

INSIGHT

Volume 8 Number 4

October 2016

Wake-up America!



Has a Day of Reckoning Begun?

International Congregation of Yahweh

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A MAGAZINE OF BIBLICAL UNDERSTANDING

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A nonprofit, religious organization, ICY is dedicated to the restoration of the original doctrines of the Apostolic assembly. ICY follows the practice of the New Testament assemblies who kept the Law of the Old Testament. The true assembly is built on the foundation of the apostles' and the prophets' (Eph. 2:20), message of obedience to Yahweh's Law (Isa. 8:20; Jer. 26:4-6; Ezk. 20:19).

Our major doctrines include the name of the Creator, Yahweh, and His Son, Yahshua. Only these names are to be used in worship rather than Jesus, God, Lord, Jehovah, etc. Ample Scriptural and historical evidence support this belief; not the least of which is the commandment against taking the name of Yahweh in vain (Ex. 20:7).

Other major foundational beliefs are the atoning sacrifice of the Messiah Yahshua, and the inspiration of both Old and New Testaments. An ICY hallmark doctrine is the restored truth that the weekly seventh-day Sabbath is from dawn-to-dark; not from sunset-to-sunset as commonly taught. Yahweh's true Holy Days and New Moons are to be observed as well. Insight is sent free of charge to all who subscribe. Since ICY does not teach tithing on money, this is made possible through free-will offerings of ICY members and other contributors. Circulation presently includes over 30 foreign countries and the USA.

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What are your thoughts?

From the Editor: *Gary C. Miller*

Asage of long ago, a man of Yahweh, a fabulously wealthy king and one of the greatest thinkers of all time made a profound statement regarding our thoughts. His words are of such power and truth they are a mantra even today: “For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he...” Of course, this is the wisdom of Solomon, recorded in Proverbs chapter twenty-three verse seven (*KJV*).

Solomon’s words are a promise and...a warning.

Vast libraries of self-help books, do-it-yourself success CDs, DVDs, tapes, and manuals have echoed Solomon’s words of wisdom over the centuries. Truly this is a powerful statement for the ages, and for all ages young and old!

What is generally gleaned from his words is the slogan “the power of positive thinking,” but Solomon did not say either way, positive or negative. In his wisdom he knew what we think can work for us or against us. It is a two-edged sword. There is also “the power of negative thinking.”

Perhaps the man most responsible for popularizing the theme of positive thoughts in the modern era was Norman Vincent Peale in his famous book, “The Power of Positive Thinking;” selling millions of copies and changing millions of lives. An old song put that theme to music with the refrain, “Accentuate the positive. Eliminate the negative and don’t mess with Mr. In-Between.”

We become what we think about all day long. As we think, we are... Did it work for Solomon? Definitely. Who else is referred to as the “wisest man who ever lived?” No one.

How did this great man obtain the right perspective on our thoughts, our mental world; and more importantly, **gain the power to control and direct them...**for his good and the nation he ruled?

Notice this very moving exchange between Solomon and Yahweh:

“...I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in...Give your servant therefore an understanding mind...to...discern between good and evil...It pleased Yahweh that Solomon had asked this...Because you...have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right. I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like

you shall arise after you” (I Kin. 3:7, 9-12).

This perspective of wisdom and discernment, the proper thinking, comes from Yahweh. Solomon did not ask for riches or power over his enemies, *but power of thought to discern good and evil so he could direct his mind properly*: “Yahweh gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding” (Prv. 2:6).

Clearly, controlling our thoughts is paramount. The great inventor Thomas Edison did so with a laser-like focus. His take on invention was that most inventors try a few things and quit, spending their day thinking about several things, while he said, “I think about just one thing all day long.” Did it pay off? One thousand ninety patents speak for themselves which included the phonograph. Single minded and persistent, he worked 72 hours nonstop to perfect it: “**I never quit** until I get it **exactly** the way I want it.”

Those who worked with him observed that “Edison is an indefatigable worker and there is no kind of a failure however disastrous affects him” (Charles Batchelor as quoted in “Edison and The Rise of Innovation,” Leonard DeGraaf, p. 28). Obviously, he did not think about those disasters for more than a few passing moments. The negative feelings they invoked were dispelled quickly. Feelings of disappointment, failure, grief had no power over him in such instances...**because he did not hold on to them.**

What we hold on to can hold on to us, controlling our future. Clinging to such negative feelings in the time of failure, could easily have paralyzed his will to bounce back.

Researchers have discovered situations which evoke feelings of hopelessness, grief, apathy, fear, etc. have no power over us **if we simply let those feelings go; turn them loose...let them “evaporate” from our mind** rather than nurturing and holding on to them.

It is also true that not all thoughts are created equal. Some are more powerful, more dynamic:

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says Yahweh [“the LORD;” *NRSV*]. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher

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Second Historic US Election Looms: The Year of the Outsider



Eight years ago an historic U.S. election catapulted the first African American to the highest office in the land. To many, wondering if the nightmare would ever end, these last eight years have been pure agony. To many others, the romance is coming to an end far too soon.

Our Stars-and Stripes brand of politics, basically a two-party system, guarantees once again, an historic first in US elections: either a nonpolitician “outsider” billionaire businessman Donald Trump or Mrs. Hillary Clinton will find a new home on Pennsylvania Avenue come January 2017.

Mr. Trump, a first time candidate, has never before sought office, entering the race as a *true outsider*. Mrs. Clinton, on the other hand, the ultimate establishment politician and consummate *political insider*, has been in politics for 35 years including first lady (1993-2001) of President Bill Clinton’s administration, U.S. Senator (2001–09), Secretary of State (2009–13) in the administration of President Barack Obama.

Another first in the blistering primary-to-nomination season was a self-funded candidate gaining his party’s nomination for president, Mr. Trump. He personally financed his primary run taking no money from PACs and spending an estimated \$50 million of his personal fortune, estimated at just over \$10 billion.

It is no secret the major news networks, ABC, CNN, NBC, CBS and MSNBC have imposed a virtual media blackout on those running outside the two mainstream political parties. The exception is CSPAN.

The crowded Republican field of seventeen highly qualified candidates was early on touted by political pundits and the establishment old-guard as a no-contest with former Florida governor Jeb Bush the Republican Party’s presumptive nominee. But Bush’s appeal faded despite his considerable political skills backed by \$130 million in campaign and Right to Rise Super PAC spending. All this, coupled with ad-

vertising Bush as the true credentialed conservative and trading on the Bush family name, would only carry him so far as his campaign ended in February 2016 without winning a single state.¹

The remaining field eventually winnowed down to Sen. Ted Cruz, Sen. Marco Rubio, Gov. John Kaishic, and Donald Trump. Through twelve heated debates, name-calling and rapid-fire campaign rhetoric, it was clear the republican primaries were in for a brutal dog-fight. Of course, the press got in the fray via major TV outlets, the internet and newspapers and generally biased reporting.

When Donald Trump announced his candidacy in June 2015, pundits gave him no chance, indicating it was only a celebrity stunt, an ego trip, that would soon fizzle. But the theme of “Make America Great Again,” “Build a Wall,” etc. resonated with millions the press termed “generally uneducated.” Attacks by candidates

and the media came quickly, which Trump termed “Incoming,” and fired back without mincing words; something the press is not accustomed to hearing. It was evident he was not going away quietly. Honestly, *when* has so much invective been the epicenter of presidential politics?

On the Democratic side only two candidates were significant contenders: Sen. Bernie Sanders and Hillary Clinton, the odds-on favorite to win the Democratic nomination for president. She eventually prevailed, but Sanders gave her campaign a legitimate scare when he refused to yield and she could not put him away.

Though Sanders is a politician, he was *considered the dark-horse outsider*. Clinton was supposed to “sleep-walk” through the primaries on a sure bet, but Sanders was underestimated. Garnering support from millennials with intense rallies, Facebook posts of “join our political revolution” and Tweets on Twitter that “the revolution is just begun,” he continued

“...once again, an historic first
in US elections...”

making inroads into Clinton territory, pushing all the way to the Democratic National Convention. Outcries of a “rigged convention” echoed throughout the Bernie camp when the delegate count was finished...but they fell short of any real impact. When Sanders conceded and backed Hillary, disillusioned supporters were shocked and bitter. Was it rigged all along some queried?

