

# The Bible Standard

*“Send out your light and truth! Let them lead me;...”*

*Psalm 43:3*

## “LIFT UP A STANDARD FOR THE PEOPLE”

Isaiah 62:10

### INSIDE

RESTITUTION: FROM DESTRUCTION TO RESTORATION.....	50
THE JUDGEMENT DAY, PEACE, HOW WILL IT COME? .....	52
WORLD WAR III?.....	55
BIBLE TALK STORIES IN SIMPLE LANGUAGE.....	61

Back Page

ANNOUNCEMENTS  
GOD FIRST POEM

# RESTITUTION: FROM DESTRUCTION TO RESTORATION

*"The Son of man is come to seek to and save that which was lost"—Luke 19:10.*

Throughout history, rulers of nations have always feared the terrorist, the subversive element in their midst bent on destroying their power and have employed many methods to root them out. The Vietnamese fighters during the French and American wars in south-east Asia, 1946 to 1991, the attacks by the Basque separatists in Spain, 1959 to 2011, or the bloody onslaught of the Irish Republican Army in Northern Ireland (a communist organization), all are facets of the same multi-sided face of conflict which, though arising from different social and economic spheres, have a similar aim—the overthrow and destruction of the prevailing order. This continues to this very day! All such attempts spring from motives which are less than pure, but which appear right to the attacker. The depth of prejudice of one group against another is phenomenal and often beyond the power of reason to fathom. Increasingly, civilians are caught up in these vengeful acts—war by another name. Society is stricken with anger in this present Time of Trouble and continues to form groups with titled names that shape their agenda.

It is not our purpose to stand with or against the Socialistic Idealism that is being broadcast throughout the world as these teachings declare a manifesto that schools should be transformed from centers of learning for intersectional/multicultural studies and comprehensive welfare programs, including free abortion for minors. Many are calling for a package which includes a free education for all, special provisions for queer and transgender students, wrap around services, free health services (including gender reassignment surgery), a curriculum that acknowledges and addresses students' material and cultural needs, physical activity and recreation, free daycare, and freedom from unwarranted search, seizure, or arrest. The abuse of alcohol and drugs brings with it perpetrators of physical and sexual abuse, followed by a multitude of other crimes! In America there is a strong movement to defund the Police and release felons with little or no bail.

Though the immediate reasons for hatred, strife, and sneak attacks on the unwary are usually traced to a local or national political situation, the roots go deep into the psyche of man the species. The underlying crime of the fall in Eden unsettled the peace of mind and confident

fellowship enjoyed by Adam and Eve. Here were the seeds of today's conflict sown. The first outcropping of this malevolent streak can be seen in the murder of Abel by his brother, Cain. Pushed on by the Adversary, man became a warrior race, and the tendency to run to strife and disagreement was set. Mankind is basically ill at ease with itself because it has lost fellowship with God. This disharmony has been the root cause of strife throughout history to the present day.

**The Devil is a master of Deception—Do Not Be Deceived!**

*"He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies."*



*John 8:44*

Satan is the archetypal terrorist; his most heinous crime was the willful murder of the human race (John 8:44). Trapping the first couple, Adam, and Eve, through their ignorance and inexperience with evil, he condemned them and their offspring to a process of dying, complicated by the effects of sin, multiplied in its degenerating influences over succeeding generations.

The dimensions of Satanic terror are terrible to comprehend, thousands of millions suffering and dying, laboring under the weight of a planet often hostile to life, mentally, morally, and physically degraded, cut off from the Divine Source of Life, of whom Satan kept his victims ignorant. No wonder he is styled in Scripture, the Adversary! Antipathetic to all decency and virtue, heedless to the pain and cries of his victims, he has been a sadistic taskmaster. In his unholy ambition to be "like the Most High," the once-glorious Lucifer traded his honored and privileged place in heaven for a self-serving tyranny over earth. Around the time of the flood, he won to his side an army of fallen angels who, under his direction, expanded the domain styled by the Apostle Paul as the "present evil world" (Gal. 1:3, 4; compare John 12:31).

Satan despises any progress of mankind collectively and individually toward God's principles and ways and has

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employed all means possible to thwart it. His modes of attack include inducements to sin and self-abasement, and corruption or denial of any knowledge which tends to spiritual enlightenment. He even engages in acts of physical and environmental destruction, as in the story of Job (1:6-22). Stealthily, disguised as angels of light, Satan and his hosts have

ambushed mankind with all manner of sin and corruption, and have twisted and misrepresented almost the whole spectrum of God-given truths, substituting counterfeits. He works in the hearts of men to do evil and claim it as good (2 Cor. 11:14). Perhaps his most infamous errors relate to the fate of man after death.

In Acts 3:20, 21 we read: and that he may send the Messiah, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus. Heaven must receive him until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets” (NIV). This text supplies the key to understanding the present situation. The Adamic curse has terrorized the human family for thousands of years, laying waste their hopes and dreams, the fabric of society, and toppling their individual and collective schemes. It is no wonder that in these frightful circumstances most people have difficulty in finding God. But He has already designed a rebuilding program, and part of that blueprint is found in this Scripture.

There is a world of meaning in the word “restore.” It promises a restitution to all things lost in the Garden of Eden—those things that were and those things that never came to pass, for God withheld His choicest blessings from an errant world. At man’s fall, the race was launched into this long night of sin, in which God has permitted evil to dominate. This permission of evil was never destined, and will never be allowed, to destroy the human race. Rather, its design was to educate mankind as to the relative value of virtue over vice, life *versus* death, that they may store up the knowledge so gained against the better day of restoration, which is to come.

Jehovah is compassionate and giving. Yes, He so loved mankind that, while they were yet His enemies, He sent His only begotten, the treasure of His heart, to die for all (John 3:16; Rom. 5:8-10). Under the guarantee

## ***Beware of False Teachers that Profess to be Believers***

2 Corinthians 11:13-15 (NIV)

“For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for **Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.** It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.”

**Satan’s First Lie to EVE,**

**“You shall not surely die.”**

**Genesis 3:4**



that this sacrifice brings *all* of mankind, in every nation, all are assured of a *full and fair opportunity to gain eternal life*, not in this present world, but in the world—the earthly Kingdom—to come. Those who die in unbelief do not agitate in hellish suffering, but rather, as the Scriptures so beautifully portray it, sleep in death—they are unconscious (Eccles. 9:5).

This death condition is the true

meaning of *hades* as used in the New Testament (*sheol* in the Old Testament).

