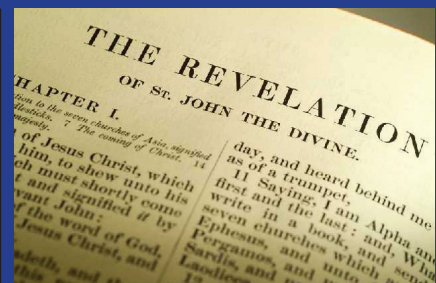


INSIGHT

Volume 9 Number 2

November 2017

Signs in the Sun & Moon...



...And on Earth Distress

International Congregation of Yahweh

INSIGHT

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A MAGAZINE OF BIBLICAL UNDERSTANDING

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INSIGHT has been published by the International Congregation of Yahweh since 1991 as part of ICY's efforts to fulfill the commission given the New Testament assembly (Mark 16:15).

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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Father Knows Best

From the Editor: *Gary C. Miller*

Who knows best in the traditional hierarchical family? What about today? A generation ago this question had an almost unanimous answer, “The father.” The man of the house was expected to fill his role of responsibility and leadership.

After the sacrifices, horrors and round-the-clock vigil of World War II, Americans were understandably in the mood for some peace-and-quiet. Returning GIs and their families wanted to settle into a routine and take up where they left off or start a new life.

In this post-war atmosphere a radio series debuted in 1948 known as “Father Knows Best,” and ran until it was later (1954) made into a television series starring Robert Young (father Jim Anderson) and Jane Wyatt (mother Margaret Anderson). There were three children, Betty (oldest), Bud (14), Kathy (9). The series ended in 1960 after six seasons.

Some senior citizens may recall this handsome, clean-cut family with traditional values of love and respect for each other. The father and mother were responsible adult figures of provider and caretaker. It was what America needed.

Here was a refreshing family series whose values became more the norm in those days as reflected by what happened. The television series was cancelled by CBS in 1955 after one season. NBC picked up the series the next season in response to a massive viewer backlash demanding it be reinstated and rescheduled to 8:30 p.m., **so the whole family could watch!** Imagine that.

There was clearly an appetite for wholesome and uncomplicated family-oriented programming. No violence, foul language, promiscuity, infidelity or rebellious children. As the Bible reminds us: “Children, obey your parents in Yahweh, for this is right” (Eph. 6:1). This patriarchal family structure was nurturing and secure with no parental power struggle: “Husbands love your wives...He who loves his own wife loves himself” (Eph. 5:25, 28). “Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in Yahweh” (Col. 3:18).

The popular classic family situation comedy was a five-member idealized American family set in an average Midwestern community. Here, father Jim Anderson worked as an insurance agent. Reliable, steady and amiable Jim completely respected the Lady of the house feeling no need to “lord-it-over” her. In return Margaret was stable, respectful and competently controlled the nurturing needs of her little flock.

Reminds you of the “Proverbs 31” mother and wife:

“The heart of her husband does safely trust in her...She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life. She...works willingly with her hands. She is like the merchants’ ships; she brings her food from afar. She rises also while it is yet night, and gives meat to her household,...She considers a field

and buys it: ...She perceives that her merchandise is good [a wise shopper]: her candle goes not out by night. She stretches out her hand to the poor...She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet...She opens her mouth with wisdom; and...kindness. She looks well to...her household, and eats not the bread of idleness. Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her” (Prv. 31:11-16, 20-21, 26-28).

Jim came home from work every night, was not always “out with the guys,” kissed his wife, took off his sport jacket, replacing it with a favorite sweater, and settled down to connect with the day-to-day problems of his growing family. Both Jim and Margaret were portrayed as thoughtful, calm, adults who never tried to be their children’s “best friend,” but their best parents. Should a family crisis arise, which it did from time-to-time, Jim would still the waters with a loving smile and fatherly sage advice, heeded mostly without protest. We have this instruction from Scripture:

“Hear, you children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding” (Prv. 4:1). “I was my father’s son,...He taught me also, ...Let your heart retain my words: keep my commandments, and live” (vv. 3-4).

The children did not have to worry where they would be staying night-to-night, where the next meal was coming from or which parent would keep them the next weekend. They knew the family rules and who was in charge. Not that they always agreed with their parents, but the in-fighting and bickering was usually minimal and resolved without resentment or defiance. Sounds like the place to be.

The popularity of the program grew because viewers could relate to the Anderson family which was looked upon as a model of what a family should be. Of course, the children went through normal growing pains at school, situations with friends and unsurprisingly, the opposite sex.

As the series progressed, Betty and Bud graduated from high school deciding to attend Springfield’s State College while living at home. Encounters in this new world of higher education provided rich material for the series’ overall theme of family unity, respect, and a secure family life.

The father should be the family’s spiritual leader, as well as the provider and protector. Reflecting on this fact and the well-received family program of three-quarters of a century ago, we do well to remember: “...the father to the children shall make known thy truth” (Isa. 38:19). And as Yahshua said, “Sanctify them in the truth; Thy [Yahweh] word is truth” (John 17:17).

There is One Father who always knows best: our Heavenly Father Yahweh: “His understanding is infinite” (Psa. 147:5).

★★★★★★

America's Health Crisis

Is there a health crisis in America? Most would probably answer, "Obviously! Look at the cost of health care!" True, there is clearly an outrageously high price tag on health care in America; a fact beyond dispute.

But the mushrooming costs of medical services are actually *only the effects, not the real health crisis; not the causes*. What are the *real causes*? What is the *silent crisis* causing Americans' health woes? The answers will probably be surprising.

Few people knows or suspect this silent crisis-of-causes operating unseen, unheard, stealthily exacting the consequences *we can see, the cries of pain and distress we can hear...and feel in our own body!*

NON-BINDING "CEREMONIAL LAWS"?

The answers, believe it or not, are in the Bible. Ironically, even devout Bible students usually overlook *or discount* the Bible's health requirements. Once the Biblical health laws are placed under the category of "religion," they are considered more or less arbitrary.

Often written off by those professing Christianity as merely "Ceremonial laws"—not morally binding on the followers of the Messiah of the New Testament—few practice these health rules or think about them.

So, by this view, when Yahweh says of swine, "They are an abomination to you; **you shall NOT eat of their flesh...**" everyone can ignore that direct command from the Creator of the Universe (Lev. 11:11).

That view usually includes the caveat "but those dietary laws were only for Israel under the old covenant... We are now under the new covenant when we repent and accept the Messiah's atonement for sins. We are under grace and not under law."

Question: Is Israel still under the old covenant, if they do not repent and accept the Messiah's sacrifice? Most would likely agree they are. What if...just what if then, **we in the United States are part of modern Israel?** If so, we are still obligated to keep those laws of health.

Historical evidence, if you take an honest look at it, shows the United States, Great Britain, Denmark and other nations as well as the Middle Eastern nation of Israel, are some of the modern-day tribes of ancient Israel. This would include hundreds of millions unconverted persons still under the dietary laws.

That view advocates those who have accepted the Messiah's sacrifice, cancelling their debt of sin, are now scot-free to ignore that command in Leviticus 11:11 and *hundreds of other direct commands from Yahweh* without the slightest condemnation from Him.¹

In other words, we are basically a law-unto-ourselves, because Yahshua the Messiah obeyed the law perfectly, freeing us to do pretty much as we please aside from maybe eight or nine of the ten commandments (Ex. 20:1-17). If this is true, why are even those professing faith in the Messiah with this mind-set suffering the same debilitating and life-threatening diseases as everyone else?

And why did Peter, an apostle, refuse to eat unclean animals on a sheet let down from heaven in a vision, saying, "Not so, Master, *for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean*" (Acts 10:12-14)? This was *after* the death and resurrection of Yahshua.