Donald Trump continues drawing massive crowds in venue after venue in response to his populists theme “Make America Great Again!” How? He follows with “better trade deals,” “bringing back jobs,” “reducing business tax rates,” “halting immigration until proper vetting is done,” “beefing up our depleted military,” “stop drug flow and illegals by building a wall between the U.S. and Mexico... with Mexico paying for it,” “destroying ISIS calling it Radical Islamic Terrorists,” “paying down the \$19 trillion national debt.”

Mrs. Clinton’s continues her “Stronger Together” theme with “fair tax laws,” “defeat ISIS,” “climate change,” “an economy that works for everyone,” “criminal justice reform,” “increase Syrian immigrants to 65,000” [news interview], “expand opportunities for the disabled,” “make it easier to vote,” “provide a path to full citizenship for immigrants,” “raise taxes on the rich.”²

Although her turnouts at rallies are minuscule compared to Trump rallies and trails far behind in social media hits, she has lead in the national polls against Trump from the outset. However, with no press conferences in 277 consecutive days and sparse campaign stops in recent weeks, coupled with ongo-



The US 2016 Presidential election: Trump the Outsider vs. Clinton the Insider. *cnn.com*

in previous elections. The general public, according to surveys, has little trust for politicians in general and even less for the press. Every endorsement of individuals, a celebrity or other prominent supporter, has only *one vote* just like the rest of the population.

The overall rejection of “establishment candidates” was evident by Trump victories in the Republican primaries, and the tremendous support base of 100,000s of millennials for Mr. Sanders. Is there a political revolution afoot as Sanders touted and as Mr. Trump calls a “movement” away from the insider establishment in the Beltway?

Has our government become an elitist system of self-serving cronyism with a globalist agenda to surrender our national sovereignty? Our task as Yahweh’s people and as citizens is to be law-abiding, and live peaceably with all men as much as possible (Rom. 12:18).

“If you see any oppression of the one of little means and the violent taking away of judgment and of righteousness in a jurisdictional district, do not be amazed over the affair, for One that is Higher than the high one is watching...” (Eccl. 5:8).

There is an unseen hand of Yahweh at work in the affairs of man. The years ahead will see its finger prints ever more clearly: “If my people which are called by name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land” (II Ch. 7:14).

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1 - New York Times, February, 2016.

2 - www.HillaryClinton.com

Title Photo Credit: *cnsnews.com*

“...there is an unseen hand of Yahweh...in the affairs of men.”

ing scandals from Benghazi to 30,000 email deletions, “pay-for-play,” and questionable testimony under oath, her poll numbers are sliding.

The inertia of the voting majority swayed by tradition, emotion, media hype, or public opinion in general, is working to carry one of them to the White House.

Mrs. Clinton’s or Mr. Trump’s endorsement by Hollywood celebrities, the news media itself via news spots, well-known Talk Show hosts, governors, congressmen, and others have not been as effective as



THE ROMANIZING OF AMERICA

For over a thousand years Roman conquerors returning from the wars enjoyed the honor of a triumph, a tumultuous parade. In a procession came trumpeters and musicians and strange animals from the conquered territories; together with carts laden with treasures and captured armaments.

The conqueror rode in a triumphal chariot, the day's prisoners walking in chains before him. Sometimes his children, robed in white, stood with him in the chariot or rode the trace horses.

A slave stood behind the conqueror holding a golden crown, and whispering in his ear, a warning, that 'All glory is fleeting.'¹

The heyday of the Roman Empire has long since ended giving way to the advance of other eras, other conquerors, other wars-other fleeting glories.

Something of ancient Rome remains, however, in her love of sport, her romance of pleasure, her obsession with the sting of battle.

These themes of the human condition ripple across the ages passing through one civilization then the next as waves through water:

"Through the travail of ages midst the pomp and toil of war, have I fought and strove and perished countless times upon the shore. As if through a glass and darkly the age-old strife I see where I fought in many guises, many names, but always me."²

Truly races of every ethnicity fight in many guises, many names, but always man-against-man, cause-against-cause, grievance versus grievance. Living and dying for the cause, the elusive peace comes for only a short while in the breather between battles.

THE MANY GUISES OF WAR

The downfall of Rome is well documented as it crumbled from within and over extended its military importing mercenaries with little or no loyalty to Rome. The reasons are still debated.

But there is one flaw most will agree contributed to the empire's demise. It was an obsession that permeated every social level: Vicarious battle.

Citizens and rulers alike relished battle and personal hand-to-hand combat as entertainment. Their "peace time" battle came in the guise of *sport*.

Sport really is nothing less than battle or war under "controlled" conditions with rules and referees. In all-out war the only rules are winning, and the only referees are defeat or victory. So with sport: pit likes against each other. Make them as nearly equal as possible and set one against the other; competition, emulation.

Notice the Bible says: "Now the works of the flesh... are these,...emulations, wrath, strife..." (Gal. 5:20).

ROMAN LOVE OF SPORT THE AMERICAN WAY

The Romans loved sport. Today we say "Sports." As with their ancient counterparts, Americans today indulge the excesses of sport, but on a grander scale, a bigger stage and in different forms.

In ancient Rome state sponsored sporting events



Roman mass entertainment became increasingly violent as depicted in this 19th century engraving of gladiatorial combat in the Roman Colosseum Arena. pantip.com



Horsepower of a bygone era. Two-horsepower chariots at the Circus Maximus, Ancient Rome. *pinterest.com*



Modern 550 horsepower chariots dazzle the crowd. *foxsports.com*

ballooned to 93 public holidays dedicated to it by A.D. 50 under Emperor Claudius. The 93 Roman state-sponsored sports holidays a year sounds like a lot. It is.

But look at the total number of state sponsored sporting events in American public schools, and the amount of time spent on them.

In America today, in over 14,800 public school districts, high school students grades 10 through 12 participate in at least three major school sponsored sports programs. Smaller rural districts may have only two major programs or perhaps only one, usually basketball.

These are in state sponsored sports events.

In these districts, basketball, football, track, and baseball involve approximately 1.32 million competitions per year. Allowing for smaller districts we could round to approximately **1.3 million** events; not including Junior High and Middle School sports programs. Of course many of these games are played during the same hours. Assuming approximately 1.5 hours per event (very conservative estimate for all events), gives **81,250 twenty-four hour days!**

How much is that? About **223 years spent per year** in sporting events at state expense in coaches salaries, state funded sports facilities and supplies! State funded university sports programs would add considerably to this astounding total.

State support of the lust for competition in “war games” of basketball, battle on the “gridiron,” etc. truly staggers the imagination.

Rome has come to America on a mind-boggling scale!

CHARIOT RACES THE AMERICAN WAY

Among the most popular and dynamic of Roman sports was chariot racing, a rich man’s indulgence which could be done in the hippodrome (from a Greek word meaning “horse-racing place”) or in the circuses.

The Roman Circus Maximus (“the largest circus”) originally constructed in 329 B.C., seated an estimated three hundred thousand!³ Others say 100,000.⁴

Ken Kronberg refines this estimate “...Seating for spectators was expanded to accommodate 150,000 under Julius Caesar, and eventually grew to 255,000 under the Emperor Trajan.”⁵

These races were the main events of the day in the Circus Maximus at Rome.

Before the 7-to-17 lap, 2 horse-to-10 horse chariot races the charioteers drove their chariots around the course a few laps, in part to arouse fan enthusiasm, but primarily to pay respect to the emperor

seated in the imperial box. As they jolted past the box, they shouted, “Ave imperator!” [“Hail, Emperor!”]⁶

The American counterpart of this display is the pace-car leading modern four-wheeled “chariots” in a few laps before the start of motor car races at the Indianapolis Speedway, Daytona, the Pepsi 400, Coca Cola 600, etc. As thousands cheer and beer flows, the revving “horses” under the hoods (typically 550 to 850 horsepower V-6s and V-8s) power these chariots as they loop up to 100 times around the oval.

Modern car racing is also a rich man’s sport. In 2013 Ferrari had an estimated Formula One team

“...All glory is fleeting!”