As we read in Isa. 25:6-8 (NIV), under the figure of a mountain—representing the coming earthly kingdom of God—the Almighty intends to “prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine—the best of meats and the finest of wines. On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples. . . he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove the disgrace of his people from all the earth. The Lord has spoken.”

The “Lord has spoken” is the phrase which is recorded for our assurance, for the plans and purposes of God cannot be hijacked nor destroyed. He has sworn by His own integrity that His will shall be done, and despite the apparent chaos and appearance of hopelessness around us, He will not fail to accomplish what He has set out to do (Isa. 45:22, 23; Heb. 6:13-18).

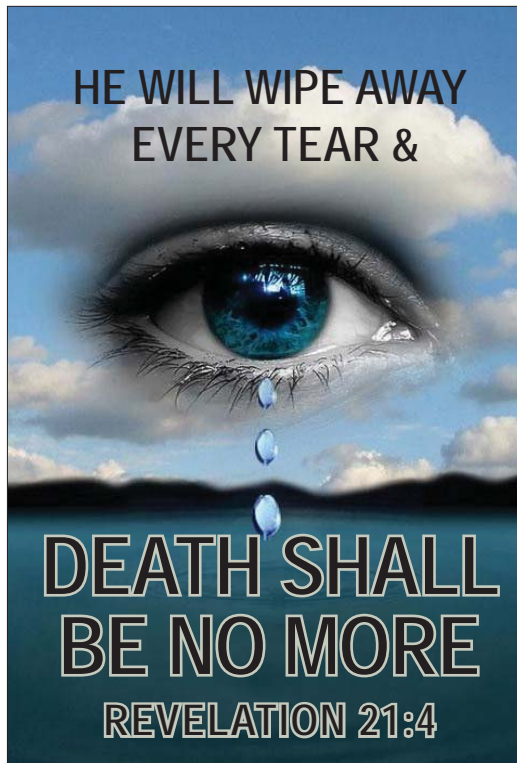
### **RACHEL WEEPS**

“A voice is heard in Ramah, mourning and great weeping, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because her children are no more” (Jer. 31:15, NIV). So has the nation and the world mourned for its dead. And we do not doubt that the days of tears are not done. This world is fickle and offers no permanent security. We mourn the vast multitudes who have died over the grim centuries, and those who will yet die, many of them feeling themselves without hope. Our hope lies not in governments or guns, but in the God of Heaven. His inspired writer goes on (vs. 16, 17): “Restrain your voice from weeping and your eyes from tears, for your work will be rewarded, declares the LORD. They will return from the land of the enemy. So, there is hope for your future, declares the LORD. Your children will return to their own land.”

We lift our heads and rejoice for the hope which the gracious God of Heaven has planted in the hearts of mankind, and know that a better day is coming, when Satan will be rendered powerless and when all people will be measured not by their wealth and power, but by their faith and repentance, and their tender compassion to their fellowmen. To all such people of good will, the Lord holds forth the promise of life, peace, and security without end. To achieve these ideals Christ died and rose that He might draw all unto Himself (John 12:32; Rom. 8:19-21).

These few words are given to show that from the disobedience of one man, Adam, to the coming Millennial Mediatorial Reign of Christ [date unknown] the world of mankind has been on a downhill slide. When Christ Millennial Mediatorial reign comes to do its work of restoring the wicked world to a favorable standing before God, the words of Acts 3:19-21 will come true. Are we sure that is God's plan? Yes, Jehovah assures us in His word in Isa. 55:11: "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper *in the thing* whereto I sent it."

"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" (Rev. 21:4). Jehovah in His loving-kindness and justice has/will submit all of mankind to the leveling processes of the great time of trouble; then the same wise judge will bless through the various agencies, Christ, and his Bride. Yes, this work will wipe away all tears



from their eyes. The tears will last only so long as their cause, imperfection, pain, and death exist. The marks of sin, not only in the deeds of mankind, but in the very facial expressions of all, will then be wiped out, not only of the living world at the time, but also the blessing of the thousands of millions who have gone down into the tomb.

In the ages of blessedness to follow the Millennial age there will be no more death. The New Covenant provisions are the forgiveness of sins, the renewing of a right heart and a restitution of all that was lost through the original transgression and its curse. The opening chapters of Genesis give the entrance of the curse of sin and death, and the last chapters of

Revelation reveal the success of God's plan. Not a stain of sin mars the harmony and peace of a perfect society; not a bitter thought, not an unkind look or word; love, welling up from every heart, meets a kindred response in every other heart, and benevolence marks every act. There is no provision in God's great plan for an everlasting condition in woe, sorrow or pain or trouble.

When we consider pain, we may reasonably assume that after perfection is reached there will be no more accidents, and conditions prevailing in the animal and vegetable world will bring no pain, neither sorrow, nor crying. As Rev. 21:4 says: "for the former things are passed away." There shall be no more prisons, hospitals, doctors, undertakers, cemeteries, discontent, or unhappiness for the consecrated children of God!

## THE JUDGEMENT DAY, PEACE, HOW WILL IT COME?

**"Yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it"**  
— Isa. 46:11.



"For the LORD of hosts hath purposed, and who shall disannul it?" (Isa. 14:27). God hath appointed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained, Jesus Christ the righteous. In talking with some of my Christian friends I find they

still hold to the teaching of rapture or doomsday. In one case, the husband and wife have been with the Christian Reformed Church as missionaries; her sister and husband had no church affiliations. Her sister died, and the family is full of grief, believing her to be lost. Through the

unscriptural teaching on the judgement day Satan has caused much sadness for the world of mankind. Isa. 60:2, “darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people.” With the acceptance of a day of 24 hours and judgement simply the rendering of a verdict, the poor groaning creation remains in darkness.

Let us dear Brethren give thanks that we have been called out of that darkness into the sunshine of God’s love. Let us rejoice in the good tidings of great joy to all people centered in Christ’s ransom for all. Our Lord Jesus having redeemed all by his perfect and precious sacrifice is the head, and during the Gospel age God has selected the members of his body who with him shall be God’s agents in judging the world. Together they will be that great prophet or teacher promised.

Why do we need a teacher for the judgement day? Well, it is our understanding that judgement has 4 parts:

1. Instruction in rightness—that all may receive a full understanding of God’s plan.
2. Testing—that what we have learned can be used to make us just before God.
3. Correction—that we may be able to walk the highway of holiness and though a fool, will not err therein Isa. 35:8.
4. Sentencing—the result of our desire to do God’s will or not.