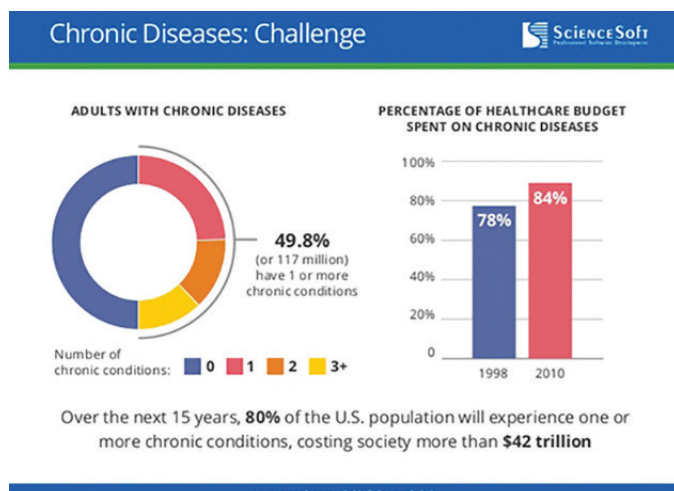
Why did he doubt the meaning of this vision (v. 17), if he knew he could eat anything, clean or unclean? Obviously, he knew the laws of clean and unclean (Lev. 11 and Deut. 14). The vision was explained as labeling those Gentiles as "unclean" who were called of Yahweh.

Is something wrong with this picture? Definitely.

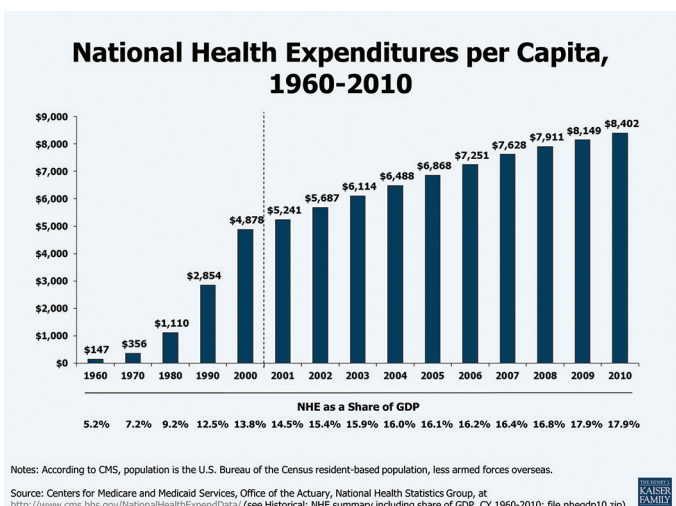
Numerous Old Testament and New Testament Scriptures teach just the opposite (Rom. 6:1; 7:1; Heb. 10:26). Peter warned:

"As also in all his [Paul's] epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, [notice] which *they that are unlearned and unstable wrest* ["to twist"], as they do also the *other scriptures* [can only be the Old Testament], unto their own destruction" (II Pet. 3:16).

This lawless behavior is precisely described by Jude: "For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, **TURNING**



Half of adult Americans have at least one chronic disease, which equates to approximately 117 million people. slideshare.net



During the past 50 years U.S. health care expenditures have increased by more than 10,000%. cms.hhs.gov

THE GRACE of our Elohim into LASCIVIOUSNESS..." (Jude 4). Meaning "into lawlessness, immorality."

And Paul: "...Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? Yahweh forbid..." (Rom. 6:1).

He also warned: "...if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remains no more sacrifice for sins" (Heb. 10:26).

THE HIGH PRICE OF ILLNESS: NATIONAL CRISIS OF COSTS

If we hear there is a health crisis in the United States, our attention would likely focus on health care costs from rising insurance premiums, hospital stays, co-pays and prescription drug prices, or perhaps draining nursing-home expenses. Certainly costs of health care are no laughing matter for most of us. Monthly premiums can be prohibitive, and those who refuse health insurance, are forced under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), to pay a penalty of \$325 per person or 2 percent of their income whichever is higher.¹ These and other concerns are driven by the dollar. And for obvious reasons.

U.S. costs of health services have risen faster than annual income. The exponential explosion in these costs are a matter of record. For example, in 1960 U.S. health care cost \$27.2 **billion** averaging \$146 per person (5 percent of GDP-Gross Domestic Product). By 2015 health care cost was a staggering \$3.2 **trillion** averaging \$9,990 per person [\$883 per month] or 17.8 percent of GDP, making it one of the country's largest industries. Included in this total is Medicare and Medicaid. This is an astonishing 11,665 percent increase in health care costs over that 55-year period!!²

By contrast, over the 97-year period from 1913 to 2010 the inflation rate of the U.S. dollar was a staggering 2,200 percent. BUT

"we have become jaded to...
stealing from future generations
through borrowing..."

health care costs rose **five times faster...five times the inflation of the green back; dwarfing inflation of our money!**

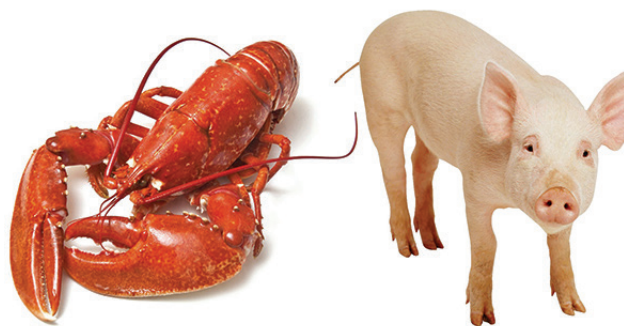
These costs reflect the dire state of our national health and the growth of government. Two federal programs have contributed heavily to this crisis-in-cost. Established in 1965, Medicare (\$646.2 billion 2015 cost) and Medicaid (\$545.1 billion 2015 cost) together total 37 percent of national government health expenditures. Though signed into law in 1965, a national health program was proposed as early as 1945 by President Harry Truman.³ Finally in 1965 federal health programs were funded, and from there, well....the numbers tell the disturbing, devastating story.

REALITY CHECK

Medical costs exceed Federal tax revenues from FICA [Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA)] payroll deductions (includes both Medicare and Social Security) running short of expenses....by billions.

However, Medicare deficits are only part of the story. For years the Federal deficit for welfare, including Medicaid enti-

Are There Still Unclean Meats?



The unclean food laws stated in Leviticus chapter 11 are still to be followed today. youtube.com

tlement welfare, has been running in-the-red, and is on track to reach a deficit of \$403 **billion** for 2017!⁴ This is not the total spent on welfare, just how much has to be borrowed to keep it afloat! Uncle Sam is drowning in red ink!

We call it "the government," but Uncle Sam is the people who pay taxes. The U.S. Federal and state governments are not giant infinite wells of money. The tank must be refilled...from our own pockets...or the pockets of future generations of our children and grandchildren.

When the money runs out and massive borrowing is done, we are actually asking those holding the debt (American insurance companies-who are our neighbors living in our communities and foreign governments) to pay our medical bills. "We the People" run up the tab and strangers *who have no obligation to pay our bills*, are on the hook.

It is called "the national debt," but is more like "the national crime" when government officials take from others to pay our bills or steal from our children and grandchildren, mortgaging their future to pay medical procedures we personally cannot afford.

As a nation we have become jaded to this reality of stealing from our neighbors and future generations through borrowing to fund national health programs such as the ACA, Medicare and Medicaid or go in debt to fund them-borrowing from future generations. Whatever happened to the rule "Love your neighbor as yourself?" (Lev. 19:18). Would you want to pay *others'* bills?

Applying just this one rule, this law of social behavior, would transform our nation creating a better present for us and a better future for generations.

This and many other laws recorded in Scripture, if applied, are the ticket out of the corner into which we painted ourselves. Our national sins are the cause of these strangling costs, enslaving taxation without end! The "piper" is being paid...in spades.

MORE COMPARISONS HELP MAKE THE POINT

A few other comparisons further drive home the point. From another perspective, health care expenditures were **145 percent more** than the total 2015 U.S. new automobile sales (\$570 billion), gas and oil revenue (\$103 billion; 2016; down from \$146 billion in 2010),⁵ U.S. Defense budget (\$829 billion; 2016), and credit cards expenditures (\$712 billion; 2016)...**COMBINED!**

Those totaled \$2.21 trillion; only 69 percent of the health care costs! Staggering, nearly unbelievable, but true.