The Roman Colosseum was dedicated in A.D. 80 with 100 days of games. *skyscrapercity.com*



As it remains, the Roman Colosseum that time left behind. *Ruth Holt*

budget of \$470 million. NASCAR is now a multi-billion dollar business with millions of racing fans.

Winning charioteers were sports superstars of Roman society and their portraits adorned public arcades and the walls of Roman homes.⁵

Today our sports heroes are equally applauded and revered on the scale of royalty.

The similarities are striking.

ROMAN PURSUIT OF PLEASURE

The Roman pursuit of leisure pushed the official holidays a year to 159 days, 93 of which were dedicated to sporting events, by A.D. 59.

The Roman Colosseum, seating 50,000, was finished and dedicated in A.D. 80. The dedication was celebrated with 100 days of games!⁷

The number of holidays continued its upward spiral until by A.D. 354, there were 200 official holidays each year! Of this total, 175 days were public games, which were supplemented by privately sponsored games, organized by temples, wealthy families, etc.⁵

AMERICA FOLLOWS SUIT

In the U.S. there are 10 declared national holidays. State-run public schools and universities close for an additional 12 days or so to honor the pagan rites of Christmas, New Years and Easter.

State and federal governments honor the religious rite of pagan sun worship by closing all government offices each Sunday adding another 62 U.S. state “holidays” per year.

It does not end there.

As far back as 1886 (the year the Apache, Geronimo, surrendered) labor battles for the 8-hour workday has been part of the American drive for time off work. In 1938, the 40-hour workweek became effectively “standardized” when time-and-a-half pay for all work over 40 hours a week was mandated by the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (Source: U.S. Department of Labor).

This has impacted government employees. As a result most government offices close Saturdays as well. This gives another 52 days of holiday time bringing the total to 114 state-sponsored or “sanctioned holidays” per year for government employees.

But there is more. If we include the 12-day Christ-

“...there were 200 official holidays each year!”

mas holiday sanctioned by the states’ public schools, Presidents Day, Independence Day, George Washington’s Birthday, Memorial Day, etc. we have 136 U.S. holidays a year or 38 percent of the time!

America is closing in on the Roman record.

PLENTY OF TIME...FOR PLEASURE

On the other workdays, entertainment was available at the circus, racetrack, the theatre, and amphitheater. The six-hour workday, ending around 2 p.m., gave plenty of day left for pleasure.⁵

In America today, entertainment is available around the clock via satellite TV, video rentals, the Internet, Smartphones. Theaters, summer and winter team and individual sports, auto racing, and major league baseball in 28 cities, leave no taste unsatisfied in our Romanized pursuit of leisure and the quest for excitement.

GLADIATORS

Gladiatorial “games” showed Roman citizens’ preoccupation with violence and brutality. The glorification of violence became increasingly gory to satisfy their appetite until in 42 B.C. gladiatorial fights were substituted for chariot races in official games. After that time gladiators were included in the official games.⁸

Hollywood in recent decades has “upped the ante” in blood-and-gore movies to reach a more jaded market of American moviegoers. Promotions catering to this market rationalize blood-and-guts realism, as no doubt ancient Roman providers of slaughter and blood-thirsty “games” rationalized brutality to the Roman citizenry.

Gladiators (from *gladius* [sword]) were usually

“...Gladiators...were usually criminals or slaves...”

criminals or slaves who were forced to fight others to the death or wild beasts such as lions and tigers. Between contests clean white sand (*arena* means “sand”) was sprinkled on the arena floor to level the course or to cover up blood after races or gladiatorial fights.⁹

Initially gladiator shows had 120 contestants. This grew until Emperor Trajan, in a 123-day celebration of victory over the Dacians, had games using 9,138 gladiators and 11,000 animals.¹⁰

Much like the sports heroes of modern American football, baseball and basketball, gladiators, as well as charioteers, were glamorous figures. Their portraits were often painted on life-sized murals displayed on walls of public porticoes. In daily life, the latest chariot races or gladiatorial fights were the rage in conversation.⁵

The striking similarity to American preoccupation with year-round professional sports is history repeating itself.

ROMAN THEATER

Roman theater played to huge audiences like races, and “...their sheer size aided in the transformation of the Greek dramas...into pornographic musical comedy shows [whose]... stock repertoire aimed for erotic titillation of the audience...”⁵

“Soloists in these productions were veritable rock stars, singer-dancers who became idols of the Roman populace. Riots broke out amongst their fans. They hobnobbed with the Imperial “Jet Set,” creating scandal...Domitian divorced his Empress over her flirtation with an operatic idol.”⁵

The Romans had nothing on America. This sounds like standard fare of star-chasing tabloids.

SPIRITUAL ROMANIZATION

Fast forward to the *Holy Roman Empire*, A.D. 962. This Germanic empire located chiefly in central Europe, started when Otto the Great, king of Germany, was coronated Roman emperor. It ended when Francis II renounced the Roman imperial title in 1806.

Notice the religious nature of this empire.

It was: “...regarded theoretically as the continuation of the Western Empire and as the temporal form of a universal dominion whose spiritual head was the pope. It is sometimes regarded as originating with Charlemagne, who was crowned Roman emperor in A.D. 800.”¹¹

ROMAN RELIGIOUS EFFECT ON AMERICA

What is the influence in modern America of the Holy Roman Empire’s spiritual head?

Guess what every fifth American has in common? Answer: They are Roman Catholic.

The reported 2015 membership of the Roman Catholic Church in the U.S. is 69,470,686, equaling 22% of the total U.S. population down from 25% in 1987. Even with this decrease in percentage it remains over four times the membership of the largest Protestant group in America, the Southern Baptist Convention.

America is nearly a “spiritual” vassal state of the Roman Church. This vast empire of Catholic proselytes leaves its religious imprint on American society, churches, education, and government.

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Booths at the Feast of Tabernacles

Can they be Hotels or Condominiums?

Is it Biblical to stay in a hotel, condominium or even a house during the Feast of Tabernacles? Or do we have to camp; stay in tents?

The phrase “temporary dwelling” satisfies those who consider the “case closed.” Others feel they need a more Scripturally precise answer.

Just how precise is “good enough” in matters of doctrine such as our dwelling during this great fall festival? Do we have to cross every ‘t’ and dot every ‘i’ or does Yahweh really care all that much about the

“Where is it written...to make booths of the gathered branches?”

type of dwelling? How demanding is He and how careful do we have to be about the “booths” issue? The creation leaves no doubt that Yahweh is a precise thinker who pays great attention to detail...and so must we.

But the facts will not convince everyone either way. People will choose the fact or facts they like best or consider most important and ignore the rest; or ignore them altogether to favor feelings, likes or dislikes...right or wrong.

“BOUGHS OF GOODLY TREES”

Many consider Leviticus 23:40 as proof we have to dwell in “lean-tos” or something similar at the Feast of Tabernacles:

“And you shall take you on the **first day** the boughs of goodly trees, branches of palm trees, and the boughs of thick trees, and willows of the brook, and you shall rejoice before Yahweh your Mighty One seven days.”

The **first day** of the Feast of Tabernacles (7th month 15th day) is a Sabbath: Lev. 23:35:

“The fifteenth day of the seventh month shall be the feast of tabernacles for seven days to Yahweh. On **the first day**...you shall do **no ser-**

vile work” (“servile” means labor).

Gathering branches are commanded on that Sabbath, but no work can be done such as building a lean-to, **booth, tabernacle, hut, shelter, or cottage, covert, pavilion** (words used to translate “booths” [Heb. “succoth,” plural form] in Lev. 23:34, 42-43).

Recall a man was stoned for gathering wood, trees felled for building materials on the Sabbath.¹

Where is it written we are to make booths of the gathered branches? It simply says, “...and you shall rejoice...” Obviously the branches of palms, willows, etc. had to be light leafy branches-not timber for building-but some other reason not recorded in this account. Any dwelling had to be prepared, built beforehand-prior to the beginning of the Feast of Tabernacles.

The Feast of Tabernacles is mentioned in Neh. 8:14: “And they found written in the Law...that the children of Israel should dwell in booths in [during] the feast of the 7th month” (See Lev. 23:42).

Nehemiah includes gathering branches in v. 15, but *begins to deviate* from the instructions of Leviticus 23:40 by including *other* trees mentioned (olive, myrtle, pine) although these could fall within the category of “boughs of goodly trees...,” no real problem here.