Adam and all in Adam will have a trial. The first trial was of mankind only and its penalty or curse, the first death, it was upon man only. But the second trial is to be more comprehensive. It will not only be the trial of fallen mankind, but will include every other thing, principle, and being out of harmony with Jehovah. Eccl. 12:14, “God shall bring every work into judgement, with every secret thing, whether *it be* good, or whether *it be* evil.” The judgment to come will include the condemnation of all false systems, civil, social, and religious. These will be banished early in the millennial day as this judgment comes first in order that the trial of man may proceed unhindered by error, prejudice, etc.

It will also include the trial of those angels which kept not their first estate of purity and obedience to God. 1 Cor. 6:3, “Know ye not that we [saints] shall judge angels?” This being the case, the condemnation of the Millennial judgement [destruction, second death] will cover a wider range of offenders than the penalty or curse for the sins of Adam passed upon all men. In a word, the destruction at the close of the trial will be the utter destruction of every

being and everything which will not glorify God and be of use and blessing to his general creation.

As we see the judgement day of God, it will not be a doomsday but a salvation day, and we as co-laborers with God can have a part in instructing the world in righteousness. God’s truth in Psa. 96:13, “He shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with his truth.”

## IN THE DAY OF JUDGEMENT ANOTHER TRIAL

*The first trial was of mankind only. Its penalty, or curse, the first death, was upon man only.*

*The second trial is to be more comprehensive. It will include fallen mankind, plus every other thing, principle, and being out of harmony with Jehovah; it will include the condemnation of all false systems, civil, social, and religious.*

*“God shall bring every work into judgement, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil”—Ecclesiastes. 12:14.*

### FAITHFUL COLABORERS

Letter to Dear Bro. Russell: I have just been reading again in the tower of March 1st the article “Mark the Perfect Man” and want you to know how much I have enjoyed it and profited by it. After thanking the Giver of every good and perfect gift, I thank you, and continually pray that the favor of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you in all your work, and that you may ever be defended from the assaults of the adversary. Putting myself for a moment in your place, I was able to see that you would rejoice to know that the household were appreciating the things new and old, and I wanted by this little note to help hold up your hands. What a beautiful thought!

Likewise, all of God’s consecrated people should be looking for and knocking on doors of service. Bro. Russell gives some fine encouragement along this line in the April 7 and Dec. 10 Manna comments (from R2004 and R2888). He states: “If you have no burning zeal to preach the good tidings of great joy, pray earnestly and faithfully and persistently for it, and strive for it, and you will soon have it. If you have a zeal and love for the gospel, and lack the ability to present it, pray for the ability, while you make full use of what you have. If you have the zeal and ability, and lack an opportunity, take it to the Lord in prayer as soon as you can, telling Him that you are faithfully using all the opportunities you have. Then watch for more

opportunities, without slacking your hand to use the very humblest and smallest within your reach.”

“In whatever department of the Lord’s service He is pleased to open the door of opportunity to us, we should enter it promptly and with energy—with zeal for Him and for the cause to which He has called us. This is one condition of our acceptableness to Him. If we are slothful, inattentive to opportunities, undoubtedly they will be removed from us, and given to others, for the Lord is abundantly able to raise up one or another to serve His cause without interfering with, or overruling our free moral agency. Let us more and more appreciate what a privilege we enjoy in being co-laborers together with God, and especially in connection with this great service which our Lord and Master Jesus is exercising, and to fellowship in which we have been called” (PT ’82, p. 4).

Whether brethren are engaged in the volunteer, bereaved, sharpshooter or colporteur work, or market and fair work, or by conversation are seeking to interest others in the Truth, or are engaged in any other form of service of the Truth, let them all be diligent in looking for and knocking on doors of service in their sphere, and noting where there may be doors opened to them to more service and to higher forms of service, into which they are to enter with energy and zeal.

God’s gifts and callings are not limited to the Gospel-Age spiritual elective calling. He now has another door open to new consecrators—the high privilege of becoming of those consecrating between the ages (R5761), who are also of Abraham’s pre-Millennial seed, who will be associated in service Millennially with the Worthies. These new consecrators are the Consecrated Epiphany Campers. We encourage new consecrators to enter into this open door. Matt. 7:7, “Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you,” for it also will soon be shut.

In matters of serving the Lord, the Truth, and the brethren, there are various doors of service. If after considering carefully, in harmony with the spirit of a sound mind, our talents, our obligations, our situation, *etc.*, we believe that it is God’s will to enter into a door or doors of service, and we are not sure if they are open or fully open to us, we may figuratively knock on them. Sometimes we think we should enter into a service but God by His providences will indicate after our “knock” that the door is closed. But if the door seems open, we are to enter promptly and joyfully.

The Apostle Paul and Timothy figuratively knocked

on a door to go into Bithynia, but the Lord in some way did not allow them to enter it, keeping them from going into Asia, instead showing them an open door into Macedonia, in Europe (Acts 16:6-10). Evidently, He then desired the gospel to go to Europe instead of Asia. While in Troas, the Apostle evidently was knocking on a door of service and one was opened by the Lord (2 Cor. 2:12). When in bonds in Rome, the Apostle was figuratively knocking again, asking for prayer “that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ” (Col. 4:3).

### THE BLESSED RESULTS

Luke 11:9, “And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.” V. 10 restates and emphasizes, if any consecrated one who asks, seeks, and knocks in harmony with the Scriptural instructions, such as are outlined above, that one is sure to receive God’s answers.

May our gracious and loving Heavenly Father bless, by Christ, His children richly, as they accordantly become more prayerful, and properly ask, seek, and knock, and from His bountiful hand receive through Christ great blessings of grace, Truth, and service, especially more of the holy Spirit in its fruits in their hearts and lives, that others may see that they have been with God and Jesus, and have learned of Them!

### A DAY OF RECKONING IS COMING

**“The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgement to be punished” —2 Peter 2:9.**

### PEACE, HOW WILL IT COME?

The age of Christ’s reign will be a time of just judgment, and though it will be an age of golden opportunities to all, it will be a time of severe discipline, trial, and punishment to many. The judgement will be fair and impartial, and with due consideration for the circumstances, and opportunities of each individual, and is fully assured to us by the character of the judge, the Christ (John 5:22; 1 Cor. 6:2), by His perfect knowledge, by His unwavering justice and goodness, by His Divine power, and by His great love as shown in His sacrifice to redeem men from death, that they might enjoy the privilege of this favorable, individual trial.

Based on this knowledge we have peace and tranquility, both internal and external tranquility. In its external aspect it implies tranquility between individuals, groups, and nations. This is what people in general desire, lasting global peace, a life without fear of another nation stockpiling deadly weapons capable of destroying mankind. History shows that wars have never brought lasting peace. If peace will not be brought about by any human agency, how will it come?

