

INSIGHT

Volume 8 Number 1

December 2012

Armageddon and World Peace ...



Inching Closer!

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 1990 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 United States.

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There is Life after Failure

From the Editor: *Gary C. Miller*

The 2012 Summer Olympics was a record-setting almost non-stop worldwide media blitz. As previous records fell during the games, an all-time record 4.8 billion watched the events in virtually every corner of the globe. Nation-after-nation sent their most athletic stars to compete at the highest level of human training and skill in world-class head-to-head competitions.

The Olympic games, a holdover from the glory days of ancient pagan Greece, are one of the few times nations lay aside their ideological differences. During the games they meet in a friendly, but intense test of wills, endurance, and talent, in competitions that are often amazing to behold. The games provide the opportunity to showcase a nation's best in a head-to-head, like-against-like emulation of nationalistic pride. In today's societies why are the winners valued so highly? Why this obsession with competition and besting the opposition — sometimes at any cost?

No doubt we are seeing the briefest snapshot of the untold lonely hours, days and *years* of training and personal sacrifice as individuals and teams compete for the gold, silver or bronze medals. Why are people so willing to put themselves and their families through this grueling self-torture and isolation? It is simple. They want to win; to beat others at their game; to be *first*. They know only the top three finishers are rewarded. The winners become heroes. Those in fourth place and below go away unseen and unheard. The difference between the gold and silver may be only *hundredths of a second*, but the yawning gap in prestige and honor between first and second place is staggeringly large.

In the 2010 Winter Olympics, for example, in the men's 1000-meter speed skating the margin of victory between the gold medal and no medal was only *0.39 seconds*!

But how is being the best achieved? How does one "reach for the gold" and then actually hold it in his hand? It is done by never accepting failure as final — as long as we are breathing!

Why is Michael Phelps now hailed as the *greatest* Olympian of all time? Is it for his fourth place finish in the free style? Hardly. It is for his record 22 medals of which **18** are gold! Eighteen first place showings! Some of which came *after that bitter* fourth place! BUT he did not quit. He knew *from experience* that success is not gained by a single stroke, but is achieved on the back of failure — often *many* failures.

Is NASA lauded for over half of its Mars probes which flubbed, squandering *billions* of dollars? No. The glory is for those *few that actually landed and performed after the failures*! A case in point is the national rejoicing over the August 6, 2012, successful touchdown of the Mars rover, Curiosity. The space crane that lowered its one ton skeleton-like frame to the Martian surface was considered "... emotionally crazy, but rational engineering." If it worked, it was heroic. If not, it would be

yet another agonizing, humiliating defeat. The "seven minutes of terror" while landing was in progress would have lasted a lot longer than seven minutes!

Do we remember Abraham Lincoln for his many business failures, several defeats in elections, or his nervous breakdown over the broken engagement to Mary Todd? No. We remember him for his highest achievement, ascending to the Presidency of the United States *after those failures*. That success came with a margin of victory of only a few hundred thousand (46 percent of the popular vote), enough for a first place finish and vastly more prestigious than second. By the way, who finished second behind Lincoln?

Do we remember King David more for his failures with Bathsheba, or for his defeat of a giant (literally) of an enemy, Goliath and as a man after Yahweh's own heart?

Is the prophet Moses remembered for his fall from Egyptian glory as a great general over Pharaoh's armies, or later as the great deliverer and lawgiver of Israel?

These success stories often followed bitter failures when failure was not allowed to become their "last stand."

Who can forget the *hundreds of failures* inventor Thomas Edison (1847-1941) experienced before finding that *one ingredient* needed to make a lasting filament for the light bulb? Here was Edison's view: "Many of life's failures are men who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up. Most inventors try a few things and quit. *I never quit until I get it exactly the way I want it!*"

What are we to do in the struggles of life as we strive to move forward, when defeat seems to haunt us at every turn; when disappointment follows hope time-after-time? Do we quit? Do we lie down and give up? Or do we get up, dust ourselves off, and try again? Are we being tested for the "big race" to see if we have what it takes; to condition and prepare us for that next big step?

The famous battle-hardened WWII warrior General George Patton (1885-1945) said, "Courage is fear hanging on a minute longer."

American poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow said, "The lowest ebb is the turn of the tide!" Maybe he experienced the "lowest ebb."

"On the plains of despair lie the bones of countless thousands who, on the *eve of success*, stopped to rest and died while resting." (Unknown)

Will we take our place among the nameless thousands — millions — who had no dreams or who accepted a failure as final defeat; who quit just short of the finish line with victory just inches away? Or will we rise above a past perhaps strewn with failures to meet a higher destiny of achievement and greatness?

The "Book of Books," the Holy Bible, weighs in on this matter of achievement and victory: "Let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap, *if we faint not!*" (Gal. 6:9).

★★★★★★

WHAT WILL THE CURRENT SEVENTH YEAR LAND SABBATH HOLD?

As a public service for over twenty years, *Insight* magazine has given its readers a seventh-year land Sabbath alert. This land Sabbath announcement of the Sabbatical year, which began October 26, 2012 [a leap year] and ends October 26, 2013, is now our fourth seventh-year-Sabbath alert. This allows those involved in agriculture the opportunity to plan for this crucial year of the septennial cycle when no sowing is allowed (Lev. 25:1-7). It is a natural law, which carries its own consequences (Lev. 26:27-36).

THE SIXTH-YEAR: RECORDS TUMBLE IN 2012

The preparatory sixth year, historically unusually tumultuous and often catastrophic, brought the most intensive and expansive drought in more than half a century in the United States, pushing corn and soybean prices to all-time highs. The 2012 U.S. drought ranks as the 10th-largest severe drought since 1895 rivaling the Dust Bowl years, according to the National Climatic Data Center (NCDC).

Not only in the United States, but globally as well, weather extremes broke records. This year's tropical hurricane season was the earliest on record. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Hurricane Center data shows the four named storms in the Atlantic before July 1 is a first time occurrence since

record-keeping began in 1851.

In 2012 drought intensified in Africa and South America while Europe had severe flooding (in Stockholm, June 2012 became the city's wettest June since 1786), and sea ice *across the entire Arctic* reached daily record-low levels for the month of June.

March of this year 15,000 temperature records fell, followed by the hottest June on record when a total of 645 records were set for all-time hottest June temperatures, according to NOAA's NCDC Extremes archive.

All this was in the *sixth year* of the seven-year cycle.

Meteorologists at the NOAA accurately predicted the drought, covering 29 states, would continue through October, which incidentally brought us to the end of this sixth year. Is it El Nino or *something else* that is the *real* cause? Some are calling this the greatest natural disaster in U.S. history!

LOOKING BACK AT PREVIOUS SIXTH-YEAR EVENTS

Perhaps that depends on how you measure it. For example, in the *sixth year* 94 years ago the great Spanish Flu pandemic of 1918-1919 fall-to-fall, struck young and old alike, killing some 675,000 in the United States (an estimated 35-45 *million* fatalities worldwide)! The flu was relatively quiet, approximately around the average for the influenza season, until it suddenly became a maelstrom in late October 1918 as the sixth year began (See graphic *Influenza Pandemic*).