But notice how he continues...” **TO MAKE** [Hebrew “asah”] **BOOTHS AS IT IS WRITTEN.**” Correct translation?

Again, *where* does the Law command booths



Modern Tabernacle widely used during the fall Feast of Tabernacles. aol.com

are made (built, constructed) of the branches gathered on the first Sabbath of the Feast? It is simply not there. The booths, though required (Lev. 23:42), could not have been made from *those* branches. If enough large branches were collected to build substantial booths, the forest would be denuded on the Sabbath—a rest day.

The word translated “to make” [*asah*] in this verse (v. 15) is translated *64 different ways!* It is translated, for example, to “dress” [-up, decorate; also translated “celebrate;” see Thayer’s *Lexicon*, p. 578]. In fact, in the same chapter v. 18, it is translated “kept:” “...they *KEPT* the feast seven days...” A translation more consistent with these facts would be, “...to *decorate* or *dress up* booths...”

The record continues in verse 16 how the people made booths on the roof of their houses. This was not a Scriptural mandate. If done on the first day of the Feast, they actually broke the Law rather than conforming to it.

WHAT ARE BOOTHS?

The law of Leviticus 23:34, 42-43 requires we dwell in booths, tabernacles, huts, shelters, etc. Jacob made booths for his cattle. Could they withstand heavy rain and wind?

How primitive do they have to be or is that a personal choice? Could you “jazz them up” some; may-

“...booths...how primitive do they have to be...?”

be have electric lights and a heater in cold weather? Could they have a front door to keep out prowling animals and a substantial roof and sides for rainy, windy weather? Do they all have to be similar or could a family of means have a more plush tabernacle? But the question is, “Do we have to camp or really “rough it” in order to obey Yahweh at the Feast of Tabernacles?

The word, succot(h) is from two roots I. *to cover*, and II. *to weave together*. Since the word is translated as “booth,” what is a *booth*? Must it house only one person (2nd definition)? One definition is “a temporary structure of any material, as *boughs, canvas, boards*, etc. especially used for shelter, shed.”

But notice the expression “pitch/pitched” is used dozens of times in Scripture referring to a tent but *never once* when referring to a booth. This indicates a tent is *not a booth* in the Biblical sense (*KJV* mistranslates



Noah’s Ark: the booth Noah and his family occupied during the Feast of Tabernacles. rationalskepticism.org

“booth” as “tent” in II Sam. 11:11).

Note, however, the New Testament record “...the Jews feast of tabernacles...” (John 7:2). Tabernacles here can mean a *tent*: “...the building of tents or booths...”² Keep in mind the Jews of John’s day were apostate, and Paul came out of the Jews’ religion (Gal. 1:13-14). Including tents to observe the Feast was adding to the Law...not an uncommon Jewish practice in those days.

Looking further, why is the word “tabernacles” used so often by scholars? They use *tabernacle* to translate both “*succot*,” and “*mishkan*” which refers to a structure made with *boards* dozens of times (Ex. 26:15, 27,...etc.). This implies both these words share common meanings.

What is a tabernacle? The word is the diminutive of the Latin “*taberna*” *meaning hut, shed, tavern*. A tavern is from the same “*taberna*” *which is a public house for travelers and others, an inn*.³ A tavern, a small inn, or public house for travelers could also be booths; in modern terms “*motels*,” “*hotels*,” dwellings rented to travelers.

NOAH AND SONS: EXAMPLE OF BOOTHS

A final point, but certainly not least, is an actual example of a dwelling used during the Feast of Tabernacles, the Feast of “*Taverns*.” Its dimensions and construction materials are known exactly including the number of persons it could easily accommodate; an excellent example of a permissible dwelling at the Feast of Tabernacles-Noah’s ark.

“And the ark rested in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, upon the mountains of Ararat” (Gen. 8:4). The ark’s landing on the third

continued on page 17

Seven Facts You Were NOT Taught About Atonements

The Day of Atonement, Yom Kippur, is the highest Sabbath in modern Judaism; a most solemn Holy Day on the Jewish calendar. Each year on the tenth day of the seventh month of the sacred calendar, a divine act of propitiation or redemption intervenes in the affairs of man.

Those not complying with its special fasting and Sabbath requirements are “cut off” from the congregation of Yahweh. Very serious indeed.

Yahweh, in His infinite wisdom, has set aside this mandatory Sabbath as a day to afflict our souls, to renew our relationship with Him. By muting the consequences of our sins, we renew our spiritual and physical life to actually increase our lifespan, believe it or not (II Kin. 20:2-3, 5-6; Job 42:6, 16).

A true personal relationship with Yahweh is not possible without correctly observing this annual Sabbath. Reconciliation takes place and sins are remitted on that day following a repentant heart toward Yahweh. Otherwise, our sins remain standing between us and Yahweh, severing our ties to Him.

Most who observe this day would more or less acknowledge these points. But there is more.

NEGLECTED FACTS

Neglected fact #1: The proper name of this day is not the Day of Atonement (yom kippur), but the Day of AtonementS (plural: Yom Kippurim). **Five atonements** are required, not just one. It is a day of *many* atonements.

Neglected fact #2: The word “Atonements” (SEC 3725) comes from a root word (3722) meaning



The sin offering and the scape goat. pcog.org

TO COVER...specifically **to cover with BITUMEN [asphalt, tar, pitch; SEC; Gesenius' Hebrew-Chaldee Lexicon of the Old Testament, p.411]**. The ark Noah and sons built was “atoned” with pitch inside and out (Gen. 6:14). The atonement offerings made on the Day of Atonements **cover** transgressions; a “**covering over**,” because sin must be covered as decreed by this eternal statute (Lev. 23:31).

Neglected fact #3: The atonements have a special order, one each for: (1). the holy sanctuary, (2).

“The proper name of this day is ...the Day of Atonements.”

the tabernacle of the congregation, (3). the altar, (4). the priests, and (5). all the people of the congregation.

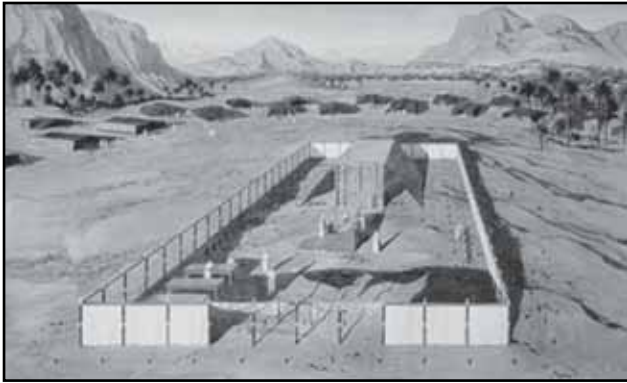
What is ordinarily considered the sole purpose of this day, reconciliation of the people to Yahweh, is actually the *last* of five atonements.

CORE ISSUE

Neglected fact #4: The congregation's uncleanliness is the core issue of Atonements:

“And he [high priest] shall make an atonement for the **holy place**, because of the **unclean-ness** of Israel because of their transgressions in all their sins: and **so shall he do** for the **tabernacle**...And he shall go unto the **altar**... And...shall sprinkle...the blood upon it...seven times, and **cleanse it**, and hallow it from **the uncleanness**...of Israel” (Lev. 16:16, 18-19).

Neglected fact #5: Laws of clean and unclean, are the central issue of Atonements. They are detailed in Leviticus chapters eleven through fifteen and nineteen; Deuteronomy chapter fourteen: clean and unclean meats, purification of women after giving birth, leprosy, male issues, and women's monthly cycle. Yes, these are very personal, but so is life and



The Tabernacle in the wilderness was cleansed on the Day of Atonements. *alabamamissionupdate.blogspot.com*

death, health and disease. Taboo as these laws are in our modern religious culture and secular society, does not make them any less relevant or-when broken-devastating.

The Day of Atonements is forever:

“And this shall be an everlasting statute unto you, to make an atonement...once a year” (Lev. 16:34).
 “...it shall be a statue forever throughout your generations...” (Lev. 23:31).