WHY ARE AMERICANS SO SICK? THE REAL CRISIS: A “SILENT CRISIS OF CAUSES”

Chronic diseases like diabetes or heart disease account for 85 percent of health costs. Many of us know those killed by them. Almost half of Americans have at least one chronic illness. Why is America such a sick nation?

Answer: We are violating natural laws. Yahweh set in motion laws regulating health and prosperity to ensure success and well-being. These natural laws though silent and unseen, grind ever so slowly and surely, meting out consequences for good or ill. Harmony with these laws brings health and long life (Prv. 3:2, 16). Break that harmony and illness and death result (Rom. 6:23).

BIBLICAL LAWS ON HEALTH THE “SILENT CAUSES”

Neither the ten commandments (Ex. 20:1-17), nor the two greatest commandments (Matt. 22:36-40; Lev. 19:18), say anything regarding health laws. Does this mean eating pork, catfish, camel, eel, lobster, crab, (Lev. 11; Deut. 14), ignoring the seventh-year land Sabbath (Lev. 25), and eating uncircumcised fruit (Lev. 19:23-25), are not sin; exacting no penalties? Does violating these laws have no bearing on our well-being and receiving Yahweh’s Holy Spirit or eventually eternal life?

“These laws are rarely...part of the nominal religious conversation.”

Absolutely they do. And, whether we believe it or not, they affect our health both spiritually and physically (Eph. 2:5; spiritually dead). These laws are rarely if ever mentioned, not part of the nominal religious conversation, but they act nonetheless behind the scenes quietly shaping the destiny of our health.

Note the ten commandments are classified as statutes and judgments (Deut. 5:1-22), just as are many laws *not* in those ten; such as those recorded in Exodus chapters 21 through 24.

Some laws of health have already been referenced (clean and unclean). There are other points such as GMOs (genetically modified organisms) and hybrid foods. Are they allowable Biblically?

What does the Bible say about the production of fruits, vegetables, grains and livestock? What about firstfruit and firstling offerings and tithes required on these (Ex. 13:12; 34:26; Lev. 27:30, 32)? Does ignoring them bring a penalty? Certainly (Read Deut. 28).

GMOS AND HYBRIDS

An example from Scripture shows a form of “genetic engineering” is possible under some conditions, not by mixing heterogeneous kinds, but by external visual stimuli.

This is illustrated by the case of Jacob having his sheep and goats conceive while they saw wooden rods which he had stripped to make rings and spots. Their offspring were then spotted, striped and speckled (Gen. 30:37-42). There is no indication this was a process of hybridization, however.

The Bible has restrictions directly related to these ques-



Organizations throughout the world originated with the purpose of consumer education, farmer advocacy, and pure non-gmo food sources available to everyone. www.nongmoproject.org

tions of modified plants and animals. Notice these cases. Two Scriptures prohibit sowing the field with “mingled” seed (Lev. 19:19), and “divers” seed [Deut. 22:9], both Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance number 3610. In the LXX SEC 3610 is translated “diverse” in both Deuteronomy 22:9 and Leviticus 19:19. Also, cattle breeding with “diverse” (SEC 3610) kinds is prohibited (Deut. 22:19).

This word, SEC 3610 [Heb. “kilayim”], refers to two heterogeneous things which is the definition of “hybrid.” anything derived from heterogeneous sources.⁶ GMOs are certainly a heterogeneous mixture. Note that “kilayim” is equivalent to the Ethiopic “of a twofold kind.”⁶ “...of a twofold kind” indicates a single element composed of heterogeneous parts.

Biblically, it appears both GMOs (though resulting from tapering on the DNA level directly to mix heterogeneous parts), as well as hybrids come under this prohibition of mixing heterogeneous kinds. Nearly three dozen countries prohibit or ban the cultivation of GMO foods.

Maybe that tomato is GMO-made resistant to frost and freezing temperatures by genetically engineering the DNA using antifreeze genes from a cold-water fish, the winter flounder (*Pseudopleuronectes americanus*)...or maybe some other source. Could be those apples or oranges at the market were a GMO “non-brown spot” reduced enzyme product.

GMOs and hybridization are much more technologically advanced ways of violating Yahweh’s food Laws. These are two examples of food pollution.

There are other Biblical laws regulating what we eat such as harvesting fruits in what the Bible describes as an “uncircumcised” state if eaten during the first four years of the tree’s yield (Lev. 19:23-25). Is fruit sold in markets circumcised or uncircumcised? For example, who knows if those apples at the supermarket were under the curse of being harvested during the first four years, and now uncircumcised; or the effect of eating them?

Was that steak from a firstling belonging to Yahweh (Ex. 13:12), or what should have been the tithe of the herd (Lev. 27:32), or a heterogeneous mixture of breeds?

These are questions needing answers required to purify our food supply and bring abundant health. Applying these natural laws avoids the catastrophic financial quagmire and devastating illnesses and premature deaths Americans suffer.

These examples are just the tip of the iceberg which have a major effect on the foods we eat. There really is a subtle “conspiracy” against the food supply, having yet unexplored effects on the population. This is where scientific research is desperately lacking...and needed. Breaking these laws brings an inevitable curse in the form of disease and even death (Rom. 6:23; Deut. 28). Recall the first sin was eating what was forbidden (Gen. 3:1-13). The human race has been reeling from that mistake ever since.

continued on page 15

If You Can Believe

The Bible records a statement that is...well, nearly unbelievable. In fact, it is so far beyond our usual view of life, it seems more like fantasy or make-believe. Were it not for the person who made the claim, we would likely brush it aside as delusional and pie-in-the-sky. Sort of like science fiction.

But since the one who said it was known to walk on water, raise the dead, heal blindness, leprosy, read thoughts and foresee the future, it deserves a closer look.

The one making the statement was Yahshua the Messiah: "...whosoever...shall **not doubt** in his heart, but shall **believe** that those things which he says shall come to pass; **he shall have whatsoever he says**" (Mark 11:23).

"...shall **not doubt** in his heart, **but shall believe....shall have whatsoever he says.**" Is this really **true...**? Statements like these take some time to process...to "soak in."

Maybe that is why we find no record of His disciples' response to His amazing declaration. The lack of any recorded response is *very* surprising. Was their silence stunned disbelief, awe? Did they laugh or smirk? Maybe one asked, "Exactly how **can** a person believe *that* completely?"

Or, "Do you mean that within the human body, the heart that beats in my chest, there is some mysterious power which can be released producing **WHATEVER I can believe and say...without doubting?**"

Although no such questions are recorded, it is hard to believe they were *never asked*.

Was this a *new revelation* revealed for the first time, a secret of the ages hidden until then?

After all, Yahshua *did say*, "...I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world" (Matt. 13:35). Was this one of them? How was His power from Yahweh activated, what were His conscious thoughts, His feelings during His miracles, was it necessary to "speak these into reality?"

The closest we find to His statement prior to the New Testament are the accounts of the tower of Babel and Solomon's comment.

Notice Yahweh's amazing statement at the time of Babel, "...they have one language...and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they **have imagined to do**" (Gen. 11:6).

Then we have Solomon's well-traveled: "For as he *thinketh* in his heart, so is he..." (Prv. 23:7).

It is inconceivable the disciples would not pursue this topic time and again with Yahshua! There were no doubt hours of discussion *and training* involving this very topic.

The result? They performed numerous miracles; as He said, "He that **believeth** on me, the works that I do shall he do also; *and greater works than these shall he do...*" (John 14:12). There is that word **believe** again!

Imagine, believe, faith...these are recurring themes.

Peter's shadow passing over the sick apparently brought healing (Acts 5:15). What was in Peter's mind, a **belief**, activating that power; or was he unconscious of the process, seeing only the result?