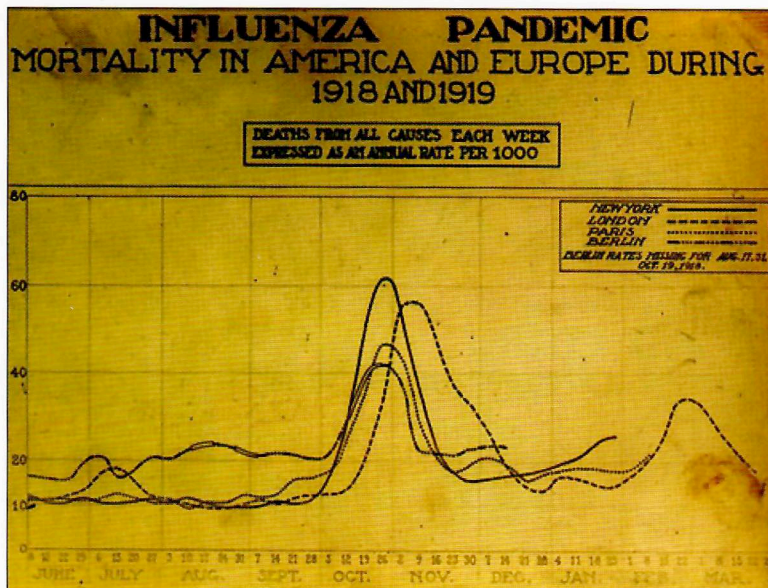
It waned toward the fall of the following year, and by late October and early November 1919, it had mysteriously all but vanished as suddenly as it began. Still to this day scientists do not know why it ended almost abruptly. Why did it? Was it because the catastrophic sixth year ended October 26, 1919, and the seventh year *REST* began the following day, October 27? Does the Bible have answers science cannot provide?

Twenty-one years ago in 1991, another *sixth year*, *Insight* reported staggering turns in world events with the beginning and ending of the Persian Gulf War, the nearly unbelievable reunification of East and West Germany, and a stunning military/KGB coup deposing Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Who can forget the December 26, 2004



Corn crops in Illinois suffered severely during the 2012 drought. Economists estimated the total losses due to the drought of 2012 would top \$20 billion. *pionline.com*



The Influenza Pandemic of 1918-1919 resulted in an estimated 35-40 million fatalities worldwide. This chart depicts the death toll in New York, London, Paris and Berlin on a weekly basis from June 1918 to March 1919. wikipedia.org / National Museum of Health and Medicine.

tsunami whose epic devastation shocked the world with the scale of carnage and obliteration killing over 220,000? Triggered by an earthquake with the power of over 600 million Hiroshima atomic bombs, one hundred-thirty-foot walls of water carrying 33 million cubic feet of water and debris crashed inland like tides of wet cement. Again, this was in the *sixth* year of the seven-year cycle reported in the 2005 *Insight* Land Sabbath alert. And when did Hurricane Katrina inundate New Orleans, Louisiana...during that same sixth year! Also, super storm Sandy, affecting 50 million people, developed in the final weeks of this 2012 sixth year.

HARBINGERS OF THINGS TO COME?

What do these periodic devastating disasters signal for the future? Do we just blithely “wave them off” with the well-worn refrains: “These things happen. They have always happened. So what else is new?” Or should we take them to heart; do some serious soul-searching, and some serious *Bible searching*?

Are they harbingers of a greater calamity ahead if we do not repent? Make no mistake. Yahweh is “firing warning shots” across the bow of spaceship Earth, and even targeting direct hits, as a red alert for mankind to turn back from its wayward path of wickedness and arrogance. Will we listen and repent....in time?

If we are in fact in the final phase of this present era, age, and many events and prophecies indicate as much, then our failure to heed these warnings is propelling us to the point of no return; speeding us toward the greatest tribulation in human history! This time of trouble will eclipse even the Noatian flood.... threatening the extinction of ALL life on Earth!

Overstating the case? Not according to the Messiah’s sobering prophecy: “...then shall be *great tribulation*, such as *was not since the beginning of the world*...And ex-

cept those days should be shortened, there should **NO FLESH BE SAVED...**” (Matt. 24:21-22).

REMEMBER SODOM AND GOMORRAH

Remember the account of Sodom and Gomorrah. “Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, *they planted [in the seventh year?]*, they build- ed...” (Luke 17:28).

As the day dawned that fateful morning, it seemed like business as usual for the families of Sodom and Gomorrah; cooking breakfast, getting ready for the day’s activities...just like today.

But *this time* it was *not* business as usual. “...But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them ALL” (Luke 17:29). Recall those who perished included Lot’s married daughters and sons-in-law who rejected Lot’s warning as a joke; sort of like “Sodom destroyed? Who are you kidding?” (Gen. 19:14).

Do you suppose those people thought they were good, righteous, kind and smart? Did they think the good times would never end? After Lot left Sodom, *why* did *every* man, woman, teenager, toddler, statesman, preacher and derelict alike in the houses, streets, churches and government halls of Sodom and Gomorrah meet the same miserable fate?

Was it because of some abstract “higher purpose in their lives” or just that “bad things sometimes happen to good people?” No. It was because of the sins they were committing (Gen. 13:13; 18:20; 19:5; Ezk. 16:49-50).

NO FLESH was saved in Sodom and Gomorrah for one reason: unrepentant sin.

FAITH REQUIRED TO KEEP LAND SABBATHS

Yahweh, the Great Master of the Universe, though very merciful and gracious, deals with the hard reality of His immutable natural LAWS.

One of these great laws is refraining from sowing the land in the seventh year. This time-out gives man, the land, AND Yahweh a rest (“...rest to the land, a SABBATH FOR YAHWEH...” Lev. 25:4). It is HIS Sabbath, a law that cannot be overturned in any age, including our modern high-tech 2012-2013 A.D.!

When contemplating letting one’s farmland rest for a *whole year*, it is certainly reasonable to ask the soul-searching question: “If I keep the Land Sabbath, how will we make it with bills to pay...etc.?”

Once we consider keeping such an important law as the seventh-year land rest, it becomes obvious that *it takes FAITH to keep the Law. It takes more faith, much more, to obey Yahweh’s Law than to break it; especially in today’s world!* The apostle James reminded us that *faith without works (obedience) is dead faith* (Jam. 2:17).

Yes, it takes real heartfelt *faith* to keep this great

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How Spiritual Are You?

Spirituality is much talked about and written about, but what is it? How do we know if we are spiritually minded and spiritually acting?

Is there a feeling or presence of a spirit of some kind that “witnesses” to us that we are spiritual; in close touch with Yahweh and keeping us “in the spirit” *regardless of our actions right or wrong*.

Is it, as a person once said, “Regardless of what I do, I will always have that special relationship with Christ.” These are bold words.

If this statement is true, why did the apostle Paul say, “But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, *I myself should be a castaway*” (I Cor. 9:27)?

Is our conscience our guide? Paul said the conscience can be evil and must be properly educated (Heb. 10:22). So how do we gauge our spirituality?