Why are atonements for uncleanness a statute forever, including *our time*, if the *laws* of clean and unclean no longer apply? Systematically ignored by religious institutions in hundreds of thousands of broadcasts, publications, and in medical research, they will not go away. Neither will the problems. These are *not just religious* issues. They are *physical and mental health* issues.

THE “SILENT” SIN

Why would Yahweh devote one of the most solemn holy days of the year to *this* matter? Simply this. If left unchecked without the proper atonements, **uncleanness will destroy a nation** through filth and disease. Transgressing the laws of clean and unclean is the little-known “**Silent Sin**” of our time. Though rarely discussed or studied, their lethal consequences continue.

LUSTS OF THE BODY

Notice Yahweh says the uncleanness is *because of our sins*: breaking the laws of clean and unclean defiles our body, causing disease. Eating pork, shrimp, lobster is not some abstract ethereal spiritual state with no effect on us physically or mentally. Defile the body and you defile the mind. Break Yahweh’s Laws of cleanliness and they break us.

The New Testament frequently refers to the lusts of the flesh, our body:

“Let not sin...reign in your mortal **body**, that you should obey it in the lusts thereof” (Rom. 6:12);
 “From whence come *wars* and *fightings* among you? Come they not hence, even of your lusts *that war in your members* [in our body]” (Jam. 4:1);
 “...the lust of uncleanness...” (II Pet. 2:10).

These, and many other verses, show the defiled flesh, the unclean physical body-as the Bible defines, is the **root cause** of all kinds of deviant behavior.

Why are demons “*unclean spirits*?” They became Scripturally unclean by violating those laws.

Why did Paul say, “...I shall bewail many which have sinned...and have not repented of the uncleanness...” (II Cor. 2:21).

Biblical “clean and unclean” is addressed **thirty times** in the New Testament referring to the Old Testament laws of clean and unclean. How many times do we find the subject mentioned in sermons or religious publications?

Such statements, being from the Bible rather than medical journals, will surely be met with scoffing and aloofness. Though shunned by the religious cartel pro-

“Biblical clean and unclean is addressed 30 times in the New Testament.”

claiming the clean and unclean laws archaic Old Testament rituals banished at the cross, there is no denying the dire physical and mental health problems our nation-and the world community, faces daily. Explosive national medical costs in drugs and treatments, make you wonder, “Why are we such a sick nation?” Our drug-laden population continues a downward spiral of heart-rending chronic diseases-in body and mind despite billions spent hoping for a cure.

Yet medical science remains in the dark as to the causes of many diseases. Yahweh long ago detailed the **causes AND the solutions**. The fact is, **the Bible is smarter than we are**; more intelligent than the world’s best health care system.

Unless we repent of breaking *this* Holy Sabbath along with the laws relating to it, Yahweh says, “I will break the pride of your power...” (Lev. 26:19). He means it.

We live in a polluted unclean society. Proper observance of the Day of Atonements provides the needed cleansing to renew us; to cover over sins.



Satan was a covering cherub over the mercy seat. *shoebat.com*

SATAN'S SIN

Neglected fact #6: Satan's sin is an age-old mystery, unlocked by Atonements. Why was he ousted from his lofty cherub position at the very throne of Yahweh? Notice Paul's frank admission, "...almost all things are by the Law *purged* [*cleansed*] with blood..." (Heb. 9:22; see Lev. 16:16, 18-19 above).

He continues, "It is therefore necessary that the pattern of things in the heavens should be *purified* [made clean] with these (v. 13: sprinkling blood); **but the heavenly things themselves with bet-**

"The Day of Atonements is not from Sunset-to-Sunset."

ter sacrifices than these" (Heb. 9:22-23).

That is, the heavenly things themselves **were made unclean and had to be cleansed** with better sacrifices than the blood of bulls and goats! Those heavenly things, the holy sanctuary, the mercyseat [Lev. 16:14], tabernacle, the altar, were cleansed on the Day of Atonements.

Why were they polluted and unclean? **WHO** polluted them?

The prophet answers:

"You were the anointed cherub who **covers** [atonement is a covering]...you were blameless in your ways...until iniquity was found in you...I cast you as a profane thing [polluted, defiled] out of the mountain of Elohim..." ("God" *NRV*; Ezk. 28:14-16).

Satan was one of two cherubim covering the mercyseat: "And over it the cherubims... shadowing the mercyseat..." (Heb. 9:5; Ex. 25:17-20); one of those

"heavenly things" for which a cleansing atonement was made (Heb. 9:23).

What was Satan's disqualifying sin? He defiled, polluted, the mercyseat in the holy of holies (Ex. 26:34): "Yahweh...He sits enthroned upon the cherubim..." (Psa. 99:1; *NAS*). If ever someone had access to the very seat of power and authority, it was Satan. No longer. Through some act yet unknown, he became the first unclean spirit we have record of in the Bible.

Neglected fact #7: The Day of Atonements is not from sunset-to-sunset. It is a day of rest and water-fasting running from dawn until dark of the tenth day of the seventh month (Lev. 23:27; Num. 29:7). Surprising though this may be, it is nonetheless the provable truth. You just have to approach it with an open mind and an open heart (For proof see *The Biblical Weekly Sabbath is NOT from Sunset-to-Sunset* and *Leviticus 23:32: the Evening-to-Evening Scripture*).

CONCLUSION

The Law of Yahweh is a light (Prv. 6:23) revealing deep mysteries not discoverable otherwise. The Day of Atonements is one of those "lights" awakening us out of the darkness of sin and ignorance. Until we begin keeping Yahweh's Laws, we are "dead in trespasses and sins" (Eph. 2:1), oblivious to the real truths, those guiding principles of natural law leading to redemption and eventually the gateway to eternal life... the quest of the ages.

Atonements' occurrence when the moon is two-thirds full is also a prophetic signal of things to come in Yahweh's grand program of salvation (Col. 2:16-17; Rev. 8:12) being repeated year-after-year until its final fulfillment. "Wherefore...brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if you do these things, you shall never fall" (II Pet. 1:10).

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continued from page 3

than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts” (Isa. 55:7-9; *NRSV*).

Yahweh’s supercharged thoughts created the universe...including us.

Our thoughts have energy too, simply because we are made in Yahweh’s image. Notice this amazing story of Frank Hiller, a major-league baseball pitcher, who related his experience during a game where he lost several pounds while pitching in sweltering one hundred degree temperature. When his energy ebbed, he did a rather unusual thing...something we might not expect in that circumstance. He repeated the following verse:

“But they that wait upon Yahweh [“the Lord;” *NRSV*] shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint” (Isa. 40:31).

Reciting this verse actually renewed his strength, being able to finish the game with energy left. How? His explanation was simply that “I passed a powerful energy-producing thought through my mind” (N. V. Peale, “The Power of Positive Thinking;” p. 40). Hiller’s example proves the power of thought.

What we think with the feelings they produce rule our world and our destiny. Choosing uplifting, pleasant thoughts is healthy and harmonious; gives us inner peace...those kinds of feelings. Obviously, we must choose wisely. The Holy Bible is a treasure chest rich with good choices.

Mastery of our thoughts, and consequently of ourselves, does not just happen. It takes practice and vigilance. It is not a one-time exercise: “Whatever is true...honorable,...just,...pure...think about these things” (Philip. 4:8).

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continued from page 9

Romanized secularly, America is also religiously under the sway of Roman Catholicism. Technically, “Romanize” means to make Roman in character or become Roman Catholic.

How precisely that definition fits America! The U.S. government honors the Catholic doctrine of Sunday worship established in A.D. 336, by closing all government agencies, except the military, on Sunday.

This is a clear breach of the wall separating church and state established by the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in 1791. The “establishment” clause of this amendment reads, “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion...” Honoring a religion by closing government agencies for a Sunday holiday, though not a written law, has precisely the same effect, and clearly violates the express intent of the law against such acts.

U.S. state-supported public schools close for Christmas, in deference to the December 25 Mass of Christ instituted by Roman Catholicism which is a holdover of “...the birth of Tammuz...the 25th of December...observed at Rome as the day when the victorious god reappeared on earth...”¹²

It is hypocritical to debate allowing prayer in public schools as long as schools decorate for Christmas, have Christmas parties, and close for a 12-day sabbatical of holidays because Protestants and Catholics believe in Christmas.