The office of the god of this present evil world [Satan] will be dissolved! As our opening scripture Isa. 46:11 declared, "I have spoken *it*, I will also bring it to pass." God is not powerless to thwart Satan but has permitted evil to work out His purposes. We have been permitted to look into the perfect plan of God's government, great punishments following great offences; however, it will not be greater than is necessary to establish justice, and to effect great moral

reforms. The present order of things will not always continue; a time of reckoning is coming, 2 Peter 2:9, "The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgement to be punished" (LDH 98,101,79).

Not all will be raised at once, and as each new group is raised, they will find an army of helpers in those who proceeded them. The love that men will then show to each other the King will count as shown to him. All will be required to come into harmony with God's law of love and prove it by works. "Love *is* the fulfilling of the law" (Rom. 13:10). When man is restored again to the image of God, he will be a living expression of love. In an appointed time and order, the dead of all nations shall be called to appear before the judgement seat of Christ to receive a fair and impartial, individual trial. "I have set before thee life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live" (Deut. 30:19).

## WORLD WAR PHASE THREE?

"World War III" is a name given to a hypothetical third worldwide, large-scale military conflict subsequent to World War I and World War II. The term has been in use since at least as early as 1941.

"Watchman, what of the night? ... The morning cometh, and also the night."—Isaiah 21:11, 12.

"And at that time [at the time of the great earthquake of Rev. 16:18, 19] shall Michael [Christ Jesus, 'the captain of their salvation' Heb. 2:10] stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble [the tribulation of Matt. 24:21], such as never was since there was a nation *even* to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book" (Dan. 12:1).

Matt. 24:21, "For then [at the end of this Gospel age and its harvest] shall be great tribulation, [general and terrible. A time of war and trouble involving all nations, it will include social, financial, political, and religious institutions] such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time [a ferocity never seen in the past], no, nor ever shall be." Because so thorough will be the correction that it will never need to be repeated. These words are added by our Lord to the prophecy of Dan. 12:1. The great final trouble of this world's history in which, during a period of anarchy unparalleled, all

human hopes and ambitions will utterly fail. The effect of this trouble will be so overruled by divine providence in the establishment of the Kingdom of righteousness that such a tribulation will never again be possible.

### ISRAEL TO BE PUNISHED BUT NOT FORSAKEN

"I am with you and will save you," declares the LORD. Though I completely destroy all the nations among which I scatter you, I will not completely destroy you. I will discipline you but only with justice; I will not let you go entirely unpunished" (Jeremiah 30:11).

The word of GOD indicates that He will favor His Chosen Nation: "For I *am* with thee, saith the LORD, to save thee: though I make a full end of all nations whither I have scattered thee, yet will I not make a full end of thee: but I will correct thee in measure, and will not leave thee altogether unpunished" (Jer. 30:11).

In recent times the Watchers have noticed the dark night is settling in all parts of the world of mankind, especially the governments. People are crying out, where is the help that we need? This brings about the principle of Socialism. For more insight we study 1 Kings 19:11, 12. "Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the LORD [the final overthrow of present institutions

will not take place until the Elijah class has reached the mount of God—actually changed]. And, behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains [winds of strife, symbol of wars, the voice of humanity], and brake in pieces the rocks before the LORD [the LORD is here giving illustrations of different ways of accomplishing results]; *but* the LORD *was* not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake [symbolically represents a social revolution. This will not come as soon as the war begins, but the war might continue while the earthquake is on]; *but* the LORD *was* not in the earthquake [revolutionary experiences will not be sufficient to prepare men to hear the voice of God. In none of these great experiences coming to the world will God be manifest. They will all be merely to fit and prepare man for the voice of Eden].”

V.12: And after the earthquake a fire [Anarchy, symbolically represented by St. Peter as consuming the ecclesiastical heavens and the social, financial, and political earth. 2 Pet. 3:10-13, Celestial fire, lightning, symbol of anarchy, consuming and destroying the present order of things. The third part of the calamity]; *but* the LORD *was* not in the fire [the fire, representing consumption, destruction, anarchy, is not the Lord, but merely human passions which he will permit]: and after the fire a still small voice [the voice of God’s Word speaking to His people today, with the “pure language” of Zeph. 3:9; corresponding to the “Be still” of Psa. 46:10. The King, in due time, will take his great power with the result that the fires of anarchy will be extinguished].

### WORLDWIDE DISCONTENT

Discontent is tied to concerns about the economy, individual rights, accelerated cost of living, defunding the police action, accelerated abortion practices. In the United States about 80% of its population is distrustful of this government continuing freedom of speech. Much of this dissatisfaction is from the indication that elected officials do not care what ordinary people think, only their agenda. Anger at political elites, economic dissatisfaction and anxiety about rapid social changes have fueled political upheaval in regions around the world. Anti-establishment leaders, parties and movements have emerged on both the right and left of the political spectrum, in some cases challenging fundamental norms and institutions of liberal democracy.

**BUT THE LORD WAS NOT IN . . .**  
**THE WINDS (WARS)**  
**THE EARTHQUAKE (SOCIAL REVOLUTION)**  
**THE FIRE (ANARCHY)**  
**1 Kings 19:11, 12**

We live in a time when Political Instability, Corruption, Susceptibility to Propaganda is rampant. This includes Information Overload Manipulation, also control of public opinion. The last information from Global Protest Tracker April, of 2022: over 25 significant protests have been directly related to the coronavirus pandemic; over 230 significant anti-government protests have erupted worldwide; more than 110 countries have experienced significant protest; 78% of authoritarian countries have faced significant protest. This begs the question, what is the best form of government? The world has admired the U.S.A. for its democracy

because; (1) It is a government run by and for the people. (2) Democracy improves the quality of decision-making. (3) Democracy provides a method to deal with differences and conflicts. (4) Democracy enhances the dignity of citizens. However, with the world of mankind in a large sense, mankind is distrustful, wicked, selfish, and under the sentence of death for their disobedience.

If all men were perfect, mentally, physically, and morally; if every man loved God and his regulations supremely, and his neighbor as himself, there would have been no friction in such an arrangement. So, what was God’s original design? The original design of the Creator for earth’s government was a Republic in form, a government in which each individual would share; in which every man would be a sovereign, amply qualified in every particular to exercise the duties of his office for his own and others’ good.