He also brought healing to a man lame from birth (Acts 2:1-8). How did Peter know his procedure would heal? Was it a guess, a sudden urge to do something *or the result of special training*? According to Yahshua's statements (Matt. 11:23; John

14:12), Peter had some form of **belief** which he later described as *faith in the name of the Messiah* (Acts 5:16), which he released to heal this man. "Faith in the name" is abstract enough to blur the actual process.

Paul did miracles by laying hands on others, and handkerchiefs from his body healed the sick and repelled demons (Acts 19:11-12); no record these were "prayed over" or anointed clothes. Was this an accidental "discovery" of healing and exorcism? Or was it the result of special instructions Paul received... *somewhere*. Paul may have been taught directly by Yahshua during a three-year stay in Arabia (Gal. 1:11-18). If true, what was learned, and what *training* did he receive under personal tutoring by the Master?

Stephen, "...a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit ["wind"] and wisdom...full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs..." (Acts 6:3, 8). *How* he became full of faith, the Spirit and power *before* the apostles prayed and laid hands on him is not explained. What the apostles said in their prayer is not recorded, but would be interesting to know and maybe even empowering. Many wonders and signs were done by the apostles (Acts 2:43).

What was omitted in these accounts is *how* the healings and other wonders were achieved. Was it all "magical" where the apostles and other disciples were clueless of the process...it "just happened?"

Did Yahshua and his disciples share verbally—unwritten—a detailed principle or principles never recorded in the New Testament? Did the unthinkable happen: the details were *edited out* of New Testament records, leaving no trace of the precise method showing *how* they acquired their expertise? Peter admitted neither their [he and John] holiness, righteousness, nor their power accomplished the healing (Acts 3:12). Obviously, however, that power or energy was activated through men.

"Belief, No Doubt in the Heart, Faith in the Name of Yahshua" are very brief hints. Paul's miracles are recorded with **no** explanations—not even brief hints.

How do we acquire that belief, **how** is all doubt—100 percent—removed, **how** is that power "turned on," and exactly **what** is faith in the name of Yahshua? All these questions have answers.

Following Yahshua's own dictum, **if we believe we will have the answers, we will have them!**

For some who may feel such inquiries are heretical, asking too much, or show lack of faith, remember Yahweh said, "Come now let us reason together..." (Isa. 1:18). Honest questions meant to seek the truth are no threat to Him. Is the age-of-miracles over...a kind of heavenly "power outage?" Hardly. The universe is still running.

Anyone who doubts the validity of such questions, may check their personal understanding of these matters by how many dead they have raised, the times they walked on water, changed water into wine, instantly made the lame walk and cleansed lepers...or *greater works* than these (See again John 14:12).

Instead of citing the well-worn quip, "I'll believe it when I see it!" maybe we should turn that around, "If you believe it, you *will* see it!"

All the proof in the world is not convincing *if it is not accepted as proof*; **if the proof is not believed. Remember Yahshua placed BELIEVING before ACHIEVING!**

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The Lost Years of Yahshua

AGES 13-30

The life of the Messiah Yahshua has a period shrouded in mystery. From about age 13 to age 30 the New Testament writers are surprising silent on Yahshua's whereabouts and his activities. Why? Did He remain in Palestine or journey to distant places? What is the answer to this long-standing mystery?

ABSENT FROM PALESTINE FOR A LONG PERIOD

The apostle Luke states that the gospel records of Yahshua's life were eye-witness accounts (Luke 1:2). The absence of any record of 18 years of his life by **any** New Testament writer implies they had not witnessed any events of Yahshua's adult life during that time.

When He does reemerge in the New Testament record 18 years later, the apostle Matthew indicates Yahshua was apparently scarcely remembered in his own home town. Re-

"Yahshua was sent only to
the...House of Israel."

member at age 12 he was amazing temple teachers with his wisdom, but 18 years later people were asking themselves "Where did this man get this wisdom?" (Matt. 13:54-56). This is a rather surprising question *if He had been in that area day-to-day during those years.*

Either he had remained silent Sabbath-after-Sabbath, year after year, quiet and basically "in the shadows" all that time or...**He was not there.** If Yahshua had been amazing people all those 18 years in Nazareth such a question would have not been asked. There is little doubt His fame and precocious manner would have been common knowledge.¹

In this same record, Matthew notes (vv. 55-56) those hearing Yahshua's comments in the synagogue said, "Isn't this the car-

penter's son?" which indicates they were not entirely sure who he was. They clearly knew his mother Mary, brothers James, Joses, Simon and Judas, **and** his sisters, as indicated by their question, "...are they not all with us?" They easily named His immediate family, but were not sure about him. As Collins points out, their question included, "...are they not all WITH us?" As if to say that Yahshua had **not** been with them!¹

If Yahshua had been a carpenter working in and around Nazareth for those years, the local citizenry would have easily recognized him and would have known his whereabouts and scholarly reputation. Yet they seem to have no prior knowledge of his great wisdom!¹

At the very early age of twelve, Yahshua had awed scholarly Jewish leaders. Did he suddenly lose all signs of a prodigy from that point until age 30 (Luke 3:23), living in virtual obscurity for 18 years showing no signs whatsoever of exceptional ability or spiritual insight?

What happened? Did he lose the spirit of wisdom for 18 years then suddenly "turn it on" at age 30 reemerging with great wisdom after working as a carpenter in his step-father's business? Matthew 13:55 refers to Yahshua as the "carpenter's son" and the local people called him a carpenter (Mark 6:3). But was He? They hardly knew him at age 30. Would they have known for sure He was a carpenter...or only as the son **of** a carpenter? Curious.

WHAT WAS HIS BUSINESS?

The apostle Luke records Yahshua's response to his parents at age 12 when they finally found him in the temple where he astonished the teachers: "...wist you not that I must be about my **Father's business** [rather than the business of Joseph...a carpenter]...?"

True he was subject to them at that time (Luke 2:51). But this did not preclude him "doing his Father's business" as he "...increased in wisdom and stature and...favor with Yahweh and man" (v. 52).

A family member who is obviously a genius, especially one with the exceptional IQ of Yahshua's, would no doubt receive some special treatment...sent to a private school of learning in the



Preaching the gospel of the coming Kingdom of Yahweh was Yahshua's profession during his time on earth. answersingenesis.org

synagogues perhaps, but not likely a common day-laborer.

It was obvious His discussions with the Jewish scholars at age twelve showed His special talent lay in learning, scholarship, deep spiritual matters-not manual labor. Whatever His special circumstances of study, Yahshua did not study under the Rabbis of the Sanhedrin because he accused them (Pharisees: Mark 12:13) of “knowing not the Law” (Mark 12:28).

As this and other Scriptures show, His personal mission was not carpentry, but preaching the gospel of the coming Kingdom of Yahweh as the promised Savior of His people (Matt. 1:21), and all mankind.

Also, Yahshua was sent **ONLY** to the lost sheep of the House of Israel: “I am NOT sent but to the lost sheep of the house of Israel” (Matt. 15:24). ***Did he EVER go to the lost sheep of the House of Israel? If so, when?*** He had to fulfill his mission...and he did...during those 18 years! At age 30 we find Him in Judea, primarily populated by Judahites [Judah: Jews]

It is an historical fact that the HOUSE OF ISRAEL [to whom he was sent; not the house of Judah] was scattered to virtually the four winds among the nations of the world, and *most of those lost sheep did not dwell in Palestine!* This is indicated by the apostle James: “James, a servant of Yahweh (KJV “God”) and of the master Yahshua Messiah (KJV “Lord

“...evidence shows Yahshua was absent from Palestine during the ‘lost 18 years.’”

Jesus Christ), **TO THE TWELVE TRIBES WHICH ARE SCATTERED ABROAD**, greeting” (Ja. 1:1). This refers in part to the lost tribes of Israel, the HOUSE of ISRAEL. Where were they located during the first century A.D.? Not Palestine, which was composed primarily of parts of the tribes of Judah, Benjamin, and Levi (the priests).

The conclusion is inevitable: He HAD TO LEAVE PALESTINE TO FULFILL THIS MISSION!!