Most of us would probably agree there must be some “meter stick,” a standard we can use. If we have that, we will *know how spiritual we really are regardless of our feelings one way or another*.

OUR SPIRITUAL “METER STICK”

There is a “gauge” which measures where we are on the “scale of spirituality.” We need that, because going solely by our innermost emotions and urges or the influence of others, we are sure to misread how righteous we really are. The prophet Jeremiah warned, “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?” (Jer. 17:9). A precautionary, “Heads up!”

So what is that gauge of spirituality? Or should we ask, “*Who and what is it?*”

Answer: Yahshua the Messiah and His words and actions as they relate to Yahweh’s holy and righteous Law.

Who could possibly dispute that Yahshua was “as spiritual as it gets.” He was perfect, and perfection is literally as good as it gets!

But how would we know for sure that *even HIS life was perfect of itself, if there is no right or wrong by which to compare what He did for thirty-three and a half years?*

If He models perfection, what did He do that warrants such admiration and respect? Here is the Bible’s answer: “...who [Yahshua] did NO SIN” (I Pet. 2:22). He never broke *even ONE of Yahweh’s commandments!* That was why He was perfect, and is how we judge our own condition. That is as spiritual as it gets!

In truth, Yahweh’s Law is required now as “before-the-cross.” The teaching that the “old Law of Moses” is done away, is simply leading us into spiritual **darkness** not spiritual enlightenment. There is no “enlightenment” outside Yahweh’s Law: “...the Law is light...” (Prv. 6:23).

How did Yahshua maintain the Spirit of Yahweh **without measure** (John 3:34)? Obedience. The Spirit led Him toward the Law of Yahweh, the Father. Certainly, it is not possible to receive and keep the Holy Spirit, Yahweh’s Power, without repentance and following Yahweh’s perfect law of liberty (Prv. 9:10; Jam. 1:25).

RECEIVING THE HOLY SPIRIT REQUIRES THE RIGHT STANDARD

Repentance and obedience to the Law of Yahweh allows one to receive the Spirit of Yahweh, the Holy Spirit. There are certainly other spirits as discussed later, but the right Spirit is only received Yahshua’s way: obedience to Yahweh’s perfect Law.

Yahweh’s Spirit never guides us away from the Law of the Old Testament taught by the New Testament church (Eph. 2:20-21), to do less and less of it. Just the opposite. Yahweh’s power moves us TOWARD His Law; toward obedience: “How much more shall the blood of Messiah...purge your conscience FROM **dead works** to serve the living Yahweh [“God”]” (Heb. 9:14), [“from the deeds of death:” Phillips translation; works that cause death: sinning].

Also, the Holy Spirit cannot be received at all without first turning from sin: “Repent [of what?] and be baptized every one of you in the name of Yahshua Messiah [“Jesus Christ”] for the remission of sins, AND YE SHALL RECEIVE THE HOLY GHOST” (Acts 2:38).

Our attitude must become Job-like: “Wherefore I abhor myself and repent in dust and ashes” (Job 42:6). We must come to the realization that we are *not good as we cringe inside with embarrassment and disdain for our past sins. Only then, in this humble, broken state of remorse, can Yahshua’s sacrifice cleanse our sins, we receive the Holy Spirit, and have our dismal past washed away at baptism in Yahshua’s name. Then we can put the past behind us and move forward keeping the Law!* Freedom from sin is what we all desperately desire and need.

BEWARE OF OTHER SPIRITS

Many millions have reached that remorseful state of mind and heart; ready to “surrender all.”

But what if, in that repentant state, one is baptized and adopts another set of beliefs, which are not Biblical? What if they embrace a little truth mixed with much error, which excludes knowledge absolutely essential to salvation? This happens. What then?

Tragically, sincere and unaware of the *knowledge of good and evil essential to salvation*, many unwittingly plunge into a deceptive religion void of this vital knowledge (Heb. 5:13-14).

Once hooked, and now turning to a “new” set of un-

scriptural beliefs, they receive **another spirit, not** the Spirit of Yahweh; *not the Holy Spirit*. Sadly, it becomes nearly impossible to liberate them. It takes a miracle to free them!

What is commonly referred to as “speaking in tongues,” a so-called “release of prayer language,” or a sudden feeling of peace and serenity are often considered evidence of Yahweh’s Holy Spirit.

But here is the Biblical fact of the matter: “...the Holy Ghost, whom Yahweh [“God”] hath GIVEN TO THEM THAT OBEY HIM” (Acts 5:32). The Spirit does not replace the Law. Obviously, we absolutely *must* know exactly *what we are to obey*. What standards? What Law?

Few understand or realize there are **other spirits lying in wait to entrap and enslave; to “fall on” those unaware who thought the Holy Spirit was the only spirit active in religion! It definitely is not.**

Shocking perhaps to learn of other spirits one might mistakenly receive, but nonetheless true. We are warned: “Try the spirits whether they be of Yahweh” (“God”; I John 4:1). “For if he that cometh preacheth another Yahshua [“Jesus”], whom we have not preached, or if **ye receive ANOTHER SPIRIT...**” (v. 4). Notice John refers to, “another spirit” other than the Holy Spirit! Dangerous. Enslaving.

Obviously, not every spirit is righteous. Even Satan, a demonic unclean spirit, can be “...transformed into an angel of light...” and his ministers can “...also be transformed as the minister of righteousness...” (II Cor. 11:14).

“Now THE Spirit speaketh [Yahweh’s Holy Spirit is THE Spirit]...that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, **giving heed to seducing spirits, and the doctrines of devils...**” (I Tim. 4:1). Clearly this verse alone shows there exists THE Spirit, the Holy Spirit, and *other seducing spirits, which are* seductive, clever, friendly, gracious, but demonic, deceptive and...deadly!

The deadly trap set by these seducing spirits is avoided through knowing exactly how the Bible defines sin. This is crucial for true repentance. It is not enough to simply exchange one set of wrongful beliefs for another. Such a path is fatal.

Why did Yahshua say, “Because strait [difficult] is the gate, and narrow is the way which leadeth unto life, and **few there be that find it**” (Matt. 7:14)? Because it is the truth.

WHAT IS SIN?

So what is sin? Let John tell us, “Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law” (I John 3:4; Greek “lawlessness”). What, specifically, is this lawlessness? What Law is being broken?

And what else did Peter say? “...Messiah suffered for us, **leaving us an example that you should follow in His steps**” (I Pet. 2:21). As if to say, “Do not let that model fade from your memory or actions even after He has long since left this earth.” His example **today** is perfection, spiritually locked into the same Law of Moses He kept while walking this earth.

Even though many in the early church that lived in Yahshua’s day, saw His miracles, broke bread with Him, walked with Him, Peter nonetheless felt the need to give them that reminder. It is a reminder for us as well.

In short, our spirituality depends on how we mea-

sure up in our heart, intentions, emotions, and *actions* to Yahweh’s Law defining right and wrong. The urges and impulses of our innermost being alone **will not guide us to TRUE Biblical** spirituality (II Cor. 10:5). “He that turneth away his ear from hearing the Law, even his prayer shall be an abomination” (Prv. 28:9).