This dominion of earth conferred upon man had but one contingency upon which its everlasting continuance depended; and that was that this divinely conferred rulership be always exercised in harmony with the Supreme Ruler of the universe, whose one law, briefly stated, is Love. “Love *is* the fulfilling of the law.” “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. . . . Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself;” Rom. 13:10; Matt. 22:37-40.

Concerning this great favor conferred upon man, David, praising God, says: “Thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands;” (Psa. 8:5, 6). This dominion given to mankind in the person of Adam was the first



establishment of the Kingdom of God on the earth. Man, thus exercised dominion as God's representative. But man's disobedience to the Supreme Ruler forfeited not only his life, but also all his rights and privileges as God's representative ruler of earth. He was thenceforth a rebel, dethroned and condemned to death. Then speedily the kingdom of God on earth ceased, and has not since been established, except for a short time, in a typical manner, in Israel. Although in Eden man lost his right to life and dominion, neither was taken from him suddenly; and while the condemned life lasts man is permitted to exercise the dominion of earth according to his ability, until God's due time for him whose right it is to take the dominion which he purchased.

We can readily suppose, however, that even when all are perfect and in God's image, order will still be maintained; for as "order is heaven's first law," so it should also be earth's first law. And this will imply righteous principalities and powers. There will be the first thoroughly successful Republic. Present attempts to recognize every man as a king, and the equal of every other man, and the chosen representative or President a servant of fellow kings, rather than a lord, have all proven failures in varying degrees; because men are not equals mentally, physically and morally, nor in financial and other respects; and because none are really fit to be sovereigns, but on account of weaknesses all now need to be under laws and restraints.

Distrust of governments, large corporations, banking, of people in general, all the legislation which has been enacted, or can be enacted, fails to restrain the giant institutions of our day, fails to hinder them from exploiting the masses in the interests of the comparatively few. Did God know all these things? What will He do about them? Will He bring in the Millennial blessings, and risk that men shall take for granted that they have won the secrets of nature by their own wisdom and perseverance, and forget God entirely? Will they become more discontented? According to the Bible, God foreknew the conditions of our day as we are now reviewing them; and in our text He gives a key to the situation—elsewhere in the Scriptures made very plain. Through the Prophet, God tells of the dark Night coming—after the Morning Dawn had been well ushered in—a dark storm-cloud just at sunrise. This dark hour is described in the prophecy of Daniel, and also in that of our Lord Jesus, to be a Time of Trouble, such as never was since there was a nation.

The next phase of the Trouble, according to the Bible, is to be the great earthquake, such as was not since men

were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great, Rev. 16:18. This is not a literal earthquake, but a symbolic one—revolution. Then the third phase of the calamity—the darkest of all—will be the symbolic fire of anarchy, which will utterly destroy our present civilization. Then, in the midst of that most awful Time of Trouble, Messiah, the great King, will take His great power and will exercise it, with the result that the raging waves of the sea of human passion will all be quieted, the fires of anarchy will all be extinguished, and the Reign of Righteousness and Peace will begin.

## A TIME OF TROUBLE

"For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be" (Matthew 24:21).

"Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth:" (Luke 21:26) with the nations crying, "Peace, peace; when there is no peace" (Jer. 6:14; 8:11).

## PROTESTS ARE TAKING OVER THE WORLD

The Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project reports that the number of demonstrations globally increased by 7 percent from 2019 to 2020 despite government-mandated lockdowns and other measures designed to limit public gatherings.

The continuing protests in both poor and wealthy countries cannot simply be explained away as reactions to the pandemic. The presence of simultaneous uprisings in countries with a range of income levels, government types and geopolitical significance indicates a deeper disillusionment: the loss of faith in the social contract that shapes relations between governments and their people. Put simply, the governments of today seem incapable of offering both representative *and* effective governance. And ordinary citizens have had enough.

The rise in protests globally actually began long before the pandemic. Following the 2008 economic crash, mass demonstrations—including Occupy Wall Street and the Arab Spring—called for a fundamental rethinking of the existing post-Cold War social contract between governments and their people. Since President George H.W. Bush's announcement of a new world order in 1990, this contract was largely founded upon the notion that market-centric policies would lead to global prosperity and peace.

Both political and economic in nature, the ensuing

protests demanded that governments respect the basic rights of citizens and address the growing gap between the haves and the have-nots. Around the world, authoritarian and democratic leaders alike responded to the financial crisis with more state influence such as fiscal austerity and the privatization of public-sector services — policies that only further galvanized popular anger.

There is growing frustration with the inability of modern governments to serve the majority of their populations, especially the middle and poorer classes. This failure is made visible by the growing number of monopolies, the increasing political power of corporations, the unremitting spike in economic inequality and policies that are exacerbating climate change.

### FINAL DAY OF DARKNESS

“A day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness. Like dawn spreading across the mountains a large and mighty army comes, such as never was of old nor ever will be in ages to come” (Joel 2:2).

#### THE QUESTION IS ASKED

Will there be a third phase of world war? Are Putin’s war efforts the catalyst for this third phase?

This Movement remains uncertain or this Movement’s tendency is not to adhere to a third world war. There is exhaustion in most nations regarding the seeking of peace through the United Nations. We, as consecrated children of God, place our care and keeping in the Lord’s care not the United Nations. The troublous times are described in Joel 2:2 as “A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, *as the morning spread upon the mountains.*” What comfort and consolation is contained for the believer in the words italicized! We see dark forebodings on every hand, with “Men’s hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth:” (Luke 21:26), with the nations crying, “Peace, peace; when *there is* no peace” (Jer. 6:14; 8:11), and with worldwide trouble threatening to break forth on every hand and even threatening [although God will not permit it—Matt. 24:22; Mark 13:20] the total destruction of mankind by the use of such horrible weapons of wholesale destruction as had never been dreamed of before. But what comfort it is to the enlightened and believing child of God to know that this time of God’s “controversy with the nation” (Jer. 25:31), this “day of darkness and gloominess,” is not the *beginning*, but the *ending* of the reign of evil on the earth—that this time of darkness comes “as

the[Millennial] morning spread upon the mountains: [kingdoms of this world]” (Joel 2:2).

The prophet Isaiah states (21:12), “The morning cometh, and also the night.” This gives us a key to the present situation. God tells us here of the dark night of trouble now on the earth—after the morning dawn has been well ushered in, after over 6,000 years of the reign of sin already ended and the seventh 1,000-year day—the Millennium—has already begun. This great time of trouble is like a dark storm-cloud at sunrise, just after a new day begins. “Weeping may endure for a night, but joy *cometh* in the morning” (Psa. 30:5)!