COUSINS TALK

Mary and Elizabeth, John the Baptist’s mother, were cousins and close personal friends (Luke 1:36, 56) who visited together for the last three months of Elizabeth’s pregnancy (v. 56). Their boys were born only six months apart. Surely then, John and Yahshua spent much time together as children.

Too, had Yahshua been in Palestine those formative 18 years from age 12 to 30, John and Yahshua would have met numerous times at the three yearly feasts (Luke 1:6: “...walking in ALL the commandments and ordinances of Yahweh blameless...”). During these times, they would undoubtedly have discussed a variety of subjects including their goals and aspirations for the future.

But John the Baptist, though a second cousin of Yahshua only six months older than Him, was unsure of Yahshua’s mission or whether some other was the promised Messiah. He sent two of his disciples to ask, “Are you He that should come? or look we for another” (Luke 7:20)? What a curious question **IF** John had been in close contact with Yahshua throughout the previous 18 years. This indicates prior to His ministry, Yahshua



As recorded in Matthew 17:24, Yahshua paid the stranger tax as required by all foreigners. *businessinsider.com*

ua had been absent from Palestine for some long time.

Later, however, when John saw Yahshua as he came to be baptized, he said, “Behold, the Lamb of Yahweh...” (John 1:29).

Clearly John became convinced Yahshua was the Messiah, who he was, **ONLY** after he received Yahshua’s reply, “...tell John what things you have seen and heard; how the blind see...” (Luke 7:22).

JOHN’S FRANK ADMISSION

It is astonishing perhaps, but nonetheless true, that prior to this comment by John, he was unsure, even of who he was or where he lived! Notice what he frankly admits, **“I myself did not know him!”** (John 1:31; RSV); **He repeats this, “I myself did not know him”** (v. 33).

The **only clue John had of him or His mission was seeing the one on whom the spirit descended** (John 1:31, 33). His absence from Palestine was so long, John had forgotten Him!

Too, John and his disciples were so unfamiliar with Yahshua they *did not know where* He lived: “And they [two of John’s disciples] said, ‘where are you staying’ (John 1:38; 35-39)?

Is it not curious that John nor those close to him, his disciples, who had been raised in Palestine and who knew Yahshua’s family at least during the early years of their childhood, *did not know him or where he lived?*

Again, this is strong evidence that Yahshua was a **STRANGER TO THEM** because of a very long absence from Judea, Palestine and the surrounding area. But there is more evidence!

TAX ON FOREIGNERS

Matthew 17:24 records Yahshua paid the “stranger” tax:

“And when they were come to Capernaum, they that received tribute (didracma; most common coin) came to Peter [why not to Yahshua?] and asked, “Does not your master pay didracma?”

The question itself is curious, if Yahshua and his entourage were not engaged in some commerce. For if this meant the Temple Tax, the question Yahshua asked next was unnecessary.²

Notice Yahshua’s question, “Of whom do the kings of the earth take custom or Tribute? Of their own children or **strangers?**” (Matt. 17:25). He is clearly referring to the question those receiving the tribute asked of Peter, conclusively proving their tribute was **not** the Temple tax, but a civil tax.

continued on page 15



Julian



Constantine
Sunday/Easter



Jewish

The Biblical Calendar Issue



Gregorian

Throughout the year people flock to locations around the world to observe religious festivals.

Among those observing Sunday, Easter, Christmas and Epiphany there is total agreement on their calendar dates. The Biblical validity of those observances or when they must be celebrated goes virtually unquestioned. The fact is devotees would prefer not to be bothered by such questioning, assuming as they do, that such matters were legally settled long ago.

When and by whom the calendar dates were decided is of no concern whatsoever. The timing is considered secondary to the “spiritual intent” of brotherhood and reverence one has as they worship.

This placid calm changes, however, if the calendar dates are challenged. Immediately one is sure to be met with stiff and swift resistance by their leaders, and usually compliant disregard by their followers.

CONFUSION

On the other end of the religious spectrum are those who profess to observe the so-called Old Testament Holy Days. Here the landscape is far different. No such uniformity exists, except perhaps that each group or organization will likely claim they are in fact the true church, congregation, or assembly.

There is another difference. When calendar dates for religious observances are challenged, not only the leaders, *even their followers* will react with a swift rebuff and denunciation!

“...many have mistakenly
accepted the vernal equinox...
to start the year.”

You see, the demographics of this end of the spectrum are more diverse. Here you find those who *came out of* the “Sunday crowd.” Doing so required at least *some* serious Bible study, some proving, showing Sunday, Easter and Christmas are easily proven non-biblical. This provides a stronger sense of “being right” which is carried over to whatever set of Holy Day times they observe. Consequently, the calendar they use, the one declared sacred by the church “powers that be” or even personal study—usually the former—must *also be right*.

The underpinning of this conviction is the often unquestioned belief that “This is God’s True Church” meaning the one and only *true church*. Once this belief is firmly in place there is a stronger sense of “being right,” and it takes a miracle to change that mindset (Visit icyahweh.org for the article, *Just Who Is God?*).

AN AGES-OLD QUESTION

By far the most dominant calendar of choice for setting the Biblical holy days is the Jewish calendar, the Hebrew calendar, or one of its many surrogates. It remains in principle and in many specific details the “eye” of this calendar hurricane. It spawns many similar calendar schemes mainly using the first visible crescent and the sunset-to-sunset day. From there, some variations around the vernal and fall equinoxes, the barley harvest, Jerusalem, or a strictly solar calendar are referenced. Its antiquity carries clout, no doubt, but is it flawed, an apostate calendar, a holdover from ancient Babylon?

Ironically, what is invariably missing in these Hebrew calendar and surrogate’s systems of setting months and holy days is *firm Biblical proof* based on Biblical definitions using line-upon-line, comparing spiritual things with spiritual things (Isa. 28:9-10; I Cor. 2:13). Many arbitrary assumptions are evident in their writings on the Biblical calendar. Such calendar systems are not and cannot be, *derived from the Bible*. Why? Because they *are not in the Bible*, as surprising as that may be.

In the place of Biblical proof, students of these schemes heap mountains of references to scholarship whose authors’ views are elevated to the level of Scripture; and even imposed on the Bible. This is contrary to Yahshua’s statement: “Sanctify them in the truth; Thy word is truth” (John 17:17). We might add that Yahweh’s Word is the truth about His calendar system as well.

PATRIARCHAL ASTRONOMERS

The Scriptural calendar has been a matter of differing views since time immemorial. A major cause for this uncertainty is the loss in antiquity of the knowledge of the patriarchal astronomers. Now only sketches remain within the Scriptures.

Truly, the Bible shows some authors of its many books were astronomers. Enough of their works have been preserved in Scripture to know their expertise in astronomy was very comprehensive: Adam (Gen. 1), Noah (Gen. 8), Moses (many references), Job (9:7-9; 38:31-33), Ezekiel (40:1), and to a lesser extent perhaps, Nehemiah (7:73; 8:2) and Jeremiah (31:35).

Now having only this thinly dispersed Biblical record of their knowledge has led to the false perception the Bible is void of the structure of the Scriptural Calendar. Nothing could be further from the truth. How could Yahweh command us to keep His New Moons and Holy Days and leave no record in *His sacred Scriptures* showing how He fixes those dates?

This perceived vacuum is often filled with secular and theological misconceptions about Yahweh’s calendar, blurring the principles of His sacred timekeeping system.

For example, many have mistakenly accepted the vernal equinox as a Biblical marker to start the year. This mimics

Constantine's Nicean Council edict (A.D. 325) which connected Easter with the vernal equinox. Where is any reference in the Bible to the vernal equinox?

Other problems have arisen using Babylonian methods and definitions which are not Biblical. Two such examples are the sunset-to-sunset day, and the first visible crescent-moon method used to start the month.

