

Those that actually share

borders with Russia have been far more committed and outspoken. The Baltic states all spend over 3% of GDP and Finland will reach that level in a few years. Finland has also taken steps such as closing and securing its 830 mile long border with Russia, as well as pulling out of a treaty that prohibited the use of landmines.

Poland already spends well over 4%, it shares a border with the small Russian possession of Kaliningrad and a much longer one with Russian ally Belarus. This has recently been closed due to a number of Russian drones crossing into Poland in an attack on Ukraine. Many observers believe it was an intentional probe of NATO’s readiness. Troops have also been moved to the border and their airspace closed as Russia and Belarus begin a joint military training exercise called “Zapad,” which means west. Earlier this year Polish,



**Protesters take part in a protest in Lille, northern France, on September 18, 2025 during a day of nationwide strikes and protests called by unions over France’s national budget.**

*Adrien Fillon/ZUMA Press Wire/Shutterstock*



Lithuanian, US, and Portuguese troops simulated defending the Suwalki Gap, a critical stretch of the Polish-Lithuanian border. The Zapad exercises will also simulate taking this area.

All of this illustrates that, at least for the present, there is no alternative to US economic and military clout. That may change over time, but would require a monumental effort on the part of countries who are themselves largely out of order and prone to division. Though as one commentator put it, “why should 500 million Europeans ask 300 million Americans to defend them from 100 million Russians?” All those figures are somewhat off but they are close enough to show the potential for Europe to get fed up with the status quo.

Southeast Asian countries face a similar dilemma as China becomes more assertive. South Korea, the Philippines, and Japan particularly rely on US commitments as a counterweight and deterrent. We rely upon them to help contain China and protect our interests in the region, such as freedom of navigation. Geographically, they also “encircle” the Chinese coastline and host US military bases crucial to logistics in any real conflict.

However, the number and far-flung nature of our many commitments is both an asset and a liability. It fosters cooperation, leading to economic benefits and technological advancement, but these have their limits. We reach a situation where our resources cannot be stretched to meet every contingency at once. The col-

lapse of the Soviet Union led to a brief period where the US was truly the world’s only superpower. Complacency abounded, leading allies to take military protection for granted at little or no cost to themselves. Not so today.

All are having to come to grips with reality. While China is not the USSR, it has carefully positioned itself as the leader of a potential alternative to the current Western-backed world order. This was on full display at the recent meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in China. Formed to help demarcate post-Soviet borders, the SCO is now used to facilitate business and is a virtual “who’s who” of countries at odds with the West.

The leaders of China, Russia, Iran, India, and many others glad handed and spewed a series of platitudes. President Xi’s speech promoted “peaceful coexistence,” “the international rule of law,” and “the building of a more just and reasonable global governance system”. That’s pretty rich, considering he was flanked by Putin and Kim Jong Un at a massive military parade the following day.

But the ambiguous nature of many of these statements actually smooths over a good many differences between the participants. They are not hard commitments. They do not require any member to cut ties with the West, facilitating the participation of leaders with a leg in each camp such as Erdogan and Modi. The whole event does foster the belief that an alternative is possible. Insulating their economies and by-

passing the Dollar are openly discussed, of particular importance to members facing sanctions and steep tariffs. The US knows that any real shift towards this is a serious economic threat and many recent actions have been aimed at deterring it.

Behind it all, China quietly extends its power and influence. Russia, while reasserting itself in Eastern Europe, is virtually dependent on Chinese support and supplies. North Korea depends on both for trade and legitimacy. Iran is also in desperate need of allies and a market for its oil.

India, on the other hand, needed to signal that it has options. In negotiations on trade with the US, India balked at several demands and talks eventually broke down. Agriculture is a protected sector and a multitude of small farmers make up a significant voting bloc. Opening that sector up to competition from US farmers was a major sticking point. India also refused to stop buying Russian oil, leading to a 50% tariff being levied on goods headed to the US. After a couple weeks of stalemate there are now signs of a thaw. Both Modi and Trump now speak positively of plans to resume negotiations. Indian interests are complex as they have had deep ties to the West and a long relationship with Russia, conflict with China and open hostility with Pakistan just this year.

Meanwhile, China has been increasing its influence in other spheres. Brazil, under Lula’s leftist leadership, has turned increasingly eastward. It

has absorbed 50% of US tariffs primarily thanks to Chinese markets. This has worked out well for China also, who currently maintains an uneasy trade truce with the US. China has replaced many of its agricultural imports from the US with Brazilian products. Soy and beef volumes have seen enormous growth. China has solidified its role in South American economies by investing heavily in infrastructure, the necessary roads, trains and ports to get the products and raw materials it needs to market.