If we are not continuing to understand and do more of Yahweh’s Law, we are not growing in grace and knowledge. A person is not becoming more spiritual by doing less of Yahweh’s Law. Instead, he/she is dying a slow but sure spiritual death!

YAHSHUA NEVER NULLIFIED THE LAW

Did Yahshua do away with the Law “at the cross?” If so, why did He quote it, preach it, and live it until His last breath?

When asked, “...what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?” Yahshua went straight to the Old Testament (what else was there?), “...if thou wilt enter into life, **KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS**” (Matt. 19:16-17). That was still true *after* He died.

He never gave the slightest hint in any New Testament record that the Law was rescinded, and emphatically stated, “It is easier for heaven and earth to pass than a jot or tittle of the Law to fail” (Luke 16:17). That is what He believed. He was referring to the Law of Moses (See Luke 24:44). Knowing and believing the Law is here to stay, more permanent than the universe itself, He acted accordingly. We must follow His example (I Pet. 2:21).

If we truly believe the Law [of Moses] is actively in dominion over us as long as we live, as Yahshua did, as Paul did, our actions will reflect it (Rom. 7:1). There will be a total surrender to believing and practicing it...trying to prove all aspects of that Law instead of trying our best to disprove it (I Thess. 5:21). The simple truth is the Law was not nullified. Heaven and Earth have not passed and neither has the Law.

And whatever one may think of Paul’s writings, one thing is certain: **they cannot contradict Yahshua’s record of the permanence of the Law.**

After His resurrection, we find Yahshua acknowledging the validity of the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms by opening “...their [disciples’] understanding, **that they might understand the [these] scriptures**” (Luke 24:44-45; also Luke 24:27). Why try to understand them if they were no longer relevant?

LOVE IS THE FULFILLING OF THE LAW

A verse in Romans is often used as proof that particulars of the Law (first five books of Scripture) can basically be ignored if replaced by what is called “love”: “Love worketh no ill to his neighbor: therefore love is the fulfilling of the Law” (Rom. 13:10).

The misuse of this verse is based on the idea that spirituality and greater understanding is gained without the knowledge of good and evil, i.e. without the Law. In effect, this “spirit of love” completely replaces deeds of the Law. But **WHAT spirit** leads one away from Yahweh’s Law?

This is another age old deception coming under the guise of some ill-defined concept of love—so called, that is at the

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North African and Middle Eastern Tumult Continues

What is ahead for Syria?

North African and Middle Eastern chaos and conflict are in the news almost daily. Now into its second year, the Arab Spring's fledgling democracies continue to be high profile newsmakers. The transition from dictatorships to the broadened freedoms a democracy promises is obviously not without danger and instability. This has proven true in the recent tragedy involving the deaths of U.S. diplomats.

Killed were Ambassador Christopher Stevens and three other diplomatic staffers. They were unarmed and trying to escape an armed attack on the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi, Libya Tuesday night, September 11, 2012 on the 11th anniversary of the 2001, 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center. Ambassador Stevens is the first U.S. diplomat to die while in Foreign Service since 1979.

Libyan discord continues now some months following the September 11, 2012 murders. The attack has often been blamed on an anti-Muslim film produced in the United States. Forty-five days later, however, there is no official consensus on the details of the slayings, whether they resulted from an organized terrorist attack or the spontaneous reaction to the film.

This lack of closure has taken on the aura of "Benghazi-Gate" with political and military implications of "buck-passing" and denials of wrong doing by the White House, the Pentagon, and CIA. Even U.S. CIA operatives in Benghazi at the time of the attack say they were twice ordered to "stand down" when requesting to intervene. These allocations have been denied.¹

Libya has been called the cradle of the Arab Spring, which is rapidly turning into what is now being termed as an Arab Winter. Anti-American protests spread to nearly 20 countries supposedly sparked by the two-hour anti-Muslim film "The Innocence of Muslims."

Those protesting the film attacked the U.S. mission in Yemen September 13th. Even as the Muslim Brotherhood urged a peaceful nationwide protest of the film, Egyptians continued rioting in Cairo September 14th. Egyptian rioters breached the U.S. embassy, scaling its walls and tearing down the U.S. flag the same day Ambassador Stevens and staffers were killed in Libya. Egypt's Coptic Orthodox church has condemned Copts abroad who they say had financed the film.

The United States has a large embassy in Cairo, partly because of a vast aid program that began after Egypt signed a peace deal with Israel in 1979.

Washington gives \$1.3 billion in aid each year to the army plus additional funds to Egypt.²

ASSAD STILL IN CONTROL

The highly lauded 2010 Arab Spring has since struggled for stability, and signs of its spread have stalled with Syria for the last 19 months, where embattled president Bashar al-Assad continues in power despite rebel insurgents' efforts to bring him down.

Meanwhile, former UN secretary general Kofi Annan warned that military intervention in Syria by the major powers would likely fail. In comments aired on CNN's Fareed Zakaria GPS, Mr. Annan indicated the situation in Syria was more complex than in Libya, and that military intervention could make things even worse.³ Mr. Annan was the special envoy to Syria until August, when he resigned following failure of his peace plan.

President Assad says he is personally committed to a peaceful resolution of the unrest and rebellion in his country, and wants peace efforts conducted, in his words, in "neutrality and independence."

It is clear he believes other countries are training and funding terrorists: "The success of the political work is linked to pressing the countries which fund and train the terrorists, [and] confiscate weapons into Syria to stop such acts," the president said, in a meeting in Damascus with



Damascus, Syria, building rubble after a car bomb detonated Friday, October 26, 2012, killing five people and wounding more than 30. Following this, another car bomb and sporadic fighting, thousands of protestors poured out of the mosques to demand President Bashar Assad's ouster. *SANA / AP Photo*

Lakhdar Brahimi, the new international UN-Arab League envoy to Syria.⁴

The most recent peace effort through diplomacy was a proposed four-day truce during the Muslim holiday of Eld al-Adha. The U.N.-backed holiday truce, a long shot effort by mediator Brahimi, unraveled on the first day, Friday, October 26th with 151 killed in bombings and shootings by the day's end. The regime's first airstrike since the truce began flattened a three-story building in the Arbeen suburb of Damascus.⁵

Syria's rebel insurgents say they will only negotiate if Assad resigns. The President refuses such terms. An estimated 35,000 have died in the war and hundreds of thousands have been displaced in the nineteen-month Syrian civil war.

SYRIA IN BIBLE PROPHECY

Two major prophets and two minor prophets include Syria in their prophecies. Two of these stand out, especially in light of present events there.

Its present capital, Damascus [by some accounts the oldest city in the world] is specifically named in prophecy: "For the head of Syria is Damascus..." (Isa. 7:8). And notice what else the prophet Isaiah says, "The burden of Damascus. Behold, *Damascus is taken away from being a city, and it shall be a ruinous heap...*" (Isa. 17:1).