Despite the confusion and disagreements there is one fundamental calendar issue on which the vast majority agrees: the Biblical day, which is assumed to be sunset-to-sunset. Ironically, this universally accepted definition has no Biblical basis. Those professing the seventh-day Sabbath, who eschew the Jewish calendar's postponements, etc., or refuse to accept the Biblical Feast days, strictly observe the sunset-to-sunset day. This unbiblical belief, though borrowed from Babylon and foreign to the patriarchs' and apostles' practices, continues its iron grip on virtually every group professing the seventh-day Sabbath (See *The Scriptural Weekly Sabbath is NOT from Sunset-to-Sunset*; ICY; www.icyahweh.org).

WHERE THE JEWS **GOT A SUNSET-TO-SUNSET DAY**

Some Israelites' adoption of the sunset-to-sunset day while in Babylonian captivity is an historical fact as shown by this frank admission from J. Z. Lauterbach: "There can be no doubt that in *pre-exilic times* the Israelites reckoned...The day began with the dawn... [notice] in *post-exilic times*, however, ...a change in the system of reckoning the day was made, and the day was reckoned as extending from the preceding to the following evening..."¹ The facts of history do not lie.

There is little doubt such a huge change did not happen overnight. Gradually as apostates seized control of the seats of authority and influence, the falsehood prevailed. This is a recurring theme of history in which the truth is pushed to the background to make way for apostasy. Gradually the apostasy of lies is accepted and eventually become tradition. Once they become tradition, the traditions become the "truth" and nobody, except in rare instances, questions them. When they are questioned, the entrenched resistance pushes back...hard.

Such widespread religious falsehoods have probably done more to thwart the progress of humanity than any other single thing: "At every crossway on the road that leads to the future, each progressive spirit is opposed by a thousand men appointed to guard the past." (From Count Maurice Maeterlinck's "Our Social Duty."). Yahshua experienced the ire of those appointed to guard the past mistakes of the Jewish community at large—their religious leaders.



The Biblical Day does not start at sunset, but at dawn. pixabay.org

Yahshua clearly disagreed with them, for example, on the date of Passover the year of His crucifixion:

"Was there, then, a dispute about the date of the Passover in the year of the Crucifixion?...Was it, in fact, an "illegal" Passover, so far as the *date* and place were concerned, which Jesus and His disciples celebrated in Holy Week?...The meal in John, *falling before the official Passover*, ...show[s] certain paschal features. Was it the illegality of the transformed rite...set at an *illegal season* (the old Calendar) which gave

"...a change in the...reckoning
of the day was made..."

Judas his final opportunity to betray Christ? In carrying off the sop, he took evidence with him to the priest and the Pharisees an 'illegal' feast had been celebrated."²

This and other examples show there were sharp disagreements between Yahshua and the Pharisees over the times of the festivals (Matt. 16:2-3).

RECOVERING YAHWEH'S CALENDAR

Recovering and restoring the Biblical principles of Yahweh's calendar is essential for finding His sacred New Moons, Holy Days and Jubilee cycles. By the grace of Yahweh, there remains in the Scriptures enough essential information to recover His timekeeping system and restore His calendar.

Two essential keys are the Biblical beginning and end of the year, which must be *derived from the Bible*. Together with Biblical facts and historical dating of those facts these cardinal points in the year must be recovered to set the Holy Days. How else can the Holy Days be determined?

We must know the year's beginning (or end) before the first month of the year can be found.

The widespread use of Babylonian calendrical methods and other mistakes have replaced the Scriptural Calendar of Yahweh. These errors must be corrected and replaced by the **Biblical** calendar so we can know the *true Sabbaths* of Yahweh.

The sign of Yahweh's people is His Sabbaths (plural; Ex. 31:13; Ezk. 20:12). These **are** the signs, and proof, that He has sanctified a person. Yahweh's calendar is, therefore, a vital part of His plan of salvation; a role not to be underestimated.

The religious and astronomical nature of this subject invariably spawns different opinions and a variety of erroneous views. Using the Bible as *the standard* against which to judge them provides the only hope of sorting out this tangled web. The Biblical calendar that emerges from this confusion is different; not unexpected given the long history of deception levied against it.

Is it possible something is amiss, certain Biblical facts overlooked which has allowed apostate calendar systems to flourish and supplant the true Biblical calendar? This question must be answered with the Bible (See *Beginning and End of the Biblical Year*; ICY; www.icyahweh.org).

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★★★★★★

FAST AND FURIOUS END TIMES?

Luke 21:25: “And upon the Earth distress of nations...the sea and waves roaring.”

The 2017 peak hurricane season set records! Two monsters hit: Harvey in Texas and Irma in Florida.

According to reports, hurricane Irma, which trashed the Florida Keys and hurled floods and blinding winds through most of the Florida peninsula, was the 119th hurricane to hit Florida since 1850. Number 119's wind [142 mph at landfall: *Fast*] and rain packed more punch in megatons of TNT than previous hurricanes [*Furious*]. Since the days when Ponce de Leon sought the fabled Fountain of Youth in Florida, a lot changed. After Irma hit September 10, 2017 more changed... quickly and permanently.

Harvey's and Irma's devastation brought heartbreaking losses of property (50,000 homes destroyed), life, electricity and other utilities, sweltering heat in the 90s with no air conditioning, and suffocating humidity...*and the specter of disease*. The agonizing cleanup ahead is almost beyond belief. The human tragedies are immeasurable! Hurricane Harvey [130 mph at landfall] dumped 40-52 inches of rainfall in southwest Texas and southwest Louisiana, triggering flash flooding in parts of Arkansas, Kentucky, and Tennessee August 31 - September 1, 2017. Flooding in Houston, Texas was catastrophic closing 200 schools and causing at least 82 tragic deaths, and wrecking an estimated one million cars and trucks...the largest number in U.S. history. Houston will be months or even years getting back to normal.

The destructive power of record-setting hurricanes Harvey and Irma [both CAT 4 at landfall], which were above average hurricanes, released **more energy** than the *average* hurricane's daily energy output in rain and wind of about 13,000 megatons of TNT!

In perspective, this is close to a *million* WWII Hiroshima

Little Boys exploding at more than 10 every **second!** Harvey and Irma were even worse!

There is no defense against millions of A-bombs dropped in a single day. Are we entering some ominous phase of natural calamities as these cataclysmic events increase in frequency,

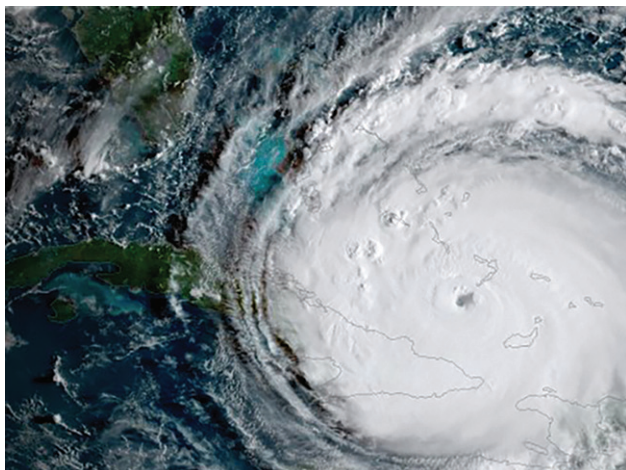
“Are we entering some ominous phase of natural calamities?...”

reach new peaks of intensity, topping costs, reshaping the landscape, uprooting and destroying lives? Has a “crack” in the space-time continuum occurred unchaining a nature gone mad? Is Yahweh turning a blind eye and deaf ear to the cries for protection from the ravages of nature?

SOMETHING MORE

There is something more besides the obvious thunderous torrential rain and massive decimation. What else looms as high velocity winds, like automatic weapons, hurl bullets of debris and millions of metric tons of water lashing everything in sight?