Meanwhile, the United States has virtually blockaded Venezuela, with warships off both the Caribbean and Pacific Coasts. Our administration now refers to Maduro as the leader of a narcotics cartel, a clear signal that he could be in the cross-hairs soon. As if the \$50 Million bounty wasn't clear enough. Can this be

viewed as a separate issue, when China and Russia have been Venezuela's primary supporters?

In many ways the gauntlet has been thrown down and the challenge has been accepted. The US is not sitting idly by, on a slow slide to nowhere good, while enemies and allies alike take what advantage they can. Nor have those in opposition yet blinked.

War rages on in Ukraine, with each side reliant on the support and munitions of its benefactors. Economic pressure has about reached its maximum, verging on peril for those yielding it. Many in key states such as Germany and India are already uncomfortable with what has been asked or required of them, preferring to play both sides for their own economic benefit. Will we slide towards war? Will there be an uneasy peace that accelerates the trends already at work?

Will dependency rankle many nations and lead them to reassert themselves both economically and militarily?

At some point all of this will lead to the apocalyptic events of Bible prophecy and the domination of the world by major power blocs. We do not claim the sky is falling but neither do we say, "my Lord delays His coming." It is hard not to view the path from the present to the end in the fewest possible steps. It takes prudence and faith to wait on the Lord and His timing. Our job is to WATCH patiently and carefully, awake and ever-ready, putting our gifts and talents to the best possible use as our Lord did. "Redeeming the time, because the days are evil" (Ephesians 5:16).

"Blessed is that servant whom his Master will find so doing when He comes" (Luke 12:43 ESV). □

**General Secretary Xi Jinping of the Chinese Communist Party and world leaders attending the 2025 China Victory Day Parade in Beijing. *Wikimedia Commons***





# BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE

## LESSON TWENTY-ONE: SIN (PART ONE)

*Sin is the transgression of God's law — the falling short or missing the mark of the character of Jesus Christ. Although the penalty for sin is death in the lake of fire, all sin can be completely forgiven by God who desires that all men be saved. God forgives sin upon the repentance of the individual who accepts the shed blood and sacrifice of Jesus Christ as payment in full for the penalty of his sins.*

### DOCTRINAL OVERVIEW

The most consistent and important theme of the New Testament concerning sin is that it will be gladly forgiven by God upon any human being's repentance, acceptance of the shed blood and sacrifice of Jesus Christ, and baptism. Hence, sin need not have "dominion" over a Christian, nor must it "reign" over his life (Romans 6:12), nor block his entrance into the Kingdom of God!

Sin is "all unrighteousness" (1 John 5:17); "for sin is the transgression of the law" (1 John 3:4, KJV or "lawlessness," RSV). Sin, in fact, cannot be imputed when there is no law (Romans 5:13), "where there is no law, there is no transgression" (Romans 4:15).

The seventh chapter of Romans deals with the relationship between sin and law. Paul wrote, "If it had not been for the law, I should not have known sin" (Romans 7:7). Using the tenth commandment as his example, Paul continued, "I should not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, 'You shall not covet.'" Paul explained that sin is made obvious because the law condemns it. "For sin, finding opportunity in the commandment, deceived me and by it killed me" (v. 11).

But this in no way maligns the law, as some would quickly and erroneously conclude. Paul immediately thwarted this false concept by writing, "So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and just and good. Did that which is good, then, bring death to me? By no means! It was sin, working death in me through what is good, in order that sin might be shown to be sin, and through the commandment might become sinful beyond measure" (verses 12-13).

In addition to being the breaking of God's law, sin is also the result of falling short of God's way of life. The two concepts overlap greatly, but stress different approaches. There are two basic ways of life, one of "giving" and the other of "getting." God's way is the giving way; that of outgoing concern for and understanding of others; it is the way of love which is God's primary characteristic. Man's way is the way of "get"; of vanity, jealousy, lust and greed; it is the way of satisfying his own desires without care or concern of others. God defines His way by His law. When man breaks that law and thereby sins, he falls short of God's perfect way.