Isaiah's prophecy continues: "The fortress also shall cease from Ephraim, and the kingdom from Damascus, and the remnant of Syria ..." (Isa. 17:3). Here Isaiah gives even further details regarding Syria's **political future** showing its ultimate governmental fall! Keep in mind that this is a prophecy, and prophecy is cyclic. *It repeats.*

Then, in a prophecy from the prophet Amos, we read: "Thus saith Yahweh [“the LORD”]: For three-transgres-

sions of Damascus, and for four, *I will not turn away the punishment thereof...I will break also the bar of Damascus*, [“shatter the defenses of;” *Moffatt*] and cut off the inhabitant from the plain of Aven, *...and the people of Syria shall go into captivity unto Kir*, saith Yahweh [“the LORD”] (Amos 1:3, 5).

In much earlier times King Tiglathpileser of Assyria carried the people of Damascus captive to Kir (II Kin. 16:9). Kir is a place subject to the Assyrians, “between the Euxine and Caspian seas, and formerly a city of the Medes...”⁶ It is also a place in Moab [modern Jordan].

The days ahead will reveal how these prophecies may once again play out in modern times.... these tumultuous times, as Syria struggles in a civil war that so far no one has won. Are we about to witness a final fulfillment, a cyclic completion, of the prophets' words to Syria?

North Africa and the Middle East continue their shifting political landscapes as unrest and division within many nations leave their future in doubt. One thing is not in doubt, however. ***There will be peace in North Africa, the Middle East, and WORLDWIDE when the Kingdom of Yahweh rules the earth in the not too distant future! -ICY***

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Law, to trust that Yahweh will reward the courage and resolve to believe Him, and follow His directive. BUT, ***if we obey***, He is ***obligated by His promises*** to bless us. He will not fail to deliver the good He promises. When Yahweh gives His word, it is as certain as tomorrow's sunrise and as ironclad as the law of gravity!

BLESSINGS FOR OBEDIENCE CURSES FOR DISOBEDIENCE

Notice Yahweh's decrees of blessing and cursing.

BLESSING: "And it will come to pass, if you will hearken to the voice of Yahweh your Elohim, to observe and DO ALL his commandments...blessed shall you be in the field...blessed shall be...the fruit of your ground... Then Yahweh shall open to you his good treasure, THE HEAVEN TO GIVE THE RAIN IN HIS SEASON..." (Deut. 28:1, 12); good crops, not deluges or rain out of season. That is a promise!

CURSE: "But...if you will not hearken to...Yahweh...to observe to do all his commandments and statutes... Cursed shall be...the fruit of your land... your heaven...shall be brass, and the earth...under

you shall be iron...Yahweh will make the rain of your land POWDER AND DUST..." (Deut. 28:15, 18, 24); scorching drought.

It is our call...our choice. We also reap the consequences for what we choose.

What will the 2012-2013 seventh-year hold... and beyond? Much depends on how the agricultural industry worldwide and gardeners react to the Land Sabbath command.

The consequences can be dire...for everyone: "...I will scatter you among the heathen, and will draw out the sword after you: and ***your land shall be desolate and your cities waste. Then shall the LAND ENJOY HER SABBATHS...because it DID NOT REST IN YOUR SABBATHS when you dwelt upon it***" (Lev. 26:33-35).

We cannot afford to write-off the seventh-year Land Sabbath. Remember, obedience to Yahweh's Law brings peace, life, happiness, and prosperity...*guaranteed in writing!* -ICY

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What to do in the Sabbatical Year

There are only *ten* in the average life span! The 2012 – 2013 Sabbatical year (October 26, 2012 to October 27, 2013), the seventh-year rest of the land, is upon us. Though nearly universally ignored, this profound and fundamental law governs many aspects of our lives from crop production, drought, health, economic ups and downs, even to our personal and national freedom (Lev. 26: 32-34, 37). As one real estate advertisement reminds us “Under all is the land.”

The enduring laws of Yahweh are echoed in King David’s words, “... thy Law is the truth ... and all thy commandments are truth ... The righteousness of thy testimonies is *everlasting* ...” (Psa. 119:132, 151, 144).

Naturally enough, the question often arises as to what is permissible or prohibited during this commanded observance of letting the land lie fallow.

For example, can we sow, prune vineyards or pick wild berries? Is it necessary to store up enough food stuffs to last until gardens and field crops are ripe in the summer and fall of the *first year of the next cycle*, beginning October 27, 2013? Can we buy food sown and harvested in the seventh year? What about gathering grapes, fruit trees and cutting hay?

We are allowed to sow the land and prune our vineyard six years, but not in the seventh year (Lev. 25:3-5). Cutting hay is not sowing and is permitted.

A point, somewhat subtle-even surprising perhaps, is that *REAPING* is permissible. Here is why. The land Sabbath starts October 26, 2012. However, winter wheat, for example, is usually planted well before this date, *in the sixth year*, and ripens in the summer of the seventh year. This is why Yahweh says, “But in the seventh year... you shall neither **sow your field** nor gather the grapes of **your** vine undressed...” (Lev. 25:4). Notice He did not prohibit reaping, and goes on to say “...that which grows of itself of *your harvest*...” (v.5)? What harvest? It can only be the harvest of the *seventh year* from what was planted late in the sixth year. The sixth year harvest with any spontaneous growth are long gone.

Nothing can be *planted* the seventh year (no gardens, fields, flowers, shrubs, grass, cover

crops, etc.): “But the seventh year you shall let it [‘land’, v. 9], **rest and lie still** (‘lie still;’ Heb. *let alone, lie fallow*) ...” (Ex. 23:11). Notice too, in all these cases Yahweh refers to “your land” “your field” “your vineyard” (Lev. 25:3, 5; Ex. 23:10-11). We are not responsible for *what others plant or when they plant it on their land*.

We can gather the fruit of trees or what grows wild. Our use of fruit trees has a separate set of requirements. So long as the fruit is of the fifth year of bearing it may be eaten, regardless of the Sabbatical cycle (Lev. 19:23-25). Wild plants such as berries, etc. are not sown by man, and are not subject to Sabbatical year restrictions as well.

“...nothing can be planted during the Land Sabbath.”

Getting back to the question of storing a year’s supply of food, many go to great lengths to find and purchase only food planted and harvested the first six years of the seven-year period. Also, large stocks of food are stored to avoid buying foods of all kinds during the seventh year, which is a major investment in time and money. Interestingly though, there is usually little thought given to foods from land sown and harvested on the *weekly Sabbath* which is *also a Land Sabbath* with an even tighter restriction that nothing can be *reaped*!

Of course it is nearly impossible in this world’s societies not to eat what was planted during the Land Sabbath year or the weekly Sabbath, unless each grew his own grain and vegetables; which most do not.

So what are we to do? The Bible answers with the revealing account of Jacob and his sons. In Genesis 42:2 we read that Jacob instructed them to go buy food from the Egyptians during a worldwide famine (Gen. 41:56). The food they bought had been stored during the previous seven years of plenty (Gen. 41:34-36, 56-57). One of those



Cultivation and planting during the Land Sabbath are prohibited: “... the seventh year ... let it rest and lie still ...” (Ex. 23:11; see also Lev. 25:4). *theresilientearth.com*

years had to be a Land Sabbath. But which one?

The plain fact is the Bible *does not give the slightest hint* that Jacob was at all concerned about, nor that his sons tried to find out, just which year of those seven years crops were planted! There is nothing to indicate they bought only what was sown in a non-Sabbath year.