Disease. There are approximately 144 airborne diseases at any given time; 26 of which are human contagions (infectious diseases spreading from person-to-person). These hurricanes carry not only wind and rain but spread these pathogens in their wake as they race across filthy landscapes pushing pollutants into the air dragging them hundreds of miles. Water-soaked buildings and fabric are breeding grounds for mold,



Hurricane Irma as seen from space on September 9, 2017, as it approaches Florida. Irma was a category 5 and close to the size of Texas at roughly 224,000 square miles. NOAA



Eureka, Mont. burns as a forest fire is started by a lightning strike in August, 2017. Citizens were forced to evacuate Eureka and throughout Lincoln County. kulr8.com



BEFORE



AFTER

October 30, 2016, Italy felt an earthquake of a 6.6 magnitude, which was the most powerful earthquake to hit Italy since 1980. *Google Earth / Reuters*



The 8.2 magnitude earthquake that struck southern Mexico on September 8, 2017, was the strongest earthquake to hit Mexico in 85 years. Many of the areas were reduced to rubble. *reuters.com*

bacteria, virus, and allergens (87 varieties of environmental pathogens). Add to this downed water systems and sewage seepage creating water-boil notices. These are the nightmarish battles left behind after the wind and rain are gone.

In the American west just the opposite is happening! In Idaho, Montana, California, Washington and Oregon wildfires continuing from 2016 are *still* torching or have burned nearly 8 million acres; \$1.75 billion spent this fiscal year fighting them... so far. Ninety thousand have been evacuated leaving behind the ashes of their dreams, homes reduced to cinders. As of mid-October 2017, 42 have died and smoke inhalation hospitalized over 250 as air quality reached the "hazardous" level, the most dangerous on the EPA scale.

Other woes continue. On September 8, 2017, an 8.2 (huge) earthquake causing extensive damage killing 36, struck off Mexico's southern coast along the western border of Guatemala. Millions felt the trembler whose hypocenter was in the ocean at a depth of 74 km (44 miles). Tsunami alerts were issued.

"...and earthquakes in divers places,"...increasing? Look at these facts. Since 2003, nineteen giant earthquakes of magnitude 8.0 or greater have reduced cities to rubble, reset shorelines and destroyed lives. In the 40 years prior, *there were only THREE of this magnitude!*

Amid centuries of relative geological calm, *have we turned the corner toward the age-ending climax of human history?*

"Something...evil has gripped the minds of these leaders..."

SOMETHING EVIL

Nations face more than massive weather and geological disruptions. Terrorism's evil head lurks. Radical Islamic jihadists spread death, terror, bombings, plundering, raping in the name of "the religion of peace and tolerance." Is there anything more *preposterous* than that phrase in quotes?

This is the way deception operates: Claim you are doing the *opposite* of what you *actually do*: claim you are tolerant, while being intolerant...on purpose.

The next step in this scheme accuses those who oppose their evil *are in fact the ones doing it!* Example, be violent and intolerant, but *claim the opposition is violent and intolerant*, violating your "equal rights" and "free speech" when they oppose your actions!

Finally, use this relentless deception until the other side caves.

Many national leaders, caving in, allowing unvetted millions to immigrate, embedded with these insurgents from known terrorist countries are placing their own population and national sovereignty at risk. Under the guise of "political correctness" and humanitarian goodwill, they push ahead despite the dangers; their communities imploding. Who are they trying to impress? Or who do they fear?

Something or *Someone dreadfully evil has gripped the minds of these leaders* in a deadly embrace: "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers,

against the rulers of darkness of this world, against wicked spirits in high places" (Eph. 6:12).

Are these uncivilized acts, hurricanes and raging fires from drought, prophetic signs of the end time?

"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. Because men shall be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant...without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous...conceited..." (II Tim. 3:1-4).

MORE SIGNS TO WATCH

"And you shall hear of wars and rumors of wars:...For nations shall rise against nation,...there shall be famine, and pestilences, and earthquakes in various places...*All these are the beginning of sorrows...*And many false prophets shall rise, and *shall deceive many...*" (Matt. 24:6-8, 11).

(1). "...you shall hear of wars and rumors of wars... nation shall rise against nation..." Kim Jong Un, North Korea's Supreme Leader, continues to provoke Japan & the U.S. with threats and intercontinental ballistic missile launches over the Pacific Ocean.

(2). "...famine, and pestilence..." Why are 20 Million People on the Brink of Famine in a 'World of Plenty'? One word: War or recovering from war.

Examples: Somalia: Recovering from war now has over six million people in need of food assistance—more than half the country's population. South Sudan: 100,000 are affected by famine; one million more on the bring of famine. Northern

Nigeria: At least five million people face the risk of famine. Yemen: 7 million facing starvation.

(3) "...many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and

"...the WWI eclipse...followed the beginning of the war by...weeks"

shall deceive many..." There are some 45,000 Bible-professing groups proclaiming their gospel. Among them we find the "prosperity gospel," love freed from the Laws of the Old Testament, tolerance for every lifestyle, heaven's gate at death...

Churches and their leaders become filthy rich in cash, real estate holdings, business investments, ranches, etc., by spreading "another gospel" (Gal. 1:6-8), in the name of one Jesus Christ. The Bible has become their "get rich quick" scheme.

SIGNS IN THE HEAVENS SUN AND MOON

"And there shall be signs in the sun and the moon" (Luke: 21:25). Significant or not, these weather extremes followed a total solar eclipse covering more of the United States than any total eclipse since 1918. Only days following the August 21, 2017, total eclipse, hurricane Harvey hit and weeks later Irma struck without mercy.

June 8, 1918, was the last time a solar eclipse crossed as many states in the USA. This was the year the Spanish influenza pandemic killed approximately 675,000 in America and an estimated 35-60 million worldwide. 1918 was also the sixth year in a seven-year cycle and saw the close of World War I. Total solar eclipses occur approximately every 18 months.

A total solar eclipse, known as the "Assyrian eclipse" on June 15, 763 B.C. during the reign of King Asher-Dan III, was

possibly visible in Nineveh (location of Mosul, Iraq).²

Perhaps Jonah's preaching was not quite enough. Was this an omen also leading Nineveh to repent? His preaching following a "heavenly sign" may have helped. This is said to be one of the most famous solar eclipses in ancient history.

World War I began following the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand on June 28, 1914. Two months later on August 21, 1914, a total solar eclipse crossed Eastern Europe; path of totality passing through Belarus, Ukraine, the Black Sea, Eastern Turkey, Northern Iraq and the middle of Persia [Iran]. Dubbed the World War I eclipse, it followed the beginning of the "War to End all Wars" by just a few weeks.

Another fairly close timing between a total eclipse (98.93% coverage) and beginning of a war occurred when the Korean war started June 25, 1950 following a total eclipse May 9, 1948. The path of totality passed directly through Seoul, South Korea, and parts of North Korea. An omen of perilous times for the Korean peninsula?

Violence erupted over the following two years and reached a full-scale war by 1950 continuing until July 27, 1953. Korea is still divided.³

THE CONSTELLATIONS?

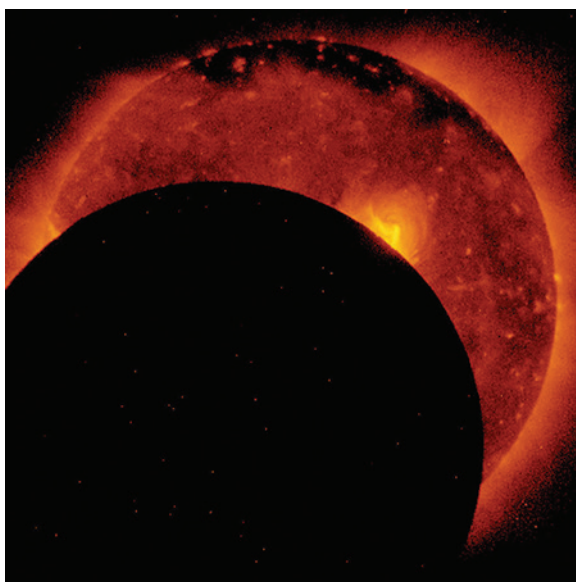
Many pointed to a prophecy in the apocalyptic book of Revelation:

"And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars" (Rev. 12:1).

Multiple You Tube videos *privately interpreted* this verse (II Pet. 1:20) as an unusual celestial event in the Constellation Virgo [the woman]. On September 23, 2017, the sun and moon entered Virgo. The planetary trio of Mercury, Mars, and Venus lining up above Virgo's head, plus nine stars in the constellation Leo, were to make the 12 stars in the woman's crown.