Two further expansions of the scope of sin were developed by Paul and James. Both relate to



missing the mark of a godly orientation to life. Paul wrote that “for whatever does not proceed from faith is sin” (Romans 14:23). This means that if a person does something that his conscience tells him is wrong even though the act itself is not actually wrong in God’s sight, (e.g. drinking an alcoholic beverage), the very fact that the person has violated his own principles is sufficient to convert it into a real sin. In other words, doing something that is not a sin becomes a sin if the person who does it thinks it’s a sin, because he defiles his conscience. This shows the critical importance God places on a person’s mental attitude and approach. It also indicates the great appreciation God has for the human conscience, which He created as an efficacious tool in impelling us toward good conduct and right motives (if properly educated). To countermand one’s faith violates one’s conscience and risks destroying it (1 Timothy 4:2 refers to consciences “seared with a hot iron.”) Furthermore, Romans 14:23 indicates that there can be at least some areas of sin which are relative to the individual person’s attitude of mind — i.e. they may be sin to some people and not to

right to do (for whatever reason, e.g. laziness, inconvenience, etc.), then that is just as much a sin as the direct breaking of any of God’s law. Not helping the poor, for example, when one is able (either by giving of one’s time or resources) is a sin; not going out of your way to sacrifice and show outgoing concern for one’s parents, children, spouse, relatives, friends, strangers or enemies may violate James 4:17 and become a sin if one knows that it would have been proper to do, but chose to not do it.

One who has God’s Spirit is under no “condemnation” whatsoever in spite of the fact that he must still wrestle against sin and may on occasion succumb to sin (cf. Romans 7; 8:1). Such a converted person is not counted as a “sinner” although he may indeed sin out of weakness. He is rather looked upon by God as “holy” (Colossians 3:12) because God imputes His righteousness to him through faith (Romans 4). Only one who has had the burden of the penalty of sin completely lifted from his shoulders and has experienced the deep exhilaration of knowing that his every sin has been totally forgiven and forgotten by God can fully

**“God hates sin but loves the sinners enough to have sent His only Son as their Savior.”**

others, thus adding one more reason for not judging our brothers. (A New Testament example is eating meat which had been offered beforehand as a sacrifice to an idol. This relative determination of sin is governed by conscience and does not, of course, apply to the obvious areas where God’s laws are already explicitly clear.)

James referred to sins of omission when he wrote, “Whoever knows what is right to do and fails to do it, for him it is a sin” (James 4:17). Sin, therefore, is expanded beyond its traditional (albeit fully valid) “thou shall not” boundaries. Not doing wrong is no longer sufficient to keep one from sinning. Affirmative positive action is obligatory for an individual to do in certain situations or sin will result. If the person does not do what he knows is

appreciate David’s statement, “Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin” (Romans 4:7-8; Psalms 32:1-2). Such a person has been given the “joy and gladness” which comes from having peace with God (Psalms 51:8). A forgiven Christian knows he need not feel hopeless if he sins in weakness, because God looks upon the heart (1 Sam. 16:7). He realizes that God hates sin but loves the sinners enough to have sent His only Son as their Savior. “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

God can appreciate our human frailty because Jesus Christ, our mediator and intercessor, is

always at His right hand. To Jesus, sin is not some theoretical theological concept; for He experienced the full force of temptation in all points of human susceptibility (Hebrews 4:15). He also experienced the full force of the penalty of sin. Though he never sinned, Jesus can well remember the enormity of the incessant battle, constantly resisting Satan's wiles and ceaselessly fighting His own human nature. Jesus will never condone sin; but He will

Yet it must be emphasized and understood that anyone, at any time, can and will be able to repent of any sin when he sincerely desires to be forgiven and to accept Jesus Christ as his personal Savior. This is God's will for all mankind—"Not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance" (2 Peter 3:9; cf 1 Timothy 2:4). Even Paul, as we saw, had his problems of not always living the way he should — of missing the

**“A PERSON who has steeled and hardened his mind against repentance is a person who cannot be forgiven, not because God will not forgive him, but because the person himself does not want to be forgiven.”**

understand it, He will never condemn the person for it, and He will always be extremely desirous of asking God to forgive it.

God in His perfect wisdom knows that not all men will repent of their sins or accept the sacrifice of Christ. Some will absolutely decide, of their own free will and volition, while knowing better, never to obey God and never to repent. Hence, a person who has steeled and hardened his mind against repentance is a person who cannot be forgiven, not because God will not forgive him, but because the person himself does not want to be forgiven. This Sin, against the Holy Spirit, (which is the Agency by which God removes sin,) is called “unpardonable,” not because God lacks the power to pardon it, but because the sinner has rejected God, and His Holy Spirit, and refuses to ask for pardon. Those who accused Jesus of performing miracles through the power of Satan were perilously close to that ultimate hardness of heart which will refuse to repent, and therefore refuses to ask God's pardon for sin. The lake of fire is the ultimate penalty for one who commits this unpardonable sin. But, the great God who created the universe will only destroy an individual for whom eternal life would become unending misery, the ultimate torture of terrible frustration.

mark — of not having the perfect attitude (Romans 7:15-23). Even he was influenced by Satan's attitudes and human covetousness. But he knew that Christ's sacrifice would forgive and cover all sin (Romans 7:25).