We know not, except for generalities, what lies before us in the year just ahead, nor do we need to know. While “the secret of the LORD [the deep things of God, His great purpose and His plan for accomplishing it] *is* with them that fear [reverence] him; and he will show them his covenant” (Psa. 25:14), He evidently does not deem it necessary that His people understand, at least not beforehand, every detail of their experiences, nor all the details connected with the fulfillment of prophecy, “for we walk by faith, not by sight” (2 Cor. 5:7). Evidently God considers it quite sufficient that we recognize the general fulfillment of prophecy. The careful student of the Scriptures and the signs of the times will recognize that we are in the great time of world-wide trouble, in which we are witnessing the fulfillment of many prophecies. The Time of Trouble will continue until, amid the death of the present order of affairs of Satan’s empire (Gal. 1:4; 2 Pet. 3:7, 11), the birth of the *new order* of affairs takes place—in which justice and love (instead of injustice and selfishness) will be the law.

We have for some years been in one of the intermittent seasons of partial relief; but at the present time the old order has been experiencing another bad case of jitters. The terrible conflicts, with accompanying atrocities, have indeed cast a shadow over all mankind and has caused the people and nations (none of which will be able to escape being involved in this trouble—Zeph. 3:8) to tremble. There is a general realization of the presence of an unmanageable crisis in world affairs (Luke 21:25-27).

Some comments from the past speaking about a coming warring effort: The familiar designations, “First World War” and “World War I” did not emerge until a new war was on the horizon in 1939. Yet here, too, the terms “World War II” and the “Second World War” were also coined in advance of the conflict’s eruption, with

commentators widely dreading a “Second World War” in the 1930s. In fact, such fears dated as far back as 1918, when American commentators favoring a harsh peace for Germany stressed the need to keep it from obtaining the “sinews for a Second World War.”

It took some time for the phrase “World War II” to catch on. During the conflict, Europeans did not always refer to the war with any numerical designation. When Winston Churchill declared in a famous 1940 speech that “never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few,” he did so in the context of crediting “British airmen who, undaunted by odds ... are turning the tide of the World War.” Only after 1945, with the luxury of hindsight, did the phrase “World War II” become canonized in Western consciousness.

The idea of a third world war, by contrast, emerged prospectively during World War II. In 1944, a distinguished array of American and European writers and journalists, including William Shirer, Rex Stout and Emil Ludwig, founded the Society for the Prevention of World War III to pressure the U.S. government to impose a harsh peace treaty on postwar Germany to keep the nation from launching its third world war in half a century.

Similar fears were voiced after 1945. At many points during the Cold War—during the Korean War, the Cuban missile crisis, and the Vietnam War—journalists expressed fears that the planet was on the brink of a third world war. When the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan in 1980, for example, newspapers published alarmist headlines such as “This May Be World War III.”

None of these fears, of course, have ever been realized. To this day, “World War III” does not stand in any history book as an actual event, but it remains a potential nightmare.

## COMFORT IN THE DAY OF DARKNESS

This “day of darkness and gloominess,”  
IS NOT THE BEGINNING,  
BUT THE ENDING

of the reign of evil on the earth. But what comfort it is to the enlightened and believing child of God to know that this time of God’s “controversy with the nations” (Jer. 25:31); that this time of darkness comes “as the [Millennial] morning spread upon the mountains: [kingdoms of this world]” (Joel 2:2).

## HYPOTHETICAL SCENARIOS

The majority of historians would seem to hold that World War III would necessarily have to be a worldwide “*war in which large forces from many countries fought*” and a war that “*involves most of the principal nations of the world.*” The Cold War received its name from the lack of action taken from both sides. The lack of action was out of fear that a nuclear war would possibly destroy humanity. In his book, *Secret Weapons of the Cold War*, Bill Yenne explains that the military standoff that occurred between the two ‘Superpowers’, namely the United States and the Soviet Union, from the 1940s through to 1991, was only the Cold War, which ultimately helped to enable mankind to avert the possibility of an all-out nuclear confrontation, and that it certainly was not World War III.

In 1949, after the unleashing of nuclear weaponry at the end of World War II, physicist Albert Einstein suggested that any outcome of a possible World War III would be so dire as to revert mankind back to the Stone Age. When asked by journalist Alfred Werner what types of weapons Einstein believed World War III might be fought with, Einstein warned, “I know not with what weapons World War III will be fought, but World War IV will be fought with sticks and stones.”

Emerging technologies, such as Artificial Intelligence, could hypothetically generate risk in the decades ahead. RAND Corporation is a nonprofit institution that helps improve policy and decision making through research and analysis. One report has argued that Artificial Intelligence and associated information technology “will have a large effect on nuclear-security issues in the next quarter century.” A hypothetical future AI could provide a destabilizing ability to track “second-launch” launchers. Incorporating AI into decision support systems used to decide whether to launch, could also generate new risks, including the risk of an adversarial exploitation of such an AI’s algorithms by a third party to trigger a launch recommendation. A perception that some sort of emerging technology would lead to “world domination” might also be destabilizing, for example by leading to fear of a pre-emptive strike. The trends of these attacks suggest the potential of Cyber-World War III. The world’s leading militaries are developing cyber strategies, including ways to alter the enemy’s command and control systems, early warning systems, logistics, and transportation.

## Satan, is the prince and god of this present evil world.

His sinful deceitfulness, along with his evil companions, fallen angels, has depraved and misled mankind; physically, mentally, morally and religiously.

His Kingdom (Empire) has three departments through which he, though invisible, has held the race in subjection to himself with: (1) false religions, (2) predatory aristocracies, (3) oppressive governments to this very day.

### THE DAYS OF HIS EMPIRE ARE NUMBERED!

#### FACTS OF OUR TIME

In modern times, nine countries—the U.S., Russia, France, China, the UK, Pakistan, India, Israel, and North Korea—are estimated to possess roughly 12,700 nuclear warheads. With some honesty in our decision the argument could be made that there is not a sound mind to be found! Leadership from confused minds each with a special agenda to protect and harboring pride, selfishness, and stubbornness . . . all desirous of having full control over the people under the guise of socialism, this expresses the thought of each wanting to be the Ruler of this present evil world will prevent an opportunity of forming any alliance.

In the late nineteen fifties Gen. Douglas MacArthur declared that in the U.S. the tax rate has risen during the past 70 years from \$1.98 to nearly \$450.00 per person, and that “just as in [ancient] Rome, our civilization is living beyond its means, living more and more for the moment, trying to anticipate today the pleasures of tomorrow.” In the year 2021 using \$60,000.00 as an average salary in the U.S. and a 24% tax rate the average tax paid would be \$14,400.00; our civilization is living beyond its means.