Why not? They were not responsible for what *others did on the Land Sabbath*. This example gives us Scriptural evidence we *can buy* what others sell regardless of the year the food is planted. The sin of planting in the seventh year is *on the planter*, not the buyer.

The objection that the Land Sabbath did not apply to the Egyptians, and was never in effect until Israel entered the promised land is only partially true. It is true that Israel kept no Land Sabbath while wandering in the wilderness 40 years, but it was *because they owned no land during that time*: "... When you come into the land *that I will give you*, then shall the land keep a Sabbath to Yahweh [is HIS Sabbath]." (Lev. 25:2). **Then** they would have *ownership*.

The Egyptians owned land. The Land Sabbath was in effect just as it is today. The Bible nowhere indicates the Land Sabbath was, or ever will be, rescinded. Recall the lights were made "... for signs, and for seasons [Heb. "fes-

tivals"]], and for days and YEARS" (Gen. 1:14). This was *from the very beginning*.

A final point about the Sabbatical year: The Sabbatical year is also referred to as "the year of release" (Deut. 15:1, 9). All loans made with collateral, on security, to our neighbor or brother are to be cancelled if not collected by the *end* of the seventh year (v. 1). However, there is no statute of limitations on secured loans to foreigners (Deut. 15:3).

In addition, it should be noted there is no seventh-year restriction on collecting an *unsecured loan* made without collateral with our "neighbor or brother" (Deut. 15:2). It can be collected any time beyond the septennial cycle in which the loan was

made, but we are not allowed to charge our brother interest on the loan (Deut. 23:19).

We live in tumultuous times with severe drought in many parts of the globe, and the looming shortfall in crop production that inevitably brings. The ripple effect throughout society is becoming a grave concern. Many see a food crisis of epic proportions. Will we as a nation and family of nations heed Yahweh's Law of the seventh-year Land Sabbath? Or will we set our path on a disastrous collision-course with the overwhelming forces of nature by ignoring this immutable Law? **-ICY**

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heart of modern churchianity. Nothing new.

Does this statement from Paul sound like there are no deeds of the Law required: "For everyone that useth milk, is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat [of the word] belongeth to them that are of full age, even those **who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil**." (Heb. 6:13,14). Use of what? The Word of Yahweh, which reveals good and evil (Deut. 30:15). Actually, Paul's statement (Rom. 13:10), is simply a precise definition: "... love is the fulfilling (Gr. Keeping, observing: Matt 3:15), of the Law." That is, keeping the Law is love (I John 5:3).

IF THOU WILT BE PERFECT

This issue of spirituality is settled with Yahshua's own revelation about reaching spiritual perfection. Notice what He told a rich young man after telling him to keep the commandments, in answer to his next question: "... what lack I yet? Yahshua said to him **...IF YOU WILT BE PERFECT** go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor,... and come follow me." (Matt. 19:21).

As the conversation shows this young man was head and shoulders above those in modern times claiming to follow Yahshua. When Yahshua said, "Thou shalt do no murder, ...not commit adultery...Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." (vv. 18-19), he said, "All these have I kept from my youth up..." (v. 20).

He felt sure he had kept most all the commandments-very close to perfection...in his mind, but he was obviously seriously in arrears in giving to the poor...had NOT kept

that portion of the Law (Deut. 15:7-11). AND had he really loved his poor neighbor as himself, as he said he did, there would be no need for Yahshua's directive to go and sell ALL he had and give to the poor.

Though this man **thought** he was perfect, in a single encounter with Yahshua, **he learned something more he must repent of to reach perfection!** The same applies to each of us. Coming to Yahshua, and *following Him*, we find there is **more of the law we must obey to reach perfection...**usually MUCH MORE.

But our quest for spirituality is measured, not by how we feel or how we judge ourselves, but how we measure up to Yahweh's great Law *whether we know what it says or not*. Notice: "All who have sinned without knowledge of the Law will die without knowledge of the Law ["reference to"; *Phillips*]; and all have sinned knowing the Law shall be judged according to the Law" (Rom. 2:12; *Phillips*). "For not the hearers of the Law are just before Yahweh ["God"], **but the doers of the Law shall be justified**" (Rom. 2:13).

The lesson is clear. When we follow Yahshua, His teachings may require letting go of something dear to us, whether it be our way of life, changing our day of worship or group of friends, parting with offering money, etc. But over time we realize that we are not suffering a loss but GAINING. We are gaining true freedom; freedom from the dire consequences of breaking Yahweh's Law; gaining the chance of a lifetime to reach immortality.

After learning what we need to change, will we go "... away sorrowful..." (Matt. 19:22), as this man did, because of riches, friends, family, or self? Or will we follow Yahshua and find true spirituality? The choice is ours. **-ICY**

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Armageddon & World Peace... Inching Closer!



Something is looming on the horizon. The human race is gearing up militarily for a great battle. The shocking signs are there. Are we seeing the Armageddon Clock moving ever closer to the midnight hour?

The pages of your Bible describe a time ahead when mankind as a whole will be on a collision course with its Maker! The impact will bring the *end* of governments and societies as we know them today. It will mark the beginning of the Kingdom of Yahweh and an era of peace yearned for since time immemorial.

Never before in recorded history has the potential for that great event, the “ultimate world war,” and a thousand years of peace been greater! Both the war *and* the peace will be won. But *this time* humanity will pay its greatest price *ever* in war! It will be the price of war *and* the price of peace.

THE WORLD ARMS

WHY does the world in general, and the United States in particular, continue arming-to-the-teeth despite the collapse of the Iron Curtain, a fragmented Soviet Empire, and Communism now less threatening? Perhaps partly due to the Iranian threat in the Middle East, the United States involvement in Afghanistan and Iraq, and somewhat to the Arab Spring, weapon sales continue their general upward



Only 59 of the radar-evading F-117s were made for the United States Airforce after the stealth technology was developed in the '70s. After 27 years in the Airforce all remaining F-117s were retired in April, 2008, in Tonopah Test Range Airfield in Nevada - the site of the first flight in 1981. *USAtoday.com / Photo AP*

trend-worldwide. What or who is driving it?

The awesome advances in aerospace were epitomized by the F-117A stealth fighter-bombers in Operation Desert Storm at a cost of \$43 million each (January 1991). Though some of the best radar can detect an ant crawling a mile away, the F-117's flat plate design was invisible to enemy radar with its equivalent radar signature of “...an eagle's eyeball...”¹

What other doomsday weaponry awaits its assignment? *Tactical* nuclear weapons. These are smaller, have a lower yield and shorter range, and more mobile.

It was not widely publicized, but tactical nuclear weapons *were not part of the* 2010 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START)!² Amazing, but true. Classified as “non-strategic” nuclear weapons, they pose a horrific threat to world peace.

The United States has about 400 operationally deployed - **at the ready** - tactical nuclear weapons and an equal number in reserve. Russia's tactical nuclear arsenal is estimated at around 2,000 “on call” and another 3,400 in inactive reserve.³

So did START actually make the world *safer*? It is a sure bet tactical nukes will continue increasing, along will their *threat AND* their formidable potential for terrorism!