Thus, the unpardonable sin is not at all the fearsome weapon of a sadistic God who refuses to forgive a poor sinner who has made a few mistakes out of weakness. The opposite is the case. Anyone, at any time, can and will be able to repent of any and all sins simply by desiring to be forgiven and by accepting the blood of Christ as payment in full for the penalty of those sins. “Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins” (Hebrews 9:22). It is only in Jesus Christ that “we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace which He lavished upon us” (Ephesians 1:7). Redemption is through “the precious blood of Christ” (1 Peter 1:18-19), with which converted Christians were (and are continuously being) washed from their sins (Revelation 1:5-6). The crucifixion of Jesus Christ was “for all time a single sacrifice for sins” (Hebrews 10:12) because His life, as Creator of everything (Colossians 1:16), was more important than all other lives put together. □

*Continued next page*

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

- **1 John 3:4 - Sin is the transgression of the law.**
- **Romans 6:12 - Let not sin reign in your mortal body.**
- **1 John 5:17 - All unrighteousness is sin.**
- **Romans 5:13 - Sin is not imputed where there is no law.**
- **Romans 7:7,11 - By the law, we identify sin.**
- **Romans 3:10-11 - There is none righteous [prior to repentance and baptism].**
- **Romans 14:23 - Whatsoever is not of faith is sin.**
- **1 Timothy 4:2 - A conscience can be seared as if by an iron.**
- **James 4:17 - It is a sin to know to do good and not do it.**
- **Colossians 3:12 - God counts one with the Holy Spirit, Holy.**
- **Romans 4:7-8; Psalms 32:1-2 - Blessed is the person whose sins are forgiven.**
- **Psalms 51:8 - Joy and gladness comes from having peace with God.**
- **1 Samuel 16:7 - God looks upon the heart.**
- **John 3:16 - God wants man to have everlasting life.**
- **Romans 8:1 - No condemnation to those in Jesus Christ, who walk in the Spirit.**
- **2 Peter 3:9 - God is not willing that any should perish.**
- **Romans 7:15-23 - Missing the mark.**
- **Romans 7:25 - We serve the law of God with our minds.**
- **Hebrews 9:22 - Without the shedding of blood of Christ, there is no remission of sin.**
- **Ephesians 1:7 - We have redemption of sin through the blood of Christ.**
- **1 Peter 1:18-19 - Man is redeemed from sin by the blood of Christ.**
- **Hebrews 10:12 - Jesus sacrificed Himself for sin.**
- **Colossians 1:16 - Jesus created everything.**

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**QUESTIONS (ANSWERS BELOW):**

1. Sin is the transgression of the \_\_\_\_ [what?]
  2. God will gladly forgive sin...  
a) upon repentance    b) acceptance of the shed blood of Christ    c) baptism    d) all of the above
  3. Complete this verse from 1 John 5:17: "All \_\_\_\_\_ is sin."
  4. From Romans 5:13 we learn that sin cannot be imputed where there is no \_\_\_\_ [what?].
  5. By the law one can identify sin. True or False?
  6. If one ultimately experiences the second death in the lake of fire (Rev.20:15) it will be because of...  
a) sin    b) law
  7. Christ came to do away with the law and commandments. True or False?
  8. God defines His way of life by His law. True or False?
  9. According to Romans 14:23, "Whatsoever is not of \_\_\_\_\_ is sin" [what?].
-



10. If a person believes in his or her mind that a certain action is a sin, even though it cannot be shown to be a sin in the Bible, then, to this person it is a sin. True or False?
11. Sins of omission are still sins. True or False?
12. Not helping the poor or needy when one is able to do so (in time, effort, or money), is a sin. True or False?
13. There is no condemnation to them in the Spirit (the Salvation Process). True or False?
14. Jesus Christ is our mediator and intercessor before God. True or False?
15. God knows that all of mankind will eventually repent of sin. True or False?
16. One who refuses to repent of sin or rejects God's forgiveness of sins has committed the unpardonable sin. True or False?
17. God is not willing that any should perish. True or False?
18. According to Hebrews 9:22, there is no forgiveness of sin without the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.
19. God's forgiveness of sins defeats Satan's plan to turn man from God. True or False?



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# LESSON TWENTY-ONE — ANSWERS:

15. (false)  
16. (true)  
17. (true)  
18. (shedding blood)  
19. (true)

8. (true)  
9. (faith)  
10. (true)  
11. (true)  
12. (true)  
13. (true)  
14. (true)

1. (law)  
2. (d)  
3. (unrighteousness)  
4. (law)  
5. (true)  
6. (a)  
7. (false)



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