CONCLUSION

America and the ancient Roman Empire share an obsessive love of pleasure, leisure, violence and sports. The Rome of that bygone era was thought impregnable, nearly “eternal.” Amid its opulence and power such thoughts of “a fall” were heretically beyond belief. But it happened. What role did its religious climate play in that fall? The erosion of its moral base and work ethic fostered by growing government intrusion into private life, no doubt accelerated Rome’s demise.

Is America, such a young republic, on the precipice of a similar fate in a much shorter time? Rome was not “too big to fail,” are we?

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Sacred Calendar

2017 Sacred Calendar	
Pocahontas, AR Lat: 36d 14m N / Long: 90d 57m W	
Passover Festival	April 10 - April 16
Passover Sabbaths	April 10 & April 16
Passover Supper	Night of April 10
Feast of Unleavened Bread	April 11 (UB eaten Apr 10-Apr 17)
Wavesheaf Offered	April 30
Feast of Weeks	May 6 - June 17
Feast of Weeks Annual Sabbaths	May 6, 13, 20, 27 June 3, 10, 17
Pentecost	June 18
Shoutings (Trumpets)	September 20
Pre-Atonement Sabbath	September 28 Noon-to-sunset
Atonements	September 29
Feast of Tabernacles	Oct. 4 - Oct. 10
Sabbaths	Oct. 4 & Oct. 11
Last Great Day	October 11

New Moons Month		
January	28	11
February	27	12
March	28	1
April	27	2
May	26	3
June	24	4
July	24	5
August	22	6
September	20	7
October	20	8
November	19	9
December	18	10

Sabbaths and New Moons are observed from Dawn-to-Dark

(Note: New Moons may vary with Longitude and Latitude.)

Head of the Year
Feb. 15
End of the Year
Oct. 26
Seven-Year Cycle
4th year
Jubilee Cycle
39th year

The true sacred calendar of the Bible is vitally important to salvation. Most professing Christians have been lead to believe all they have to do is “believe” in the Messiah and their eternal life is assured; that all the “Old Testament” observances of holy days have been “done away.” Nothing could be further from the clear teachings of Scripture. “Belief” without obedience to the Law of Yahweh is contrary to the true Gospel Yahshua came preaching (Luke 6:46; Matt. 7:23).

The sacred calendar is a central part of the true Gospel, because it determines the true Sabbath days which are crucial signs of Yahweh (Ex. 31:13; Ezk. 20:12, 20). By these vital Sabbath signs Yahweh shows who He has personally sanctified. True, we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Yahshua the Messiah (i.e. His sacrifice; Heb. 10:10), but the evidence that we are in fact sanctified by Yahweh, is that we keep Yahweh’s true Sabbaths (See again Ex. 31:13; Ezk. 20:12, 20). The restoration of Yahweh’s calendar system is, therefore, a top priority of the International Congregation of Yahweh.

The Cold Within

Six men trapped by happenstance
In dark and bitter cold.
Each one possessed a stick of wood,
Or so the story's told.

Their dying fire in need of logs
The first man held his back,
For on the faces around the fire
He noticed one was black.

The next man looking 'cross the way
Saw one not of his church,
And couldn't bring himself to give
The fire his stick of birch.

The third one sat in tattered clothes.
He gave his coat a hitch.
Why should his log be put to use
To warm the idle rich?

The rich one just sat back and thought
Of all the wealth he had in store,
And how to keep what he had earned
From the lazy shiftless poor

The black man's face bespoke revenge
As the fire passed from sight.
For all he saw in his stick of wood
Was a chance to spite the white.

The last man of this forlorn group
Did naught except for gain.
Giving only to those who gave
Was how he played the game.

The logs held tight in death's still hands
Was proof of human sin.
They didn't die from the cold without,
They died from the cold within.

— James Patrick Kinney
or J. W. Cashes, Sr.



continued from page 11

day of the Feast of Tabernacles shows Noah and seven family members dwelt in a very substantial dwelling, the ark, during the feast. It housed them over a year weathering forty days of torrential rain and wind.

It consisted of many rooms, was made of hewed heavy timbers of gopher wood from “thick boughs” fastened into a massive water-tight boarded structure three stories high (Gen. 6:14-16). It was not their final dwelling, but it could house eight persons *plus* an untold number of animals. Though this was an unusual circumstance, it was nonetheless a lawful dwelling during the festival of booths (or arks, coverings). Noah and family were definitely “travelers” and

dwelt in a tavern, an inn, during the Feast of Tabernacles. This is an undeniable fact of Scripture. Had it not been lawful, Noah could NOT have dwelt there during the Feast of Tabernacles. Incidentally, the Holy Days were not first instituted with Israel's exit from Egypt, but were kept by the patriarchs long before Moses (Gen. 1:14: “seasons = *festivals* [moed]).

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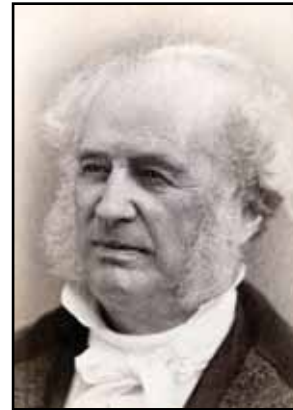
The Financial Saga of Three Families



Rothschild



Prodigal Son



Vanderbilt

The “fate” of inherited wealth is often a question mark. Should parents leave an inheritance to their children when it is well known that only **one-percent of inherited wealth is increased by those who inherit it?** Usually they blow through it with no thought of the future that inheritance could provide.

What is the Bible’s take on inheritance? Scripture refers to inheritance hundreds of times. It was very much a part of Yahweh’s program for the nation of Israel. Land was never sold permanently: “The land shall not be sold forever...” (Lev. 25:23); only for fifty years and stayed in the family in perpetuity: “In the year of the Jubilee you shall return every man unto his possession” (Lev. 25:13).

“The good leave an inheritance to their children’s children.” Just a point: **it does not say** to leave an inheritance to a charity or a church. It goes to the family. Charities and church organizations often beg for money looking for a handout, guilty of usurping Yahweh’s Law of inheritance.

Most are familiar with the story of the prodigal son in the New Testament. A man had two sons, the younger of which asked for the “...portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto **them** his living” (Luke 15:12). Note the father divided the inheritance to **them both** at that time. We can assume he did so by the formula of the firstborn receiving twice that of his brother, the younger (Deut. 21:15).

For obvious reasons, the younger asked for “goods” which were technically “movable property” (Greek term). He basically took his share solely in cash...not

a wise choice as his story revealed. He apparently forfeited his land possession, trading or exchanging it for what he could carry in cash.

As to when the inheritance is given, this example clearly shows it was prior to the death of the parent, while the heirs could make use of it. Parents sometimes outlive a child or children who live beyond the Biblical accountability age of 20 years, depriving them of their lawful right of inheritance.

If children must wait until they are 65 or 70 for their inheritance, those years are past when it is most beneficial. It is when they are younger and getting started that an inheritance of some sort can be most helpful, if used wisely.

The Biblical verse referenced above reads: “He shall acknowledge the...firstborn, by giving him a

“...What is the Bible’s take on inheritance...?”

double portion of all that he has...” (Deut. 21:15; margin, *that is found with him; KJV*).

Other versions are more definitive showing the inheritance is given “...**out of all** that is found to be his [the father]...” (*Rotherham*). “Out of all” indicates the inheritance is **a portion** of all...not all. This clearly indicates this is done while the father lives.

Too, we see the father is not to divest himself



The Biltmore attracts thousands each year. George Vanderbilt began construction in 1889 and the estate was completed in 1896. biltmore.com

completely of the property while alive, giving all to his heirs, then live “in poverty” while his sons and daughters live high on their inheritance. But we can also assume the children are to learn some financial savvy so their inheritance will sustain them, not just entertain them for the moment.

Many of considerable means, say they will not leave their children a penny. This is strictly a violation of Yahweh’s law. Of course, they have the power to do as they like with accumulated wealth, but there are natural laws which govern the parent-child inheritance.