SPENDING INCREASES PROJECTED

As the “...battle of the great day of Yahweh...” (Rev. 16:14), approaches, U.S. 2012 military spending alone is projected to be over \$648.7 *billion* (more “tactical nukes”?)! This is \$39 billion less than FY 2011, due in part to the drawdown of U.S. forces in Iraq.

In addition to \$530 billion in base spending, the Fiscal Year 2012 Defense Appropriations Bill contains \$118.7 billion in spending for the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.⁴

As one congressman quipped, “A billion here and a billion there, pretty soon you are talking about some real money!”

By 2017, global aerospace and defense industry expenditures (not US military) are projected to reach \$465 billion.⁵ Experts see this as driven by developing economies rather than the European debt crisis or the U.S. military cutbacks.

But again, *WHY* this continued *worldwide* arming to the hilt? Or should we ask, “*WHO* is arming?”

Remember, the kingdoms of this earth are now under the sway of Satan, the devil, the adversary: “...the devil... showed Him [Yahshua] *all the kingdoms of the world* ... and said ... **ALL THESE THINGS I WILL GIVE YOU...**” (Matt. 4:8-9). How could Satan offer all the earthly kingdoms if they were not his to give?

Is it possible that HE, Satan, is behind the arming of the nations of the world with weaponry that truly boggles the imagination? ***Is HE preparing mankind for some massive conflict?***

THE WAR THAT WINS THE PEACE

Sadly, without this prophesied global battle world peace is not possible, for only then will the arch-enemy Satan be defeated and imprisoned. A millennium of peace will follow; a time of *universal* goodwill and prosperity unknown since the beginning of time. That is the good news. *This epic conflict is part of the gospel of the Kingdom of Yahweh!*

This coming “mother of all wars” is extraordinary. Not since the great war that wrecked the solar system, bashing whole planets, will there be anything even remotely on this scale; certainly not involving humanity.

Here is what makes this coming titanic struggle so unique. First, it will be a winner-take-all for absolute and total world supremacy in every corner of the globe – a true **world** war in which *all nations* will participate. Then the victor will impose a one-world government with a single *global constitution founded on the first five books of the Holy Bible*. Its participants will be *both human and supernatural*, and it will be *followed by a thousand years of utopian peace!*

Why make such claims of a coming Super War? Here is why. Notice this chilling prophecy: “...three unclean spirits come out of the mouth of the DRAGON...the mouth of the BEAST...and...the mouth of the FALSE PROPHET...the spirits of devils, working miracles...go forth to the **KINGS OF THE EARTH** of the **whole world** to gather them to the **battle of that great day of Yahweh Almighty...**” (Rev. 16:13-14). When in human history has the **whole world ever** gone to war? Never. For example, in WWII many countries did not participate (Sweden, Switzerland, Spain, Afghanistan, Portugal, Ireland, Saudi Arabia, etc.).

This clearly will be a supernaturally inspired war-cry girdling the globe. Something sinister and *someone profoundly evil* will be stirring the fearful hearts and minds of humanity. Eclipsing all previous human wars, it will be billed as so threatening that mankind will be rallied to throw all its ingenuity and muscle into the effort.

A BOOK OF PROPHECY

This coming *whole-world-at-war* is not pure fantasy. Look at *what else* the Revelation record says: “... Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear **the words of this PROPHECY** and keep those things which are written therein: *for the time is at hand*” (Rev. 1:3).

The book of Revelation is *profound prophecy* beckoning us with its awesome and often mysterious imagery. And history shows since this book was written around 96 A.D. of “... things which must shortly come to pass ...” (Rev. 1:1), the final fulfillment of the vast majority, if not virtually all, of its graphic predictions *is yet to happen*. But this is evident *only if we carefully let the Bible interpret itself!!* (II



Patriot Missile Battery on watch. murdoconline.net

Pet. 1:20). The private interpretations are legion.

Revelation depicts staggering turns ahead in human events. And, what is equally startling, they are crowded into a short span of time at the end of this age. The rapid fire of one crisis after another will bring a swift and furious finish to this era of man’s rule!

A GLOBAL SENSE OF URGENCY

A vast plains region approximately 65 miles northwest of Jerusalem quietly awaits an appointment with destiny. It will be the staging area and battle ground of this epic struggle for world domination!

The human toll of untold tens of thousands, maybe millions, will soak the plains and hills with their blood. Hundreds of millions more will be involved in a global war effort. A sense of urgency will no doubt grip the imagination of man as never before.

What threat could be that gargantuan; ominous enough to incite the *entire world to war*? One answer seems most likely: a threat that is

painted as pushing humanity to the brink of extinction; a fight for survival.

Will it be touted as an “Independence Day” scenario...an invasion from outer space?!

Those evil spirits may well convince the *whole world* that annihilation of the human race is imminent and they will do it with miracles (Rev. 16:14)!

But do we know who the other participants will be: the world vs. *who*?

THE WORLD VS. WHO?

Is this coming great war man-against-man or man against...? Notice how this battle of the great day of Yahweh will fulfill prophecy: “The **KINGS OF THE EARTH** set themselves, and the rulers counsel together **AGAINST YAHWEH...**” (Psa. 2:2; See again Rev. 16:13-14). The assemblage of men and materiel will doubtless be the greatest array of military might ever witnessed by mankind.

This battle is also alluded to in Revelation 19: 11-19:

“And I saw heaven opened, and behold a WHITE HORSE; and He that sat upon him was called

FAITHFUL AND TRUE, and in righteousness he does judge and **MAKE WAR**. HIS EYES WERE AS A FLAME OF FIRE, and on his head were many crowns...he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood, and his name is called THE WORD OF YAHWEH.

And the **ARMIES WHICH WERE OF HEAVEN** followed him upon white horses. And I saw the **BEAST**, and the **KINGS OF THE EARTH**, and **their armies**, gather together to make war **AGAINST HIM** that sat on the horse, and **against His army...**

Who is he that is Faithful and True? "These things says the Amen, the FAITHFUL AND TRUE WITNESS, the beginning of the creation of Yahweh" (Rev. 3:14). "And from Yahshua the Messiah, who is the FAITHFUL WITNESS ..." (Rev. 1:5).

Who is "The WORD" sitting astride a glistening white stallion leading a supernatural army? "In the beginning was the WORD...and the WORD WAS MADE FLESH and dwelt among us ... as the ONLY BEGOTTEN OF the Father ..." (John 1:1, 14).

The answer is clear: this great battle will be the **BEAST**, the **FALSE PROPHET**, the **DRAGON**, and the **KINGS of Earth with their armies from around the WORLD versus YAHSHUA the MESSIAH and His heavenly armies. The one who came as a baby in a manger, will return as the all-conquering King of Kings!!** Who do you think wins?

WHERE?

Recall the three unclean spirits gather all the world together to battle. But look what is further revealed by this great prophecy: "...And they [unclean spirits, v. 13] assembled them [the nations] at the place which is called in the Hebrew **ARMAGEDDON**" (Rev. 16:13-14, 16).

This scripture pinpoints the exact location of this coming superhuman war, which occurs after the sixth angel pours out his vial (Rev. 16:12) during the period beginning when Yahshua opens the seventh seal (Rev. 8:1).