Also, the interpretation continued, Jupiter's exit from Virgo on that date signified the birth of one who will rule the nations (Rev. 12:5).

Their September 23, 2017, simultaneous arrival suppos-



(right) **August 21, 2017**, millions of Americans were in the path of a total solar eclipse. nasa.gov

(left) **Newspaper clipping from June 8, 1918**, shows at the time of an eclipse it is common for countries to be at war. *Muskogee Times-Democrat Muskogee, Okla., Saturday Evening, June 8, 1918*

edly signaled the second coming, the great tribulation beginning, the time of Jacob's trouble, the rapture, or any number of other prognostications.

Further weight was added to this scenario by claiming September 23, 2017, was the Biblical Feast of Trumpets (Shoutings). But this great fall festival was not September 23rd, but the 21st in Jerusalem (the 20th in other locations).

This segment was written September 16, 2017, at which time we found **no Scriptural basis for these private speculations of Biblical prophecy**. There was no Biblical prophetic reason to believe these celestial events in Virgo signaled those predicted events, and the Messiah's second coming would not occur September 23, 2017. (See ICY's Facebook post of September 16, 2017: Sabbath Thoughts: What Will Happen September 23, 2017?).

ANOTHER SIGN TO WATCH

Does the following verse from Matthew 24 connect to these recent weather extremes and prophecies in Revelations? "For just as the lightning comes from the east, and flashes even to the west, so shall the coming of the Son of Man be" (v. 27). "Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened,...and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: and then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven..." (vv. 29-30). This historic event signals the end of the age has arrived!

Will another sign appear before this second coming? (Matt. 24:15-20; Rev. 12:6, 14).

Yes, and it alerts humanity that *the end of the age is at hand*: "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness to all nations; **and then shall the end come**" (Matt. 24:14). Look for the *true gospel*-not a deceptive counterfeit (Gal. 1:6-7).

When this happens you will **know** "*the age-ending climax of human history*" has arrived! Therefore watch (Mark 13:37).

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continued from page 6

CONCLUSION

America's health is a religious, political and scientific issue. It has become a tragedy of colossal strangling debt, government red tape and sickness in every form imaginable. Multiple millions are lulled into believing the false idea that Scriptural laws regulating what we eat and how we till our ground are of little concern for this age. The evidence overwhelmingly disproves that common belief.

What we are doing now as a nation is not working. Why not give these laws a try and put Yahweh to the test? We will find He is true to His word...guaranteed in writing: "Then shall your light break forth as the dawn, **and your healing will spring up quickly**...the glory of Yahweh ["Lord;" NRSV]

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How do we know this for sure?

The word translated "custom" here is the "*telos*," a tax levied on imported or exported goods; customs duties. The "Tribute" "*kanesos*" ["*enrolment*," *census*; a tax; *SEC 2778*] was the Roman poll-tax payable by everyone whose name was in the census. Neither of these was the Temple tax.³

Dobson further notes that "Merchants and traders at Capernaum were **all taxed as strangers**."² [emphasis mine].

When Peter answered Yahshua's question with, "...Of strangers, Yahshua says to him, Then are the children free [from the tax]. Notwithstanding, lest we should offend them, ...a piece of money [Gr. "stater"]: that take and give to them...." (Matt. 17:26-27; miracle of coin in fishes' mouth).

Clearly Yahshua did not owe the tax, being a citizen, but put up no complaint, telling Peter to pay it. He clearly had a house in Capernaum (Mark 2:1) preaching, healing (Matt. 8:5, 14; 9:1; Mark 1:32), and mingling there frequently.

However, on arriving there, with Peter and maybe others, in this instance, the circumstances imply he had been absent for such a long time, he was unrecognized and thought to be a stranger or foreigner.⁴

Consider as well, if he had lived in and around Capernaum, those 18 years as a professional carpenter buying materials, building and trading, then they would have easily recognized him.

This was not the case, for Yahshua was completely unknown there at the time of this arrival, although this had been his home in the past, as this example reveals without doubt.

CONCLUSION

Scriptural and historical evidence show Yahshua was absent from Palestine during the "lost 18 years" omitted from the New Testament. His precocious nature for technical matters of Law and prophecy as well as his personal mission to the lost sheep of Israel also point to a necessary absence from his own country where He spent the early years to about age thirteen.

REFERENCES:

- 1 - *The "Lost" Tribes of Israel-Found*, Steven M. Collins, 1992, p. 281.
- 2 - *Did Our Lord Visit Britain*, C.C. Dobson, 1944; pp. 14-15.
- 3 - *Commentary on the Whole Bible*, Jamieson, Fausset and Brown, p. 933; Arndt Gingrich *Greek English Lexicon of the New Testament*; p. 819.
- 4 - *Drama of the Lost Disciples*, George F. Jowett, 1993, p.137, 138.

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shall be your rear guard" (Isa. 58:8).

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, **and will heal their land**" (II Chron. 7:14).

REFERENCES:

- 1 - See Col. 2:14: "ordinances" = "certificate of debt"; *G-E Lex. of the NT*, Bauer-Ardnt-Gingrich, p. 889.
- 2 - <https://www.thebalance.com/causes-of-rising-healthcare-costs-4064878>
- 3 - <https://www.cms.gov/research...data.../nationalhealthexpenddata/nhefact-sheet.html>
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- 5 - <https://www.statista.com/statistics/294614/revenue-of-the-gas-and-oil-industry-in-the-us/>
- 6 - *Gesenius*, p. 398; See also Brown-Driver-Briggs Lexicon, p. 476.

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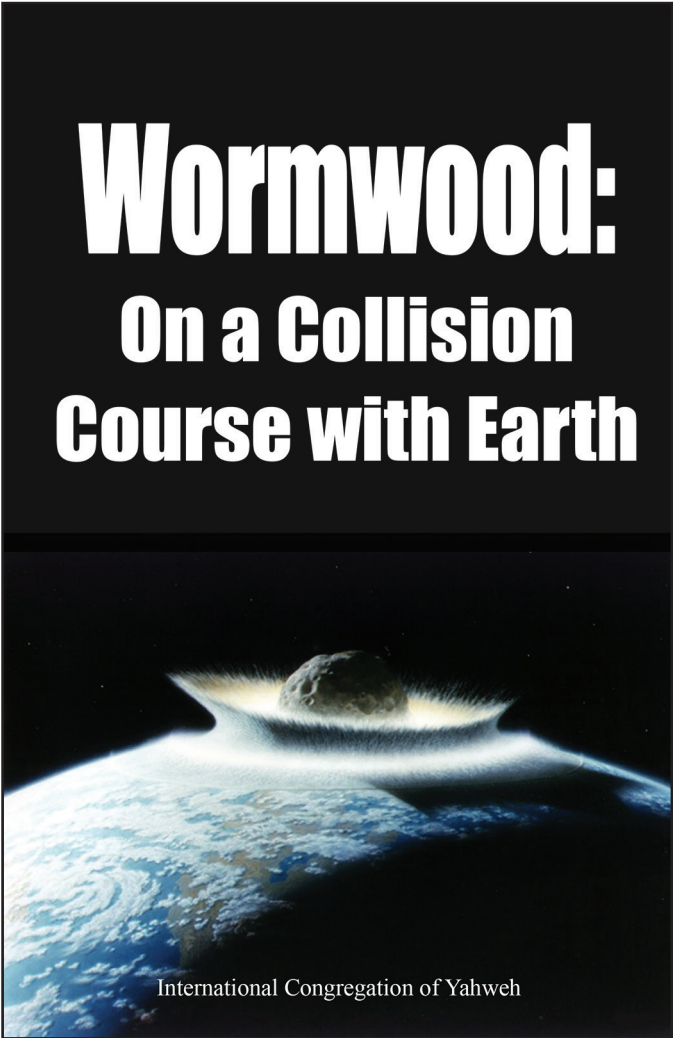
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