In such cases the parents leave all to charities, churches or establish some foundation. Curiously, they feel those organizations have more right to their possessions than their own flesh and blood. Biblically, those groups looking for a handout have **absolutely no rights of inheritance**. Sadly, in today’s cultural climate, such unscriptural actions are viewed very favorably...particularly by those getting the money. This is a classic case of violating the command, “You shall not do...every man whatsoever is right in his own eyes” (Deut. 12:8).

TWO MORE LESSONS FROM THE PAST

Mayer Amschel Rothschild became rich in the mid 1700s by starting a bank and keeping it in the family. His five sons were introduced to banking, growing up learning the necessary skills to handle banking affairs.

After knowing they were well trained, he sent them to five different economic hubs in Europe to set up bank branches. Each son was very successful. They “knew the ropes.”

Instead of letting later generations simply inherit wealth for them to squander, the Rothschilds contin-

ued to start banks run by members of the family. It was a family business passing the skills from generation-to-generation.

In just over 100 years Rothschild banks filled all corners of Europe: Paris, London, Frankfurt, Vienna, Naples and more. At least six branches of the family were so successful they were elevated to royalty. Even today the world is littered with Rothschild businesses, banks and charities. The Rothschild family legacy has lasted nearly 300 years and still thriving.

Contrast this with Cornelius Vanderbilt, whose shipping and railroad empires made him one of the richest men in the world in the mid 1800s. His name is legendary even today.

Though Cornelius Vanderbilt lived modestly, his offspring squandered their inheritance, building lavish mansions, living the life of high society, hobnobbing with the rich and famous-blowing through wealth as quickly as they got their hands on it.

The Vanderbilt fortune was squandered in just slightly more than a generation. It is said a direct descendant of Cornelius died broke only 48 years after Cornelius’ death. And there are reportedly no millionaire Vanderbilts alive today who did not make their money on their own...no inheritance left for them.¹

Using his father’s inheritance George Vanderbilt purchased 125,000 acres in the western North Carolina woodlands and commissioned the construction of the Biltmore Estate in 1889, creating a home that rivaled Europe’s great palaces in its opulence. The Biltmore is located just outside of Asheville, North Carolina, about four miles north of the Blue Ridge Parkway. George died at age 51 of appendicitis.

Today the Biltmore Estate is America’s largest private home, with the Vanderbilt family still residing within the estate.²

What made the difference in the legacy of these two prominent families? The Rothschilds passed along much more than just their money from generation to generation.

There is a lesson in this. Remember the prodigal son, the Rothschilds and the Vanderbilts.

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WAKE UP AMERICA!

Has a Day of Reckoning Begun?

Eight years ago in 2008 our Insight magazine featured an article, “Historic U.S. Presidential Election Looms.” Two “firsts” capped the candidate lists of the two major political parties: The first woman VP candidate, Governor Sarah Palin from Alaska, and an African American presidential candidate, Senator Barack Obama of Illinois.

In that article we stated, “The 2008 presidential elections will show us what Yahweh allows at this time. Will our national sins overtake us? Is the day of reckoning just ahead?”

Eight years later those two questions are even more relevant. Clearly there has been a reckoning for America over at least the last eight years. Our national sins have largely overtaken us.

Let us examine the facts showing America’s **reckoning is in full swing**. Sad but so true. But will we repent and turn to the great Creator, Yahweh, and seek His forgiveness with a contrite heart?

“But, if you will not hearken...to...Yahweh your Mighty One, to observe...all His commandments and...statutes...all these curses...shall come upon you, and overtake you” (Deut. 28:15).

STATE OF THE UNION DROWNING IN DEBT

“The stranger...shall lend to you, and you shall not lend to him: he shall be the head, and you shall be the tail” (Deut. 28:42-43).

Here are the facts: The U.S. national debt is approaching \$20 TRILLION (double the amount in 2008).

The “fundamental transformation of America” via “Hope and Change” Mr. Obama promised has him



America’s National Debt has nearly doubled since President Obama took office January 20, 2009. bugoutalley.com

on track to pile up more U.S. government debt than **all previous 43 presidents combined!** We are a vastly debtor nation when only a generation ago the U.S. was a creditor nation. What happened? Is Yahweh not making good on His declaration of severe consequences for breaking His Laws?

When Mr. Obama took office the national debt was just over \$10.6 trillion. By the time he leaves office on January 19, 2017 the debt will be about \$19.4 trillion, nearly doubling the national debt in his eight years.¹

The U.S. entered 2016 with an estimated population of 322,762,018,² meaning we added more than 2.4 million people to the population over the course of the year. In 2008, with that population the **debt per man, woman and child stood at \$33,000**. Entering 2016 it **stands at just over \$60,000!** **The average household of four is \$240,000 in debt!** This is **just the Federal debt...**does not include consumer debt!

The situation is **not improving** as shown by the fiscal 2017 budget proposal. Read the U.S. Fiscal Year 2017 budget report for yourself if you care to pour through the **182 pages** authored by over **500 different contributors**.³ Its complex 22 categories of government outlays totaling **\$4.15 trillion is above projected receipts of \$3.65 trillion; a \$504 billion deficit**. The debt keeps mounting.³

HOUSEHOLD INCOME

The median household income in 2007 was \$57,423 in 2015 dollars. **In 2015 it was \$56,516** in 2015 dollars; a **fall of 1.6 percent** in eight years. The percent of those in 2007 with this median income (U.S. population 301.2 million) was 38.8 percent. In 2015 those with the median income (U.S. population of 322.8 million at end of 2015) was 39.0 percent of the population.⁴

THE EMPLOYMENT PICTURE

“Yahweh shall send upon you cursing...and rebuke in all that you set your hand to do...” (Deut. 28:20): **What about unemployment?** Example: Data published December 30, 2015 shows in 2014, 87.4 million working-age people 16 years and older were unemployed and neither worked nor

looked for work that year.

Of this group, 38.5 million people reported retirement as the main reason for not working. About 16.3 million people reported an illness or having a disability (Deut. 28:35), and 16.0 million attended school. Another 13.5 million people cited home responsibilities as the main reason for not working in 2014, and 3.1 million individuals gave "other reasons."⁵ Now, excluding the 38.5 million retirees, how are those other 48.9 million working age individuals who are not working, surviving? What do they live on day-to-day? Who is paying for their upkeep?

DEBT...AND MORE DEBT!

MODERN SLAVERY: "...THE BORROWER IS THE SLAVE OF THE LENDER." (PRV. 22:7)

First, hundreds of thousands of the 16 million attending school are college students who are head-over-heels in debt. The average student loan debt is \$49,000. The total cumulative student debt is a staggering generation-lasting **\$1.26 trillion!**⁶ They are living on borrowed money...for a while, but sooner or later the bill has to be paid. The same is true of federal debt (Deut. 28:44).

The remaining 32.9 million-excluding 5.2 million stay-at-home moms, leaves **27.7 million; 8.7**

"...the borrower
is the slave of the lender"

percent of the US population.⁷ So how do these groups survive? How do **they** meet expenses day-to-day; buying groceries and paying rent? Answer: **Public Welfare** where taxpayers incur their debt, **and consumer debt.**

This group of unemployed-many on disability could work but will not...say maybe one-fourth of 16.3 or **4 million or so. This leaves about 15.4 million working age non-retirees who could work but are on some form of welfare.** The figure is in **millions!** Keep in mind this **15.4 million** neither worked nor looked for work at any time during 2014.

Many of that **27.7 million** are running up credit card and other debt. In 2015 credit card debt was around **\$712 billion.** In 2016 the total consumer debt of **\$12.29 trillion** (Deut. 28:44), was near the record level of **\$12.68 trillion** which occurred in the third quarter of 2008 (Chicago Tribune, Aug. 9,



NATIONAL DEBT OF UNITED STATES

\$ 19,432,718,425,642

2016). Sooner or later credit maxes out...then what? Public welfare.