Armageddon is the site northwest of Jerusalem quietly awaiting its modern role in the momentous battle of the



Looking northeast of Jezreel Valley from Mt. Megiddo: many historical battles were fought here and it will be the staging area for the Antichrist's armies in the coming Tribulation. www.angelfire.com

ages for rulership of planet Earth!

The Hebrew Armageddon is Har-Megiddo (also spelled Megiddon), and means "the hill or mountain of Megiddo." Megiddo means *rendezvous*. This is the site of ancient Megiddo, one of the royal cities of the Canaanites. It was occupied by Israelites at the time of King Solomon's rule (I Kings 4:7, 12), and is located on the south side of the valley of Megiddo or Esdraelon southwest of Mount Carmel (II Chron. 35:22; Zech. 12:11). It is the crucial entrance to a pass through the Carmel mountain range, on the main highway between Asia and Africa, and overlooks the Plain of Esdraelon and the Valley of Jezreel, a flat plane of land 20 miles long by 14 miles wide. Today it has an Arabic name, Tel el Mutesellim.

Because of its strategic location, Thothmes III, the founder of the old Egyptian Empire, said, "Megiddo is worth a thousand cities" (Dake Study Bible).

"Megiddo is worth a thousand cities."

Historically, the Megiddo region has been a battlefield so often it has come to symbolize war. In WWI a critical battle was fought there between the British and Turks, freeing the Holy Land from the Turks. *It is estimated that more battles have been fought at Megiddo than at any other location on earth!* How appropriate: the *rendezvous at the end of this age*.

YAHWEH'S ARMY EQUAL TO THE TASK

The massive build-up by the nations of the world as overwhelming as it may seem, will be dwarfed by Yahweh's Army: "The chariots of Elohim, are twenty thousand thousands..." (Psa. 68:17; *Green's Interlinear*).

This is a massive force of apparently 20 **million** vehicles, besides the thousands upon thousands following Yahshua on white horses (200 million? Rev. 9:16)!

"... Yahweh shall utter his voice before his army: for his camp is very great" (Joel 2:11). Indeed! Yahweh and Yahshua are planning this one well in advance, **AND THEY AIM TO WIN!**

If these chariots are like the flying craft detailed in Ezekiel chapters 1 and 10, they are awesome machines.

Some years ago NASA engineer, Josef F. Blumrich researched the account in Ezekiel from a purely technical point of view. Mr. Blumrich is quoted in the book *In Search of Ancient Gods* (Erich von Daniken, G.P. Putnam's Sons, NY; 1973) page 42: "It is possible to infer the general appearance of the spaceship described in Ezekiel from his account....I discovered that Ezekiel's spaceship has very credible dimensions ..."

His analysis showed Ezekiel-like "chariots" would each generate 4.5 times the horsepower output of a Boeing 707, weigh 70 tons (slightly more than a Boeing 707), be 59 feet wide, and be capable of maneuvering at right angles.

Imagine 20 **million** (or even half that) such vehicles in a vast armada descending in wave-after-wave; converg-



Map of Megiddo which is approximately 65 miles northwest of the holy city, Jerusalem. *lifeishid.com*

ing on the battle scene. Such numbers could blanket the skies, blotting out the sun causing “A day of darkness and of gloominess...” (Joel 2:2). Awesome! Nearly beyond belief. Makes the D-Day invasion of WWII seem like child’s play.

No man has ever witnessed this magnitude of power and might which will truly stagger the imagination.

YAHWEH’S DEADLY WEAPONRY

Some of the awesome weaponry in Yahweh’s arsenal is described in a vivid prophecy in Zechariah. Does Yahshua in fact use the following mind-bending weaponry to strike the nations allied against Him in *this* battle just as He does in a later war waged against Jerusalem (Rev. 20:8-9)?

“And this shall be the plague with which Yahweh will smite ALL the people that wage war against Jerusalem: **THEIR FLESH SHALL ROT WHILE THEY ARE STILL ON THEIR FEET, THEIR EYES SHALL ROT IN THEIR SOCKETS, AND THEIR TONGUE SHALL ROT IN THEIR MOUTHS**” (Zech. 14:12).

If this is biological warfare, “agent orange” (Vietnam) sounds tame by comparison.

This extremely quick-acting germ warfare or radiation penetrates everything from fatigues to armor. While still standing, those opposing Yahshua’s army will be walking corpses.

WHO WINS?

There is no doubt. With such overwhelming military superiority, Yahshua will absolutely *crush* the enemy, tactical and strategic nuclear weapons or not. He destroys their

armies, but captures alive the beast and the false prophet:

“And...that with it He [Yahshua] should smite the nations: and HE SHALL RULE THEM WITH A ROD OF IRON: and He treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty Yahweh (“God”)” (Rev. 19:15).

“And the BEAST was taken, and...the FALSE PROPHET...and were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone” (Rev. 19:20).

The age-old trouble maker, Satan, [the dragon] is also taken alive, but is imprisoned in the bottomless pit for a thousand years (Rev. 20:1-3, 7). Yahweh’s army will be, hands-down, the decisive winner forcing a complete and unconditional surrender!

THE 1000-YEAR PEACE

Those saints who overcome and keep Yahweh’s commandments until the end, will help rule the nations now conquered in this great “war-of-the-worlds.” They will rule **on the Earth for those thousand years Satan is imprisoned**: “Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection on which the second death hath no power, but they...shall reign with him [Yahshua] a thousand years” (Rev. 20:6).

Once the dust of battle settles and cleanup crews complete the grisly task of burying the dead, this new era of a thousand years of peace will begin in earnest. Not since the days of Eden will the world know the joy, freedom and prosperity which follows in the aftermath of this age-ending fight-to-the death.

Yahweh’s glorious victory will usher in wonderful changes. “...the days come, saith Yahweh, that the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him that soweth seed; and the mountains shall drop sweet wine...” (Amos 9:13). Bumper crops!

The Kingdom of Yahweh established after the victory will rule the world! Such complete peace will come that even animal nature will change: “The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them! And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together **...for the Earth shall be full of the knowledge of Yahweh, as the waters cover the sea**” (Isa. 11:6-9).

A pipe dream? Not at all. It is the coming reality after the Battle of Armageddon is won, and the Kingdom of Yahweh replaces the corrupt governments of man and Satan. The Armageddon Clock will have sounded its last mournful knell. Hasten the day! - **ICY**

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Christmas:

Do you know whose birthday is being celebrated?

What are professing Christians really celebrating during Christmas? Whose birth is being commemorated on December 25th? They say it is the birth of Jesus Christ, but the Messiah's name is not Jesus; but Yahshua, meaning "Yahweh is Savior."

Yahshua was not born on December 25th, and the Bible nowhere commands, nor allows, a celebration of his birthday. Church authority cannot override the Bible's firm directives.

So why this celebration? Why a birthday memorial with religious connections?

Write today for the booklet *Christmas: The Untold Story* (suggested donation \$3US). Read the surprising story of Christmas — a story that goes back to the dawn of angelic history.

Christmas: The Untold Story



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