Taxation is fast reaching the snapping point. The nations of the world have armed themselves to the teeth and continue to spend billions in the scrapping of equipment soon outmoded and in the development of new ideas for greater wholesale destructive capacity. Someone must pay for it! Many nations are gradually and rapidly taxing their citizens into a *quasi*-socialistic slavery.

In June of 2022 U.S. President Joe Biden said he believes that an alternative to the tough sanctions that

Washington has imposed on Moscow would be a “third world war.” The American leader said this in an interview with blogger Brian Cowan. We site this quote to show the mindset of government leaders. Also, in the marches of the many idealisms we see signs held up for all to see using the word Anarchy.

Jehovah’s Plan of the Ages includes the overthrow of Satan’s Empire. Satan has an empire over the human family as the prince and god of this present evil world, the prince of the power of the air, and the ruler of its kingdoms (John 16:11; 2 Cor. 4:4; Eph. 2:2; Luke 4:6, 7). His Kingdom has three departments through which he, though invisible, has held the race in subjection to himself: (1) false religions, (2) predatory aristocracies and (3) oppressive governments to this very day. Satan by deceitfulness has deceived and distressed them; by sin he has depraved them, physically, mentally, morally and religiously; by the evil conditions in the earth under the curse he has impoverished them; by his fallen angels, his evil companions, he has misled them; by the death process he has bruised them; by the death state he has ruined them; by oppressive governments he has tyrannized over them. Surely the Scriptures rightly call him, as Pharaoh’s antitype, the oppressor (Psa. 72:4; Isa. 9:4; Heb. 2:14); however, the days of his empire are numbered.

The Bible assures us that Satan’s Empire will be overthrown through the great Time of Trouble (which began with the two phases of the World-war and will progress, perhaps with a third phase, followed by World-revolution and then will culminate in World-anarchy); and that it will be accomplished by the Lord in His Second Advent (Isa. 35:3, 4; Rev. 11:15, 18; 14:4-20; 19:11-21; 16:18, 19; 18:8-10, 18-21; 17:4, 5, 16, 18; 2 Thes. 2:8, 9; Dan. 2:34, 35, 44, 45; 7:9-14, 17, 26; 12:1; Zeph. 3:8, 9; Joel 2:1-11; 3:9-14).

### AFTER THE FIRE “A STILL SMALL VOICE”

For then I will restore to the people  
a pure language, that they may call  
on the name of the LORD,  
to serve Him with one accord.

Zephaniah 3:9

### “BE STILL”

Be, still, and know that I am God;  
I will be exalted among the nations,  
I will be exalted in the earth!

Psalms 46:10

## THE TOWER OF BABEL

Gen. 11:19

AND the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech. And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there. And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them thoroughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar. And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.

And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded. And the Lord said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. So the Lord scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city. Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the Lord did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the Lord scatter them abroad upon the face of the earth.

## THE CALL OF ABRAM

Gen. 11:26–12:15, 17:19; 13:1–18; 14:8–15:18; 16:1, 3, 15; 17:1–10, 15:21, 23

AND Abram was the son of Terah, who was descended from Shem. Terah begat Abram, Nahor, and Haran; and Haran begat Lot. And Haran died before his father Terah in the land of his nativity, in Ur of the Chaldees. And Abram and Nahor took them wives: the name of Abram's wife was Sarai; and the name of Nahor's wife, Milcah. But Sarai was barren; she had no child. And Terah took Abram his son, and Lot the son of Haran his son's son, and Sarai his daughter-in-law, his son Abram's wife; and they went forth with them from Ur of the Chaldees, to go into the land of Canaan; and they came unto Haran, and dwelt there. And Terah died in Haran.

Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: and I will make of thee a

great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: and I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

So Abram departed, as the Lord had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran. And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came.

And Abram passed through the land unto the place of Sichem, unto the plain of Moreh. And the Canaanite was then in the land. And the Lord appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the Lord, who appeared unto him. And he removed from thence unto a mountain on the east of Beth-el, and pitched his tent, having Beth-el on the west, and Hai on the east: and there he builded an altar unto the Lord, and called upon the name of the Lord. And Abram journeyed, going on still toward the south.

And there was a famine in the land: and Abram went down into Egypt to sojourn there; for the famine was grievous in the land. And it came to pass, when he was come near to enter into Egypt, that he said unto Sarai, his wife, Behold now, I know that thou art a fair woman to look upon: therefore it shall come to pass, when the Egyptians shall see thee, that they shall say, This is his wife: and they will kill me, but they will save thee alive. Say, I pray thee, thou art my sister: that it may be well with me for thy sake; and my soul shall live because of thee.

And it came to pass, that, when Abram was come into Egypt, the Egyptians beheld the woman that she was very fair: and the woman was taken into Pharaoh's house. And the Lord plagued Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram's wife. And Pharaoh called Abram, and said, What is this that thou hast done unto me? why didst thou not tell me that she was thy wife? Why saidst thou, She is my sister? So I might have

taken her to me to wife: now therefore behold thy wife, take her, and go thy way.

And Abram went up out of Egypt, he, and his wife, and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the south. And Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold. And he went on his journeys from the south even to Beth-el, unto the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Beth-el and Hai; unto the place of the altar which he had made there at the first: and there Abram called on the name of the Lord.

### **Abram and Lot Separate**

And Lot also, which went with Abram, had flocks, and herds, and tents. And the land was not able to bear them, that they might dwell together, for their substance was great, so that they could not dwell together. And there was a strife between the herdmen of Abram's cattle and the herdmen of Lot's cattle: and the Canaanite and the Perrizite dwelled then in the land.

And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we be brethren. Is not the whole land before thee? separate thyself, I pray thee, from me: if thou wilt take the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if thou depart to the right hand, then I will go the left. And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere, before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, even as the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar.

Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan: and Lot journeyed east: and they separated themselves the one from the other. Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched his tent toward Sodom. But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the Lord exceedingly.

And the Lord said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward: for all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever. And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered. Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for I will give it unto thee. Then Abram removed his tent, and came and dwelt in the plain of Mamre, which is in Hebron, and built there an altar unto the Lord.

### **The Battle of the Kings**

After this there was a battle in the vale of Siddim, by the Dead Sea: four kings fought against five. And among the five were the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah, where Lot dwelt.

There went out the king of Sodom, and the king of Gomorrah, and the king of Admah, and the king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (the same is Zoar); and they joined battle with them in the vale of Siddim; with Chedorlaomer and the kings that were with him, four kings with five.