THE WELFARE STATE

In **2008** when the U.S. population was 303 million, the total government **welfare** expenditures of federal, state and local was **about \$404 billion.**⁸

In **fiscal year 2015**, when the population was about 322 million (a 5.9 percent increase in population), the total U.S. government spending on **welfare**-federal, state, and local was **estimated at \$1.031 trillion; an crushing increase of 155 percent in eight years!**

The 2015 figure included **\$565 billion for Medicaid** (medical welfare: 97 million people 2015);⁹ and **\$466 billion in the other** welfare areas.⁸

Look at the increase in food stamp recipients. The U.S. Department of Labor record shows those on **food stamps** [SNAP: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program] in 2008 was **28 million** Americans. But by August 2016 there were **45.5 million** on the SNAP assistance.¹⁰ Roughly 19 million more are using food stamps since 2008; a staggering **62.5 percent increase!**

Is not our great nation under some "dark cloud" of waste, government dependence, and on a collision course with economic disaster? Drowning in a sea of debt and paperwork, is America under some ominous **curse?** Are we not living our day of reckoning? Truly and surely!

THE PAPER AVALANCHE: 154,000 NEW REGULATIONS

This avalanche of paperwork is chronicled in the Federal Register, which is a daily journal of the U.S. government containing agency rules, proposed rules and public notices. Although rarely read by the general public, the Register is valuable to **lawyers, lobbyists and policy wonks** tracking the activities of agencies. In the 10-year period, 2005-2015, almost



F-16 Fighting Falcon commonly referred to as “Viper” by its pilots, is a single-engine fighter pilot. The current US Military budget cannot afford to replace the aging ‘Vipers’ due to massive budget cuts. *washingtontimes.com*

768,000 pages were published in the Register! Of that total, the Obama administration has published 481,827 pages.¹¹

Note that 58 percent of the Register’s pages logged **new regulations**, according to figures from the National Archives and Records Administration. Of that 32 percent dealt with **final regulations**, and 26 percent concerned proposed regulations. This equates to **154,000 NEW** regulations during Obama’s term...so far...AND over a **125,000 proposed new regulations!**

America, once the land of the free, is being systematically choked, smothered and crushed in a bureaucratic nightmare of regulations! No longer free.

US MILITARY

Add to this concerns over military readiness: “The Department of Defense (DOD) recognizes that more than a decade of conflict, budget uncertainty, and **force-structure reductions have degraded military readiness...**”

For example, the Air Force experienced a **58 percent decrease in the number of fighter and bomber squadrons from 1991 to 2015...**In addition, the Navy has experienced an **18 percent decrease in its fleet of ships since 1998...**¹²

In FY 2016, US government defense budget (including military defense, veterans affairs and foreign policy) was **\$829.1 billion**. The military budget is **\$604.5 billion**, Veterans spending is budgeted at **\$178.2 billion**, and the foreign policy and foreign aid budget is **\$46.5 billion**.⁸

President Obama’s fiscal 2017 requested national defense budget is \$608 billion. Perspective: This defense budget would be the smallest portion of the government’s budget since before WW II.¹³

TERRORISM

“...If your soul abhor my judgments, so that you will not do all my commandments... I...will do this to you; I will even appoint over you terror [ism]...” (Lev. 26:15-16).

The worst mass shooting in modern United States history occurred June 12, 2016, at an Orlando, Florida gay nightclub, Pulse. A hate-crazed gunman stormed the packed club at 2 a.m. slaughtering 50 and injuring 53. During his rampage he called 911 pledging allegiance to the Islamic State radicals.

The second worst mass shooting in US history was the devilish and insane murder of 23 including 20 first graders and six adults at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut on December 14, 2012. Preying on the lives of innocent children is the ultimate act of cowardice.

On December 2, 2015, radical hate-crazed husband and wife jihadists gunned down 14 wounding 22 more during a Christmas party at the Inland Regional Center in San Bernardino, California. The female gunner had obtained a visa and passed a K-1 visa test. They were dressed in Muslim attire.¹⁴

“Police have confirmed multiple injuries in a mass stabbing incident in St. Cloud, Minnesota’s Crossroads Mall September 18, 2016. In a press briefing,

“...58 percent decrease in...fighter... bomber squadrons...1991 to 2015.”

police officials confirmed that the suspect made “references to Allah” while conducting the terrorist attack and “asked at least one person if they were Muslim when they assaulted them” (Breitbart).

Is the problem guns and knives...or people? Remember the second amendment? Ratified **December 15, 1791**. It is one of the first 10 amendments, **the Bill of Rights**. “**A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.**” Scripture nowhere forbids carrying arms. Yahshua’s disciples were armed (John 18:10).

AMERICA ON THE BRINK

More detailed woes of the America of today could be cited such as illegal immigrants pouring into our country; devastating trade imbalances; 9-11-2001 Muslim attack; private sector medical expenses,

moral decay, health issues, weather extremes, deaths in military actions overseas, etc.... the list is long.

In short, the “state of the union” of America...**and ourselves individually**, are in serious trouble. These facts are a “shot across the bow” of our ship-of-state that we must change course...and soon!

Where is this great country headed? Once viewed proudly, as what President Ronald Reagan termed “this last and greatest bastion of freedom,” the America thousands have died to preserve, now labors under the yoke of self-imposed consequences of national and personal sins against Yahweh.

These consequences are in reality crimes “against nature,” going against natural laws. But “nature” always wins in the end. Always.

Decisions we make are not preordained, but the consequences of those decisions are; as surely as tomorrow’s sunrise, as relentlessly as the pull of gravity.

Our national ignorance of Yahweh’s Laws is like flying blind and hoping for a safe landing...somewhere. Ironically, the churches rarely focus on the fundamental laws Scripture shows is our way to freedom.

The result? We have come to believe that government is there to take care of us...give us a hand out and hand up and out of poverty and failure. This is not government’s function, but a **personal one**. We-the-People are responsible for our own health, success **and failure**. “Both success and failure are the strictest of justice” (Henry Ford).

“Responsible,” the word loses its meaning in a politically correct society which stands for nothing absolute. Where there is no right or wrong in a “tossed salad” society of competing cultural values, there will be neither a coherent national identity nor national sovereignty. Personal responsibility will be relinquished and so will personal freedom.



Children escorted to safety at Sandy Hook Elementary after the mass shooting on December 14, 2012. *usatoday.com*

The single rule of law will not prevail; a fact Yahweh long ago foresaw and legislated against: “One law shall be to him that is home-born, and unto the stranger that sojourns among you” (Ex. 12:49). We

“...I will appoint over you terror [ism].....” (Lev. 26:15-16)

break this decree and it breaks us. Natural social laws like this guarantee a nation will last.

The scourge of runaway welfare and food stamp handouts coupled with the crushing national and personal debt are pushing America to the brink. Will we wake up, turning to our Creator to heal our land or look to some enslaving governmental bureaucracy instead? (II Chron. 7:14).

Yahweh is a loving, kind, longsuffering and merciful Creator. But He is not all “velvet.” There is steel in His words. He is all powerful, totally just and His natural social Laws are ironclad and unbending.

“If you will not...obey all his commandments and decrees...all these curses will come upon you...Yahweh will bring a nation against you from far away... whose language you do not understand, a grim-faced nation showing no respect to the old or favor to the young...Your life shall hang in doubt before you; night and day you shall be in dread, with no assurance of your life” (Deut. 28:15, 49-50, 66).

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



BEGINNING AND END OF THE BIBLICAL YEAR

GARY C. MILLER

The Scriptural calendar has been a matter of differing views for centuries. Major causes for this uncertainty are tradition and the loss in antiquity of the knowledge of the patriarchal astronomers (Adam, Noah, Moses, Job...). Though sparse and scattered, Yahweh preserved in the Bible sufficient details of their writings to recover His true Holy Days.

The false perception continues, however, that the Bible is void of the structure of the Sacred Calendar. Seriously, how could Yahweh command observance of His New Moons and Holy Days, but leave nothing in His Holy Word showing how He fixes those times?

This study shows the facts of Scripture and firm historical dating which reveal two cardinal points: the beginning and end of the Biblical year. Knowing these, the true Scriptural day and New Moons, we show how to determine Yahweh's solar-lunar Holy Days...from the Bible; not tradition nor other calendar schemes from Babylon and elsewhere.

Yahweh's Sabbaths are the sign of His people, those He has sanctified (Ex. 31:13; Ezk. 20:12, 20). How can we be sanctified without the knowledge of His Sabbaths? This information is essential to salvation, your salvation. Approach it with an open mind. Lay aside tradition and see what Yahweh's Word says about His calendar (book, 80 pages).

Visit ICY online (www.icyahweh.org), and order a direct download
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Beginning and End of the Biblical Year