And the vale of Siddim was full of slimepits; and the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, and fell there; and they that remained fled to the mountain. And thy took all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah, and all their victuals, and went their way. And they took Lot, Abram's brother's son, who dwelt in Sodom, and his goods, and departed.

And there came one that had escaped, and told Abram the Hebrew; for he dwelt in the plain of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol, and brother of Aner: and these were confederate with Abram. And when Abram heard that his brother was taken captive, he armed his trained servants, born in his own house, three hundred and eighteen, and pursued them unto Dan. And he divided himself against them, he and his servants, by night, and smote them, and pursued them unto Hobah, which is on the left hand of Damascus. And he brought back all the goods, and also brought again his brother Lot, and his goods, and the women also, and the people.

And the king of Sodom went out to meet him after his return from the slaughter of the kings. And Melchizedek, king of Salem, brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God. And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: and blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all.

And the king of Sodom said unto Abram, Give me the persons, and take the goods to thyself. And Abram said to the king of Sodom, I have lift up mine hand unto the Lord, the most high God, the possessor of heaven and earth, that I will not take from a thread even to a shoe-latchet, and that I will not take any thing that is thine, lest thou shouldest say, I have made Abram rich: save only that which the young men have eaten, and the portion of the men which went with me, Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre; let them take their portion.

After these things the word of the Lord came unto Abram in a vision, saying Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.

And Abram said, Lord God, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless, and the steward of my house is this Eliezer of Damascus? And Abram said, Behold, to me thou hast given no seed: and, lo, one born in my house is mine heir.

And, behold, the word of the Lord came unto him, saying, This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come shall be thine heir. And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be. And he believed in the Lord; and he counted it to him for righteousness.

And he said unto him, I am the Lord that brought thee out of Ur of the Chaldees, to give thee this land to inherit it. And he said, Lord God, whereby shall I know that I shall inherit it? And he said unto him, Take me an heifer of three years old, and a she-goat of three years old, and a ram of three years old, and a turtle -dove and a young pigeon. And he took unto him all these, and divided them in the midst, and laid each piece one against another: but the birds divided he not. And when the fowls came down upon the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

And when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and, lo, an horror of great darkness fell upon him. And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years; and also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance. And thou shalt go to thy fathers in peace; thou shalt be buried in a good old age. But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again: for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full.

### **God's Promise to Abram**

And it came to pass, that, when the sun went down, and it was dark, behold a smoking furnace, and a burning lamp that passed between those pieces. In the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates.

Now Sarai, Abram's wife, bare him no children: and she had an handmaid, an Egyptian, whose name was Hagar. And Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar, her maid, the Egyptian, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his

wife. And Hagar bare Abram a son, and Abram called his son's name, which Hagar bare, Ishmael.

And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect. And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly.

And Abram fell on his face: and God talked with him, saying, As for me, behold, my covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations. Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee. And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee. And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee. And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.

And God said unto Abraham, Thou shalt keep my covenant therefore, thou, and thy seed after thee in their generations. This is my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee; Every man child among you shall be circumcised.

And God said unto Abraham, As for Sarai, thy wife, thou shalt not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall her name be. And I will bless her, and give thee a son also of her; yea, I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of people shall be of her.

Then Abraham fell upon his face, and laughed, and said in his heart, Shall a child be born unto him that is an hundred years old? and shall Sarah, that is ninety years old, bear? And Abraham said unto God, O that Ishmael might live before thee.

And God said, Sarah, thy wife, shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his seed after him. And as for Ishmael, I have heard thee: Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly; twelve princes shall he beget, and I will make him a great nation. But my covenant will I establish with Isaac, which Sarah shall bear unto thee at this set time in next year.

And Abraham took Ishmael his son, and all the men of his house, and circumcised them in the self-same day, as God had said unto him.



**HAS YOUR SUBSCRIPTION LAPSED?**

**HAVE YOU MOVED OR**

**ARE YOU GOING TO BE MOVING?**

**PLEASE SUPPLY YOUR NEW ADDRESS.**

**RENEW YOUR  
SUBSCRIPTION TODAY**



TO:

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BIBLE STANDARD MINISTRIES 2023 CONVENTIONS

#### ATHENS, OHIO

**JULY 14, 15, 16, 2023**

**Site:** Ohio University Inn, 331 Richland Ave., Athens, OH 45701; Phone: 866-593-6661.

**Rate:** \$115.00 + tax per night (if made by 6/15/23).  
Lunch furnished Friday and Saturday. For further information please contact: Bro. Mike Hanning: 740-707-4898 or Sr. Karrie Hanning: 740-590-3802

#### TULSA, OKLAHOMA CONVENTION

**October 13, 14, 15, 2023**

**Site:** Hilton Garden Inn Midtown, 4518 East Skelly Drive, Tulsa, OK 74135.

**Phone:** 918-878-7777

**Rate:** \$102.00 per night plus tax\*

Free complimentary hot Breakfast

Mention that you are with the Bible Standard Ministries Group to get the special room rate.

Luncheons are provided on Friday and Saturday.

Make reservations directly with the hotel by Sept. 21st.

For Inquiries contact Donna Welker 918-272-8404 or Richard Piquene 918-224-7547.

[www.biblestandard.com](http://www.biblestandard.com)

**Bible Standard Ministries  
1156 Saint Matthews Rd.  
Chester Springs, PA 19425**

### GOD FIRST

In my bedroom hangs this motto,  
And its place is near the door,  
So that it may e'er remind me,  
God, all else must be before!

NEVER do I cross the threshold,  
Than the motto seems to say,  
"Just a word with God thy Father,  
Ere thou goest on thy way."

WHEN I'm dressing in the morning,  
As I see it hanging there,  
It reminds me of my duties,  
Help for which I seek in prayer.

DUTIES, burdens, worries, troubles,  
All may come to me this day;  
How can I prepare to meet them?  
How, I ask, except I pray?

WHEN I plan fresh undertakings,  
Then the motto seems to say,  
"Don't in thine own strength begin it;  
First of all, about it pray!"

When I'm ready dressed for walking,  
Perhaps with little time to spare,  
Still I cannot leave my bedroom,  
When I see the motto there,

TILL I kneel for just a moment,  
And in earnest, secret prayer  
Place myself and all my goings  
In my heavenly Father's care.

NIGHTLY, too, the motto speaketh,  
When for rest I would prepare,  
Then it whispers its sweet message,  
"First God go and meet in prayer!"

Yes, "God First" must be our motto,  
If we would succeed each day;  
Wish we all our ways to prosper?

**First of all, about it pray!"**